

From: [Crowser, Vivaca](#)
To: [Jonkel, James](#); [Arnold, Randy](#); [Bradley, Liz](#); [Montgomery, Bruce](#); [Hampson, Eli](#); [Balis, Brad](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Lemon, Greg](#); [O'Neill-McLeod, Peggy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] draft BR grizzly bear news
Date: Monday, October 3, 2022 4:27:39 PM
Attachments: [Two grizzly bears trapped and moved in the Bitterroot Valley this week .docx](#)

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Hi, all-

Please see the attached draft of the news release to announce trapping and moving the two grizzly bears in the northern Bitterroot Valley this week. Please send me any edits you have, and then we'll send this on to the FWP Director's Office for final review.

Thanks,

Vivaca Crowser

Information and Education Program Manager
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[Montana FWP](#) | [Montana Outdoors Magazine](#)



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

From: [Teare,Jim](#)
To: [Allen, Lydia R -FS](#); [Anderson, Matthew D -FS](#); [Baumer, Amy E -FS](#); [Becar, Jennifer - FS](#); [Conard, Ben](#); [Brett Barsalou](#); [Bruns,Jennifer](#); [carl.petrick \(carl.petrick@usda.gov\)](#); [Lewis, Carly](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Dan Huls](#); [D"Aversa, Mary A](#); [Diamond, David - FS, BOZEMAN, MT](#); [Dungan, Jason D -FS](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Harris, Rich](#); [Hotze, Bekee - FS](#); [Jackson, Scott -FS](#); [Jake Strohmeier \(Jake.Strohmeier@usda.gov\)](#); [Jamie Jonkel](#); [Jerman, Katelyn E -FS](#); [Kerey Barnowe-Meyer \(kereybm@nezperce.org\)](#); [Linda Jackson - U.S. Forest Service, Payette NF \(linda.l.jackson@usda.gov\)](#); [Mark, Chuck -FS](#); [Martens, Justin - FS](#); [McKay, Tod G -FS](#); [Oelrich,Katherine](#); [Parlette, Alicia A](#); [Probert, Cheryl -FS](#); [Pruss, Michael - FS](#); [Mowry, Rebecca](#); [rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org](#); [Upton, Carolyn -FS](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#); [Whitcomb, Hilary\(Eddie\)](#)
Cc: [Tritz,Chasity](#); [martin.mitzkus@usda.gov](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fall meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 9:35:29 AM
Attachments: [IGBC BE Subcommittee Fall agenda-11-21-22.docx](#)

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Good morning. After reviewing the last doodle pool looks like Monday Nov 21st will be the best day to hold our Fall 2022 IGBC Bitterroot SC meeting. After getting a few more agenda items (thanks) had to stretch out the agenda (attached) a bit, so will run from 1200-1700 mountain standard time. Sure we will wrap up earlier than 1700. Wanted to get everyone time to share in the agenda. We still have time till meeting to add or change items, so let me know. Will send out agenda again when we get Zoom link set up. Sorry we are not planning for a face to face meeting again, but hopefully this one will be valuable. Need anything contact me.

Have a great day and rest of your fall. JJ

From: [Allen, Lydia -FS](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:17:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[2670Manual_grizzlybear.docx](#)
[LNF_FS_GB_Relocation_communication_plan_Sept2022.docx](#)

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FYI. This is the relevant Forest Service Manual direction related to grizzly bear relocation/FS roles (manual = FS policy). Chris is working on this with the Forest Supervisors... Lydia



Lydia Allen
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From: Allen, Lydia -FS
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>
Subject: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

Hey Chris—finally got around to pulling the section of our directives up relative to our convo with Hilary C and Ben J of October 24. I highlighted those bits I thought most relevant but 2676.17a (translocation) is probably the most succinct. It does mention

'involving the public as appropriate' which may cause consternation with some line officers and/or forest supervisors.

Shall I share this with Hilary/Ben and make mention of it in my review of the LNF relocation plan?

Thanks,
Lydia



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From: [Anderson, Matthew -FS](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Bitterroot Grizzly Bears
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:54:22 PM

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Certainly some confusion, give me a buzz when you can. Thx 406-303-0825

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Anderson, Matthew -FS <matthew.anderson3@usda.gov>
Cc: Mayn, Cole -FS <cole.mayn@usda.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Bitterroot Grizzly Bears

Hi Matt,

I know Ben has been in touch with you about potential relocation sites on the BNF for these 2 subadult grizzly bears. Sounds like Leanne had some questions about approved sites. I wanted to make sure I understand what she is asking. Senate Bill 337 requires FWP to use only Commission-approved sites. This does not apply to relocations that the USFWS is involved in. I wonder if this is the confusion?

In terms of process, we have been working with NFs over the last year to draft an internal and external Communications Plan/MOU for grizzly bear relocations. The external plan (attached) is pretty much finalized. The internal Comms Plan (attached) is not yet finalized - we are waiting for contact names/numbers and potential relocation sites from BNF. We did propose some suggested sites (see attached maps), but to date have not received feedback. We're hoping to get the Comms Plan finalized soon so that we can be more nimble in the future.

I'm happy to address any questions or concerns.

Thanks Matt,
Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
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FSM 2600 – WILDLIFE, FISH, AND SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 2670 – THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

2676 - SPECIFIC DIRECTION ON INDIVIDUAL SPECIES

2676.1 - Grizzly Bear

Nineteen National Forests in Regions 1, 2, 4, and 6 are involved in grizzly bear conservation and management. Human-caused mortality and loss of suitable habitat has caused a significant decline in the distribution and abundance of grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*). In 1975, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the grizzly bear as a “threatened” species in the lower 48 states. The Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan identifies six recovery zones. In the Greater Yellowstone recovery zone, as a result of sustained and coordinated management across agencies and land ownerships, all demographic recovery criteria have been met since 1998.

2676.11 - Authority

The Endangered Species Act, National Forest Management Act, Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, and other laws, regulations, and policies direct Forest Service land managers to carry out active programs for the conservation of the grizzly bear.

1. Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. The Recovery Plan identified six grizzly bear recovery zones and defined demographic recovery criteria for the Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, Cabinet/Yaak, and Selkirk ecosystems in terms of numbers of females with cubs, occupancy of Bear Management Units (BMU), and human-caused mortality limits. Two requirements that must be met before de-listing are: 1) attainment of demographic recovery criteria within the specified monitoring period, and 2) completion of an interagency conservation strategy that will ensure that the population and habitat within the recovery zone will be conserved after de-listing. The recovery plan is available at: http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plans/1993/930910.pdf
2. Interagency Guidelines on Management of Grizzly Bear. (Volume 51, Number 228 Federal Register 42863-42866, November 26, 1986). The Guidelines identify and describe five management situations and set forth the specific guidelines for managing resources in these areas in a manner that is compatible with the goal of achieving recovery of the grizzly bear in the contiguous United States. The guidelines are available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc/Information/guidelines.pdf>
3. Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Conservation Strategy (2003) identifies a Primary Conservation Area (PCA, formerly the Recovery Zone) where occupancy by grizzly bears is anticipated and acceptable, and will provides guidance for coordinated management and monitoring within and outside the PCA when the grizzly bear is delisted. The grizzly bear in the GYA was delisted in 2007. The Recovery Plan and Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines no longer apply to the Greater Yellowstone Area, and were replaced by the conservation strategy. The

“Memorandum of Understanding Detailing Agency Agreement to Implement the Conservation Strategy”, which is included as pages 12-13 of the conservation strategy, was signed by the affected Regional Foresters in 2003. The conservation strategy is available at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc/ConservationStrategy/replacement_cs.pdf

The GYA National Forests are now manage grizzly bears under the 2006 Forest Plan Amendment for Grizzly Bear Habitat Conservation for the Greater Yellowstone National Forests FEIS.

2676.12 - Objectives

1. Assure that grizzly bear habitat on National Forest System lands is maintained or enhanced in accordance with goals and objectives and management guidance established in the recovery plan or applicable conservation strategy, and in the National Forest Land Management Plans.
2. Eliminate preventable mortality of grizzly bears and minimize the potential for grizzly bear-human conflicts on National Forest System lands.
3. Accomplish planning and management for grizzly bear conservation in an integrated and cost-effective manner.

2676.13 - Policy

1. Cooperate with state agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other agencies and groups to carry out active programs to conserve the grizzly bear over the long term.
2. Implement Forest Service commitments for the conservation of grizzly bears and their habitat through coordinated planning and management.
3. Provide appropriate protection for individual grizzly bears that roam outside of delineated recovery zones and primary conservation areas. Work with the states to identify the areas where management for grizzly bears is biologically suitable and socially acceptable, and to coordinate management of nuisance bears.

4. Establish and implement uniform planning and management procedures concerning grizzly bears and their habitat. These should include cumulative effects analysis processes, public information and education, sanitation and management of unnatural foods, and coordinated management of motorized access.

5. Establish and implement communication, education, assistance, and land management programs to eliminate preventable mortality of grizzly bears and to minimize grizzly-human conflicts.

6. Conduct multiple-use management of grizzly bear habitat in a manner that is compatible with the goal of grizzly bear conservation.

7. Periodically monitor and report on habitat and population conditions and trends at appropriate spatial and temporal scales.

2676.14 - Responsibility

2676-14a - Regional Forester

In addition to the responsibilities listed at FSM 2670.44, Regional Foresters in Regions 1, 2, 4, and 6 shall:

1. Serve as members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) to:
 - a. Ensure coordination with other regions, state and Federal agencies, local and tribal governments, and Canadian provinces to implement the recovery plan or applicable conservation strategy to establish and achieve regional objectives for conservation of the grizzly bear.
 - b. Assure the implementation of approved projects applicable to National Forest System lands.
 - c. Guide and plan research direction.
 - d. Evaluate the effectiveness of management actions in contributing to established goals for grizzly bear conservation.
 - e. Provide direction, advice, and assistance to IGBC Subcommittees.
2. Ensure coordination with other Regions and agencies to implement the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan or applicable conservation strategy, and to establish and achieve Forest Service management objectives. In recovery zones that are contiguous with portions of British Columbia and Alberta, seek to coordinate with appropriate representatives to identify and achieve mutual objectives for the conservation of the grizzly bear.
3. Coordinate with other regions to develop and ensure funding continuity for essential long-term grizzly bear habitat management, information and education, research, and monitoring programs.

4. Coordinate with other regions to develop and implement consistent procedures, guidelines, and actions to sustain grizzly bears and their habitat.
5. Coordinate as appropriate proposed decisions on wildlife damage management activities in grizzly bear habitat (FSM 2676.16e), grizzly bear translocation (FSM 2676.17a), and the use of helicopters for grizzly bear management in wilderness (FSM 2676.17b, FSM 2326.04b).
6. Develop and ensure implementation of criteria and methods to prevent human-caused mortality of grizzly bears.
7. Collaboratively develop public information programs concerning safety and proper behavior by national forest visitors in grizzly bear habitat (FSM 2676.16a). Actively disseminate information about the grizzly bear and important habitats, practices to minimize the potential for grizzly-human conflicts (such as the proper use of bear spray), and other conservation efforts.
8. In coordination with the IGBC, develop policy, guidance, testing procedures, and other programs to assure proper handling and storage of attractants on National Forest System lands.
9. Ensure accurate accounting of costs of grizzly bear conservation and management activities, and ensure that activities are implemented in a cost-effective manner.

2676.14b - Forest Supervisor

In addition to the responsibilities listed at FSM 2670.45, Forest Supervisors in Regions 1, 2, 4 and 6 shall:

1. As assigned, serve as a member of Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Subcommittees which have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Implement management actions in a coordinated fashion.
 - b. Propose management policy or programs to the IGBC.
 - c. Establish task forces to develop recommendations or implement approved actions when needed (such as law enforcement, information and education, food storage, habitat improvements).
 - d. Identify research needs and financial needs for management and submit to the IGBC.
 - e. Report to IGBC on progress concerning management actions necessary to conserve the grizzly bear.
2. Implement national and regional direction concerning grizzly bears through forest-wide procedures and actions, including, but not limited to, habitat mapping and modeling,

land adjustments, motorized access management, sanitation programs and special orders, and information and education materials.

3. Ensure inter-agency coordination at appropriate levels and maintain contact with interested publics.

2676.14c - District Ranger

In addition to the responsibilities listed at FSM 2670.46, District Rangers in Regions 1, 2, 4 and 6 shall:

1. Contribute to grizzly bear conservation through site-specific planning and management actions.
2. Ensure that conservation provisions for grizzly bears and their habitat are included in leases, permits, contracts, and other authorizations affecting grizzlies and their habitats, and inspect sites under contracts, leases, permits, or authorizations for compliance with grizzly bear conservation measures.
3. Develop and implement practices to minimize potential for grizzly-human conflicts (for example, monitoring of livestock allotments and hunting camps, managing access, or providing bear-resistant containers) and to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness.

2676.17 - Grizzly Bear Population Management

2676.17a - Translocation

Translocation may be an appropriate management technique to restore or augment populations or improve genetic diversity, and to resolve conflicts involving nuisance grizzlies. Bear trapping and transportation are the primary responsibility of the states or National Park Service, with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listed populations.

The Forest Service will support the translocation of grizzly bears for conflict resolution, population restoration or augmentation and to maintain the genetic health of established populations. When carrying out such activities on National Forest System lands, the Forest Service and lead agency(s) responsible for the action will cooperate and involve the public as appropriate. Select grizzlies that have a high probability of survival and reproductive success and low probability of conflicts with humans.

GBRP Conflict Update August 31 – September 5

Montana

- A female grizzly with a cub of unknown age (not sure if it's a large cub of the year or a small yearling) has gotten into several hives outside of Lewistown, MT. Grizzly bears are not common in this area, so these bears are drawing added attention. WS has deemed the female a conflict bear, meaning FWS would relocate these bears if captured. WS set multiple culverts in an attempt to capture both female and cub but have been unsuccessful thus far. WS will consider adding snares if the bears remain in the area and culvert traps remain unsuccessful. We are discussing potential relocation sites with USFS and FWP.
- The two subadult grizzly bears that have been observed in the Bitterroot Valley sporadically over the past 3-4 weeks have shown back up again. They were captured on a game camera on private land outside of Florence, MT, on the west side of Highway 93. FWP and FWS are concerned that while there have been no conflicts reported involving these bears, they have remained in an area with high conflict potential for over a month and have been relatively visible throughout. In addition, these bears have crossed Highway 93 multiple times in areas where wildlife are frequently struck by vehicles. Therefore, after conversations between FWS and FWP, FWP bear managers have set out a bait station to see if there is an opportunity to capture these bears preemptively. If the bears continue to visit the site, FWP may attempt to capture these bears in the coming days. If these bears are captured, we would likely look to relocate these bears somewhere in the Bitterroot Valley. Any location would be discussed with personnel from the Bitterroot National Forest as well as FWP.
- 9/4/2022 - FWS Conflict Specialists Rory Trimbo and Morgan Vance relocated a female grizzly bear and her yearling cub from outside of Eureka to the North Fork of the Flathead River. This bear was captured by FWP in a trap set after an unknown bear had broken into a garage, presumably going after pet food. The trap had been open for 4-5 nights before this female was captured, so FWP was uncertain whether she was the bear involved. However, she had been previously captured for killing chickens, so the decision was made to move her further away to hopefully reduce the likelihood of her getting into additional conflicts.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Amber Kornak is working with WS in preparation for an electric fencing project near Dupuyer Creek, on the Rocky Mountain Front. This project will involve a producer that has had multiple depredations, and should be a good opportunity for a collaborative effort between FWS and WS. In addition, Amber has been working with USFS and FWP personnel on collaborative educational opportunities

Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs were not seen along the highway this past week.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Becca Lyon attended a hazing training put on by YNP Bear Managers and contributed to multiple educational events with WGF, USFS, and Safari Club International. In addition, Becca and WGF personnel have been going to sites grizzly 399 visited last fall, and working with residents to preemptively clean up, fence, or otherwise secure attractants.

Idaho

- FWS Conflict Specialists continue planning work on a collaborative fencing project with IDFG and Defenders north of Bonners Ferry.

Tribal Coordination

- Have been in communication with Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife about ongoing grizzly bear conflicts on the Blackfeet Reservation, and have communicated with both Blackfeet and CSKT on recent FWS relocation efforts.

GBRP Conflict Update September 5 - 11

Montana

- The female and cub that had been observed in the Lewistown area has not been seen for several days, and no traps are open at this time.
- The two subadult grizzly bears that have been observed in the Bitterroot Valley left the area where they had been localized for several days. There have been no additional reports to date that we are aware of.
- 9/8/2022 - FWS Conflict Specialist Amber Kornak and USFS District Biologist Dave Kemp relocated a young male grizzly bear from outside of Choteau to an area NE of Rogers Pass. This bear was captured by FWP several nights after a grizzly bear killed multiple domestic turkeys that had been in with cattle. The neighboring ranch had recently lost several chickens to a grizzly bear as well. While it could not be confirmed this bear was definitively responsible for either depredation event, the decision was made to relocate this bear due to the short distance and time between these two events and the capture of this bear.
- FWS Conflict Specialists Amber Kornak and Morgan Vance spent a day assisting Wildlife Services in building a fence around a feed lot for a livestock producer up near Dupuyer, along the Rocky Mountain Front.

Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs were not seen along the highway this past week.

Idaho

- IDFG and WS were investigating a scene at which 2 sheep were killed by a grizzly over a three-night span. Based on their findings, WS set 2 snares at the site.
 - This bear was captured earlier this morning. It turned this bear had been previously captured in the Yaak in 2021, and was potentially involved in several other depredation events this year at which an ear tagged bear was observed. Therefore, in concert with IDFG, WS, and FWS, it was decided that this bear was to be removed.

