

IGBC Strategic Discussion

12/9/21



1. Direction to Bear Smart Communities subgroup
2. Direction to Subcommittees
3. IGBC Executive Committee 2022 Actions
 - 5 Year Plan
 - Budget (mechanism, priorities, additional partners)
 - Membership/participation
 - Other?
4. IGBC Executive Committee 2022 Meetings
 - Executive Committees
 - [March]
 - June Field Visit – select dates
 - December Business Meeting – select dates
 - Subgroups

Bear Smart Communities



- Direction to Subgroup for 2022
 - Continue work on criteria
 - Identify pilot opportunities
- Questions to Address
 - Capacity to sustain the program
 - Shared position between States and Federal Agencies?
 - Funding to assist communities
 - Decision authority for approval
 - Legal Review

Conservation Teams Proposal (2021)



- Population monitoring [SCIENCE]
- Habitat monitoring/management [HABITAT]
- Conflict management and prevention [CONFLICT]
- Research [SCIENCE]
- Public information & education [IEO]

IGBC Overarching Goals (2019)



- Understand relationships between emerging patterns in recreation and grizzly bear conservation to support effective measures in preventing conflicts and mortalities. [CONFLICT]
- Identify landscape conditions that allow interchange and dispersal in areas between ecosystems and, where desired and feasible, maintain and enhance those conditions. [HABITAT]
- Identify trends and concerns, and support effective preventative measures to reduce human-bear conflicts and human caused mortality. [CONFLICT]
- Provide strategic support and direction to Bitterroot, Selkirk, Cabinet Yaak, and North Cascades Ecosystems for continued grizzly bear conservation and recovery efforts. [ORGANIZATIONAL]
- Support and coordinate integrative approaches to increase effectiveness and accuracy of population monitoring. [SCIENCE]
- Improve effective communication across all levels of IGBC [ORG]

Strategic Planning Iteration



- Habitat
- Science
- IEO
- Conflict
 - Data
 - Recreation
 - Communities
 - Livestock
 - Transportation

QUESTIONS

- What scale?
- What geography?
- Which partners?

Subcommittee Questions



- What does IGBC want us to work on?
- More coordination prior to finalizing subcommittee Work Plans.
- How tribes might be represented at IGBC executive level?
- How, and to what extent, to start facilitating bears outside of RZs, especially for linkage?
- I&E in non-traditional areas to get ahead of expanding bear populations?

NOTE



- The following slides represent a summary by David Diamond, Executive Coordinator of Subcommittee presentations. Due to time constraints these were not reviewed by the Subcommittees before presentation. Any errors are my own!
- Text in red is pulled from the existing IGBC 5 year plan.

North Cascades Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Establish and implement clear direction for recovery**
 - N/A
- **Maintain or enhance habitat conditions for Grizzly Bears**
 - Reaffirm the No Net Loss of Core Area agreement.
 - Complete ecosystem-wide database of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles by 2022
 - Standardize signage/language on signs by 2022
 - Expand food storage orders to all National Forests by 2022
 - Increase availability of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles annually
 - Determine presence/distribution of salmon poisoning disease (SPD) in fish and black bears in the NCE.
- **Document presence of Grizzly Bears**
 - Continue to follow up on reports; continue to deploy trail cameras.

Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Document presence/absence of grizzly bears in the ecosystem**
- **Promote natural recovery of the population through immigration**

Short Term

- DNA/Camera Survey
- Verified location database
- G-Bear conflict database for use by MT, ID & FWS
- Montana FWS connectivity area modeling
- Bear location Information
- Information and Education on Food storage
- Habitat modeling and monitoring

Potential Long-term

- Habitat modeling and monitoring
- Potential funding for mapping project
- Bitterroot Ecosystem recovery zone BMU mapping project
- Human Attitude Surveys

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution**
 - Augment the population
 - Limit human-caused mortality [IEO]
 - Document pop. growth rate and distribution [Science]
- **Connectivity to achieve occupancy standards and linkage**
[Habitat]
- **Apply results of research to habitat management**
[Habitat]
- **Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee** [ORG]

Selkirk Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution**
 - Limit human-caused mortality
 - Document pop. growth rate and distribution [SCIENCE]
- **Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery [ORG]**

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Establish and implement clear direction for recovery**
- **Maintain or enhance habitat conditions for Grizzly Bears**
- **Document presence of Grizzly Bears**

Ongoing efforts

- Transportation conflict – HCP for Railroad nearing completion; crossing coordination
- Livestock conflicts
- Habitat - habitat protection in landscape between NCDE and CYE
- Research

Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee



- **Successfully transition to management of a delisted population**

Ongoing Efforts

- Backcountry and Hunting WG
 - Food Storage Orders /WYOGA Video / Consistent Signage
- Livestock Conflict WG
- Chapt. 3 Habitat Standards WG
 - Developed Sites – Approve Spring 2022
- IGBST
 - Advancing Demographic Monitoring, update IPM, report to YES Spring 2022)

I&E Goals



- **Ensure effective communication across all levels of the IGBC**
- **Ensure consistency of messages across all IGBC I&E agencies**
- **Increase use of bear spray by people who live, work, and recreate in bear range**

Ongoing Efforts

- Website
- Webinars
- Social Science / Program Evaluation
- 2023 Summit

Budget Committee 2022



- Mechanism questions (FY23 and after)
 - IEO non-federal funding model
 - BRPTP finance (fee collection)
 - Staffing (BRPTP and Bear Smart)
- Prioritization Questions
 - Revise FY23 IEO spending call towards priority needs?
 - Long term IGBC commitments vs projects rolling on and off
- Additional funding sources
 - Can we find matches for the federal investment?

Additional Executive Working Groups



- Membership
- Others?