



# IEO Subcommittee 2024 Overview

Lori Roberts, IEO Chair

# Information, Education, and Outreach Subcommittee

- Ally Turner (USFWS) and Vivca Crowser (MFWP), Bitterroot Ecosystem
- Hilary Whitcomb (USFWS) and Morgan Pfander (IDFG), Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem
- Danielle Oyler (MFWP), Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
- Denise Schultz (NPS) and Andrew Lavalle (USFWS), North Cascade Ecosystem
- Dillon Tabish (MFWP), Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

# Five Year Plan

01

Goal 1: Ensure effective communication across all levels of IGBC

02

Goal 2: Ensure consistency of messages across all IGBC IEO agencies

03

Goal 3: Increase use of bear spray by people who live, work, and recreate in bear range.

# Subcommittee Meeting Topics

- Add NGOs to subcommittee in an advisor role
- Review of Funding Program Criteria
- IEO Summit Summary
- 2025 Goals
- Tracking Bear Smart Communities



FY 2024  
Funded  
Projects-  
\$42,397

<b>Bitterroot Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Salmon-Challis NF- \$4,897</li><li>• Montana FWP- \$2,500</li><li>• Bear Smart Alberton- \$2,000</li></ul>
<b>Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yaak Valley Bear Aware- \$2,000</li><li>• Idaho Office of Species Conservation- \$2,500</li></ul>
<b>Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bear Creek Council- \$2,500</li><li>• Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance- \$3,000</li><li>• Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF- \$5,000</li></ul>
<b>North Cascades Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Western Wildlife Outreach- \$6,000</li></ul>
<b>Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swan Valley Connections- \$2,500</li><li>• Teton Bear Smart- \$2,500</li><li>• People and Carnivores- \$2,500</li></ul>
<b>Selkirk Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washington Fish and Wildlife- \$2,000</li></ul>
<b>All Ecosystems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defenders of Wildlife- \$2,500</li></ul>

\*Reminder the ask total was \$205,041

# Idaho Office of Species Conservation

- 2024 North Idaho Bear Fair
  - ~176 cans of bear spray were handed out at the fair
    - 96 purchased with IGBC funds
- To receive the free can of bear spray attendees had to:
  - Attend the IDFG bear safety presentation
  - Practice using a bear spray on a remote-controlled grizzly bear





# Salmon-Challis National Forest

- Purchased 16 bear-resistant containers, all materials, and technician time to install
- Money for design and purchase of educational signs for “Be Bear Aware” program
  - Education Forest employees
  - Local Communities
- Forest certified a bear spray trainer
  - Provided two trainings for SCNF employees



# Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

- Purchased over 20 bear-resistant food storage boxes
- New "This is Bear Country " and "Food Storage Required" signs
- Funding for an employee to conduct hunter patrols

## THIS IS BEAR COUNTRY

**Be Bear Aware.**  
Bears may be present in this area.  
Bears prefer heavy cover during the day and are attracted to ALL food sources and smells.



- ✓ **Carry Bear Spray** and know how to use it.
- ✓ **Never Run from a Bear.** Running can provoke bears to chase.
- ✓ **Properly Store All Attractants.** Store all garbage, food, pet and livestock feed inside your vehicle or IGBC approved bear-resistant container.
- ✓ **Keep a Clean Camp.** Cooking smells, snacks, pet food, and personal hygiene products can attract bears. Never bring them into your tent.
- ✓ **Make Noise** when recreating in areas with heavy vegetation. Stay together and stay alert!
- ✓ **Watch for Bear Sign.** Look for scat, tracks, diggings, or stumps and logs that have been torn apart.

Visit [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov) or scan the code to find out more.



## FOOD STORAGE REQUIRED

Please keep all attractants attended or stored using approved method.

**ATTRACTANTS INCLUDE:**  
Food, beverages other than water, personal hygiene products, game meat + carcass parts, processed livestock feed, pet food, and garbage.

**APPROVED STORAGE METHODS:**

- ✎ Hung at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any vertical support.
- ✎ Stored inside an IGBC-approved bear-resistant container, or electric fence that is operating properly, or in a hard-sided vehicle.

