

BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION
FS REGIONAL OFFICE, MISSOULA, MONTANA – MISSOURI ROOM
22 JANUARY 2020 – 23 JANUARY 2020

Objective: Gain a common understanding of grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem, including current status, where we need to go, and expectations of the USFWS and USFS

Day 1 will be a high-level discussion of background, current status, and relevant issues.

Day 2 will be a technical discussion for managers and staff-level biologists.

Day 1 - 22 January 2020

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome, Introductions, Objective of Meeting Day 1 (FWS, FS joint)

9:00 – 10:30 Bitterroot Ecosystem Background (FWS lead)

- Recovery Planning History for BE
 - Connectivity/Linkage areas in other ecosystems
 - Status of USFWS solicitor review of original 10j status (FWS lead)
- Species Status/Distribution in BE

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:45 Predictions regarding 'species may be present' beyond Montana forest into Idaho? Washington? How? When? (FWS lead)

- Methodology used to determine expansion
 - Data, triggers, key personnel
 - Database of record
- Brief summary of relevant research

11:45 – 12:45 Lunch – ordered in

12:45 - 13:45 September 2019 changes impacting Lolo, Bitterroot, Nez Perce/Clearwater, and Salmon-Challis (FS lead)

- Forest Planning impacts
- Context of overall management approach, identified thresholds, work capacity commitments, and forest planning schedules
- Where do the 1986 Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines fit in? (FWS lead)

13:45 – 14:45 Section 7(a)(1) Conservation and Recovery Measures (what and where?) (FS lead)

- Food storage (sanitation plan, \$\$, timelines)
- Information and Education (who, what, where and when)
- Identification of Bear relocation sites
- Others

14:45 – 15:15 Section 7(a)(2) analysis for bears outside Recovery Zone (FS lead)

- Analysis units and metrics—issues of consistency and workforce capacity

15:15 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 16:15 Where do we go from here?

- Forest Planning summary
- Information Needs
- Messaging
 - Signage
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Coordination with State Partners
 - Working Groups (science)

16:15 – 16:45 Action Items and Close-out

Evening Social TBD

Day 2 - 23 January 2020

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome, Introductions, Objective of Meeting Day 2

9:00 – 11:00 Mapping the Bitterroot

- Defining the recovery zone
- Connectivity/linkage areas
- Identification of baseline conditions within the Recovery Zone
 - Bear Occupancy (Database of record)
 - Credible sightings-methodology
 - Bear Management Units
 - (1) Road densities (and/or secure habitat)
 - (2) Livestock allotments
 - (3) Developed sites
- Challenges with databases, litigation

11:00 – 11:30 Roles/Responsibilities - additional discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Section 7 Effects Analysis—thresholds for Forest Plan and project specific analysis - any additional discussion needed? (FS lead)

12:30 – 13:00 Action Items and Close-out