Tribal Coordination

- Have been in communication with Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife about ongoing grizzly bear conflicts on the Blackfeet Reservation, and have communicated with both Blackfeet and CSKT on recent FWS relocation efforts.
- Hilary coordinated with CSKT to submit comments on Highway 93 wildlife crossing project.

GBRP Conflict Update September 19 - 25

Montana

- 9/19 - Conflict specialists relocated a bear in FWP Region 3. This large male bear was a non-target capture at a conflict site in Tom Miner Basin. While non-target captured may be released on site if appropriate, it was decided to relocate this bear due to private property concerns and ongoing conflict levels in that area. The bear was relocated to an area south of West Yellowstone.
- 9/20 - A female with a cub of the year was captured near Yankee Jim Canyon, outside Gardner. This bear had been involved in multiple previous conflicts, and had recently been frequenting areas near houses, on porches, etc. The decision was made to remove the female, and the cub will be placed in a zoo.
- 9/20 - The two subadults that had previously been active around Florence, in the north end of the Bitterroot Valley, were seen on private property several miles north, near Carlton Creek on the west side of Highway 93. Because the bears were remaining in relatively populated areas with high conflict potential, FWP and FWS decided to move ahead with an attempt to preemptively capture and relocate these bears. After extensive communication with and input from FWP, the Bitterroot National Forest, Lolo National Forest, Region 1 FS Leadership, and Idaho Fish and Game, the decision was made to relocate these bears, if captured, to an FWP commission approved site on the east side of the Bitterroot Valley in the northern end of the Sapphires. Traps were set for several days, but the bears were not captured. We will be pursuing additional conversations with the above entities to come up with additional relocation sites on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests for future potential FWS relocations.
- 9/22 - FWS Conflict Specialists relocated a female bear from outside of Conrad, MT, along the Rocky Mountain Front, to an area over Marias Pass. This bear had been captured as a research bear this past spring and was one of three bears captured on camera at a site where five or more sheep had been killed over the previous several days. However, data from her collar indicated this bear likely did not kill the sheep and the decision was made to relocate this bear.

Wyoming

- There were multiple reports of 399 south of the park during 9/20 - 9/22. Most credible reports put her near East Gros Ventre Butte, just NW of Jackson. No known sightings since Friday. Hilary and Ben will be making a trip to Jackson next week, and along with Becca will meet with personnel from Teton Park, WGF, USFS, sheriff's department, and others.
- 863 and her cubs were spotted briefly on 9/23 crossing the highway near Togwotee Pass.

GBRP Conflict Update September 26 – October 2

Montana

- 9/28 - Conflict specialists relocated a female cub of the year from outside of Dupuyer along the Rocky Mountain Front, to the Jocko Divide, adjacent to the Flathead Indian Reservation. The mother of this cub was captured after killing a calf and likely being involved in several other conflicts in the general vicinity. Once captured, FWP found that she had been captured several years prior for depredations in the same general area, and had been relocated as a result. Because of her history and that she had already found her way back, the decision was made to remove her. Give the time of year and that the cub was in good condition, the decision was made, in consultation with several people with decades of experience with grizzly bears and grizzly bear management, to relocate the cub as opposed to removing her as well.
- 10/1 - One of the two subadult grizzly bears, a 2 ½ year old male, that had been frequenting areas around Highway 93 in the northern Bitterroot valley was captured by FWP. Pictures indicated that the other bear, which was presumed to be the sibling of this bear, was at the site but not captured. This bear was still considered to be a preemptive capture, so FWP relocated the bear on 10/2 to the lone FWP Commission approved site in the area; a site along the periphery of the Welcome Creek Wilderness at the north end of the Sapphire mountains.
 - UPDATE: 10/3 - The second grizzly, a female, was captured last night. This bear will also be released at the Welcome Cr site.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Rory Trimbo worked with FWP and landowners on multiple fencing and conflict mitigation efforts throughout the Flathead, Valley.
- FWS Specialists Amber Kornak and Rory Trimbo took part in several educational events in the Flathead and Blackfoot Valleys.
- Hilary, Ben, and Amber attended a meeting put on by Trina Joe Bradley of the Rocky Mountain Front Rangelands Group. Members from WS along with FWP Director Hank Warsech and FWP Chief of Staff Quentin Kujala were there as well. The meeting was reasonably well attended, and all three agencies fielded a litany of questions from the public.

Wyoming

- No additional sightings of 399.
- 863 and her cubs were not seen this week.
- WGF is dealing with an increasing number of grizzly bear conflicts greater distances outside the DMA. A family group was removed for repeatedly getting into conflict almost 30 miles east of the DMA boundary, along the Greybull River. The mother of this group had previously been relocated due to conflicts in this area.

- FWS Conflict Specialist Becca Lyon is working with Teton County to help residents comply with new LDRs and has been assisting BearWise Jackson Hole in the hiring process for their new program manager position.

Tribes

- Coordinated with CSKT wildlife staff on relocation site for the female cub relocated from the Rocky Mountain Front.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Morgan Vance will be spending several days meeting with and assisting Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife staff this coming week.

GBRP Conflict Update October 3-9

Montana

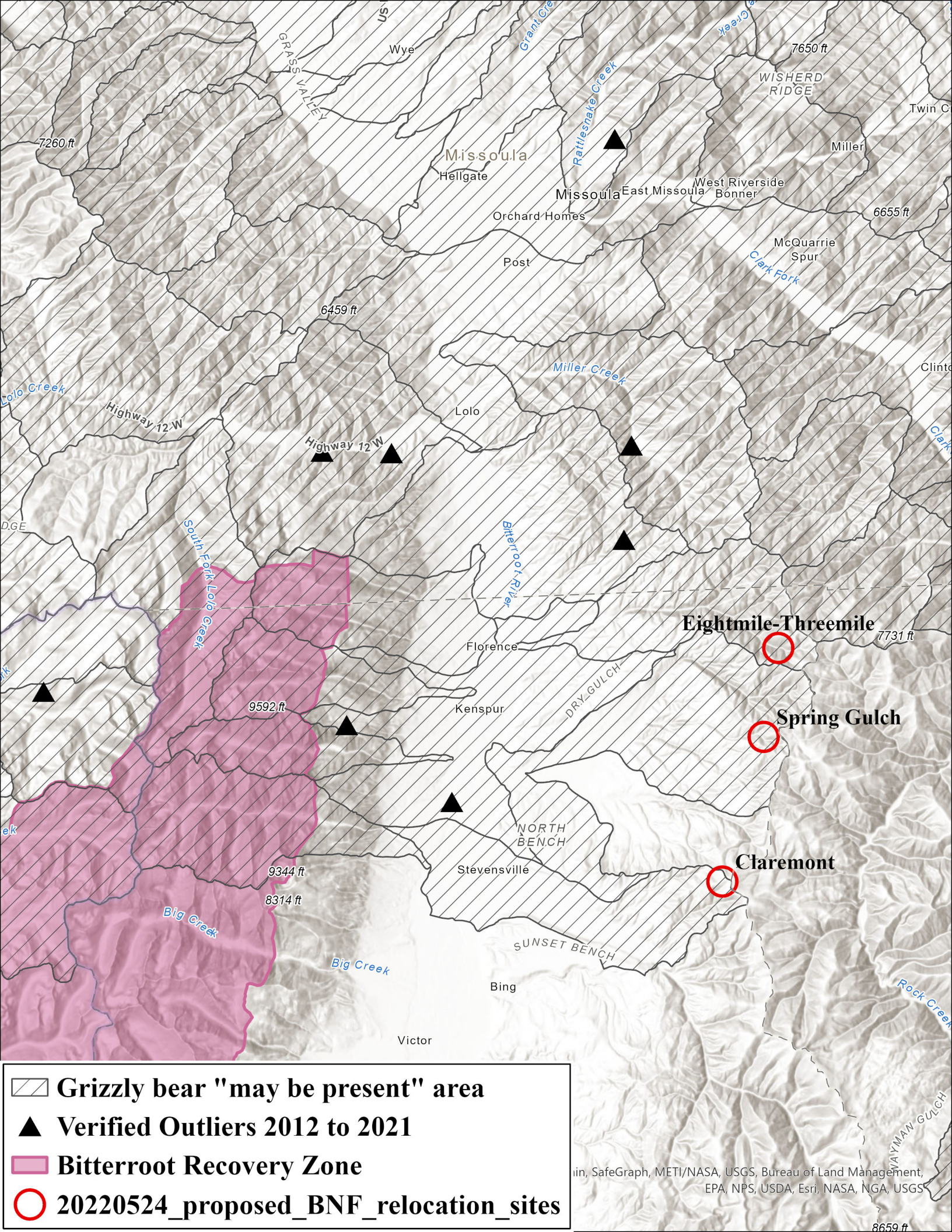
- 10/7 - Conflict Specialists relocated a female from the Foothill area outside of Kalispell to Spotted Bear. This bear was captured by FWP after killing several unsecured chickens and getting into an occupied chain-link dog kennel to get at large quantities of dog food. When confronted by the barking dog, the bear reportedly took a swipe at the dog before returning to the food. This bear had no known capture or conflict history. However, based on the volume of attractants at that site and in the general area combined with her apparent interest in chickens and dog food, the decision was made to relocate this bear.
- Collar data from the two subadult grizzly bears captured in the north end of the Bitterroot and relocated to the Welcome Creek Wilderness ~ 10/3 - 10/4 indicate that the bears remain separate and at higher elevations.
- FWS Conflict Specialists continue to assist FWP with various fencing, conflict mitigation, and bear education efforts.





Wyoming

- No additional sightings of 399.
- 863 and her cubs were spotted crossing the highway on 10/8, and then seen on a carcass on a spur road near the highway on 10/10. Neither incident involved any traffic issues or hazing.

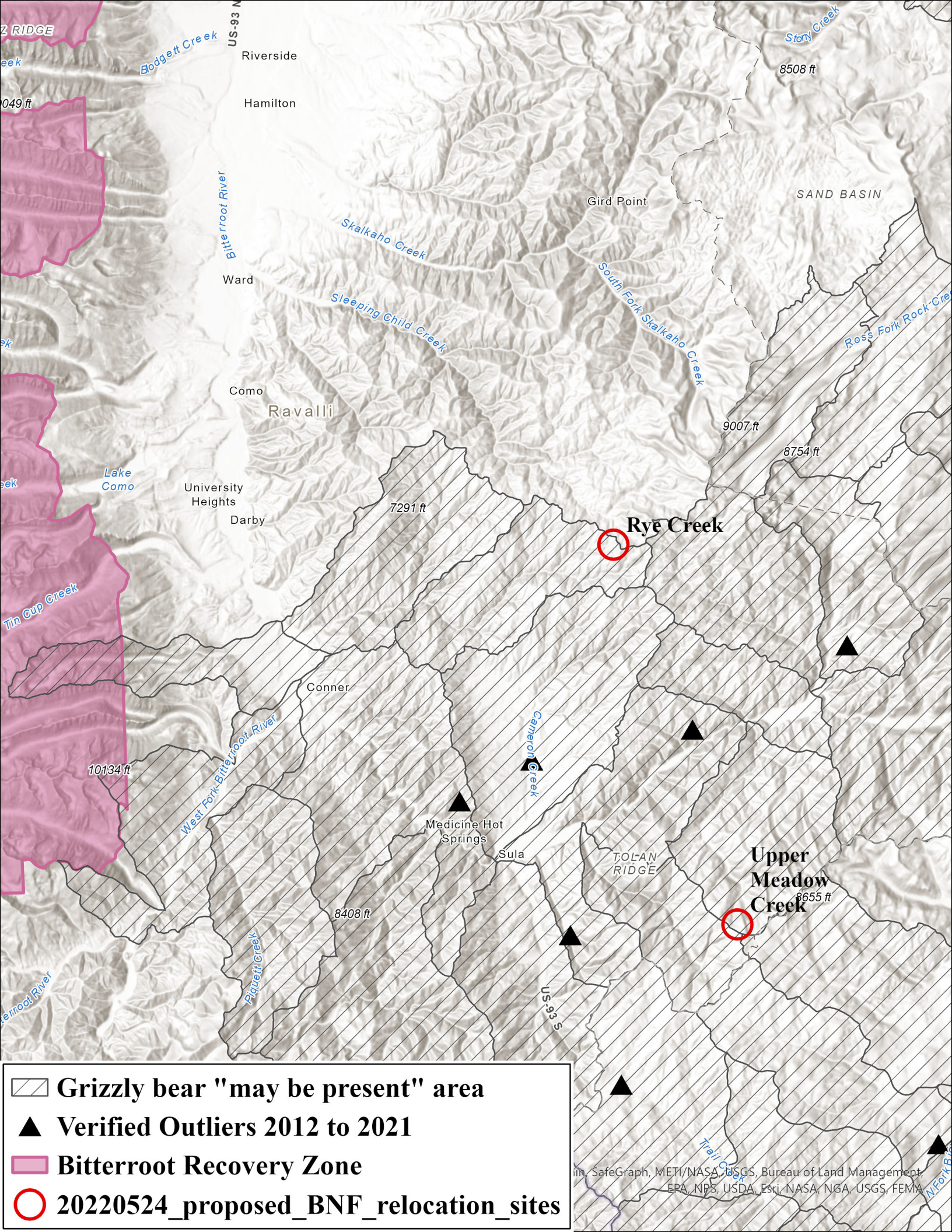
Tribes





- FWS Conflict Specialist Morgan Vance spent 4 days this past week working with Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife.



-  Grizzly bear "may be present" area
-  Verified Outliers 2012 to 2021
-  Bitterroot Recovery Zone
-  20220524_proposed_BNF_relocation_sites

in, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS



-  Grizzly bear "may be present" area
-  Verified Outliers 2021 to 2021
-  Bitterroot Recovery Zone
-  20220524_proposed_BNF_relocation_sites

Grizzly Bear Relocation FAQs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – July 2022



Are relocated bears a threat to human safety?

- No, relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety, and wildlife managers will not relocate a bear regarded as a threat to humans. Relocated grizzly bears are not considered a threat to human safety any more than other grizzly bears. This does not mean any bears are “safe” to interact with; the public should continue to follow commonsense [bear safety guidelines to avoid encounters](#) with any grizzly bears – relocated or not.

What criteria determine when a bear gets relocated?

- A grizzly bear is eligible for relocation if they are involved in a conflict or to prevent them from becoming involved in a conflict. Bears may also be relocated if they are incidentally caught in other situations, such as wolf traps. Relocation is just one tool available to wildlife managers. Other options include conflict prevention, such as installing electric fences, using bear-resistant trash cans, hazing, and euthanasia in certain situations. Relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety; bears posing a threat to human safety are not relocated.

How are the relocation sites determined?

- Relocation sites are established in remote areas away from homes and concentrated human use and only on federal lands. When a bear is captured, wildlife managers consult with staff from the land management agency to determine which relocation site is most suitable for the bear, considering age/sex of the bear, conflict history, and current human use at available relocation sites. On-site or near-site release may be appropriate under certain circumstances, such as when a bear is captured for research purposes or during management actions and considered “non-target”, or categorized as “pre-emptive”, as well as in certain emergency situations involving grizzly bear family groups.

Who is responsible for relocating grizzly bears in Montana?

- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will continue the primary responsibility of relocating grizzly bears within areas designated by the state’s wildlife commission – primarily within recovery zones. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be responsible for relocations outside the state designated areas.

How often will grizzly bears be relocated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Montana?

- Over the past five years, an average of 30 grizzly bears per year have been relocated in Montana by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

What happens if a relocated bear gets into conflict again?

- The Service follows the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Guidelines, which outline descriptions and recommendations for control actions based on the type of offense, condition, sex, age, and the number of times the bear has committed the offense. Options include an additional relocation to another area.

Do bears return to the site where they were captured?

- Relocation is one of several options that bear managers use to help prevent further conflict. Other tools, such as electric fencing, work great for bears that have broken into grain bins, chicken coops, livestock piles, etc. Cleaning up attractants at the capture site to prevent repeat conflicts is essential to the success of preventative actions. However, bears do sometimes return to the site.

Does the Service track relocated bears?

- Every grizzly bear that is captured for relocation receives a collar. The tracking capabilities of the collars vary; most are radio collars that allow for on-the-ground triangulation and location approximation. Wildlife managers do not have access to 'live' data showing current location information.

Do female grizzly bears with offspring get relocated together?

- This depends on the situation, location where the conflict occurred, and age of the offspring at the time of relocation. Most female bears with offspring will be relocated together; however, if this is a female's third conflict, it is possible that only the offspring would be relocated.

How far does a bear get relocated?

- Relocated bears are kept within the same ecosystem. The exact location depends on the situation, location of conflict, nature of conflict, the sex/age of the bear, and availability of suitable relocation sites. Sometimes it is desirable to move the bear far from the conflict so that it does not return (e.g., livestock depredation); other times it is desirable to move the bear within its home range to allow time to clean up a human attractant (e.g., unsecured garbage or chicken coop).

Where is more information available?

- More information about grizzly bears can be found online from [the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#) and the [Service's species page](#).

News Release

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, and Wyoming
134 Union Blvd. Lakewood, Colorado 80228



For Immediate Release

[DATE]

Contacts:

Joe Szuszwalak, 303-236-4336, joseph.szuszwalak@fws.gov

Community Notice: Grizzly bear relocated to [mountain range/valley description]

MISSOULA — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing notice to the communities in the vicinity of [Forest Unit / additional location information] that a grizzly bear has been relocated in the area. The Service assumed grizzly bear relocation responsibilities from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, in certain circumstances, following a recent change to Montana law [link to original news release]. The Service has coordinated with relevant land management agencies during this process.

This bear has been relocated due to [description of situation/conflict and where bear came from]. [If conflict-related: Each conflict situation is unique and requires input from staff on the ground, a thorough history of bear interactions and behavior, and close coordination with other federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies.]

