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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Forum
Attachments: [USFWS USFS Bitterroot_GB Agenda 2022_Draft.docx](#)

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April 14th looks like the best date for most - <Lydia

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BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT FORUM—ROUND II

Objective: Continue leadership dialog on grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem, including implications for forest planning, important connectivity research developments, recent litigation implications, and agency expectations.

- **Welcome and Background (Forum 1-January 2020)**
- **Recap of Priority Work and What has Been Accomplished to Date**
- **Updated May Be Present (MBP) map and implications for the BE**
- **Recovery Plan, Potential Delisting of GYE**
- **Recent Litigation & Implications (Brebner Flats; Soldier Butler)**
- **Connectivity Research Update & Implications**
- **Forest Planning**
 - Schedules, management approach, implications of upcoming research on existing and new plans
 - Mapping habitat elements in the Bitterroot (i.e., BMUs, connectivity/linkage areas, baseline conditions (secure habitat, allotments, developed recreation))
- **Section 7(a)(2) analysis for bears outside Recovery Zone**
 - Analysis units
 - Analysis metrics
- **Review and agreement on assignments**

NEEDS and POC/Lead from January 2020 meeting

- 1) **Communication Plan (BE IGBC subcommittee I & E)**
 - Talking points related to Idaho grizzly bear 'species may be present' (Jen)
 - Community based
 - Pathway and Key POC
- 2) **Conservation and Recovery Actions (7a1) (ALL)**
 - Re-examine the Recovery Plan for options
- 3) **Relocation Sites (BE IGBC Subcommittee)**
 - Short term vs. Long Term Plans
- 4) **Synopsis of Bitterroot Recovery History (Hilary)**
 - Include glossary!
- 5) **Role of BE IGBC subcommittee**
 - Report out to Executive IGBC in spring 2020
 - Incorporate actions into new 5-year Action Plan
- 6) **Recovery Zone Boundaries and Connectivity (BE Science Tech Team)**
 - Define Connectivity
 - Revisit Recent IGBC Discussions on these topics
- 7) **Identify Science Technical Team (BE IGBC subcommittee Chair)**
- 8) **Signing Protocols for Expanding Bear Population (BE IGBC I&E Team)**
- 9) **Food Storage Orders & Sanitation (BE IGBC Subcommittee + Scott Jackson)**
 - Consistency across the Ecosystem!!
 - Sanitation messaging focused on ALL bears
- 10) **Coordination with State/Tribal Partners**
 - Part of multiple 'needs' such as communication plan
- 11) **Credible Sightings, Conflict Databases and Survey 1-2-3 (Jen)**
 - Summary/Briefing Sheet
 - POCs
- 12) **Database and GIS layers Point of Contact (Lydia)**
 - Consider RO
- 13) **Consistent Analysis Unit for Section 7 Consultation (Lydia & R1 Team)**
- 14) **Training (R1 and R4 forests) (Lydia and Lee)**
 - Section 7 consultation on grizzly bears for biologists that haven't had that exposure

PRIORITY WORK and WORKING GROUPS:

#1—COMMUNICATION PLAN

- **PLAYERS:** Sandi, Hillary, Amy Bauer (IGBC I&E lead), Todd McKay (BNF Public affairs officer), someone from Nez-Clear NF (*Cheryl to provide a name suggestion*), Andy Brunell (ID state liaison for FS), Allie Turner (PAO for ID ESO)
- **TIMELINE:** = draft available for review in 45 days (by early March 2022)
- **APPENDIX** = history/synopsis of BE that Hilary is going to produce (complete in 30-40 days)
- Chuck re-engage I&E from IGBC subcommittee, tie to Recovery synopsis
- Key Pieces
 - Living with bears; bears are coming
 - Technical aspects of Recovery Plan and what FWS needs to recover bears in the ecosystem

#2 FOREST PLANS and TIE-IN WITH BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM

- Cheryl to lead, other Forest Supervisors involved
- 2 components:
 - Planning piece-- how to incorporate into Forest Plans
 - 7(a)(1) Conservation and Recovery ideas to consider

#3 SYNOPSIS OF THIS MEETING for Internal and Public—TALKING POINTS

- Lydia and Chris will draft something and send out to the group by .
- Touching bases with States (courtesy calls?)
 - Chris Swanson- talk with OSC in ID
 - Carolyn- call Randy Arnold

#4 IGBC BE SUBCOMMITTEE:

- Set up a Science Team
- Develop 5 year plan draft by (and who leads this?)
- Relocations plan