

# IGBC IEO Winter 2020 Update

Lori Roberts, IEO Chair

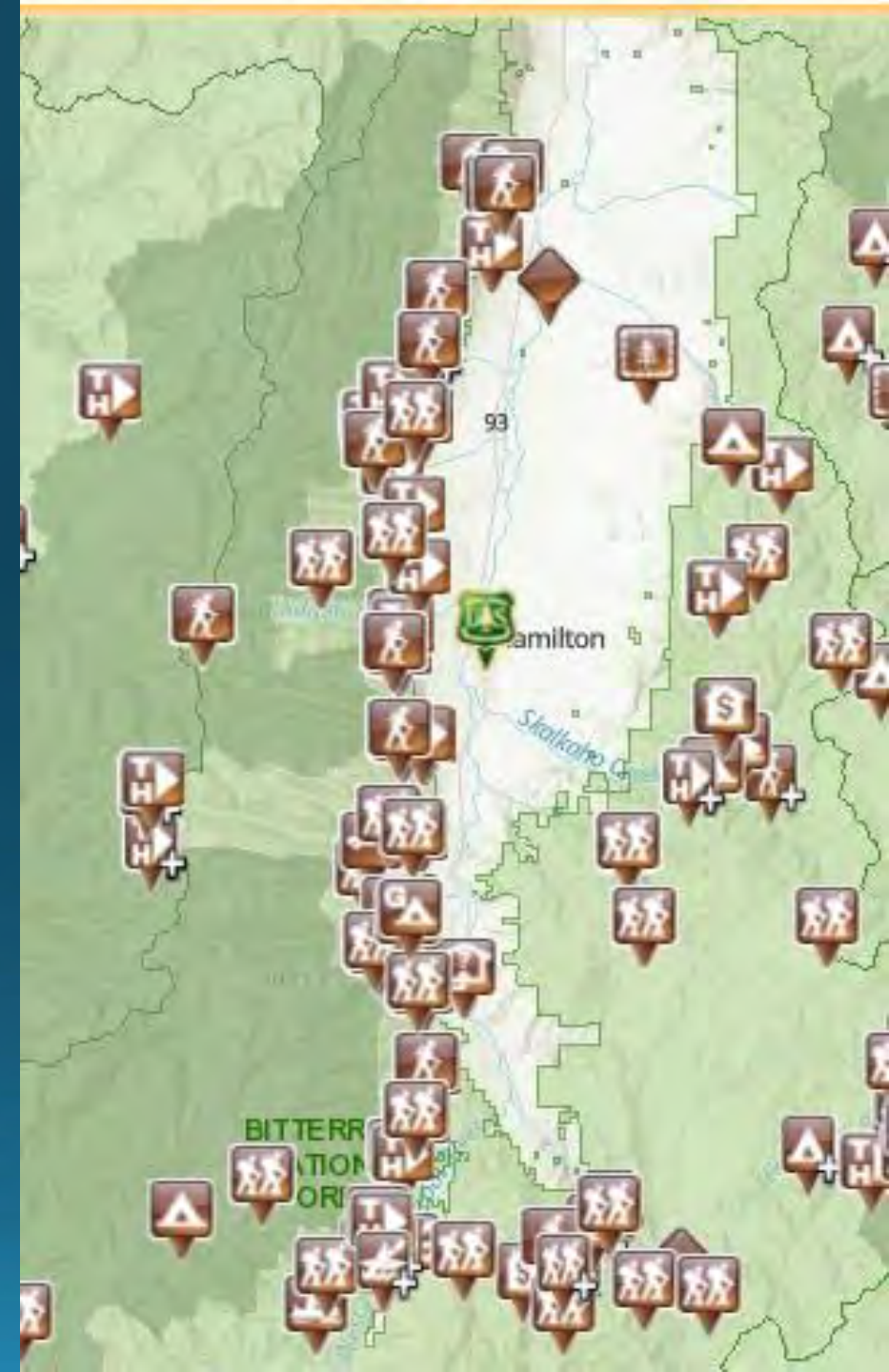


# FY2020 Funded Projects

- Bitterroot Ecosystem
  - Bitterroot National Forest- Front-country Bear Ranger \$5000
- Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem
  - Kootenai National Forest- Three Rivers Bear Ranger \$6000
- Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
  - Helena-Lewis and Clark NF- Bridging the Gap Bear Ranger \$5000
- North Cascades Ecosystem
  - Defenders of Wildlife- Bear Spray Awareness and Training \$5000
- Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
  - Kootenai National Forest- Ksanka District Bear Ranger \$5000
- Selkirk Ecosystem
  - Kalispel Tribe of Indians- Bear Awareness Trainings and Materials \$5000
- All Ecosystems- Defenders of Wildlife- Electric Fence Outreach \$5000

# Bitterroot Ecosystem

- Front country Bear Ranger: Nathan Beckwith
- Increase in use at all recreation sites and trails
  - Bear Signage was a priority
- 304.5 hours and 1,020 approximate contacts



# Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

- Three Rivers Bear Ranger



**GOVERNOR'S GRIZZLY BEAR  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

fwp.mt.gov/gbac

**FINAL REPORT**

Recommendations and Input on the  
Future of Grizzly Bear Management and  
Conservation in Montana



AUGUST 2020

**GRIZZLY BEAR  
INFORMATION  
OUTREACH  
SUMMIT**



JAN 28-30  
**2020**



**Summit Report**



# Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