As grizzly bears recover in numbers and geographic regions, it is essential to remember that this area is within the historical range for grizzly bears as they naturally reoccupy this habitat. Relocating a bear from a more developed location to a remote area of [location information] is mutually beneficial to both the bear and humans. This allows the bear to be removed from another potential conflict while creating more space between them and human development.

Relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety; bears posing a threat to human safety would not be relocated. The public should continue to practice good [bear-aware habits in bear country](#), including the carrying and knowledge of [how to use bear spray](#).

The community can help prevent the need for relocations and make a difference in a bear's life by doing its part to ensure bears never obtain food rewards. Residents of local communities are encouraged to secure attractants around their homes and store all garbage within bear-resistant containers. Attractants include items with a scent, such as trash, livestock feed, compost, or beehives. Ensure bird feeders are at least ten feet up and four feet out from any building. Avoid

planting fruit trees. Help your neighbors create a bear-wise community to protect wildlife. It may be cliché; however, more often than not, “a fed bear is a dead bear.”

Please visit the [Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Bear Aware page](#) for more information about staying safe in bear country.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the West, visit [our website](#), connect with us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), watch our [YouTube channel](#) at and download public domain photos from [Flickr](#).

-FWS-



BASIC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

FOR ROUTINE NON-CONTROVERSIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Plan title:** USFWS and MTFWP transition grizzly bear relocation responsibilities in Montana
2. **DTS number:** N/A
3. **What is the action triggering this communications plan?** *(Please explain in no more than three sentences)*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is assuming responsibility for relocating grizzly bears in certain areas of Montana. This is a result of Montana Senate Bill 337, restricting where state employees may participate in grizzly bear relocations.

4. **What is the proposed date for this action? Why has it been selected? Is it flexible?**

July 2022. With grizzly bears emerging from their dens and on the landscape for the season, the potential need for a relocation is increasing.

5. **Which office is leading this communications effort and which other programs, regions or groups are involved?**

Mountain Prairie Region 6 External Affairs with the Ecological Services Grizzly Team and the Regional Director's Office in coordination with HQ External Affairs.

SECTION II: GOALS AND MESSAGES

6. **What story do we want to tell?**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will now be responsible for relocating grizzly bears to prevent or mitigate conflicts in parts of Montana. This was previously the responsibility of the state.

Relocations will take place to remote areas within U.S. Forest Service units in the state of Montana to prevent and mitigate conflicts with individual bears. The relocation of these

bears is beneficial to both grizzly bears and humans, by moving them away from human development and to areas where they have a better chance of not returning to conflict.

7. What are our key messages? *(These should be top concepts that readers should take away, including an understanding of why this action matters and why they should care, not a list of facts, which should be placed in the appendix. List no more than four!)*

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will now be responsible for relocating grizzly bears to prevent or mitigate conflicts in certain parts of Montana. The relocation of grizzly bears in Montana has previously been the responsibility of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
- Relocating a bear from a more developed area to a remote area is mutually beneficial to both the bear and humans, allowing the bear to be removed from another potential conflict, while creating more space between them and human development.
- A grizzly bear is eligible for relocation if they are involved in a conflict, or to prevent them from becoming involved in a conflict. Bears may also be relocated if they have been incidentally caught in other situations, such as wolf traps. Relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety; bears posing a threat to human safety would not be relocated.
- The public can help prevent the need for relocations and make a difference in a bear's life by doing its part to ensure bears never obtain food rewards. Residents of local communities are encouraged to secure attractants around their homes in bear-resistant containers, buildings, or electric fences.

SECTION III: IMPLEMENTATION

8. Implementation timeline *(If not known, put TBD or the number of days/hours before/after the announcement)*

Target Date	Tactic	Responsible
All times are in the Mountain (ET -2) time zone		
Ongoing	Coordinate with Forest Service units	R6: ES Grizzly Team and EA Szuszwalak

Ongoing	Notify local/county agencies of possibility grizzly bears may be relocated to a nearby Forest Service unit	R6: ES Grizzly Team
July 13, 2022 12pm Day prior to announcement	Notify MT FWP, USFS, and County partners of pending announcement	R6: Grizzly Team
July 13, 2022 12pm Day prior to announcement	Notify Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Public Affairs staff of pending announcement	R6 EA: Szuszwalak
July 12, 2022 Day prior to announcement	Congressional notifications	R6: EA Szuszwalak
July 12, 2022 Day prior to announcement	Distribute release and FAQs to local/county agencies	R6: EA Szuszwalak and ES Grizzly Team
July 13, 2022 Day of announcement	Distribute release and FAQs to Montana media outlets	R6 EA: Szuszwalak
July 13, 2022 Day of announcement	Post news release to website (tag MTFO for their page to update)	R6 EA: Szuszwalak

9. Which communications tools are needed to support these strategies and tactics? *(Be as specific as possible about the products identified and who will produce them)*

Tool	Responsible	Due Date
Outreach plan	R6 EA: Szuszwalak	May 2022
Draft news release	R6 EA: Szuszwalak R6 ES: Grizzly	May 2022

	Team	
Develop FAQs	R6 EA: Szuszwalak R6 ES: Grizzly Team	May 2022

10. Social media plan *(Provide a list of accounts to be used as well as sample hashtags, messages, multimedia and other links, etc. as appropriate)*

<p>No social media is planned for this announcement. Social listening will be used to monitor and gauge public sentiment and response to grizzly updates, which can inform future communication.</p> <p>Forest Service units are welcome to share the Service release and messaging.</p>
--

11. Stakeholder contact grids *(For each, paste in a table that provides organization name, contact person, how the person will be contacted, phone or email address as appropriate and a name of the person who will be making contact)*

Internal

R6 Leadership, Ecological Services Leadership, MT ES Field Office, Grizzly Bear Team
--

External

Stakeholder Name	Contact Info	Contact By
U.S. Forest Service	Bitterroot NF, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Lolo NF, Helena-Lewis and Clark NF, [others pending information from the Forest Service]	R6: ES Grizzly Team and EA Szuszwalak
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Regional Information and Education Program Managers	R6: EA Szuszwalak
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Carnivore staff	R6: ES Grizzly Team
Sanders County		R6: ES Grizzly Team

Mineral County		R6: ES Grizzly Team
Missoula County		R6: ES Grizzly Team
Ravalli County		R6: ES Grizzly Team
Blackfeet Nation	Fish and Game Director: gcobell@blackfeetnation.com Environment Director: beo.director@gmail.com	R6: Roya Mogadam
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Wildlife Program Manager: whisper.means@cskt.org Environment Director: Michael.Durglo@cskt.org	R6: Roya Mogadam

12. Congressional member email list

Member	District Contact
Senator Tester	Pam_Haxby-Cote@tester.senate.gov
Senator Daines	liz_dellwo@daines.senate.gov
Representative Rosendale	marissa.stockton@mail.house.gov

13. Congressional committee email list

N/A

SECTION IV: PRIMARY POINTS OF CONTACT

- 14. Media coordinators** *(For national-level plans, list at least one person from HQ Public Affairs and others from region/program if appropriate. For regional-level plans, only regional coordinators are required. Enter name, email and phone)*

Joe Szuszwalak, 303-236-4336, joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov

- 15. Congressional coordinators** *(For national-level plans, list at least one person from HQ Public Affairs and others from region/program if appropriate. For regional-level plans, only regional coordinators are required. Enter name, email and phone)*

Joe Szuszwalak, 303-236-4336, joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov

- 16. Subject matter experts available for interview** *(Must be approved by HQ Public Affairs for an HQ-led announcement or by Regional Public Affairs for region-led announcement. Enter name, email and phone)*

Hilary Cooley, Grizzly Bear Recovery Program Coordinator, 406-243-4903,
hilary_cooley@fws.gov

Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, Grizzly Bear Biologist, 406 243-4994, jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov

- 17. Additional technical experts for reference** *(Enter name, email and phone)*

Questions specific to Forest Service operations (food storage orders, resource questions, etc.) will be directed to the appropriate PAO:

Bitterroot NF: Tod McKay, 406-363-7122, tod.mckay@usda.gov

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF: Catherine Mcrae, catherine.mcrae@usda.gov

Lolo NF: Kate Jerman, 406-552-7944, katelyn.jerman@usda.gov

Helena-Lewis and Clark NF: Chiara Cipriano, chiara.cipriano@usda.gov

- 18. Are there any non-FWS points of contact for this action?** *(Enter name, organization, role, email and phone)*

Forest Service units have declined 'joint' participation in the announcement, the Service will refer questions regarding Forest Service operations to the appropriate contact.

SECTION V: DOCUMENT INFO

19. Date Created

Created By

04/21/2022	Joe Szuszwalak
------------	----------------

20. Date last edited

Edited By

04/22/2022	Grizzly team
04/25/22	Lolo NF
06/01/2022	Joe Szuszwalak
07/07/2022	Vanessa Kauffman

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MATERIALS

DO NOT PUT OTHER MATERIALS SUCH AS FAQs, NEWS RELEASE OR TALKING POINTS IN THIS SECTION. KEEP THOSE AS SEPARATE DOCUMENTS.

(Consider the following: What is the historical context? Does this relate to other issues that may not immediately be apparent (consider other programs and regions)? Is there a scientific basis to this issue? If so what is it?)

Definitions

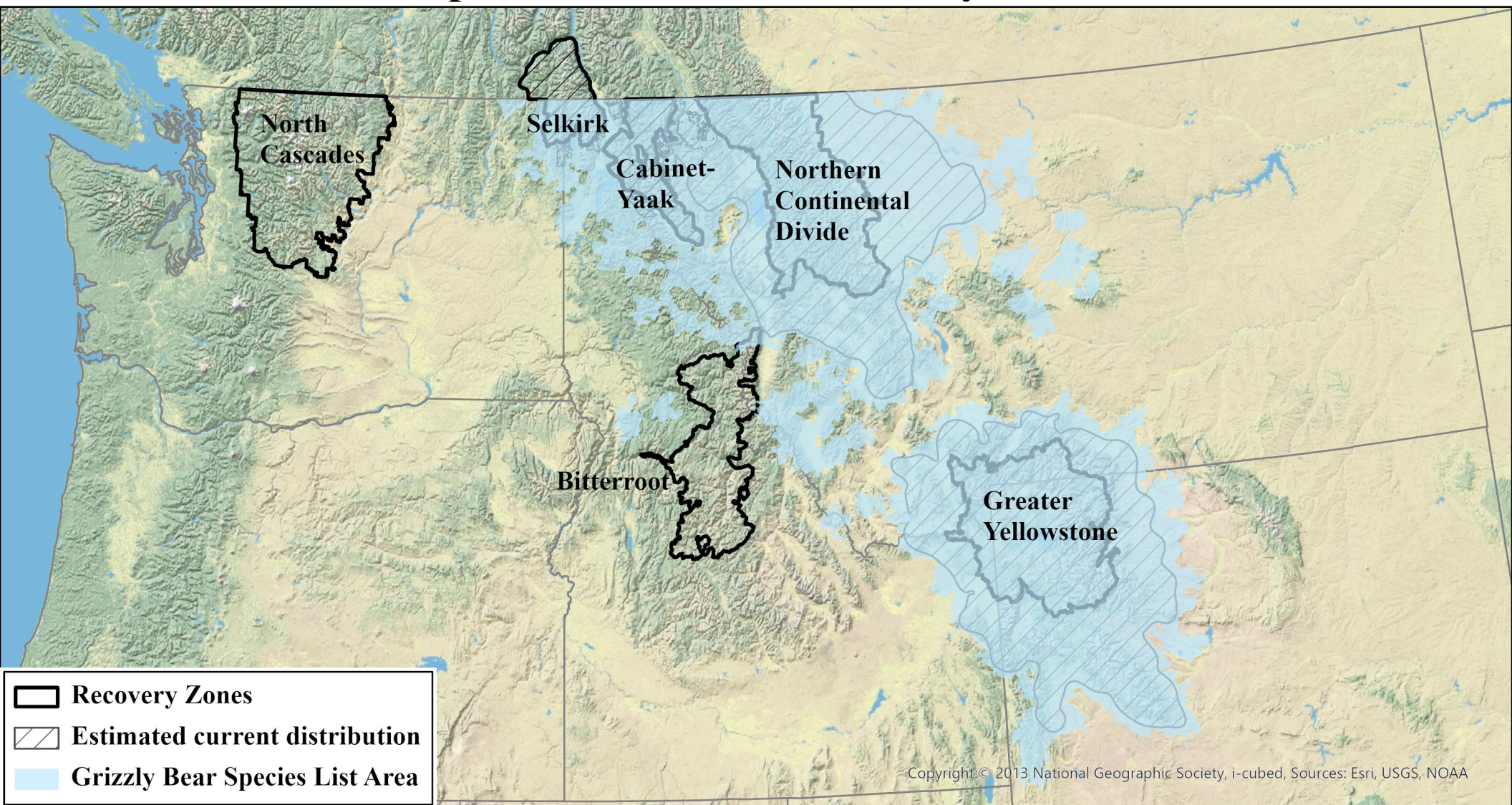
Habituated Bear: A bear that shows little to no overt reaction to people as a result of being repeatedly exposed to human stimuli without substantial consequence (Hopkins et al. 2010).

Food Conditioned Bear: A bear that has learned, through prior food reward(s), to associate people, human activities, human-use areas, or food or garbage storage receptacles as sources of anthropogenic foods (Hopkins et al. 2010).

Hazing: Technique where deterrents (i.e., pain, noise, threat, or other unpleasant stimuli) are administered to bears opportunistically to immediately, but temporarily, modify the bears' undesirable behavior (Hopkins et al. 2010).

Human-Bear Conflict: Incidents when bears damage property, obtain human foods (e.g., compost, apiary, pet food, garbage, bird-food, etc.), depredate on livestock, or injure (or kill) humans.

Species List Area for Grizzly Bears



Species List Areas (or "may be present" map) help federal agencies determine where effects to listed species should be considered for consultation from actions they carry out, fund, or permit to meet requirements under Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As grizzly bears expand their range, the SLA is intended to be spatially inclusive of all areas that meet the "may be present" methodology for grizzly bears. The "may be present" methodology is derived from current distributions and verified location data outside of current distributions; not all areas that are designated as "may be present" meet the criteria to be included in current distributions. Local evaluation is needed by federal Level 1 ESA Streamlining Teams to determine potential effects of agency actions where grizzly bears "may be present." Identifying locations where grizzly bears "may be present" will facilitate project planning activities that promote grizzly bear conservation and recovery. The grizzly bear SLA is updated with any new verified sightings every 90 days. Although we receive sighting information throughout the year, there can be a lag between receipt of the information, verification of grizzly bear, and updating the map. To provide the most up-to-date information for Section 7 consultation pending those updates, we will notify the relevant federal agency personnel when any new HUCs are added. We will continue to supply an updated verified map to all partners through PAC. Last updated July 26, 2022 with data from 2012 to July 26, 2022

GBRP Conflict Update August 15-21

Tribal Coordination

- FWS Conflict specialist, Morgan Vance, spent 3 days on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to meet grizzly bear staff and start getting up to speed on grizzly bear conflict issues. We will debrief and provide additional information next week.

Montana

- 2 sub adult grizzly bears were spotted several times in and around the river bottom of the Bitterroot Valley, north of Florence on or around August 9. It is believed that these same two bears were seen several days prior near Potomac near Highway 200 in the southern end of the Blackfoot valley on August 3, then near Turah along I-90 east of Missoula on August 5, and eventually over the Sapphire divide on the east side of the Bitterroot south of Missoula on August 7. The last reported sighting of these bears put them on the west side of I-90. The bears have not gotten into any conflict situations, but have been seen multiple times along roads and highways, presumably feeding on roadkill. We have been in contact with FWP personnel including the local bear manager, regional wildlife manager, and regional supervisor, as well as USFS personnel including district rangers on the Missoula District of the Lolo National Forest and the Stevensville District of the Bitterroot National Forest. The hope is that these bears move on without incident, but we felt it was important to at least start various conversations in case a trapping and relocation effort were to be considered.
- FWS conflict specialists have again been on call in multiple situations, but no bears were captured.

Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs continue to be seen sporadically along Highway 26. FWS specialist Becca Lyon and USFS bear ambassadors responded to several bear jams of varying sizes, including multiple hazing efforts.

Idaho

- FWS conflict specialists Amber Kornak and Rory Trimbo have been in contact with IDFG about the logistics of a potentially large-scale fencing effort north of Bonner's Ferry. We will continue to work with IDFG on how best to move forward with this project, including a site visit by Rory. There may also be support available from Defenders of Wildlife and the American Bear Foundation.

News Release

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mountain-Prairie Region

Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, and Wyoming
134 Union Blvd. Lakewood, Colorado 80228



For Immediate Release

July 15, 2022

Contact: Joe Szuszwalak, 303-236-4336, joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov

USFWS and MTFWP Transition Grizzly Bear Relocation Responsibilities in Certain Areas of Montana

New Montana law prohibits state wildlife agency from relocating grizzly bears in certain areas

MISSOULA — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will now be responsible for relocating grizzly bears to prevent or mitigate conflicts in certain areas of Montana. The relocation of grizzly bears in Montana has previously been the responsibility of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MTFWP), which typically relocates 30 bears each year to mitigate conflicts. However, due to Montana Senate Bill 337, MTFWP is now prohibited from conducting relocations in some areas of the State.

Under new Montana state law, MTFWP may only relocate grizzly bears in areas previously approved by the State's wildlife commission. Outside of the state's pre-approved areas, the USFWS will now take the lead in relocating grizzly bears. The USFWS has worked with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to identify remote areas in northwest and southwest Montana that would be conducive for grizzly bear relocations.