**ANIMAL CARCASSES OR CARCASS PARTS:**

- ✎ Must be properly stored and at least 100 yards from any known occupied camping area.
- ✎ Must be properly stored if within 200 yards of a National Forest System road or trail.
- ✎ Do not have to be stored with approved methods if more than 1/4-mile from an occupied camping area or 200 yards from a National Forest System road or trail.

REGULATIONS APPLY MARCH 1 - DECEMBER 1

**NOTICE**  
Violations of the Food Storage Order are highly enforceable under 36 CFR 261.50(a).  
Violations punishable by a fine not more than \$5000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.







# Bear Creek Council

- 8 of the 75 64-gallon Bear Resistant Cans



Photo Credit: Kodiak Products



# Western Wildlife Outreach

- Layout Design and Printing of a Bear Coloring Booklet
- Snoqualmie Elementary STEM Night
- Sky Valley Education Center Earth Day
- 2024 Farm Raising
  - 1000 ft of fencing laid by over 200 volunteers
- North Cascades Outreach
- Grizzly Camp, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center
- Camp S'more, Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park
- Wildlife Wednesday at BearGrass Farm with PAWS-Farmer Frog
- Nisqually Watershed Festival



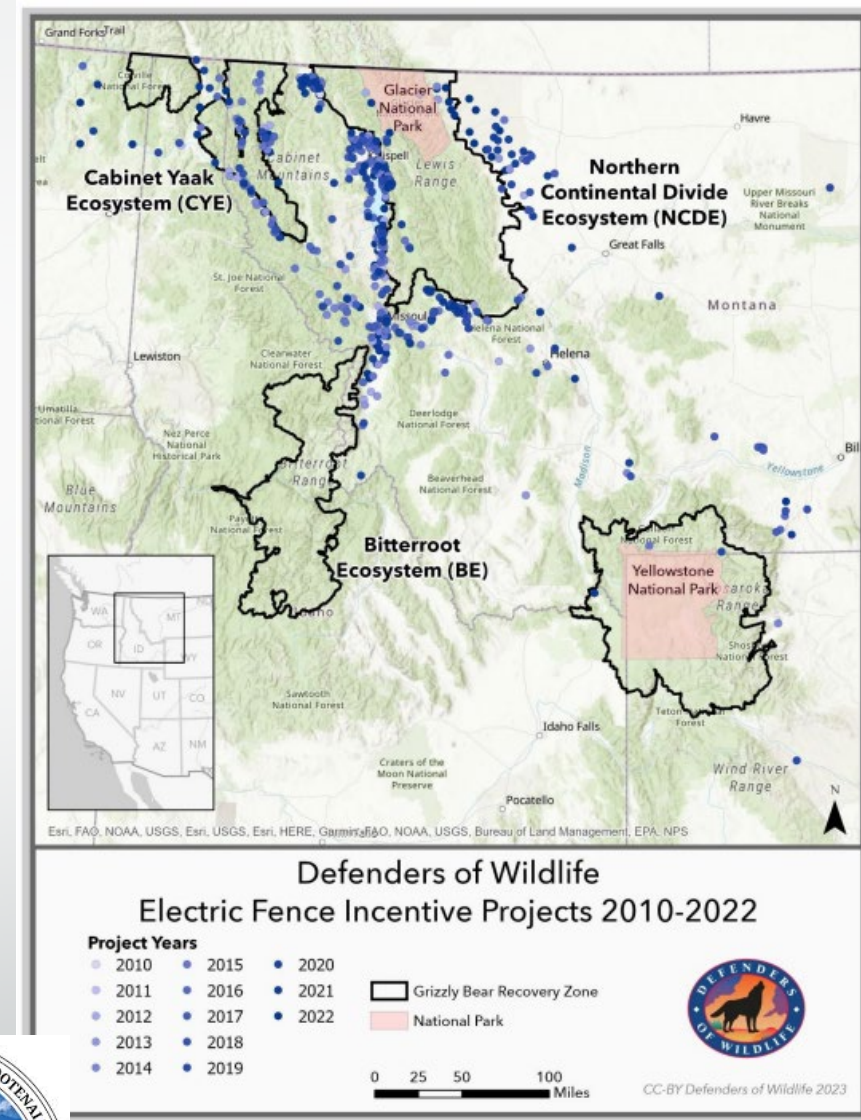


- Education Events
  - Spring Bear Wake-up Social (Condon, MT)
  - Bear Awareness and Bear Spray (Bigfork, MT)
  - Bear Fair (Ferndale, MT)
- Support for the Swan Valley Bear Ranger





