

# Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee

Food Storage Working Group



# Food Storage Working Group

## Bitterroot Subcommittee

---

- |                          |       |                                   |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| • Bryson Bell            | USFS  | Lolo NF                           |
| • Sandi Fisher           | USFWS | Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office    |
| • Jennifer Fortin-Noreus | USFWS | Grizzly Bear Recovery Office      |
| • Jesse Irwin            | USFS  | Bitterroot NF                     |
| • Scott Jackson          | USFS  | Northern Regional Office          |
| • Karryl Krieger         | USFS  | Salmon - Challis NF               |
| • Jim Lutes              | USFS  | Nez Perce – Clearwater NF         |
| • Bruce Montgomery       | MFWP  | Bitterroot Valley Bear Management |
| • Diane Probasco         | USFS  | Idaho Panhandle NF                |
| • J.J. Teare             | IDFG  | Clearwater Regional Supervisor    |
| • Ally Turner            | USFWS | Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office    |

# Food Storage Orders and Sanitation

---

- First line of defense
- Minimize potential for conflict
- Human safety
- Bear mortality risk
- ESA
- Effective
- Can be unpopular



# Goals

---

- Be proactive
- Cooperative approach
- Be consistent
- Include I/E/O
- Develop implementation framework



# Working Group update

---

- Our efforts are a work in progress and more time is needed to finalize recommendations
- Agree that IEO is critical
  - All entities would benefit from increased public outreach (signage, user groups, interdisciplinary)
- Agree that availability of bear-resistant infrastructure makes compliance easier
  - Incremental improvements in high priority areas
- Multiple spatial scales and jurisdictions

# Food Storage Orders

---

- Initial focus is on public land (primarily USFS)
- Consistency important
  - Include exemption for baiting where bear baiting is legal
- Forest-by-Forest implementation
  - Forests are in different stages
  - Bitterroot NF likely the first
- We'd like to develop a framework for implementation:
  - "Timeline" approach (1 year? 2-3 years? 4+ years?), or
  - "Trigger" approach (grizzly bear occurrence/occupancy? bear conflicts?)
- Phased implementation?

# Next Steps

---

- Working Group finalizes an implementation framework
  - Encourage participation on IEO Subcommittee
  - Working Group membership
- Development of Bitterroot NF Food Storage Order

---

# Discussion and Input?