USFWS will be using the same protocols as MTFWP to determine whether a bear should be relocated. A grizzly bear is eligible for relocation if they are involved in a conflict or to prevent them from becoming involved in a conflict. Bears may also be relocated when they are incidentally caught in other situations, such as wolf traps. Relocation is one tool available to wildlife managers. Other options include: conflict prevention, such as installing electric fences, using bear-resistant trash cans, hazing, and euthanasia in certain situations. Relocation is not an eligible management tool for grizzly bears that are considered a threat to human safety.

If relocation is approved, bears will be relocated within the same ecosystem and in areas where grizzly bears already occur. As grizzly bears recover in numbers and geographic regions, it is essential to remember the entire State of Montana is within the historical range of grizzly bears. Relocating a bear from a more developed area to a remote location mutually benefits both the bear and humans by creating more space, and less risk of conflict, between bears and humans.

USFWS is committed to providing notification to local communities when the relocation of a grizzly bear occurs.

Grizzly bears in the lower-48 are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Management authority for grizzlies in the lower-48 rests with the USFWS, working closely with the USFS and other local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies. Each situation is unique and requires input from staff on the ground, a thorough history of bear interactions and behavior, and coordination with other agencies.

The public should continue to practice good [bear-aware habits in bear country](#), including the carrying and knowledge of [how to use bear spray](#). Additionally, the public can help prevent the need for relocations and make a difference in a bear's life by doing its part to ensure bears never obtain food rewards. Residents of local communities are encouraged to secure attractants around their homes in bear-resistant containers, buildings, or electric fences. Attractants include items with a scent, such as trash, livestock feed, compost, or beehives. Ensure bird feeders are at least ten feet up and four feet out from any building. Avoid planting fruit trees. Help your neighbors create a bear-wise community to protect wildlife. It may be cliché; but often, “a fed bear is a dead bear.”

Please visit the [Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Bear Aware page](#) for more information about staying safe in bear country.

###

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the West, visit [our website](#), connect with us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), watch our [YouTube channel](#) at and download public domain photos from [Flickr](#).

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Upton, Carolyn -FS](#)
Subject: BE Grizzly Bears
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:28:41 AM
Attachments: [20220713_OP_MT Grizzly Relocations_Final.docx](#)
[20220922 Draft communication plan for Lolo NF.docx](#)

Hi Carolyn,

Bears were not trapped last night. FWP thinks they might have headed north, but probably a short distance. They will continue attempting to trap. Current thinking is to put bears in Welcome Creek, but as I mentioned last night, we don't believe this site is a great location for the bears - because of people (recreationists, hunters) in the area and the fact that they came through the area previously and did not stop. We'd really like to get the Comms Plan signed soon so that we can be more nimble with these situations in the near future (potentially this fall). Also sending these docs (BNF-specific) to Matt so that we can be prepared there as well.

I've attached a few docs that we were working on with your staff:

1. External Communications Plan / Outreach Plan
2. Internal FWS-USFS Comms Plan / MOU

In our last communication with your staff, we asked Lolo NF to check the contact information in the appendix and fill out township/range and any constraints for the release sites (Table 1), if desired. The doc would then be ready for signature.

Happy to address any questions or concerns.

Thanks Carolyn,
Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Anderson, Matthew -FS](#)
Cc: [Cole Mayn](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Bitterroot Grizzly Bears
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 12:45:16 PM
Attachments: [20220713_OP_MT_Grizzly_Relocations_Final.docx](#)
[20220922_Draft_communication_plan_for_Bitterroot_NF.docx](#)
[20220524_BNF_proposed_relocation_sites_north.jpg](#)
[20220524_BNF_proposed_relocation_sites_south.jpg](#)

Hi Matt,

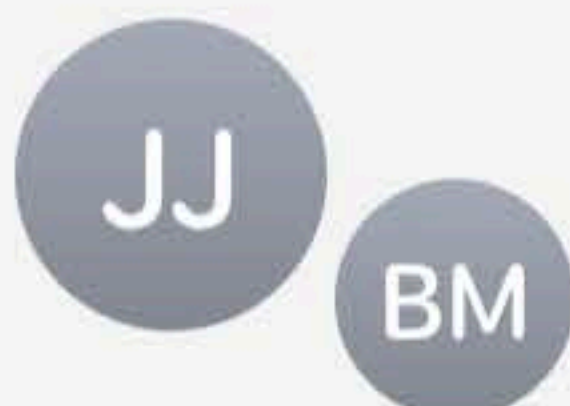
I know Ben has been in touch with you about potential relocation sites on the BNF for these 2 subadult grizzly bears. Sounds like Leanne had some questions about approved sites. I wanted to make sure I understand what she is asking. Senate Bill 337 requires FWP to use only Commission-approved sites. This does not apply to relocations that the USFWS is involved in. I wonder if this is the confusion?

In terms of process, we have been working with NFs over the last year to draft an internal and external Communications Plan/MOU for grizzly bear relocations. The external plan (attached) is pretty much finalized. The internal Comms Plan (attached) is not yet finalized - we are waiting for contact names/numbers and potential relocation sites from BNF. We did propose some suggested sites (see attached maps), but to date have not received feedback. We're hoping to get the Comms Plan finalized soon so that we can be more nimble in the future.

I'm happy to address any questions or concerns.

Thanks Matt,
Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903



2 People >

Text Message
Thu, Sep 22 at 8:25 AM

Sorry to bug you guys, but I am receiving messages left and right wondering if there are any bears in traps

Jamie Jonkel



No word yet.

Bruce Montgomery



Doors are up.

Thank you guys

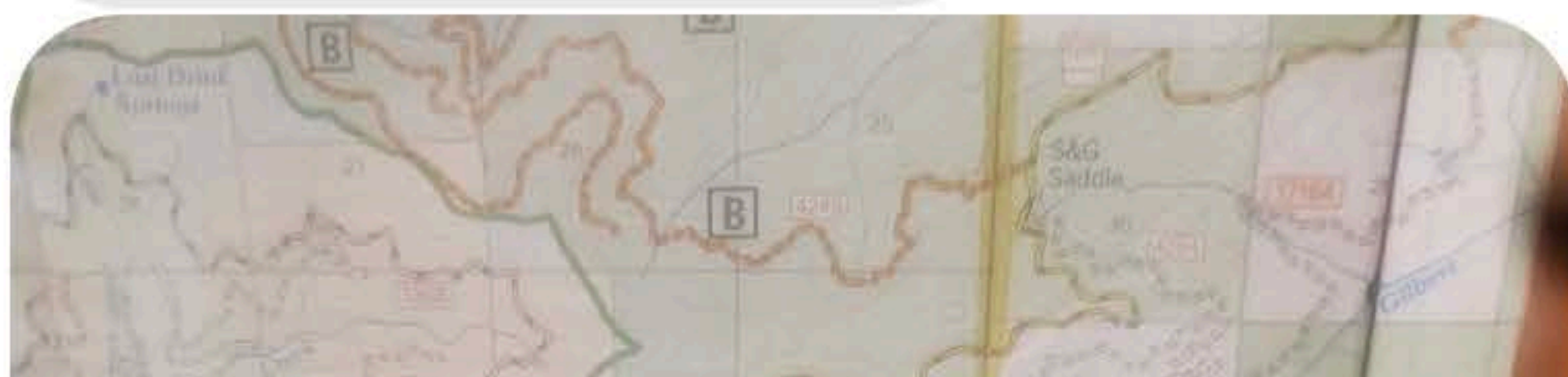
Thu, Sep 22 at 11:06 AM

Jamie Jonkel

Dropped pin
Dropped pin

Tap to Load Preview

app.goo.gl



Text Message



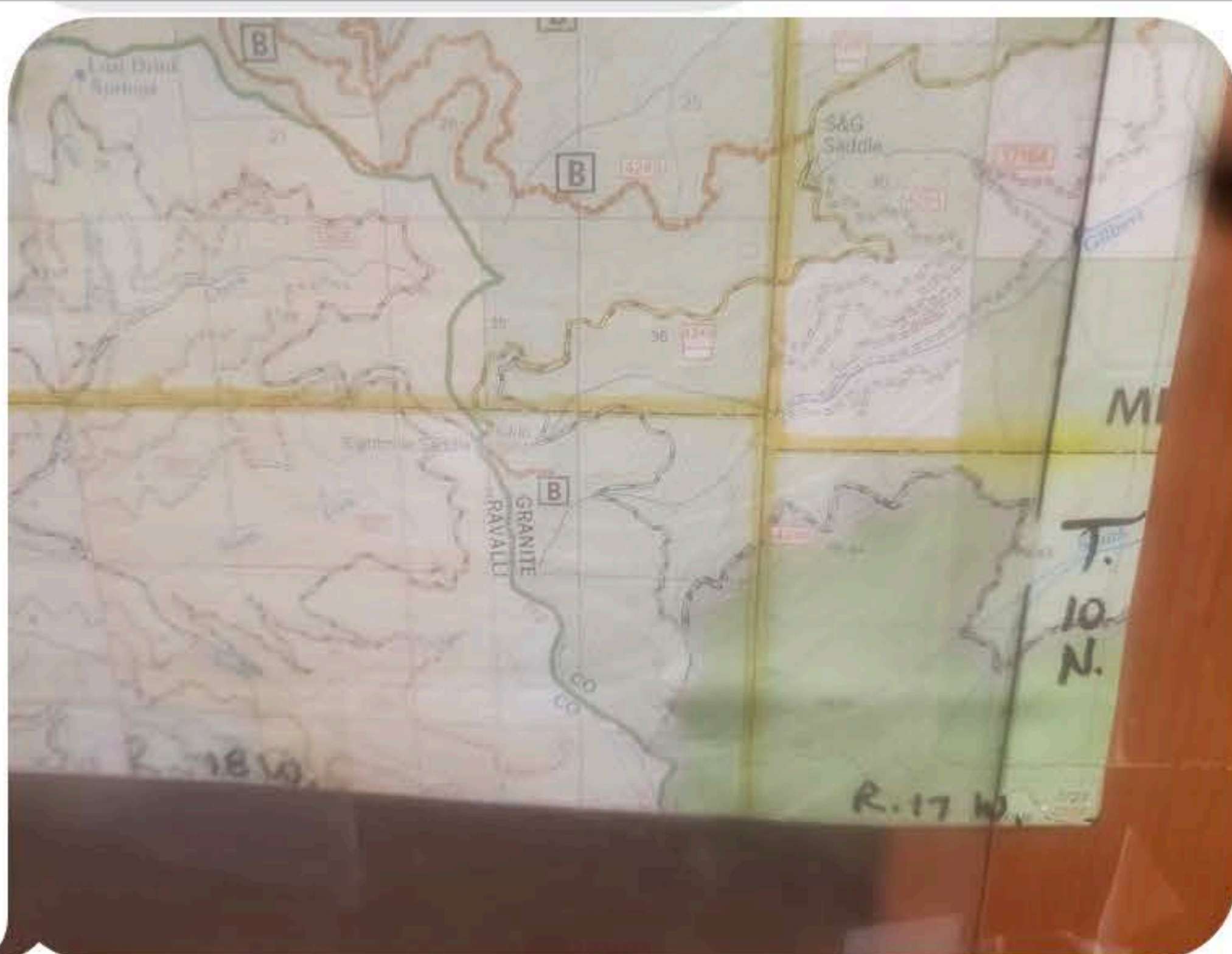


JJ

BM



2 People >



JJ

Anywhere along that road 4249 from eightmile saddle along the edge of the wilderness if passable. If not then along that jeep trail leading to the cleaveland mines south off of 8mile saddle

JJ

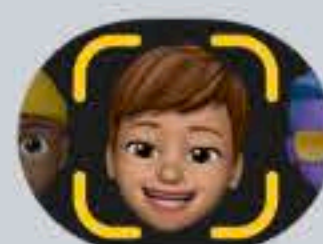
Fri, Sep 23 at 8:38 AM

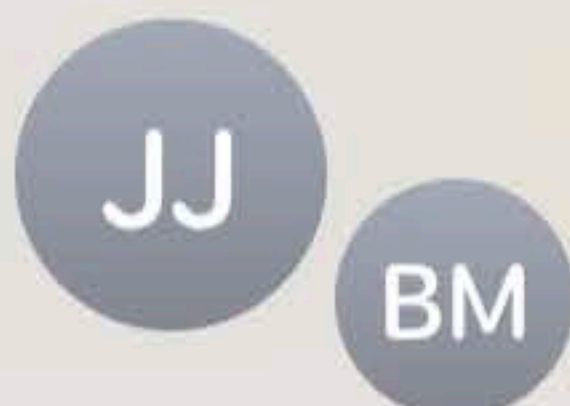
Going to head up with Brad and Morgan in a little bit to check out the road / site. Jamie, What do you think we should do as far as signage at this point? Anything, or just wait and see what happens?

Fri, Sep 23 at 10:26 AM



Text Message





2 People >

from eightmile saddle along the edge of the wilderness if passable. If not then along that jeep trail leading to the cleaveland mines south off of 8mile saddle

JJ

Fri, Sep 23 at 8:38 AM

Going to head up with Brad and Morgan in a little bit to check out the road / site. Jamie, What do you think we should do as far as signage at this point? Anything, or just wait and see what happens?

Fri, Sep 23 at 10:26 AM

Jamie Jonkel

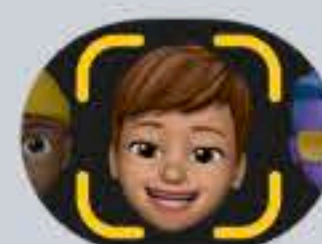
So if we catch the bears I would say the night before we do the release we would want to close the access road to the site--- that is with signs and perhaps a chain and barrier tape a good half mile before the turn around of relocation site.

JJ

Mon, Jan 16 at 9:24 AM



Text Message





11 People >



Ok, thanks

Sat, Sep 24 at 9:01 AM

Jamie Jonkel

Black bear in trap. Released and reset.

Sun, Sep 25 at 9:13 AM

Jamie Jonkel

Doors up in Bitterroot. Nothing on camera

Randy Arnold

Ok. Thanks Jamie.

Mike Ebinger

Copy

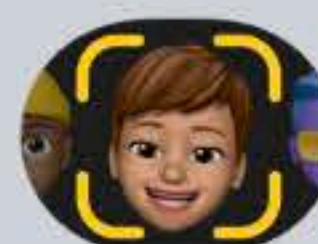
Mon, Sep 26 at 8:55 AM

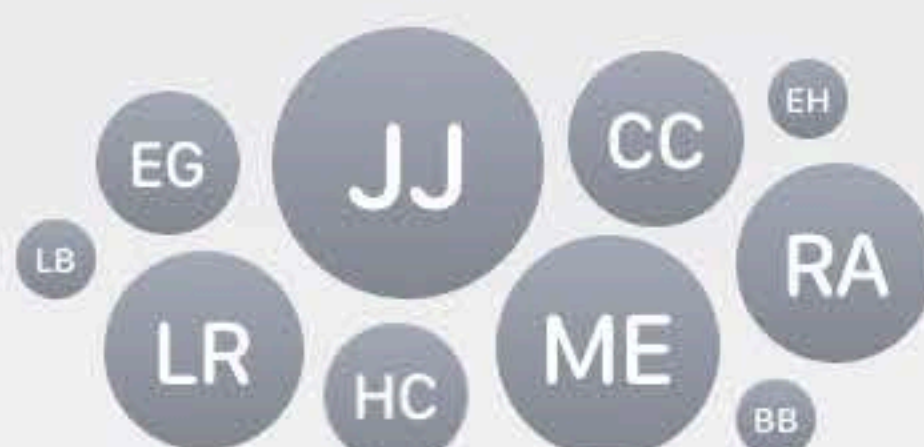
Jamie Jonkel

Doors are up nothing on camera. This morning we did receive video from around park Creek up Miller creek of 2 grizzlies traveling together. Verified as grizzly and most likely our Bitterroot Bears.



Text Message





11 People >



Sun, Oct 2 at 9:25 AM

Jamie Jonkel

No luck on capturing the 2nd bear. It was at site around 6 AM but left. Traps will remain open. The captured bear was brought to the office. We will let it warm up and handle and collar this afternoon.

JJ

Mon, Oct 3 at 12:04 AM

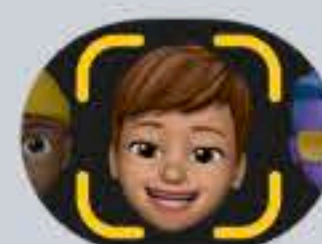
Jamie Jonkel

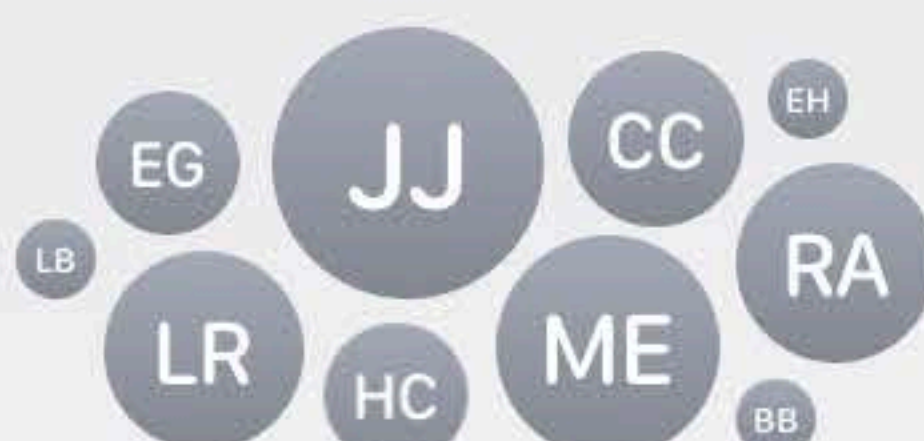
Bear handled today was male and 230 lbs. Relocated to Welcome Crk Wilderness area. Bear would not leave trap so Brad and Jessica left the trap site with the door tied up 3 signs at the trap, 1 at the gate and danger tape tied off across the gate... Will grab trap tomorrow.