- Funds helped to complete 26 new electric fences
- Additional 41 participants in various stages of planning, development, or installation
- Total number of projects completed: 678





**PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES**



## Columbia Falls Bear Conflict Reduction Resolution

Collaborated with Evergreen Disposal

- Developed education materials on securing bear attractants and effectively securing garbage
- Developed a bear education section on their website
- Developed a mailer survey and education postcard that reached 7,500 residents

Organized multiple education events throughout the Flathead Valley  
Columbia Falls High School for students and faculty  
Held five bear spray trainings



**COLUMBIA FALLS**  
MONTANA





# Teton Bear Smart

## Choteau Bear Fair

- More than 50 people participated in the event
- Bear Safety Discussions
- Electric Fence Demos
- Bear Spray education

## BUILD YOUR BEAR SMART SKILLS



Sunday  
**APRIL**  
**21**

2:00-3:30 pm



at the  
**WEATHERBEATER  
ARENA**

Choteau, MT

*Rain or Shine*

### Schedule of Events

- ✓ **Ever discharged bear spray?**  
Using inert canisters, practice spraying it *bear smart* with Ali Marschner and Chad White of MT FWP
- ✓ **Will your electric fence deter a bear?** Learn to build it *bear smart* with Chrissy Lambert of Wildlife Services and Jenn Swanson of Teton County Extension

**Free! Adults and  
children welcome**

**Hosted by:**  
**Teton Bear Smart**

**Sponsored by:**



# Bitterroot Valley Electric Fence Loaner Program

- Funds for six electric fence kits
  - Used this summer on 30 different conflicts
  - Inspired 10 different homeowner to purchase their own fence



# “Island Park is Bear Country”

- Purchased Inert Bear Spray to support IDFG bear spray training program
- 17 weeks of ads about bear awareness
- Distributing People and Carnivores homeowner kits



**HENRYS FORK  
WILDLIFE ALLIANCE**  
CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE



**PEOPLE AND CARNIVORES**

# Fall Bear Fair Events

- Purchase of an Apple Press
- Total of 4 Bear Events
  - Bear Spray Education
  - Demos of Bear-Resistant Garbage Cans
  - Bear Aware Education





# Bear Education and Outreach

- Supplies and Materials
  - K-12 Education Truck
  - Tabling supplies for community events
  - Education display at the Alberton Community Center



