

# NCDE Grizzly Bear Conflict & Mortality Review

List of Recommendations

December 2019

# Priority Issues

1. Shooting Related
2. Automobile Strikes
3. Train Strikes
4. Site-Related Conflict: Waste Management & Chickens

# Overarching Recommendations

- Establish long-term working groups around each focal area to fully develop effective and practical solutions.
  - Include representatives from the most pertinent agencies
  - Consider representatives from external groups/industries where relevant
  - YES currently discussing how to involve external groups
  - Might be difficult when external groups have different political agendas?
  - Consider public individuals that may be interested
- Coordinate strategies among ecosystems where trends overlap.
  - IGBC considering this as part of larger restructuring dicussion
  - I&E Subcommittee an example

# Shooting-Related

- Target I & E Programs at Bird Hunters & Rifle Hunters
  - Videos
    - Review existing videos for effectiveness. Determine if additional videos are needed. Add to IGBC and agency websites.
      - Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association producing video for hunters. Ask for permission to share.
    - Play bear safety video at FWP regional offices for customer viewing.
      - FWP currently working through IT issues to show videos
  - Hunter Education
    - Offer bear spray workshop for hunters.
      - Hunter Ed Includes an extensive bear spray lesson

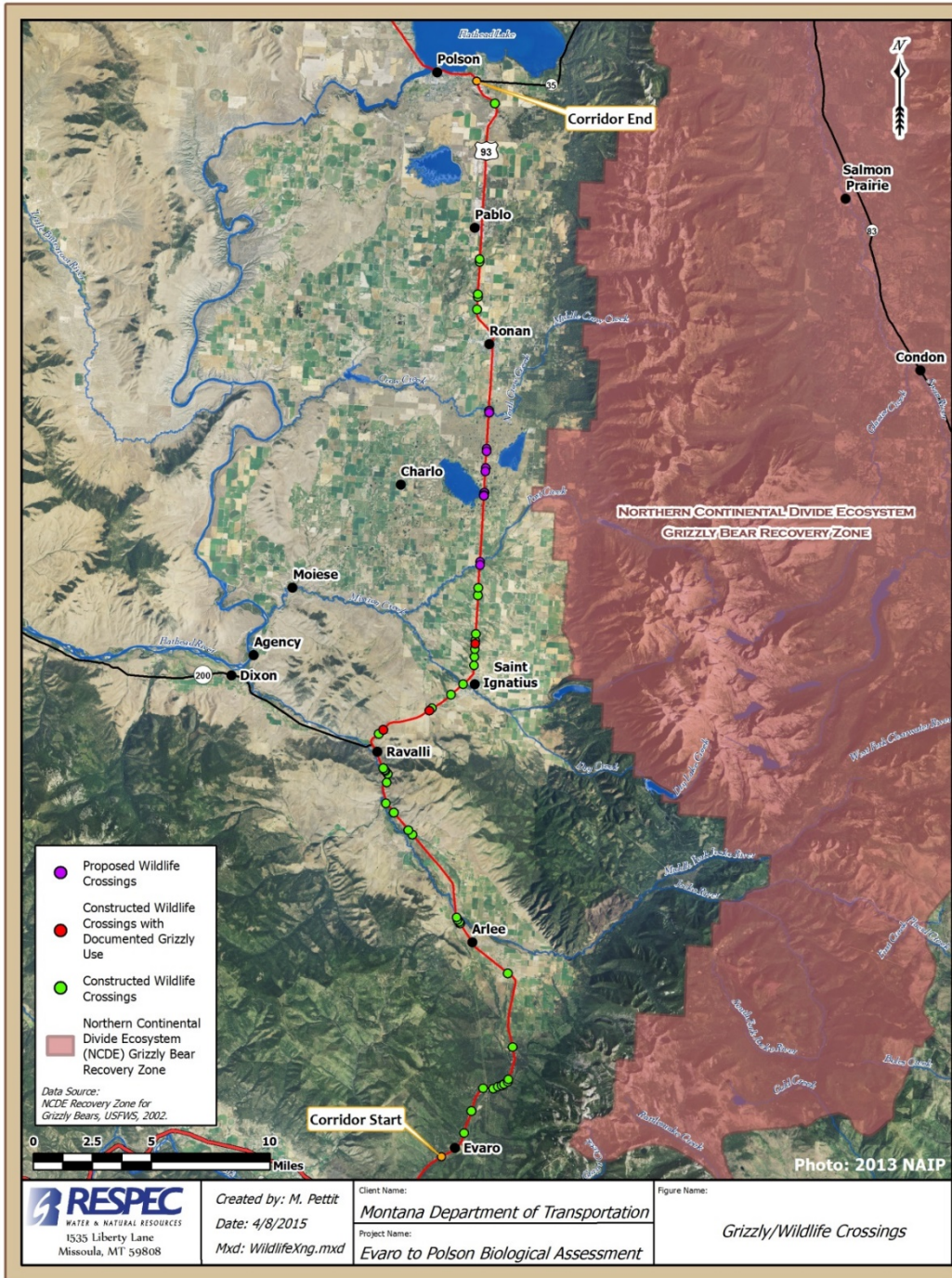
# Shooting-Related

## Bear Spray

- Continue and expand bear spray handouts by agencies.
  - Agency plans to hand out bear spray?
  - Grants thru IGBC?
- Bear spray rental programs. How effective is this model and should IGBC encourage – Remove from Recommendations?
  - Given liabilities, rentals programs would be better operated by private companies (e.g., Glacier Outfitters).
  - Bear spray recycling info on IGBC website?
- Initiate a campaign on the importance of hunters carrying bear spray.
  - Ask bear spray companies about discounts for first-time hunters
  - Signs to remind hunters to carry bear spray
  - Billboards targeting specific areas – funding cost-share with NGOs?

# Automobile Strikes

- Increase subcommittee engagement and support for scheduled MDT projects (Highway 93 north).
  - MDT now a member of subcommittee
  - Interagency working group for Hwy 93- expected to continue?
- Support a NGO coalition to advocate for effective wildlife connectivity measures (see 1-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition).
  - Missoula County piloting with small project collaborations with MDT (Kylie Paul, Joe W, Randy A)
  - Wildlife-Transportation Steering Committee members?
- Increase coordination with MDT and others on research evaluating effective mitigation measures.
  - FWP completed report on bear crossings for Hwy 93 – see map
  - Western Transportation Institute study on bump gates, culverts, jump-outs
- Develop highway signs to increase driver awareness of the potential for grizzly bear crossings.
  - Target specific areas; look into cost of flashing signs
- Continue road kill pickup.
  - Add compost sites where needed