Dropped pin
Dropped pin

[Tap to Load Preview](#)

Text Message





11 People >



Jamie Jonkel

Bart has a culvert set for a bear that destroyed beehives near Carten cr. He thinks it may be grizzly based on the digging.

Cecily Costello

Lichtenstone crossed I 90 just east of rattler gulch and headed toward Helmville.

Jamie Jonkel

What day did she cross and do you have lat/long

Cecily Costello

It was oct 9 between 130 and 200 am. About 46.6957, [-113.2061](#)

2 miles sw of helmville as of 2 am this morning.

Jamie Jonkel

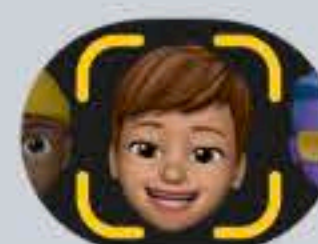
Thanks

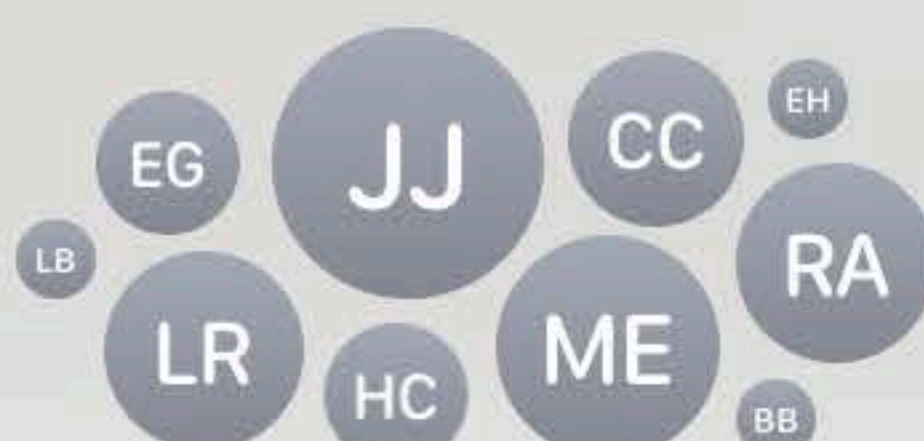
Wed, Oct 12 at 8:27 AM

Jamie Jonkel



Text Message





11 People >



LR

I got one location from the bitterroot female today. She is 3 miles northwest of Lincoln. Just north of hwy 200 by hi country trading post.

Jamie Jonkel

JJ

Wow.

Eric Graham

EG

Good to know thanks, Eric

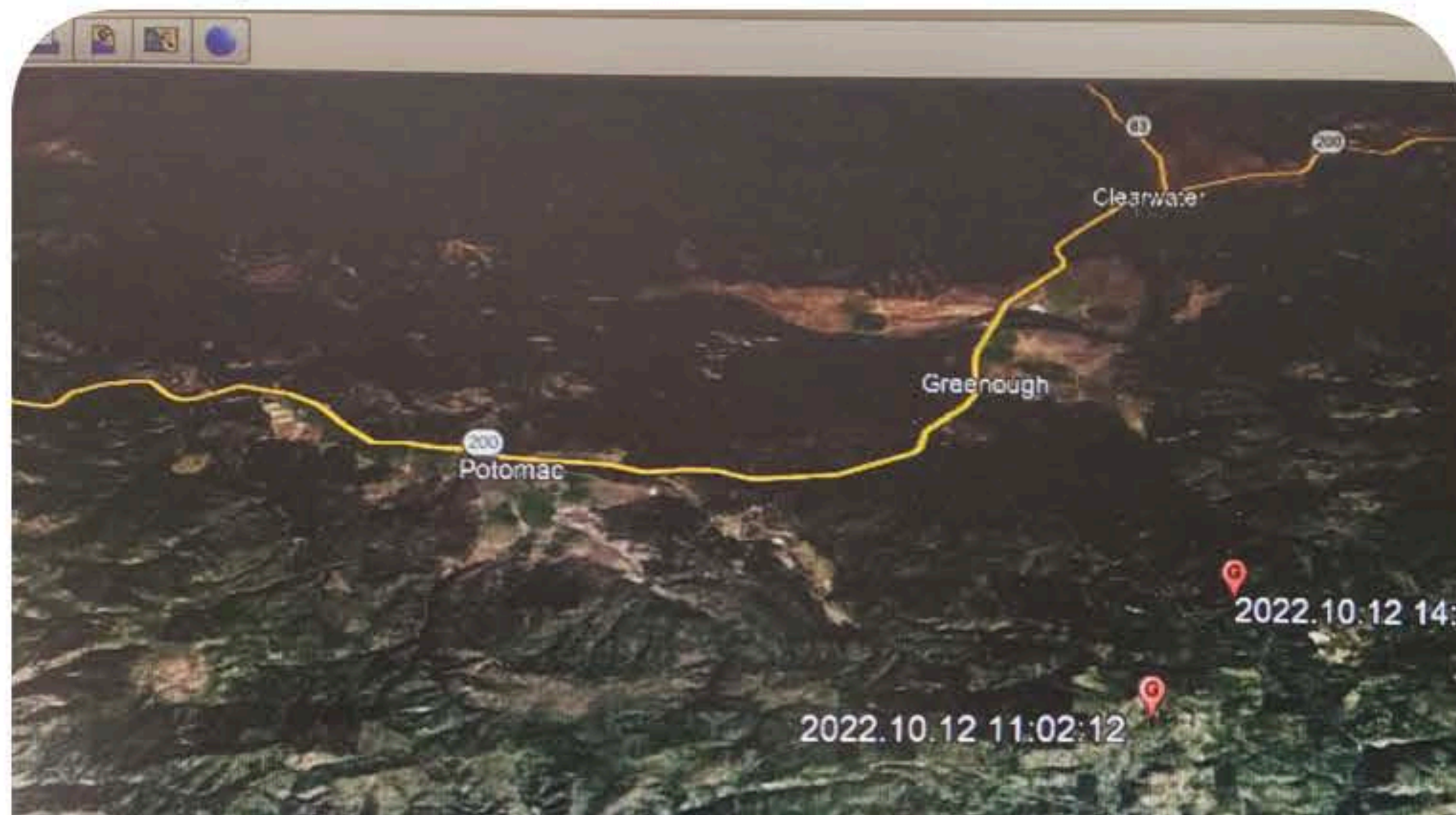
Fri, Oct 14 at 9:52 AM

Jamie Jonkel

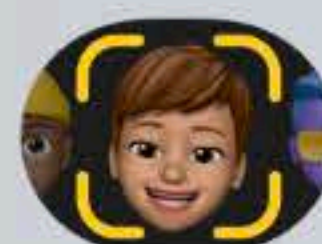
JJ

Hello Laurie or Cecily. I heard that our little male from the bitterroot may have headed North and was curious where he crossed interstate 90 and what time. Maybe a lot long too

Cecily Costello



Text Message

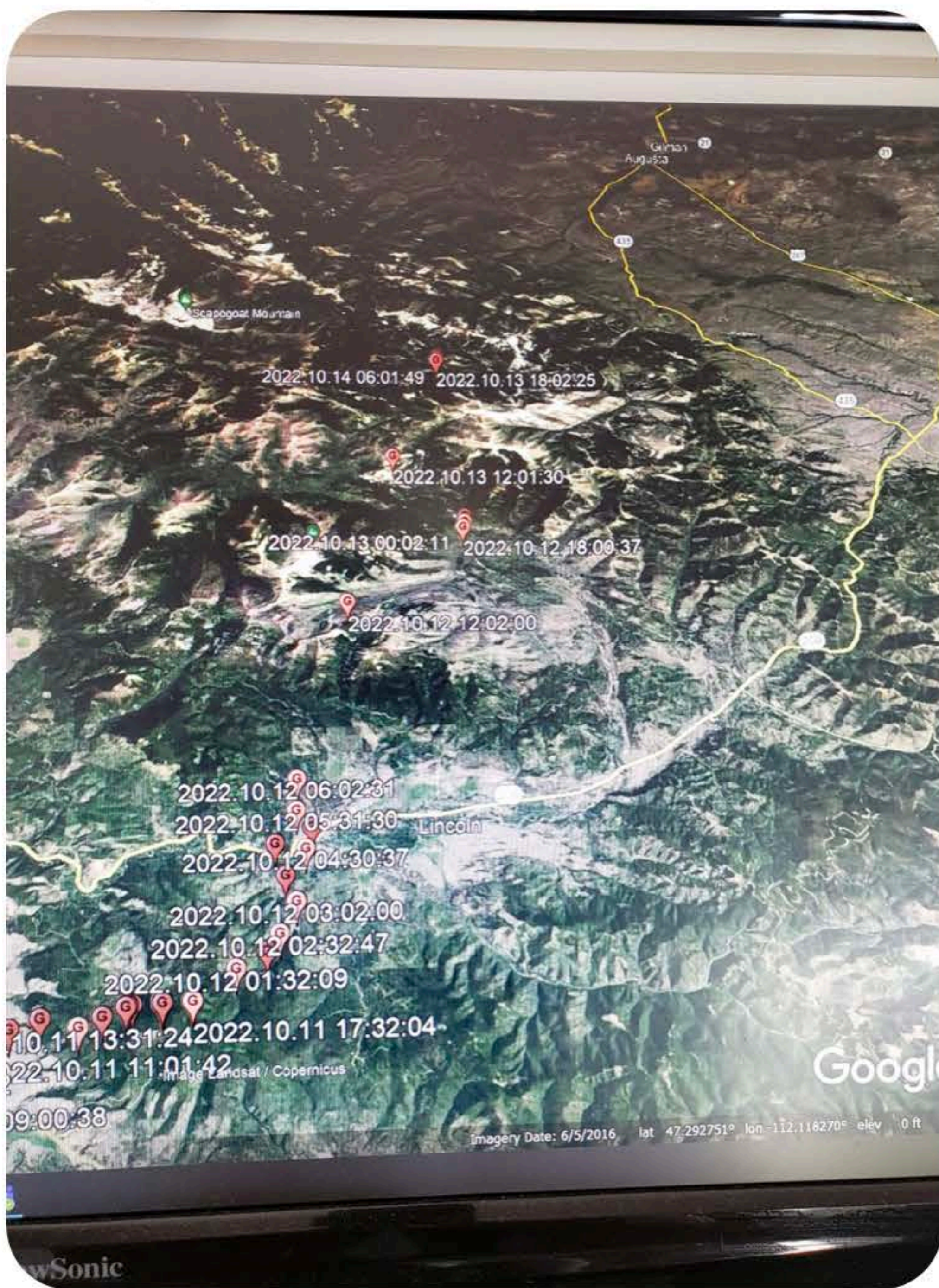




11 People >



Cecily Costello



Lichenstone's latest

cc

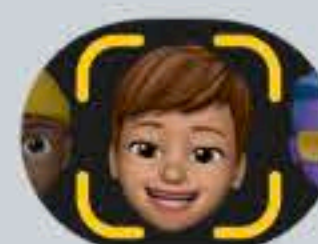
I agree!

Agreed. Interesting that they stayed relatively local as long as they did in the north Bitterroot, but then seemingly hightailed it north once trapped.

Cecily Costello

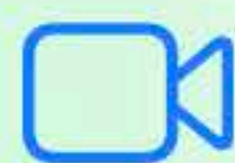


Text Message





11 People >



JJ

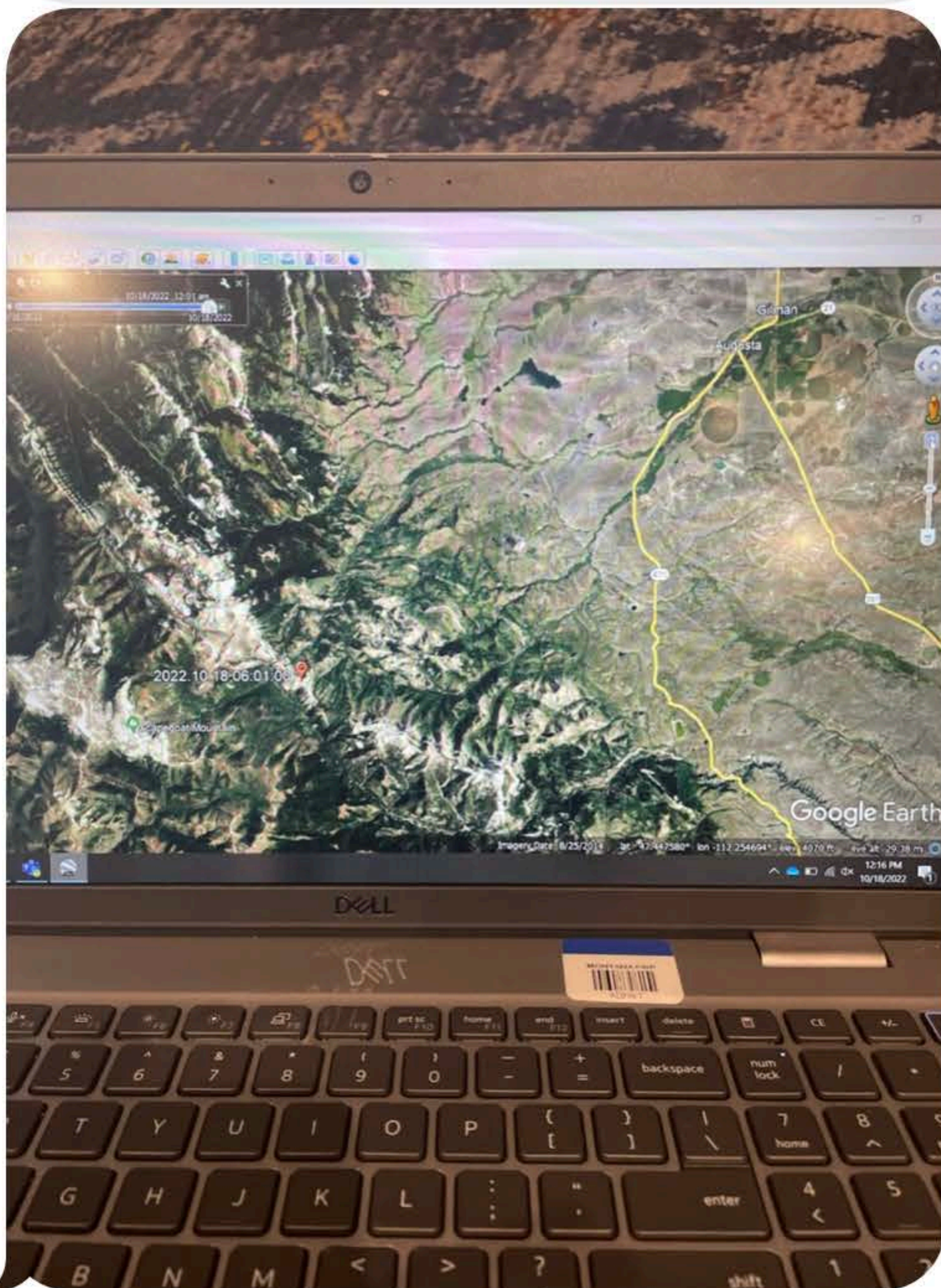
Waiting to hear from Kerry.

Ok, thanks

Tue, Oct 18 at 12:16 PM

Lori Roberts

Just a bitterroot Bear update.
They have reconnected in the
scapegoat of all areas.

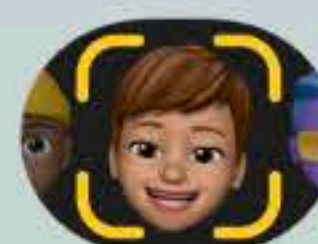
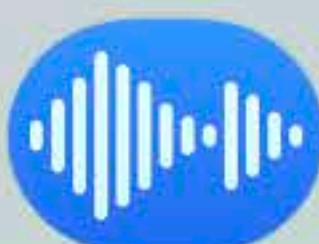


LR

Lucky4 keeps acting like he is



Text Message



From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Hogan, Matt](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Mari\)](#); [Small, Stephen M](#); [Zerrenner, Adam](#); [Abbott, Tyler](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#); [Armstrong, Ron](#); [Wolgemuth, Eryl](#); [Coil, Dan](#)
Subject: Conflict update
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:24:54 PM

Hi all,

See below for the weekly conflict update. Apologies for not getting this out yesterday. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

GBRP Conflict Update September 19 - 25

Montana

- 9/19 - Conflict specialists relocated a bear in FWP Region 3. This large male bear was a non-target capture at a conflict site in Tom Miner Basin. While non-target captured may be released on site if appropriate, it was decided to relocate this bear due to private property concerns and ongoing conflict levels in that area. The bear was relocated to an area south of West Yellowstone.
- 9/20 - A female with a cub of the year was captured near Yankee Jim Canyon, outside Gardner. This bear had been involved in multiple previous conflicts, and had recently been frequenting areas near houses, on porches, etc. The decision was made to remove the female, and the cub will be placed in a zoo.
- 9/20 - The two subadults that had previously been active around Florence, in the north end of the Bitterroot Valley, were seen on private property several miles north, near Carlton Creek on the west side of Highway 93. Because the bears were remaining in relatively populated areas with high conflict potential, FWP and FWS decided to move ahead with an attempt to preemptively capture and relocate these bears. After extensive communication with and input from FWP, the Bitterroot National Forest, Lolo National Forest, Region 1 FS Leadership, and Idaho Fish and Game, the decision was made to relocate these bears, if captured, to an FWP commission approved site on the east side of the Bitterroot Valley in the northern end of the Sapphires. Traps were set for several days, but the bears were not captured. We will be pursuing additional conversations with the above entities to come up with additional relocation sites on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests for future potential FWS relocations.
- 9/22 - FWS Conflict Specialists relocated a female bear from outside of Conrad, MT, along the Rocky Mountain Front, to an area over Marias Pass. This bear had been captured as a research bear this past spring and was one of three bears captured on camera at a site where five or more sheep had been killed over the

previous several days. However, data from her collar indicated this bear likely did not kill the sheep and the decision was made to relocate this bear.