- Sara Sylte
- January-June
- Grizzly Bear Information and Outreach Summit
- Provided support at the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council
- Outfitted a Bear Education Trailer for the Helena Area
- Continued to build capacity to outreach efforts designed to inform Montana citizens and visitors about Grizzly Bears
- Two Presentations before COVID
  - East Front Rancher Workshop, Choteau

# North Cascade Ecosystem

- Bear Awareness Training
  - Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
  - Virtual Training
    - Latino Outdoors- sent inert and live cans
- Purchased 84 Bear Spray Cans with holsters
  - 24 Inert Cans for Practice
- Created a 1 minute video on the proper use of bear spray
  - Defenders of Wildlife You Tube Channel
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNJZNVxInbA>

# Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

- Ksanka District Bear Ranger (NCDE/CYE)
  - 2020 Lincoln County Bear Fair Canceled Due to COVID-19
  - Assisted FWP in readying a large property for installation of electric fence
  - Replaced a food hanging structure that was damaged at Bluebird Lake
  - Set up a socially distanced bear booth at a popular day use area along Lake Koocanusa



# Selkirk Ecosystem

- Bear Spray Trainings
  - Purchased Live and Inert bear spray cans
  - 5 Bear Spray Training on hold until Spring 2021
- Sanitation
  - Purchase IGBC-certified containers and portable electric fencing
- Educational Magnets and Stickers



