

# IGBC – WMI INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE



# THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR RECOVERY AND DELISTING

Science

Management



Information, Education & Outreach

## **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**



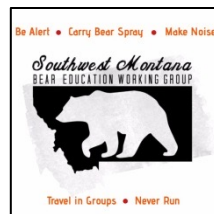
**Bear-resistant  
Container Program**



**Grant Program**



**I&E Materials**



**Southwest Montana  
Bear Education  
Program**



# Igbconline.org Website

# IGBC

## Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee



[Home](#) | [Who We Are](#) | [Grizzly Bear Facts](#) | [Population Recovery](#) | [Safety in Grizzly Country](#) | [Partners & Resources](#) | [Meeting Information](#)

You are here: [Home](#) > [Population Recovery](#) > [Current Status of Grizzly Populations](#)

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

## 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



### Bear-Resistant Products Testing Program

#### CERTIFIED BEAR-RESISTANT PRODUCTS

Methods for Complying with Food Storage Regulations on Public Lands

IGBC-certified containers are one of the methods available to meet food storage regulations on National Forests in grizzly bear habitat. Other methods for compliance are also available; for instance electric fencing is authorized in some ecosystems and under certain conditions. When you are in National Parks, check their regulations for food storage requirements and methods. Regardless of your location or destination, we recommend contacting local land management offices for more details on the use of electric fences or other products and methods to comply with food storage regulations because requirements may vary by location.

The products listed below are those that have passed the IGBC testing protocol and that have been approved by the IGBC as bear-resistant. This means these products meet IGBC bear-resistant design and structural standards, but it is not a guarantee that a grizzly bear cannot gain

## Certified Product List



## IGBC Testing Protocol



## Possible BRC Solution



## Grant program

<b>2018 I&amp;E grant awards*</b>	<b>Benefiting Ecosystems</b>
<b>Western Wildlife Outreach – Public Outreach</b>	<b>NCE/S-CY</b>
<b>Defenders of Wildlife – Field Technician &amp; Bear Spray Outreach</b>	<b>GYE/NCDE/S-CY</b>
<b>Idaho Dept. of Fish &amp; Game – Hunt &amp; Fish Expo; Signs</b>	<b>YES/S-CY</b>
<b>Wyoming Game &amp; Fish Dept. – Inert Spray Canisters</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Emerging Wildlife Leaders – Public Survey</b>	<b>S-CY</b>
<b>Montana Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks – Prairie Grizzly Outreach</b>	<b>NCDE</b>
<b>Swan Valley Connections – Ferndale/Condon Bear Fairs</b>	<b>NCDE</b>

\*Funding administered by WMI



## Grant program

<b>2019 I&amp;E grant awards*</b>	<b>Benefiting Ecosystems</b>
<b>Defenders of Wildlife – Bear Technician</b>	<b>YES/NCDE/ S-CY</b>
<b>Western Wildlife Outreach – Public outreach</b>	<b>NCE/S-CY</b>
<b>Yellowstone to Yukon Coalition – Outreach in NW MT</b>	<b>NCDE</b>
<b>Wyoming Game &amp; Fish Dept. – Inert Spray Canisters</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Swan Valley Coalition – Ferndale &amp; Condon Bear Fairs</b>	<b>NCDE</b>
<b>Yaak Valley Forest Council – Apple Festival</b>	<b>S-CY</b>

\*Funding administered by WMI





## I&E Materials - Print

### 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





# 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**



# SW MT Bear Education Working Group

## 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**



# SW MT Bear Education Working Group

## 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”



# Evidence It's Working

From the Great Divide Ski Area website – October 10, 2018



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.