Wyoming

- There were multiple reports of 399 south of the park during 9/20 - 9/22. Most credible reports put her near East Gros Ventre Butte, just NW of Jackson. No known sightings since Friday. Hilary and Ben will be making a trip to Jackson next week, and along with Becca will meet with personnel from Teton Park, WGF, USFS, sheriff's department, and others.
- 863 and her cubs were spotted briefly on 9/23 crossing the highway near Togwotee Pass.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Hogan, Matt](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Mari\)](#); [Small, Stephen M](#); [Zerrenner, Adam](#); [Abbott, Tyler](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#)
Subject: Conflict Update
Date: Monday, August 15, 2022 6:02:48 PM

GBRP Conflict Update August 8-14

Tribal Coordination

- FWS Conflict specialist, Morgan Vance, spent 3 days on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to meet grizzly bear staff and start getting up to speed on grizzly bear conflict issues. We will debrief and provide additional information next week.

Montana

- 2 sub adult grizzly bears were spotted several times in and around the river bottom of the Bitterroot Valley, north of Florence on or around August 9. It is believed that these same two bears were seen several days prior near Potomac near Highway 200 in the southern end of the Blackfoot valley on August 3, then near Turah along I-90 east of Missoula on August 5, and eventually over the Sapphire divide on the east side of the Bitterroot south of Missoula on August 7. The last reported sighting of these bears put them on the west side of I-90. The bears have not gotten into any conflict situations, but have been seen multiple times along roads and highways, presumably feeding on roadkill. We have been in contact with FWP personnel including the local bear manager, regional wildlife manager, and regional supervisor, as well as USFS personnel including district rangers on the Missoula District of the Lolo National Forest and the Stevensville District of the Bitterroot National Forest. The hope is that these bears move on without incident, but we felt it was important to at least start various conversations in case a trapping and relocation effort were to be considered.
- FWS conflict specialists have again been on call in multiple situations, but no bears were captured.

Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs continue to be seen sporadically along Highway 26. FWS specialist Becca Lyon and USFS bear ambassadors responded to several bear jams of varying sizes, including multiple hazing efforts.

Idaho

- FWS conflict specialists Amber Kornak and Rory Trimbo have been in contact with IDFG about the logistics of a potentially large-scale fencing effort north of Bonner's Ferry. We will continue to work with IDFG on how best to move forward with this project, including a site visit by Rory. There may also be support available

from Defenders of Wildlife and the American Bear Foundation.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)



GOVERNOR'S GRIZZLY BEAR ADVISORY COUNCIL

fwp.mt.gov/gbac

FINAL REPORT

Recommendations and Input on the Future of Grizzly Bear Management and Conservation in Montana

AUGUST 2020



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Preamble

Montana's heritage is intimately connected to grizzly bears, and many indigenous peoples have lived with grizzly bears from time immemorial. The Blackfeet Tribe and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) continue to play essential roles in grizzly bear management and conservation in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Wildlife Services, and the National Park Service (NPS). The Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (GBAC or the Council) respects and honors this long-standing relationship, as well as the traditional knowledge that continues to inform management and provide habitat for grizzly bears in Montana.

As grizzly bear populations have been reduced or extirpated throughout much of their historic range over the past century, the populations that continue to reside and expand in Montana are perceived by many from our state and around the world to hold both intrinsic and spiritual value, alongside a recognized ecological importance. The grizzly bears residing in Montana's four recovery ecosystems are considered essential to the continued recovery of the species nationally. Significant progress toward the recovery of this species has occurred since grizzly bears were listed as protected by the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

Continued conservation and management efforts remain necessary. Montana is unique in the continental United States for its maintenance of grizzly bear populations and their core habitats that support connectivity and recovery in landscapes extending beyond primary conservation areas and state lines. The Council recognizes that alongside the wilderness, parks, and protected lands that have provided refuge for grizzly bears over the past century, there is an

essential role for local communities and working lands, both public and private, in helping to maintain a landscape capable of supporting both people and grizzlies. Grizzly bear expansion across the state has and will continue to bring challenges to traditional and emerging livelihoods as the human population of Montana increases simultaneously with the population of grizzly bears. The conservation of this species from past and ongoing management and cooperation, as well as future conservation and management, could offer the opportunity to make the goal of grizzly bear recovery a reality.

The GBAC was charged with developing citizen recommendations for fundamental guidance and direction on key issues and challenges related to the conservation and management of grizzly bears in Montana, particularly those issues on which there is significant social disagreement. The 18 Montanans that make up the Council acknowledge the important task with which we were charged, and worked to bring our diversity of livelihoods, backgrounds, community concerns, and connections to Montana's landscapes into our discussions when crafting our recommendations. We also acknowledge that our recommendations are just that, and stand beside many other agency, tribal, and public contributions. The Council worked to use all information provided by support staff, as well as public comment, to provide meaningful guidance and feedback that will inform, but not constrain, the management and conservation of grizzly bears into the future.

Vision

We envision fully recovered grizzly bear populations in the four identified recovery areas in Montana and landscapes in-between that accommodate grizzly bear presence and connectivity while maintaining the safety and quality of life of those that live, work, and play in Montana.

Guiding Principles

The following principles provide the underlying foundational understandings that inform all the Council's recommendations. These considerations should be accounted for in any decision or process related to grizzly bear management in the state of Montana and are representative of the communal voice existing among the diverse individual members of the Council.

1. All those living in or visiting Montana should expect the potential presence of grizzly bears on the landscape, and should have access to education, assistance, and resources involved with coexisting with grizzly bears.
2. The identification of areas between established recovery zones that best contribute to genetic and demographic connectivity is necessary to prioritize resource allocation, focus outreach and education efforts, build social tolerance, and proactively engage local communities and landowners.
3. As expansion occurs outside the four recovery ecosystems and the landscapes in-between them in Montana, FWP and relevant agencies will have to balance this expansion with the need to prioritize resources that support both public and private lands. This would include resources, personnel, and conflict prevention/mitigation strategies well ahead of grizzly bear expansion into unprepared areas.
4. The best available science should inform decisions in all aspects of grizzly bear management and conservation.
5. Strategies and tools aimed at proactively preventing or reducing conflicts are often effective and can be less expensive than compensating for conflict after the fact.
6. Strict enforcement of poaching is necessary for the long-term conservation of grizzly bears.
7. Grizzly bear management requires communication, coordination, and timely consultation among governmental agencies, tribal entities, private landowners, and the public.
8. Montana's diverse landscapes and complex circumstances require flexibility in grizzly bear management decisions.
9. Cooperation with and consideration of working landscapes is essential to the successful expansion and connectivity of grizzly bears. These communities are an important part of the decision-making process.

10. Social tolerance is not uniform; it is a complex topic that is dynamic and variable across space and time. FWP and relevant agencies should strive to cultivate social tolerance through sound management decisions and conflict prevention measures.
11. Addressing the challenges to working landscapes, recreationists, and local communities on both public and private lands will require an inclusive and proactive effort.
12. Voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts on lands should be encouraged and supported.
13. Both genetic and demographic connectivity are important to the long-term sustainability, persistence, and resiliency of grizzly bears. Connectivity areas will exist in diverse social and environmental settings. Not all these settings are conducive to permanent habitation but should be managed to promote genetic and demographic connectivity in biologically suitable habitat, being mindful that biologically suitable does not always mean acceptable.
14. Increasing recreational use on public lands is an emerging challenge to grizzly bear recovery and management and could negatively affect grizzly bear recovery.
15. The Council recognizes the importance of large tracts of remote secure habitat. Sustaining and improving habitat security, managing road densities, and identifying and protecting natural food resources and other needs will contribute to long-term survival and resiliency of grizzly bears.
16. The effects of climate change should be considered when making decisions about grizzly bears.
17. In order to implement our recommendations, relevant agencies will need new funding from diverse entities and sources. Resources are key to the success of all our recommendations. As resources are developed and utilized, both public and private lands needs must be considered.
18. Grizzly bear conservation is a shared responsibility.



GBAC Bozeman Meeting



GBAC Bozeman Meeting

Section I

Council Recommendations

The following recommendations were crafted with careful consideration and consensus from the 18 Council members.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach should engage all Montanans and visitors in the shared responsibility of grizzly bear conservation. In order to support, develop, and improve the range of grizzly bear education and outreach between FWP and the public, the Council offers the following recommendations:

1. In recognition of the grizzly bear being Montana's state animal and the strides made since the species was listed as protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the Grizzly Bear Advisory Council recommends the Governor establish a date to annually celebrate and create awareness around the grizzly bear and the landscapes, communities, and continued collaborative efforts in Montana that have contributed to grizzly bear conservation.
2. FWP should provide easy access to education about hunting safely in grizzly bear country for resident and non-resident hunters in Montana.
3. All relevant agencies should provide residents and landowners with accurate information on the effective use of non-lethal methods to haze grizzly bears.
4. Relevant agencies should provide consistent messaging when communicating with the public about the differences among the terminology around relocation, reintroduction, and augmentation, and when each might be necessary or utilized.
5. Relevant agencies should create open and accessible communication channels between bear managers and the public to encourage communal efforts around bear awareness and conflict prevention.
 - a. Support bear managers as they create reliable and easy reports¹ of bear sightings and conflicts near human settlements, towns, and cities.
 - b. Grizzly bear management on working lands will not be a static process. Communication is key to mutual understanding, innovative solutions, and trust. The council recommends regular engagement with working lands managers to inform grizzly bear management and policy.
6. FWP, in coordination with relevant agencies, should create consistency and timeliness around public access to grizzly bear mortality data² across recovery ecosystems.

¹ For example, *Prairie Bear Monitor* and *Missoula Bears* on Facebook.

² For example, the *Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST)* database used for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

7. FWP, together with partners, should explore ways to inform, promote, and incentivize Bear Aware programs in communities.
8. Relevant agencies should support educational efforts to build a common understanding of perspectives between agricultural producers and urban communities.
9. Relevant agencies should create and use consistent messaging around the use and effectiveness of bear spray.
 - a. FWP should encourage bear spray distribution and training programs across the state, including but not limited to the following:
 - i. Work with Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) and professionals in the outdoor industries to provide bear spray and training and to explore best management practices for businesses around bear safety for employees and clients;
 - ii. Partner with outdoor recreation companies and retailers to offer grizzly bear safety training;
 - iii. Coordinate messaging on the efficacy and use of bear spray with the Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation and the Montana Office of Tourism; and
 - iv. Provide a bear identification and safety video including proper use of bear spray and couple it with the bear identification test online.
10. The Governor's office and FWP should work to fund and create a full time and permanent Grizzly Bear Information, Education, and Outreach Coordinator to

support and contribute to the broader efforts of FWP's Wildlife Stewardship Outreach Specialist. The following considerations were identified by the Council for this position but should be pursued by the appropriate FWP staff regardless of this position being in place.

- a. Develop and maintain a statewide Bear Aware program.
 - i. Together with partners, work to establish a statewide program and a way to certify Bear Aware businesses and communities.
- b. Create a centralized location within FWP that includes available resources and a catalog of educational materials.
- c. Coordinate with stakeholders to provide bear safety information and outreach.
 - i. Identify gaps where additional bear safety information and outreach is needed.³
- d. Work with agency partners to address outreach and education needs on public lands.
- e. Continue the FWP Grizzly Bear Education and Outreach Summit to:
 - i. Address conflict prevention, resource concerns, and ongoing challenges; and
 - ii. Create, report, and share consistent messaging and effective strategies.
- f. Work with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, local teachers, agencies, and tribal partners to create and implement a K-12 grizzly bear curriculum.

³ For example, a need for further coordination with the tourism industry, vacation rental companies, and realtors.

Conflict Prevention and Reduction

Preventing conflicts with grizzly bears is essential to the development of social acceptance and the continued conservation of grizzly bears. Proactive, inclusive efforts to mitigate conflict can engage communities, protect private property, maintain human safety, and be an efficient use of limited resources, while minimizing associated bear mortality. The following recommendations are actionable items that can strengthen or support existing efforts.

11. Human/Grizzly Conflicts in and around Developed Areas 12. Agriculture

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
 - i. FWP, along with local state, federal, and tribal entities, should: provide guidance for land use planning to prevent human/grizzly conflicts;
 - ii. Proactively recommend actions to governing bodies on how to minimize grizzly bear conflicts;
 - iii. Help local communities identify and use available local grants for conflict prevention; and
 - iv. Review and update all FWP subdivision recommendations (2012).⁴
- b. FWP and IGBC should make the research, development, and funding of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning a high priority.
- c. The Governor's office and FWP should work with partners to increase access to federal dollars for grizzly bear conservation and management that includes conflict prevention actions.
- a. We strongly recommend the Governor's Office and the 2021 Montana Legislature fully fund the Livestock Loss Board (LLB) to provide dedicated conflict prevention dollars in order for the LLB to allocate funding for conflict reduction tools and practices.
- b. All relevant state and federal agricultural and wildlife agencies should research and make recommendations on best management practices that help reduce depredations on livestock and non-livestock commercial losses.
- c. Relevant agencies should integrate technology to allow for timely reporting of agricultural conflicts to neighboring farms and ranches.
- d. FWP should increase and diversify partnerships, funding, and support for community-based groups and other organizations to:
 - i. Support conflict mitigation efforts and monitoring;
 - ii. Expand outreach efforts;
 - iii. Provide salary cost shares with local groups; and
 - iv. Provide proper resources for livestock producers to implement appropriate conflict prevention measures on private and public lands.

⁴ Fish and Wildlife Recommendations for Subdivision Development in Montana. 2012. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/buildingWithWildlife/subdivisionRecommendations/>

13. Public and State Land

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
 - i. Relevant agencies should create and enforce consistent food storage requirements across state and federal lands;
 - ii. Relevant agencies should work with partners to make bear resistant infrastructure available at all federal, state, and local campgrounds and other public recreation areas;
 - iii. FWP and relevant agencies should continue to work with partners to research and closely monitor impacts to grizzly bears from road densities and other human activity on public and state lands; and
 - iv. FWP should coordinate with public land managers to develop plans to address the general and seasonal impacts to wildlife from recreational use and to prevent conflicts between grizzly bears and people on the landscape, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Encourage reduced maximum group sizes for public and special event use in recovery ecosystems;
 - 2. Encourage temporary trail closures and limit special use permits in areas with critical habitat conditions during appropriate times of year;
 - 3. Consider future areas of connectivity in land management decisions;
 - 4. Require that commercial or special use permit applications include specific plans to meet food storage order regulations, manage and reduce conflicts, contain attractants, and minimize impacts to grizzly bear habitat and food resources;

5. Consider identifying areas of Montana with minimal impacts to grizzly bear habitat and minimal risk of conflict to proactively prepare for participation in recreation planning processes; and

6. Ensure appropriate and timely analysis for new and proposed recreation activities⁵ in designated core grizzly habitat and connectivity areas on public lands, and move or reroute activities as determined by the analysis.

14. Waste Management/Sanitation

- a. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
 - i. FWP and relevant agencies should support the development of consistent local sanitation ordinances that require attractants to be stored in a bear-resistant manner and includes entities for enforcement.
 - ii. Counties and local governments are encouraged to work with local sanitation companies to explore the use of bear-resistant sanitation storage options. Sanitation efforts should be coupled with outreach, monitoring, and maintenance of infrastructure.
- b. Outside of areas where grizzly bears are or may be present:
 - i. Communities and planning boards should proactively explore local sanitation practices.

⁵ For example, e-biking, mountain biking routes, thru-hiking trails, cross country events, etc.

Conflict Response and Protocols

Timely and consistent conflict response is necessary to build and maintain relationships between FWP and the communities where grizzly bears exist. Building these relationships prior to conflict will help to promote open communication and sharing of information if the need for response should occur. These recommendations are intended to increase FWP and other relevant agencies' abilities to facilitate positive engagement with those living with grizzly bears.

15. The State Legislature and FWP should make bear management specialists Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions included in permanent base funding, provide each specialist with a year-round technician, and create more of these fully funded positions as needed.

This would:

- a. Allow for transfer of expertise from bear managers to bear managers-in-training;
- b. Improve response time;
- c. Allow bear managers to be proactive and mitigate conflicts; and
- d. Allow time for relationship building, outreach, and communication with landowners, agriculture producers, and local communities.

16. Conflicts should be monitored and reported in a consistent manner across relevant agencies to effectively identify new and/or emerging areas of concern.

17. USFWS and relevant agencies should clarify management protocols for conflict bears and continue to share them with landowners, livestock producers, and communities to maximize transparency.

18. Relevant agencies should periodically review interagency Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity for conflict response.



Due to Covid 19, the Council met virtually nine times from March-August 2020.

Grizzly Bear Distribution, Relocation, and Connectivity

Genetic and demographic connectivity among Montana's four recovery zones is important to the long-term viability of grizzly bear populations in the continental United States. These recommendations intend to balance the continued importance of public lands with the need for the involvement of private lands to support our vision for an interconnected metapopulation of grizzly bears in Montana.

