



IGBC UPDATE

David Diamond, Executive Coordinator

5/17/23

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

Recent IGBC-level Activity



- Science Team
- IEO Summit Planning Team
- Bear Smart Communities Technical Working Group
- Subcommittee Conservation Strategies

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
- **5/17 Northern Continental Divide Subcommittee, Helena MT**
- 5/23 Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem Subcommittee, Libby, 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.

NCDE Spring Meeting 2023



- Science
- IEO
- Conflict
- Habitat

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Subcommittee Goals



- **Complete the delisting process and transition to management of a delisted population**
- **Reduce human-bear conflicts and public safety concerns in areas newly-occupied by bears**
- **Improve conditions that allow interchange and dispersal between NCDE and Bitterroot, Cabinet-Yaak, and Yellowstone Ecosystems and Canada**



IEO UPDATE

Grizzly Bear IE&O Summit

- January or February 2024
- Idaho, looking at Coeur d'Alene
- Topics/Priorities



Bear Smart Community Framework



- Post the IGBC Bear Smart Communities framework and working group materials.
- Continue with a standing IGBC Bear Smart Communities Working Group (including representatives from MTFWP, IDFG, WYGF, and WDFW, and USFWS).
- 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.
- Each State will decide how to handle specific engagement with communities and state specific desired outcomes.
- 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.

BEAR SMART COMMUNITIES

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee → Programs → Bear Smart Communities



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)**
- **IGBC Bear Smart Community Manual (5/2023)**
- **IGBC Bear Smart Community References (5/2023)**
- **IGBC Bear Smart Community Presentation (5/2023)**

Bear Smart Community Technical Working Group



- WY: Rick King, 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