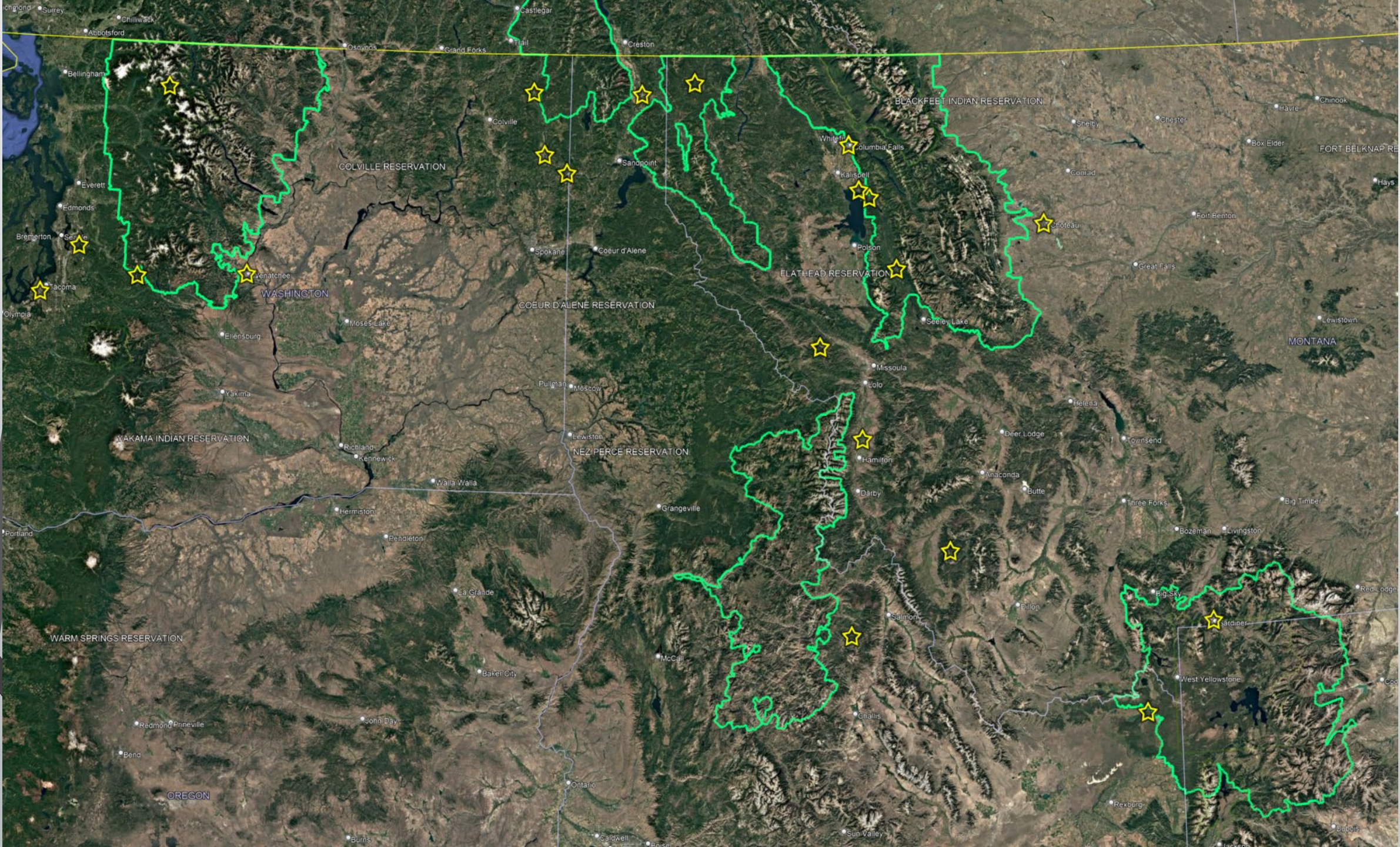


## Bear Awareness Education Campaign

- Organize two apple pressing events
- Demonstrate proper use of bear-safe products
- Remove potential bear attractants