19. FWP should continue to allow natural movement to new areas between all four identified recovery zones in Montana.
20. FWP and all relevant agencies should clearly define the "landscapes in-between" the four recovery zones in Montana that are important for genetic and demographic connectivity and the long-term sustainability of the grizzly bear.
21. FWP, in coordination with relevant agencies and through a public process, should evaluate and identify those landscapes that can reasonably be considered important for grizzly bear recovery and connectivity from those that cannot, and clearly distinguish these in its management plan. Such a distinction is necessary for determining appropriate relocation sites between the four recovery zones, as well as for prioritizing resources for outreach and education, transportation upgrades, and conflict prevention, reduction, and response efforts. These decisions should be in accordance with current Conservation Strategies.
22. In areas where grizzly bears are or may be present, FWP and relevant agencies should increase and promote research on habitat conditions that could support grizzly bear occupancy in order to better understand and track distribution trends.
23. Relevant agencies should expedite work with landowners, agricultural producers, and communities to prioritize the creation of new suitable relocation areas inside and between recovery ecosystems which further the conservation, connection, and recovery of grizzly bears in Montana while ensuring existing land uses are supported.
24. Any new and existing agreements regarding population augmentation should be evaluated on a regular basis.
25. All transportation entities should coordinate with the Montana Wildlife and Transportation Steering Committee's efforts and the Federal Railroad Administration to reduce transportation mortalities, facilitate movement, and enhance public safety, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Work with partners to develop a wildlife transportation safety campaign;
 - b. Work with appropriate entities to explore ways to minimize train/bear collisions due to grain spills and carcasses near train tracks;
 - c. Identify and model potentially important grizzly bear crossing points on major highways and seek funding to incorporate wildlife connectivity into the transportation system as infrastructure upgrades are made; and
 - d. Encourage voluntary incentive-based conservation practices in areas identified as important to wildlife passage and support allocating state and federal funding for such efforts.

Resources

The Council recognizes that current grizzly bear management and conservation resources are inadequate. Moreover, the Council sees the issue of resources as the greatest limitation, and therefore the greatest challenge, in working toward its vision of a landscape that supports both grizzly bears and people. Addressing these resource challenges will require a multi-pronged and long-lasting approach and needs to include public, private, and philanthropic efforts. The Council kept the issue of resources in mind throughout the process of drafting recommendations, and specific resource-related recommendations are included in the relevant sections of this document.

In an effort to start meeting the broader challenge of providing adequate resources, the Council would like to call attention to several of the most critical needs and suggest several ideas that can be used to inform future conversations. Recognizing that there are numerous, creative ways to meet resource needs, the Council focused much of its discussion on identifying existing gaps and systemic needs. By focusing on broad needs rather than on discrete opportunities, the Council hopes multiple funding pathways will be pursued. The Council feels that by fostering and supporting multiple, coordinated efforts, the state stands the best chance of meeting the resource needs it faces.

Needs:

1. A greater diversity of funding sources as well as greater stability in the resources generated;
2. Increased FWP staff capacity to meet the scope and scale of conservation and management needs and opportunities;
3. Improved access to and an overall increase in resources and tools necessary for the implementation and long-term maintenance of education, outreach, and conflict prevention;
4. Full funding for the Montana Livestock Loss Board compensation program to compensate ranchers for the losses of livestock to grizzly bears;
5. Full funding of the Montana Livestock Loss Board's Livestock Loss Reduction and Conflict Mitigation Trust Fund;
6. Increased funding and support for voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts undertaken by communities and individuals to improve habitat and/or reduce conflicts;
7. Increased funding and coordination for landscape level wildlife-friendly transportation projects;
8. Funding and support for community-wide bear-resistant sanitation programs to include ongoing monitoring, outreach, and maintenance;
9. Additional public relations efforts around grizzly bear conservation and management; and
10. Funding and support for grizzly bear research and the development of new and innovative tools and techniques for conflict prevention and aversive conditioning.

In addition to identifying these broad needs, the Council developed an initial list of possible sources and ideas to explore to meet these needs. We recognize there are many entities working on this issue in different ways. It would be beneficial for FWP to facilitate further analysis, coordination, and communication between partners around the challenge of resources. Ideas discussed by the Council that merited further research, analysis, and discussion included the following:

1. FWP should continue to explore ways to diversify agency funding. This is important to consider as Montana looks at potential income like the Recovering America's Wildlife and Wildlife Corridors Acts and the match that would be necessary to take advantage of these potential new funding opportunities.
2. Grizzly bears are part of the allure of Montana, bringing millions of tourists to the state each year. Analysis on ways to access tourism related dollars is needed. Other states are also exploring this idea, and could be a resource in this process.
 - a. Work with Montana Office of Outdoor Recreation to explore ideas for funding wildlife conservation through the rapidly growing outdoor recreation community.
3. Establishing diverse, alternative, and sustainable economic streams would benefit both grizzly bears and people.
4. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practices do not currently cover grizzly bear conflict prevention actions. We encourage the NRCS to modify or add new "Conservation Practices:" e.g., carcass pickup and composting, electric fencing, livestock guard dogs, range riding, and other conflict prevention tools.
5. FWP should initiate improved coordination and collaboration to link and leverage existing efforts, tools, and resources and to ensure better prioritization of need.
6. Wildlife friendly transportation infrastructure is important to landscape connectivity and requires significant funding. We encourage FWP and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to continue to work with partners to explore and expand ways to meet connectivity and transportation-related goals.
7. Work with state and national partners to explore, create, and implement a dedicated federally-appropriated grizzly bear conservation fund.
8. In an effort to provide a long-term and stable funding source, the Council considered whether a portion of existing tax revenue could be targeted toward grizzly bear conservation. We encourage broad and inclusive partnerships to continue the exploration of this idea.
9. Voluntary and/or opt-in fundraiser ideas at both the state and federal level should be explored as mechanisms to increase funding for grizzly bear conservation and management.⁶
10. Explore the use of social media to garner funds for education and outreach programs.
11. The Council recommends the continuation of the \$1.38 million federal appropriation Congress allocated in FY20 to pay for nonlethal conflict-prevention specialists employed by Wildlife Services in Montana and other states.
12. The Federal government, state legislature, and public stakeholders should encourage an excise tax on outdoor recreation gear and equipment like the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts have done with hunting and fishing gear.
13. Expand the USFWS Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grant Project to include grizzly bears and increase the annual amount of program funding available.
14. To save agency time and effort, the Council recommends the establishment of a voluntary, inclusive citizens' working group to research funding possibilities and create pathways to obtain them.

⁶ For example, a wildlife stamp or license plate.

Section II

Council Input

Section II contains input from the Council for items that received substantial consideration but did not lead to full consensus among the members of the Council.

Council Discussion around the Role of Hunting

Substantial deliberation was given to the role of hunting; however, because of the diversity of interpretations of available science, backgrounds, values, and opinions individually held by Council members, we cannot reach consensus that hunting has a role in grizzly bear management. The Council received a large number of public comments regarding hunting. The comments also represented a large disparity of views and were acknowledged in our conversations. Our process is presented as such and includes opposing views and discussion for context and consideration. The conversation on the role of hunting focused on two threads: (1) consideration of the role of hunting; and (2) beyond the question of whether there should be a hunt, what guidance would the Council like to provide, without consensus, in the event that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission moves forward with hunting regulations.

Considerations around the Role of Hunting

The following bulleted lists represent different perspectives on the role of hunting as brought forward by the Council:

Considerations supporting the role of hunting

- A grizzly bear hunt would not take place until ESA protections have been removed and grizzly bears are put under state management. At that time, a conservative, scientifically-sound hunt of grizzly bears could take place like other predator species.

Considerations opposing the role of hunting

- Public comments made to the GBAC show that hunting of grizzly bears is a highly divisive issue. A grizzly bear hunt could be socially divisive at a time when Montanans need to work together in support of conservation, management, and those challenged with living with grizzlies.

continued on the next page

Considerations supporting the role of hunting

- While hunting can be a useful tool in managing grizzly bear populations, it will not replace the need for conflict prevention.
- If a hunting season is under consideration, cooperating agencies should focus on sharing expertise, best available science, knowledge of geographic areas, and the status of connectivity.
- Although specifics regarding the hunting of a recovered grizzly bear population will be unique to the ecosystem and legal jurisdictions involved, we support hunting regulations that reflect the best available science, are adaptable to changing factors, are established in a public process, and are consistent with standards in the ecosystem specific Conservation Strategies.
- Regulated hunting can provide a tool to manage grizzly bears.
- Council members participated in the FWP social science survey concerning grizzly bears, and 14 of 18 members answered in support of an eventual grizzly bear hunt in Montana.
- Montana has a history of hunters being at the forefront of wildlife restoration and conservation by providing funding, management, and habitat protection that have helped us achieve the wildlife abundance we enjoy today.
- Offering regulated hunting of grizzly bears could solicit, build, and retain support for continued grizzly bear management from the sportsmen groups who have historically funded the wildlife management programs.
- Citations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LJYub0Xd6hh__daq3UhfaftC-Abfs8q6/view

Considerations opposing the role of hunting

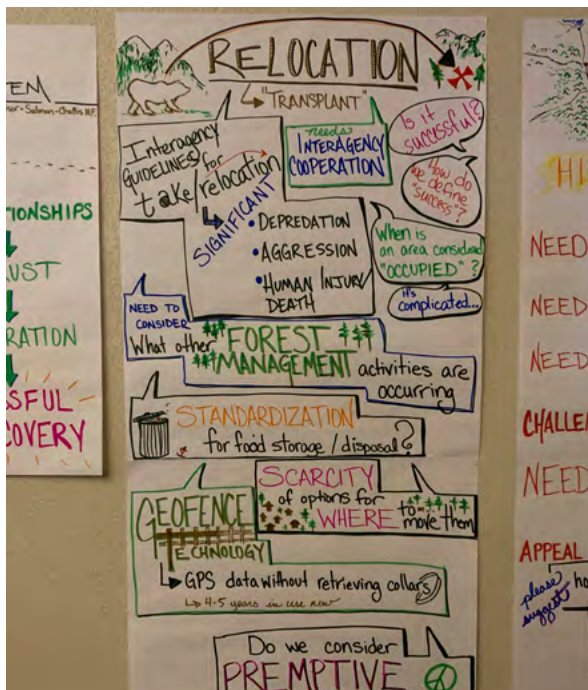
- A grizzly bear hunt will not remedy the financial needs of FWP for grizzly bear management and could jeopardize public support for alternative funding mechanisms.
- Concern over the implementation of an immediate grizzly bear hunt has contributed to public opposition to removal of ESA protections for grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies.
- Hunting grizzly bears might not increase their acceptance, but scientific evidence does show that increased conflict prevention measures and education increase social acceptance of grizzly bears.
- Scientific evidence shows that low hunter-harvest rates, as would be proposed by FWP, do not reduce human-bear conflicts or increase the safety of people around grizzly bears.
- Hunting could be an impediment to movement and population linkage and could threaten the distribution, abundance, and social structure of grizzly bear subpopulations.
- Scientific evidence shows that heavy hunter harvest can reduce bear numbers and distribution, but the low harvest rates focused on males proposed by FWP would likely play a minor role in managing grizzly populations.
- Hunting does not target problem grizzly bears.
- Citations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VfJIOkNaDEBhZ5QsN8_2mObYYG98dsUL/view

Considerations for a Proposed Grizzly Bear Hunt

The Governor's Executive Order requested the Council address the role of a grizzly bear hunt, if a hunt were to occur. The following guidelines were provided by a significant number⁷ of Council members. We acknowledge that hunting is not likely to be an effective tool for conflict prevention or reduction.

- We encourage the take of bears where the desired outcome is a lower bear density, recognizing that it will not mean no bears in those areas, but where the management challenges are significant.
- Female grizzly bears with dependent young, as well as dependent young, should be protected from hunter harvest.
- Hunting season(s) may also be timed to reduce exposure of females to harvest. Early spring and late fall hunts tend to focus hunting pressure on males.
- Regulations should include dynamic season closure prior to tag delivery based on static population levels.
- Hunting should be limited and follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Grizzly bear license fees should be modeled on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, with the non-refundable drawing fee going to grizzly bear management and conservation.
 - Tags could include a governor's tag to sell and a SuperTag for everyday people for a chance to draw;
 - Tags should be once-in-a-lifetime tags;
 - Out-of-state hunters must have a licensed guide;
 - No baiting or any use of anthropogenic attractants can be used;
 - Hunters should be strongly encouraged to carry bear spray;
 - People that draw a grizzly bear license should be required to participate in training on grizzly bear ecology, identification, and safety; and
 - Grizzly bear harvests should be reported immediately.

Artistic notes from the Polson meeting.



⁷ 14 of the 18 council members contributed to these guidelines.

Appendix A: Governor's Executive Order

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 9-2019**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE
GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, grizzly bears are valued by people and cultures across Montana and around the world;

WHEREAS, grizzly bears are also feared and can affect people's livelihoods and safety;

WHEREAS, grizzly bear numbers in Montana continue to increase, and have expanded into areas where they have not been for decades, including places key to connecting their populations;

WHEREAS, despite this success, long-term coexistence of people and grizzly bears across the landscape will remain a challenge;

WHEREAS, existing management plans did not fully anticipate grizzly bear distribution across the landscape and as Montana's human population continues to grow, we can expect conflicts between bears and people to increase in frequency and complexity;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), the U.S. Forest Service, the National Parks Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Blackfoot Tribe, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, currently manage grizzly bears in Montana as "threatened" under authority of the Endangered Species Act;

WHEREAS, four of the six recovery areas identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan occur in whole or in part within Montana;

WHEREAS, recent litigation has created uncertainty about delisting of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act;

WHEREAS, it is timely that Montanans work together to determine how the state and its partners will collectively manage and conserve grizzly bears;

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize existing grizzly bear management objectives and existing intra-agency and interagency commitments already in place, including conservation strategies, monitoring protocols, recovery plan criteria, and forest plans;

WHEREAS, the future of grizzly bear management in Montana must maintain scientific integrity, and balance diverse interests and values;

WHEREAS, Montana remains committed to maintaining the long-term viability of grizzly bears and balancing their needs with those of people;

WHEREAS, it is important for the public to have ownership and confidence in grizzly bear management in Montana;

WHEREAS, to ensure its citizens have a voice in the future of grizzly bears, Montana must provide meaningful opportunities for people to engage in a public discussion around grizzly bear management, recovery and conservation; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of all Montanans to bring stakeholders and experts together to recommend statewide strategies for conserving and managing grizzly bears for today and the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 2, Chapter 15, MCA, do hereby create the Governor's Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Advisory Council (Council).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to develop recommendations for fundamental guidance and direction on key issues and challenges related to the conservation and management of grizzly bears in Montana, particularly those issues on which there is significant social disagreement.

DUTIES

1. The Council shall produce a Final Report with discrete, actionable recommendations that provides clear and meaningful guidance to the Governor's Office, FWP, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and other entities with responsibility for grizzly bear management and conservation in Montana.
2. The Council shall recognize grizzly bear management objectives and existing intra-agency and interagency commitments already in place, including conservation strategies, monitoring protocols, commission policies, recovery plan criteria, and forest plans.
3. The Council shall utilize a transparent process that maximizes engagement among people with diverse values and interests. The Council shall consider public input on its recommendations.
4. The Council's recommendations shall identify strategies that achieve the following broad, strategic objectives:
 - a) Maintain and enhance human safety;
 - b) Ensure a healthy and sustainable grizzly bear population;
 - c) Improve timely and effective response to conflicts involving grizzly bears;
 - d) Engage all partners in grizzly-related outreach and conflict prevention; and
 - e) Improve intergovernmental, interagency, and tribal coordination.
5. The Council shall have the discretion to examine grizzly bear-related issues that it deems to be important, including at a minimum the following topics critical to its objectives:

- a) Grizzly bear distribution within Montana (including outside of established recovery zones);
- b) Connectivity between ecosystems;
- c) Conflict prevention;
- d) Response protocols to grizzly conflict in different parts of the state;
- e) Transplant protocols;
- f) Role of hunting; and
- g) Resources for long-term sustainability of grizzly bear conservation.

COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Council members shall be solicited through an application process and appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
2. The Council members shall be a cross-section of Montanans representative of different geographic areas and interest categories involved in or affected by grizzly bear conservation and management, including livestock producers, wildlife enthusiasts, conservation groups, hunters, community leaders, tribal members, and outdoor industry professionals.
3. The Governor shall appoint a council member as chairperson.
4. Council members shall serve in an individual capacity.
5. The Office of the Governor, with support from FWP, will engage to further the objectives of this Council. The Council will be attached to FWP for administrative purposes.
6. FWP shall convene an interdisciplinary, interagency technical advisory committee to serve the Council and provide biological, legal, and policy information.
7. The Council may establish procedural bylaws to aid in the performance of its duties.
8. The Council may establish subcommittees comprised of members of the Council to aid in the performance of its duties.

FWP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. FWP shall provide staff to assist the Council in completing its work.
2. FWP shall make available experts who can support the Council with technical, scientific, social, policy, and legal matters.
3. As the Council begins its work, specific decisions for implementation of management strategies will continue to be the responsibility of FWP.

OTHER

1. The Council may request consultation, information, and technical expertise from directors or their designees of state and federal agencies, the university system, the public, and other entities related to grizzly bear management and conservation.
2. The Council is not a regulatory body; its recommendations are advisory only.

COMPENSATION

All Council members shall be reimbursed for travel, meals, and lodging related to Council duties pursuant to Section 2-15-122, MCA.

DURATION

The Council shall complete its Final Report and provide its recommendations to the Governor by August 31, 2020. The Council shall then disband unless continued by subsequent executive order.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this _____ day of _____ 2019.