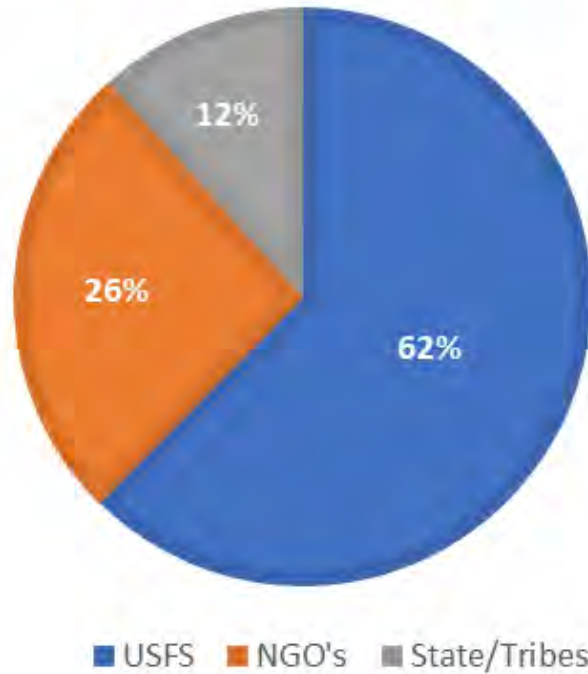


# All Ecosystem

- Defenders of Wildlife
- Led 53 completed electric fence projects this year
  - Contributed to an additional 20 led by Wildlife Services
- Majority of 2020 projects in NCDE, but also includes GYE, CYE, Bitterroot, & Selkirks
- Collaboration with FWP, Tribes (including a first with the Kootenai Tribe), Wildlife Services, USFWS, and other NGOs
- Outreach events limited by COVID, but we still managed 6 or more



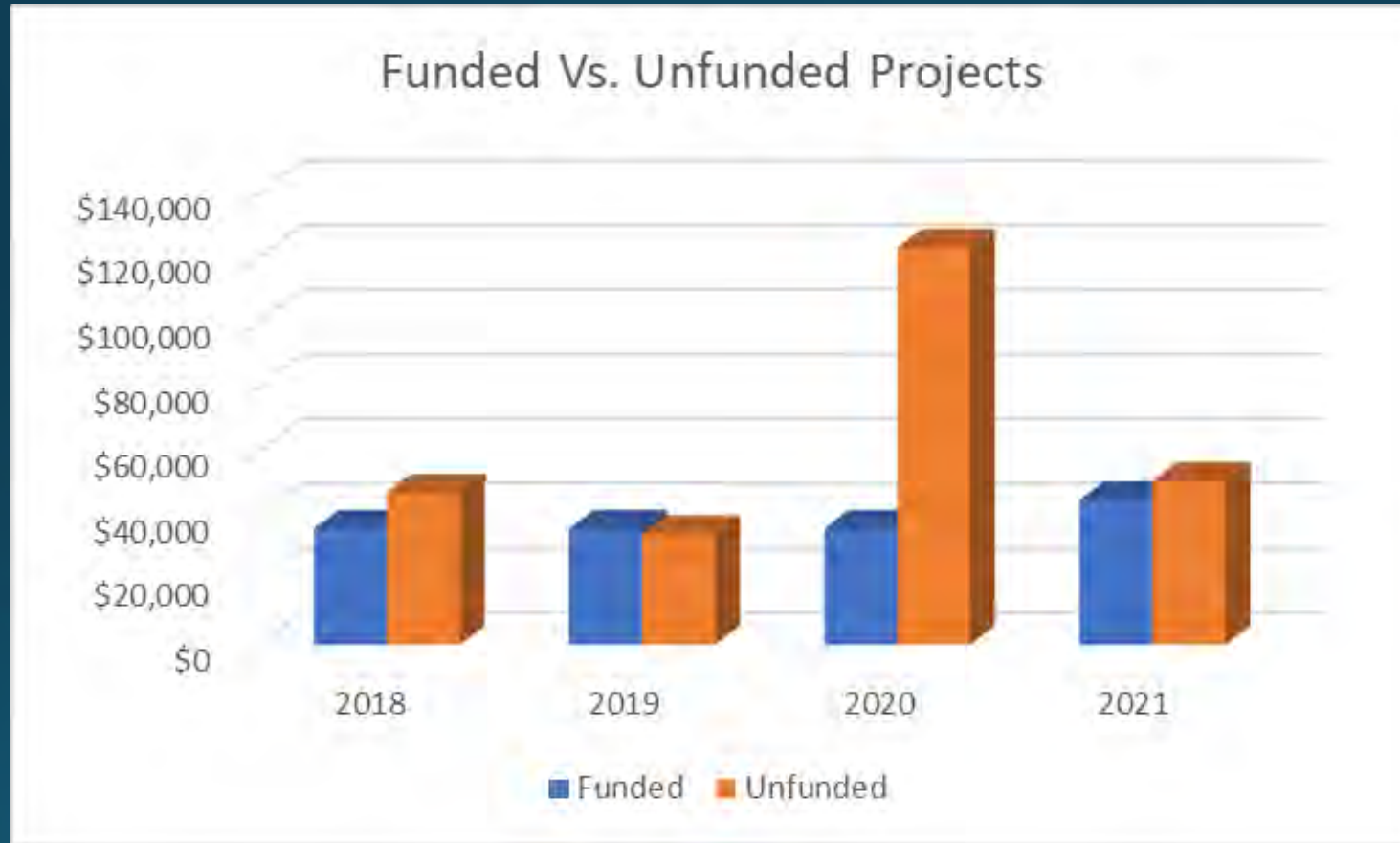
## FUNDED ENTITIES OVER THE LAST 7 YEARS



