



Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

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Idaho

WA Dept Fish & Wildlife
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Game & Fish Dept.
Wyoming

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Pacific West Region
National Park Service

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U.S. Geological Survey
Northern Rocky Mountain Science
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IGBC IE&O Chair,
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IGBC Strategic Meeting Public Statement

In late June, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) convened a strategic planning meeting to determine how best the committee can address current and future issues associated with grizzly bear management. The IGBC started by reflecting on its past accomplishments over the last 35 years, which highlighted such items as biologically recovered populations in both the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, effective information and education outreach to reduce human-bear conflicts, development of science-based interagency habitat management guidelines, and establishment of a bear-resistant products testing program.

From there, the IGBC focused on its future and posed the question to the committee, “What value do we provide as a committee both around local issues that individual subcommittees confront, as well as regional and national issues facing the committee.” The IGBC concluded that the existence of the committee and its structure is needed now more than ever to help agencies involved in grizzly bear management navigate emerging issues, and to promote and coordinate grizzly bear conservation across all recovery areas.

Because the IGBC does not have decision making authority and respects the sovereignty of each member agency, it is through mutual agreement the committee takes a particular action. The IGBC mutually agreed to recommit to its mission to “Support recovery and delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, research and communication.”

The IGBC also revised its five-year goals to remain relevant and to anticipate issues that will need to be addressed in the future.

Finally, the IGBC recognized a need to improve how it considers issues raised by subcommittees, advisory groups, and the public; and discussed potential changes to the meeting structure to address this need. As IGBC approaches its 40th anniversary, there is a common understanding with all its members that successful grizzly bear recovery and conservation requires a shared responsibility with all parties.