    - Implications of CWD?



- Proposed Wildlife Crossings
- Constructed Wildlife Crossings with Documented Grizzly Use
- Constructed Wildlife Crossings
- Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone

Data Source:  
 NCDE Recovery Zone for Grizzly Bears, USFWS, 2002.

**RESPEC**  
 WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES  
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Created by: M. Pettit  
 Date: 4/8/2015  
 Mxd: WildlifeXng.mxd

Client Name:  
**Montana Department of Transportation**  
 Project Name:  
**Evaro to Polson Biological Assessment**

Figure Name:  
**Grizzly/Wildlife Crossings**

Photo: 2013 NAIP

# Railroad Related

- Conduct a review of warning systems and other mitigation tools used in other areas.
- Develop system for evaluating and maintaining fencing to exclude livestock from railway.
- Notify railroads that we are developing a working group on this issue.
  - No RR mortalities in 2020
  - Final HCP expected summer, but depends on extent of revisions
  - Hwy 2 Connectivity Working Group – additional future work?
  - R4/MDT/MT Highway Patrol developed coordination strategy to respond to carcasses from vehicle collisions along Hwy 2
  - How does subcommittee want to move forward?



# Site-Related Conflict

- Provide bear-proof containers to all residences in grizzly bear habitat
  - Gain buy-in from all waste management companies by inviting participation in WG
  - Prioritize focal areas to start campaign, move to other areas later
  - Explore funding options
  - Explore use of regulations and enforcement
  - IGBC plans for Bear Smart Community program – hoping for draft by winter IGBC mtg
- Chickens
  - Develop billboards to increase awareness of chickens as an attractant and tools to prevent conflict
  - Investigate how to work with local stores to increase awareness and prevention
  - Explore use of regulations and enforcement
  - Talk with Murdochs Corporation in Bozeman – put up signs, brochures and not sell wildlife feed
- Improve messaging on the importance of reporting bear conflicts & consequences of feeding bears.
  - Agencies consider adding to grizzly bear press releases - ongoing

# 2020-2021 NCDE Work Plan

## Goals & Objectives

**Goal #1: Complete the delisting process and transition to management of a delisted population**

- Finalize the Conservation Strategy by 4/30/2018
- Define the DPS by 9/30/2018
- Update recovery criteria, if necessary, by 8/31/2018
- Publish a proposed delisting rule, if appropriate, by 9/30/2018
- Finalize the delisting rule and begin implementation of the Conservation Strategy by 12/31/2019

**Goal #2: Reduce human-bear conflicts and public safety concerns in areas newly-occupied by bear**

- Increase human-bear safety outreach annually in areas newly occupied by grizzly bears
- Reduce livestock depredation from 2018 levels by 2022 across the ecosystem
- Reduce bear access to stored grain from 2018 levels by 2022 on the Rocky Mountain Front

**Goal #3: Improve conditions that allow interchange and dispersal between NCDE and Bitterroot, Cabinet-Yaak, and Yellowstone Ecosystems and Canada**

- Protect and improve habitat security in connectivity areas