Chong

Surrey

Chilliwack

Abbotsford

Osoyoos

Grand Forks

Trail

Castlegar

Creston

Whitefish

Columbia Falls

Kalispell

Polson

St. Joe

Shelby

Chester

Box Elder

Chinook

Hays

Bellingham

Everett

Edmonds

Bremerton

Sarcello

Yacoma

Olympia

Menatchee

Ellensburg

Moses Lake

Spokane

Coeur d'Alene

Sandpoint

Polson

Seeley Lake

Great Falls

Fort Benton

Fort Belknap

Hays

Yakima

Richland

Kennewick

Walla Walla

Hermiston

Pendleton

La Grande

Baker City

McCall

Grangeville

Hamilton

Darby

Missoula

Wolo

Helena

Deer Lodge

Townsend

Bozeman

Livingston

Portland

Redmond

Prineville

Bend

John Day

Ontario

Caldwell

Boise

Sun Valley

Salmon

Ballou

Butte

Three Forks

Big Sky

Sardiner

West Yellowstone

Red Lodge

Big Timber

Big Timber

Washington

Colville Reservation

Yakama Indian Reservation

Washouli

Nez Perce Reservation

Warm Springs Reservation

Coeur d'Alene Reservation

Flathead Reservation

Blackfeet Indian Reservation

Idaho

Montana

Wyoming

Utah

Oregon

California

Arizona

Nebraska

South Dakota

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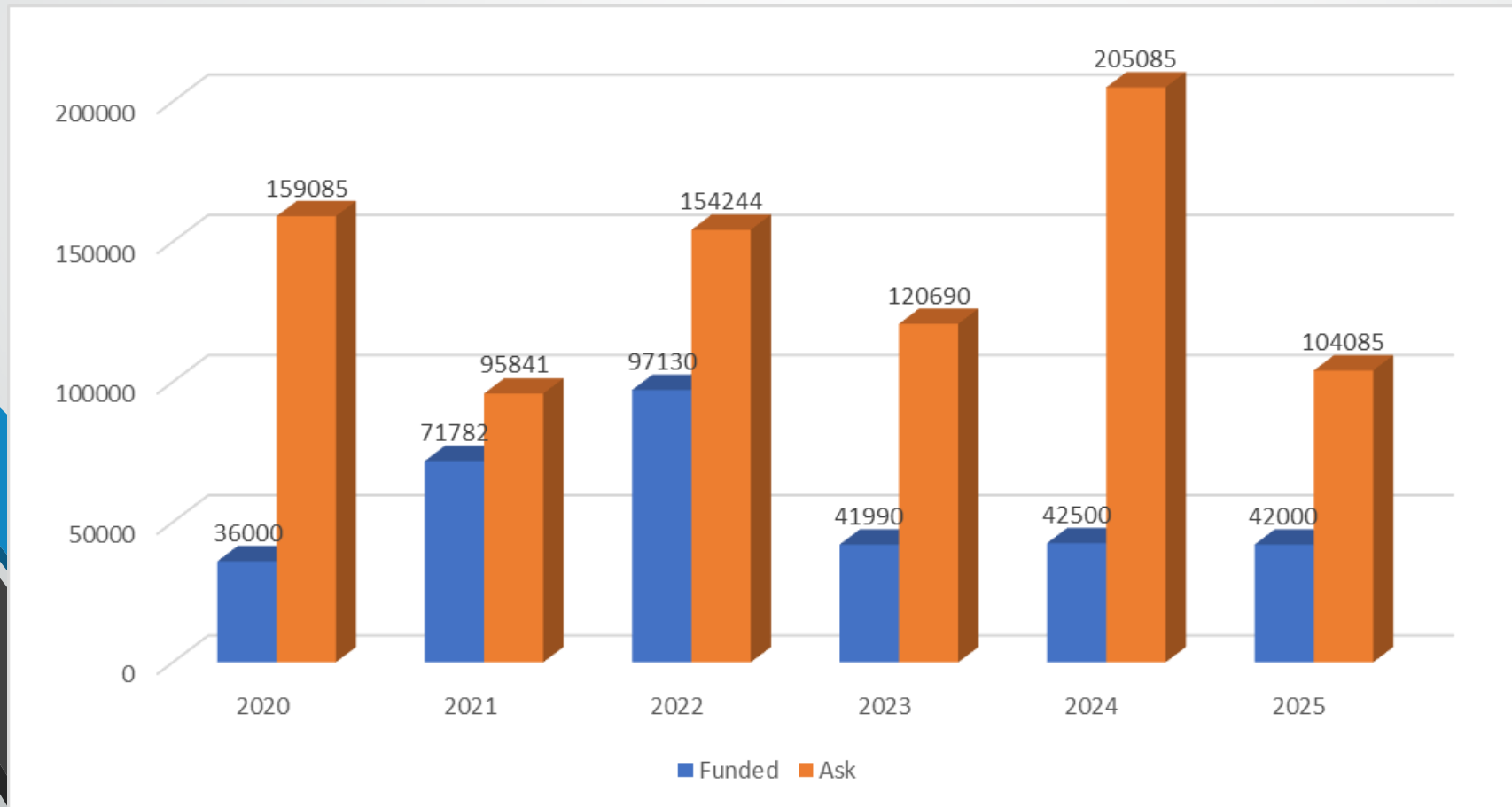
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# IEO Funding Program





# 7<sup>th</sup> International Human-Bear Conflict Workshop

- Montana Fish Wildlife and Park and Polar Bear International are Co-Hosting
- October 5-9<sup>th</sup> 2025 Kalispell Montana



Questions / Comments