



IGBC UPDATE

David Diamond, Executive Coordinator

4/18/23

IGBC MISSION



The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) supports 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.

IGBC Executives 2023



- 3/30 Check-In Meeting, virtual
- 8/15-17 Summer Field Meeting, Gardiner, MT
- 12/12-14 Winter Business Meeting, Bozeman MT

IGBC Subcommittee 2023 Spring Meetings



- 4/19 Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee, Virtual
- 5/9 North Cascades Ecosystem Subcommittee, North Bend, WA
- 5/10-11 Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee, Cody, WY (afternoon on the 10th, morning of the 11th)
- 5/17 Northern Continental Divide Subcommittee, Helena MT
- 5/23 Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Subcommittee, Libby, MT

Recent IGBC-level Activity



- Science Team
- IEO Summit Planning Team
- Bear Smart Communities Technical Working Group
- Conflict group
- Bear Resistant Container Product Testing Program
- Subcommittee Conservation Strategies

Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee



- Forest Supervisors for the Bitterroot, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, Lolo, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth National Forests;
- Representatives from the wildlife agencies in ID and MT;
- The Supervisors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Service offices in ID and MT;
- A representative from the Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannock tribes;
- A representative of county governments in ID / MT.

Subcommittee Roles and Responsibilities



- Develop an annual work plan, consistent with the IGBC 5-year plan
- Coordinate implementation of the approved annual work plan
- Establish necessary teams to implement approved actions
- Report to the Executive Committee at each winter meeting on the progress of action items;
- Recommend revisions to the 5-year plan based on the best available science and management action necessary to achieve recovery;
- Identify funding or other resource needs
- If directed by the Executive Committee, develop a proposed conservation strategy to be implemented upon delisting.
- Identify issues that cannot be resolved at the Subcommittee level and elevate them to the Executive Committee for resolution.

Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee Goals (and Plan of Work)



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

Bear Smart Community Framework



- Post the IGBC Bear Smart Communities framework and working group materials. [Framework is posted, Manual in progress]
- Continue with a standing IGBC Bear Smart Communities Working Group (including representatives from MTFWP, IDFG, WYGF, and WDFW, and USFWS). [MET 3/20/23]
- Utilize USFWS staffing to assist with coordination and implementation as directed by the IGBC Bear Smart Communities Working Group, and in coordination with state agencies. [TBD]
- Each State will decide how to handle specific engagement with communities and state specific desired outcomes. [TBD]
- The IGBC Bear Smart Working group will develop and recommend a potential recognition (not certification) option for communities that successfully participate in the Bear Smart Communities program. [TBD]



Proactive approaches can help reduce the potential for future conflicts. There has been a substantial amount of research on bear behavior and human-bear conflicts over the last several decades and this information can be used to develop effective human-bear conflict mitigation strategies that help communities and bears more effectively share the landscape.

The IGBC supports collaborative community-led strategies that benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape. At the December 2022 meeting, the IGBC Executive Committee adopted the IGBC Bear Smart Community framework. The framework may be useful for communities that are voluntarily interested in establishing their own Bear Smart Committees, completing a Bear Smart Community Assessment, and developing and implementing a Bear Smart Community Plan. The framework is intended to be flexible enough so that it can be adapted by individual communities to fit their needs.

- **IGBC Bear Smart Community Framework (12/2022)**

The IGBC Bear Smart Communities Working Group (including representatives from MTFWP, IDFG, WYGF, and WDFW, and USFWS) will continue to meet to coordinate and compile supporting information. As more material is produced, it will be posted here.

For more information, please directly contact your local state wildlife agency.

Bear Smart Community Technical Working Group



- WY: Rick King, Kyle Garret, Dan Thompson
- WA: Seth Thompson
- ID: Toby Boudreau, Barb Moore
- MT: Lori Roberts, Kim Annis, Jeremiah Smith, Bruce Montgomery, Jamie Jonkel
- FWS: Amber Kornak, Rory Trimbo, Ben Jimenez
- IGBC: David Diamond