# Collaborative Work

- NGO's
  - Defenders of Wildlife
  - Western Wildlife Outreach
  - Blackfoot Challenge
  - Swan Valley Connections
  - Yaak Valley Forest Council
  - Yellowstone to Yukon
  - Wind River Institute
  - Bear Creek Council
  - Jack Creek Preserve

# FY2021 Grant Awardees



# IEO 5 Year Plan Update

- Goal 1: Ensure effective communication across all levels of IGBC
  - 2020 Accomplishments:
    - All IEO Chairs produced updates and discuss IEO issues at subcommittee meetings.
    - Completed a Work Plan to re-design website
  - 2021 Plan Actions
    - IEO Chairs will continue to communicate with their subcommittee
    - Re-design the IGBC Website

# IEO 5 Year Plan Update

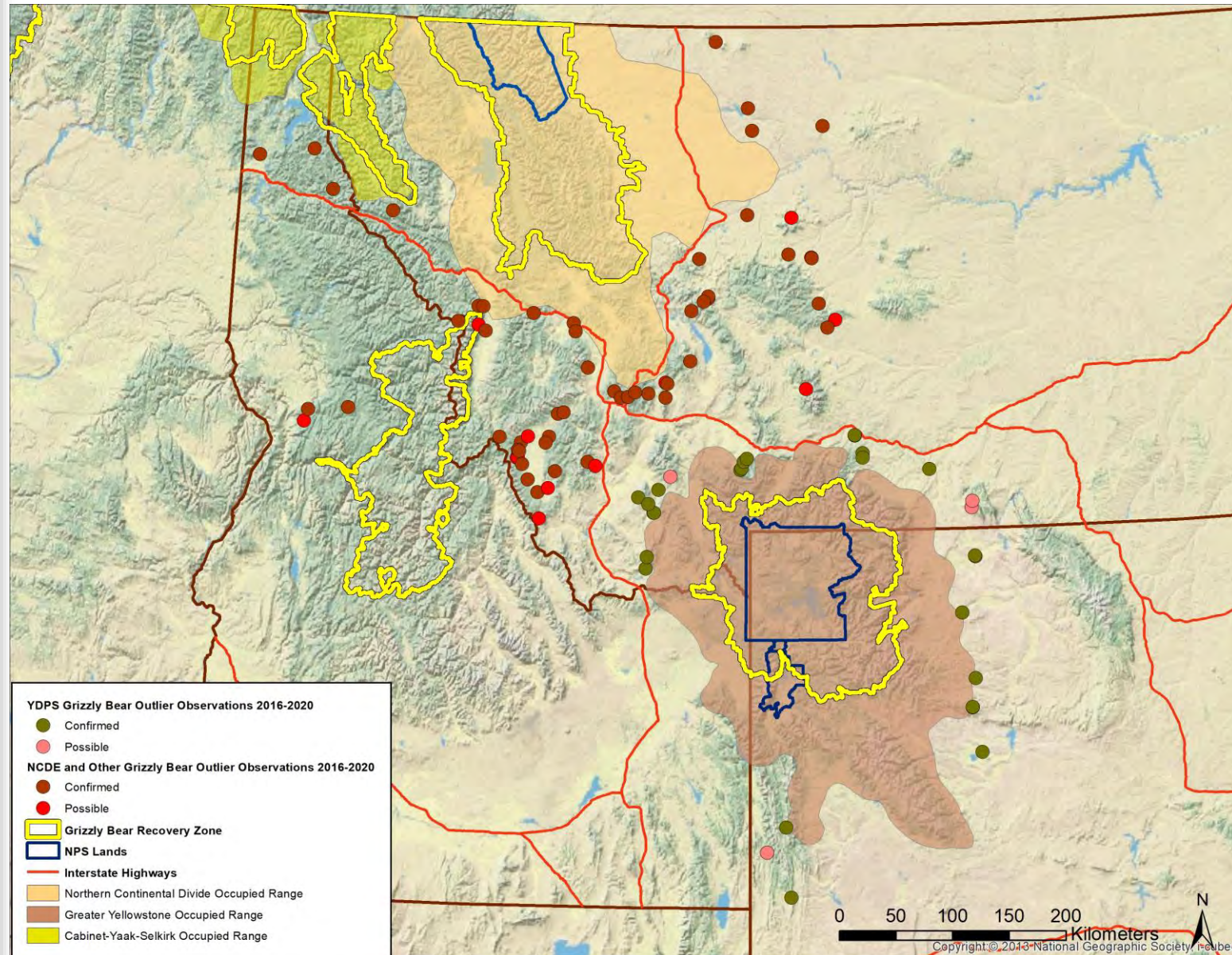
- Goal 2: Ensure consistency of messages across all IGBC I&E agencies
  - 2020 Accomplishments
    - IGBC adopted Bear Safety Messaging
    - Continue to remove old brochures from information offices
  - 2021 Planned Action
    - Continue to work on consistent messaging across agencies and NGO's

