THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR RECOVERY AND DELISTING

Science

Information, Education & Outreach

Management
Strategy Developed in 2011 to:

• Provide clear direction
  – Link IE&O effort to primary barriers to recovery
  – Target appropriate audiences
  – Identify needed resources

• Improve coordination across ecosystems
  – Message consistency
  – Leveraging experience and resources

• Reviewed in 2014 and 2018
IGBC – WMI AGREEMENT
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Website

Bear-resistant Container Program

Grant Program

I&E Materials

Southwest Montana Bear Education Program
Threatened grizzly bear populations and their recovery

Published on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 11:38 | Written by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In North America, grizzly bears previously ranged from Alaska to Mexico and as far east as the western shores of Hudson Bay. When Lewis and Clark explored the West in the early 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed between the Pacific Ocean and the Great Plains, across vast stretches of open and unpopulated land. However, when pioneers moved in, bears were persecuted and their numbers and range drastically declined. As European settlement expanded over the next hundred years, towns and cities sprung up, and habitat for these large omnivores--along with their numbers--shrunk drastically. Today, with the western United States inhabited by millions of Americans, only a few small corners of grizzly country remain, supporting about 1,200 - 1,400 wild grizzly bears. Of 37 grizzly populations present in 1922, 31 were extirpated by 1975.

In 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the Lower 48 States under the Endangered Species Act, placing the species under federal protection. Today, grizzly bear distribution is primarily within but not limited to the areas identified as “Recovery Zones”
Bear-resistant container outreach

Problem

Certified Product List

Possible BRC Solution

IGBC Testing Protocol
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 I&amp;E grant awards*</th>
<th>Benefiting Ecosystems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Wildlife Outreach – Public Outreach</td>
<td>NCE/S-CY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defenders of Wildlife – Field Technician &amp; Bear Spray Outreach</td>
<td>GYE/NCDE/S-CY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Dept. of Fish &amp; Game – Hunt &amp; Fish Expo; Signs</td>
<td>YES/S-CY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming Game &amp; Fish Dept. – Inert Spray Canisters</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Wildlife Leaders – Public Survey</td>
<td>S-CY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks – Prairie Grizzly Outreach</td>
<td>NCDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swan Valley Connections – Ferndale/Condon Bear Fairs</td>
<td>NCDE</td>
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*Funding administered by WMI
# Grant program

## 2019 I&E grant awards*

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<tr>
<td>Yellowstone to Yukon Coalition – Outreach in NW MT</td>
<td>NCDE</td>
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<td>Wyoming Game &amp; Fish Dept. – Inert Spray Canisters</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<td>Swan Valley Coalition – Ferndale &amp; Condon Bear Fairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yaak Valley Forest Council – Apple Festival</td>
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*Funding administered by WMI*
2018 Revised & printed:
- WWO’s Bear Safety Brochure
- IGBC Bear Spray Brochure
- IGBC Coloring Book
- All available online

2019:
- Provide materials to member agencies
- Review/update all other printed materials
- Develop consistent messages
I&E Materials – Video

Bear Spray Demonstration for Hunters
SW MT Bear Education Working Group

Members:

- USDA Forest Service
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Wildlife Management Institute
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- People and Carnivores
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Goals:

- Improve coordination among partners
- Reduce human-bear conflict
- Increase human safety
- Increase understanding/tolerance
- Develop consistent, targeted messages
- Expand outreach capacity
WMI Secured funding from multiple NGOs:

- Centennial Valley Assn.
- Vital Ground
- Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation
- Cinnabar Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- People & Carnivores
SW MT Bear Education Working Group

Accomplishments:
- Developed consistent messages now used across SW MT
- Trained seasonal bear techs and campground hosts
- Reached over 64,000 individuals/172 events
- Trained over 26,000 people how to properly use bear spray (including field crews and fire fighters)
- Demonstrated the value of greater coordination
Going Forward:

• FWP, FWS, and USFS provided funds to expand program to unoccupied/newly occupied areas
• Focus on rural communities and ag landowners
• Work with I&E Subcommittee to improve consistency of messages over larger area
• Provide additional tools:
  • Additional “Bear Trailer”
  • Remote controlled “bear”
The October 9 storm dropped about 14 inches at Great Divide.

If you plan to climb and ski you will hit a few things, but still a lot of fun. Bears are very active here right now, so bring your bear spray, travel in groups and make some noise.