# IEO 5 Year Plan Update

- Goal 3: Increase use of bear spray by people who live, work and recreate in bear range.
  - 2020 Accomplishments
    - Bear Spray Advertisement in the Stalked Hunting Guide
      - 1,765 people opened the newsletter
      - 7,500 copies of the printed guide
    - Bear spray Training across all ecosystems
    - High priority in the Bitterroot IEO Plan
  - 2021 Planned Action
    - Purchased some Inert Cans to handout for trainings

# Bear Smart Communities

- Community driven program that creates a plan to reduce bear conflicts:
  - Attractant Management
  - Conservation
  - IEO Community Programs
- Build Partnerships with local bear specialist and NGO's
- To help communities in those in between areas as more bears disperse away from recovery zones.





# IEO 5 Year Plan Update

- New Goal: Establish the foundation of the IGBC Bear Smart Community Program
  - 2021 Planned Action
    - IEO Subcommittee will work with Mike Badry, BC and Kim Johnston, People and Carnivores to create the criteria for the Bear Smart Community Program.
    - Draft will also be distributed to agencies, bear specialist, and NGO's for comments.



# Response to Summit and GYE Request

- David Buth, PhD at the University of Wyoming
  - Developing a social science research agenda to evaluate information, education, and outreach (IEO) efficacy and guide practitioners for grizzly bear conflict reduction.
  - Next Fall he will have a report outlining a framework and road map for IEO programming trajectory that reduces human-grizzly conflict, augmenting agency efficacy, best uses available funding, and most effectively reaches different user groups.

# Webinar Update and Scheduling

- March 2021: Bear Spray and Hunting Safety
- April 2021: Bear Emerging- How to reduce conflict on your property
- May 2021: Electric Fencing- Defenders and Wildlife Services
- Other Ideas:
  - Recreating in Bear Country
  - Bear Smart Communities
  - Grizzly Bear Research
  - Work that other Partners are doing

# Questions and/or Comments

- Big Thanks to my IEO Subcommittee
  - Danielle Oyler, GYE
  - Dillon Tabish, NCDE
  - Amy Baumer, Bitterroot
  - Kim Annis, Selkirk and CYE
  - Denise Schultz, Cascade