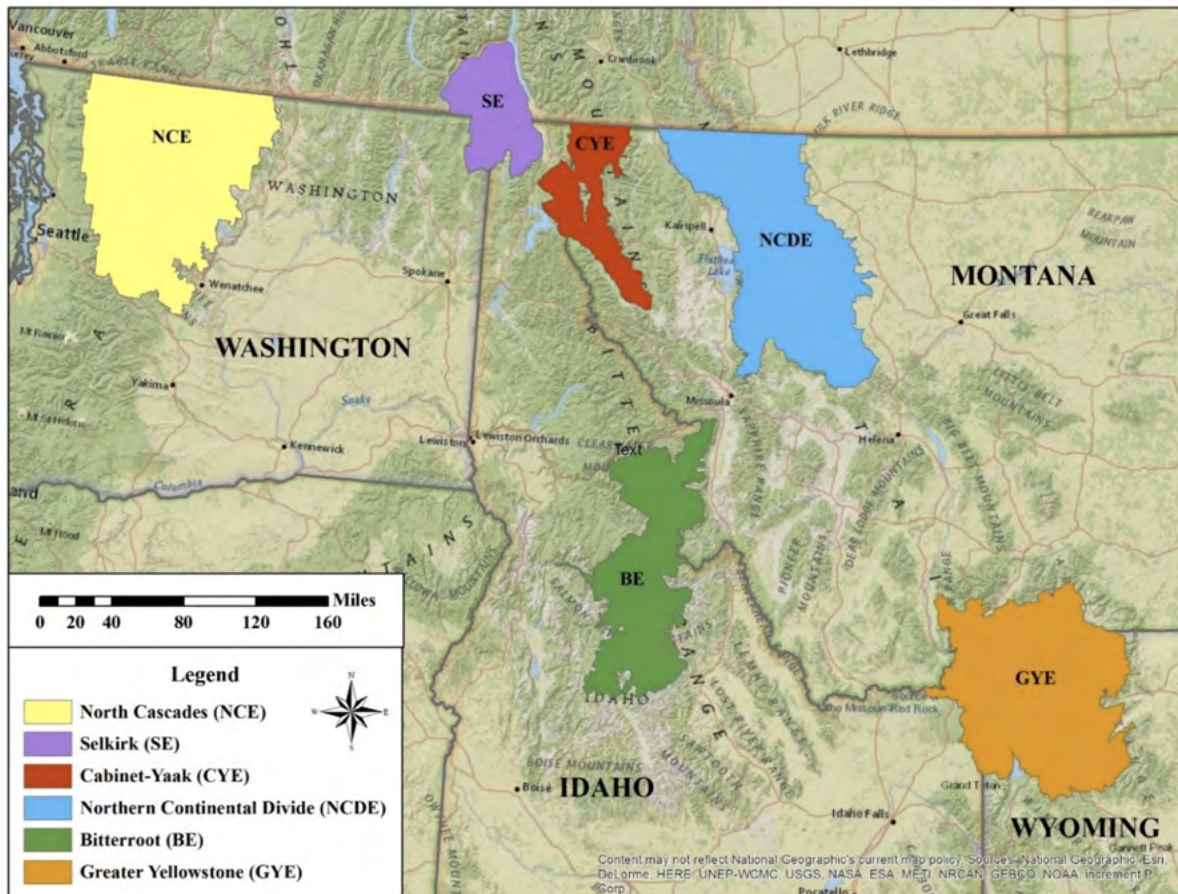


STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State

Appendix B: Map of Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones



Grizzly bear recovery zones in the lower-48 States. (USFWS 1993)

Appendix C: List of Acronyms

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

CSKT: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

GBAC: Grizzly Bear Advisory Council

IGBC: Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

MDT: Montana Department of Transportation

NPS: National Park Service

USFS: U.S. Forest Service

USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LLB: Livestock Loss Board

NCDE: Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

GYE: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

IGBST: Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team

Appendix D: Governor's GBAC Members

Bret Barney, Wyola. Qualification: Livestock producer. Barney is the Range Detective and Wildlife Manager for Sunlight Ranch Company.

Chad Bauer, Missoula. Qualification: Outdoor industry professional. Bauer is Municipal Market Manager for Republic Services.

Darrin Boss, Havre. Qualification: Hunter. Boss is the Department Head for the Department of Research Centers for Montana State University.

Jonathan Bowler, Condon. Qualification: Naturalist. Bowler is a sustenance farmer and hunter in the Swan Valley.

Trina Jo Bradley, Valier. Qualification: Livestock producer. Bradley is a rancher and advocate in Pondera County on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Caroline Byrd, Bozeman. Qualification: Conservation group. Byrd is a conservation consultant and former Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Michele Dieterich, Hamilton. Qualification: Wildlife enthusiast. Dieterich is a teacher.

Erin Edge, Missoula. Qualification: Conservation group. Edge is a Senior Representative for the Rockies and Plains Program for the Defenders of Wildlife.

Nick Gevock, Helena. Qualification: Conservation organization. Gevock is the Conservation Director for the Montana Wildlife Federation.

Lorents Grosfield, Big Timber. Qualification: Livestock producer. Grosfield is the owner/operator of a family cattle ranch in Sweet Grass County.

Kameron Kelsey, Gallatin Gateway. Qualification: Outfitter and livestock producer. Kelsey is owner/operator of the Nine Quarter Circle guest ranch.

Robyn King, Troy. Qualification: Conservation group. King is the Executive Director of the Yaak Valley Forest Council.

Kristen Kipp Preble, Browning. Qualification: Tribal member. Preble is a rancher on Cut Bank Creek on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Cole Mannix, Helena. Qualification: Cole is a conservation professional and part of a ranching family in Helmville, MT.

Heath Martinell, Dell. Qualification: Livestock producer. Martinell is a rancher in Beaverhead County.

Chuck Roady, Columbia Falls. Qualification: Community leader. Roady is the Vice President and General Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company.

Gregory Schock, Saint Ignatius. Qualification: Livestock producer. Schock is the owner of Schock's Mission View Dairy.

Anne Schuschke, East Glacier. Qualification: Outdoor industry professional. Schuschke is an early elementary teacher in Browning and Expedition Leader and Naturalist for Natural Habitat Adventures.

Appendix E: GBAC Facilitators and Technical Support Team

FACILITATORS

Shawn Johnson, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana

Heather Stokes, Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy, University of Montana

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

Dale Becker, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Rich Harris, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Gary Bertellotti, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Scott Jackson, US Forest Service

Jodi Bush, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Ken McDonald, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Gerald “Buzz” Cobell, Blackfeet Nation Fish & Wildlife

Lauren Monroe, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

Hilary Cooley, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Chris Savage, US Forest Service

Cecily Costello, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Bill Schenk, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Stacy Courville, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Charlie Sperry, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Vivaca Crowser, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Sara Sylte, Wildlife Management Institute

Kraig Glazier, USDA Wildlife Services

Dillon Tabish, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Mark Haroldson, US Geological Survey

Martha Williams, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Appendix F: Public Comments

The Council would like to thank everyone for their engagement in the Council's work. In addition to comments provided during Council meetings, the Council received over 16,000 comments through the public comment portal on the Council's website. Comments submitted online can be accessed at:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/grizzlyBear/gbacPublicComments.html>



Back row, left to right: Heath Martinell, Caroline Byrd, Anne Schuschke, Bret Barney, Governor Bullock, Kristen Kipp Preble, Jonathan Bowler, Nick Gevock, Chad Bauer, Greg Schock

Middle row, left to right: Michele Dieterich, Trina Jo Bradley, Robyn King, Lorents Grosfield, Heather Stokes, Shawn Johnson

Bottom row, left to right: Chuck Roady, Cole Mannix, Erin Edge, Darrin Boss

Not pictured: Kameron Kelsey

The Council would like to thank everyone who attended and presented at its meetings, provided information and resources, and provided input and feedback on its process and report.



IGBC BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE

Fall 2022 Meeting – Virtual – Monday 11/21/22

1200-1700mst (1100-1600 pst)

AGENDA: (All Times MST)

- 1200-1215 Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions – JJ Teare, Chair**
- 1215-1230 IGBC Executive Committee Update – David Diamond, Exec Coordinator**
- 1230-1245 Science Sub-committee Report – Mike Pruss or Katie Oelrich,**
- 1245-1300 Information, Education and Outreach Sub-committee Report – Jen
Bruns, Chair**
- 1300-1315 SW MT DAN project plan for 2022 – Jennifer Fortin-Noreus**
- 1315-1330 Update on the draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the public
process – Montana**
- 1330-1345 Grizzly Bear relocation in the Bitterroot – USFWS**
- 1345-1400 Public Q&A and Comments**

Agency Reports – Conservation Actions for 2021

- 1400-1410 Salmon Challis NF- Chuck Mark**
- 1410-1420 Bitterroot NF – Matt Anderson**
- 1420-1430 Nez Perce Clearwater NF- Cheryl Probert/Marty**
- 1430-1440 Lolo NF- Carolyn Upton**
- 1440-1450 Payette NF – Linda Jackson**
- 1500 -1510 Sawtooth NF - TBA**
- 1510-1520 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sandi Fischer/Ben
Conard/ Wayne Kasworm/ Jennifer Fortin-Noreus**

1520-1530 **Bureau of Land Management** – Linda Price

1530-1540 **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks** – Jamie Jonkel

1540- 1550 **Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game** - Jen Bruns, JJ Teare

1550-1600 **Nez Perce Tribe** - Kerey Barnowe-Meyer

1600-1610 **County Perspectives** –Ravalli (MT), Clearwater (ID),
Idaho (ID) and Lemhi (ID)

1610-1630 **Public Q&A and Comments**

1630-1700 **Other Business**

- Transfer of Chair to Sandi Fisher – FWS
- Selection of Co-Chair, State agency nominations needed
- Selection of Sub-Committee Chairs and vice chairs
- Next Meeting
- Wrap UP

1700 **Adjourn**

Meeting Zoom Links

Topic: IGBC Executive Session: TBD

Time:

Join Zoom Meeting

IGBC BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE

Fall 2022 Meeting

TBA

AGENDA: (All Times PST)

- 15 min **Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions** – JJ Teare, Chair
- 15 min **IGBC Executive Committee Update** – David Diamond, Exec Coordinator
- 15 min **Science Sub-committee Report** – Mike Pruss or Katie Oelrich,
- 15 min **Information, Education and Outreach Sub-committee Report** – Jen
Bruns, Chair
- 15 min **SW MT DAN project plan for 2022** – Jennifer Fortin-Noreus
- 15 min Open
- 15 min Open
- 15 min Break

5 to 10 min each (1.5hrs max) **Agency Reports – Conservation Actions for 2021**

Salmon Challis NF- Chuck Mark

Bitterroot NF – Matt Anderson

Nez Perce Clearwater NF- Cheryl Probert/Marty

Lolo NF- Carolyn Upton

Payette NF – Linda Jackson

Panhandle NF- Carl Petrick

Sawtooth NF - TBA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sandi Fischer/Ben
Conard/ Wayne Kasworm/ Jennifer Fortin-Noreus

Bureau of Land Management – Linda Price

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Jamie Jonkel

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game - Jen Bruns, JJ Teare

Nez Perce Tribe - Kerey Barnowe-Meyer

**County Perspectives –Ravalli (MT), Clearwater (ID),
Idaho (ID) and Lemhi (ID)**

20 min **Public Q&A and Comments**

30 min **Other Business**

- Transfer of Chair to Sandi Fisher – FWS
- Selection of Co-Chair, State agency nominations needed
- Selection of Sub-Committee Chairs and vice chairs
- Next Meeting
- Wrap UP

Adjourn

Meeting Zoom Links

Topic: IGBC Executive Session: TBD

Time:

Join Zoom Meeting

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [jajonkel](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Potential W Side Bitterroot Relocation Sites
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 1:23:17 PM
Attachments: [GoogleEarth Placemark.kmz](#)

Hi you two,

In thinking about the possibility of relocating these cubs on the west side of the Bitterroot, here are a couple places I think would be worth considering. There would obviously be a lot more to discuss, but let me know what you guys think. My rationale for these sites was a) habitat, b) distance from private property (especially any ag property), c) pretty low hunting pressure/activity in HD 250 compared to 270 (East Fork), c) still not right on (or all that close to) the ID line.

From: [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Cc: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: proposed BNF sites
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:07:36 AM
Attachments: [20220524_BNF_proposed_relocation_sites_south.jpg](#)
[20220524_BNF_proposed_relocation_sites_north.jpg](#)

Hilary – these are the maps of the proposed sites for the Bitterroot NF that I sent to Robbie Piehl and Justin Martens on 5/24.

*Jennifer Fortin-Noreus
Wildlife Biologist
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Missoula, Montana 59812
406-243-4994*

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Teare, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Agenda BSC
Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 12:24:01 PM

Thanks jj

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Teare, Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:51:30 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Agenda BSC

Got it added. JJ

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Teare, Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Agenda BSC

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hey JJ,

Yes. Would be a good opportunity to discuss relocation. You can put USFWS on agenda for that one.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Teare, Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:13:54 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda BSC

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Morning Hilary, I just got back from VAC and remembered seeing an email from you with an agenda item for our upcoming Bitterroot meeting. I could not find it so can you give it to me again. Think it was about relocating bears. Thanks, JJ

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Another try
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 3:45:38 PM

I start with David.

The only problem with the GBAC guidelines is that FWP could say that was from a different administration. However, still pertinent for us.

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 3:13 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Another try

Will an email to David cover all of the subcommittees, or should I try and email each of the subcommittee chairs as well?

As far as the GBAC guidelines, #s 22 and 23 seem especially pertinent these days! Thanks, I had not seen that yet.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Another try

Hey Ben,
draft agenda for the BE subcommittee meeting...
I think it would be a good opportunity to check in on relocation sites. Would you be willing to lead an agenda topic on that ?
Probably need to update everyone on where things are with FWP (commission-approved sites vs USFWS) and USFS (MOAs/comms plan), and identify what remains to be done. Maybe we use the Welcome Cr bears as an example. IDFG also mentioned the need to walk thru what-if scenarios.

We could be ready to summarize recommendations from the MT Governor's Advisory Council - speaking of which, you may not have seen yet. See attached...Relocation recommendations on p.13...

Maybe we can talk about it tomorrow.

From: Teare,Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:12 AM

To: Allen, Lydia R -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>; Anderson, Matthew D -FS <matthew.anderson3@usda.gov>; Baumer, Amy E -FS <amy.baumer@usda.gov>; Becar, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.becar@usda.gov>; Conard, Ben <ben_conard@fws.gov>; Brett Barsalou <lawman208@hotmail.com>; Bruns,Jennifer <jennifer.bruns@idfg.idaho.gov>; Carl Petrick <carl.petrick@usda.gov>; Lewis, Carly <carly_lewis@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Dan Huls <dhuls@rc.mt.gov>; D'Aversa, Mary A <mdaversa@blm.gov>; Diamond, David - FS, BOZEMAN, MT <david.diamond@usda.gov>; Dungan, Jason D -FS <jason.dungan@usda.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Harris, Rich <Richard.Harris@mt.gov>; Hotze, Bekee - FS <rebecca.hotze@usda.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; Jake Strohmeyer (Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov) <Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov>; Jamie Jonkel <jajonkel@mt.gov>; Jerman, Katelyn E -FS <katelyn.jerman@usda.gov>; Kerey Barnowe-Meyer (kereybm@nezperce.org) <kereybm@nezperce.org>; Linda Jackson - U.S. Forest Service, Payette NF (linda.l.jackson@usda.gov) <linda.l.jackson@usda.gov>; Mark, Chuck -FS <chuck.mark@usda.gov>; Martens, Justin - FS <Justin.Martens@usda.gov>; McKay, Tod G -FS <tod.mckay@usda.gov>; Oelrich,Katherine <katherine.oelrich@idfg.idaho.gov>; Parlette, Alicia A <alicia_parlette@fws.gov>; Probert, Cheryl -FS <cheryl.probert@usda.gov>; Pruss, Michael - FS <michael.pruss@usda.gov>; Mowry, Rebecca <rmowry@mt.gov>; rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org <rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org>; Upton, Carolyn -FS <carolyn.upton@usda.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>; Whitcomb, Hilary(Eddie) <hilary_whitcomb@fws.gov>

Cc: Boudreau,Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>; marty.mitzkus@usda.gov <marty.mitzkus@usda.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Another try

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Morning, Looks like first set of meeting dates were tough for a lot of members with overlapping commitments with other sub-committees, NW TWS, and work (and hopefully some quality outdoor time). So thought I would cancel the last pool and shoot out some more dates and times later in November. I believe, unless we get some more agenda items, we can have some good conversations and cover a reports within a 4 hour time slot. Again it will be virtual. Please respond to the doodle pool below by 10/17 if available and will select a final date then.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/boQzX3ke>

Also, attached is a draft agenda so feel free to add to it, with the time needed to present. For sub-committee and agency member reports please provide them to me in a quick briefing email so I can

better report out on Bitterroot g-bear conservation activities for the Dec. 6th-7th Exec Committee meeting. Thanks and hope everyone is enjoying this nice easy going start to Fall. JJ

Jim (JJ) Teare
Clearwater Regional Supervisor
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
3316 16th St, Lewiston, ID 83501
Work 208-799-5010, cell 208-221-0147
<https://idfg.idaho.gov>



From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Teare, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Another try
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:36:32 PM

Hi JJ,

Proposed Agenda Topic:
Relocations (Ben Jimenez, Hilary Cooley)

Thanks!

From: Teare, Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Allen, Lydia R -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>; Anderson, Matthew D -FS <matthew.anderson3@usda.gov>; Baumer, Amy E -FS <amy.baumer@usda.gov>; Becar, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.becar@usda.gov>; Conard, Ben <ben_conard@fws.gov>; Brett Barsalou <lawman208@hotmail.com>; Bruns, Jennifer <jennifer.bruns@idfg.idaho.gov>; Carl Petrick <carl.petrick@usda.gov>; Lewis, Carly <carly_lewis@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Dan Huls <dhuls@rc.mt.gov>; D'Aversa, Mary A <mdaversa@blm.gov>; Diamond, David - FS, BOZEMAN, MT <david.diamond@usda.gov>; Dungan, Jason D -FS <jason.dungan@usda.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Harris, Rich <Richard.Harris@mt.gov>; Hotze, Bekee - FS <rebecca.hotze@usda.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; Jake Strohmeyer (Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov) <Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov>; Jamie Jonkel <jajonkel@mt.gov>; Jerman, Katelyn E -FS <katelyn.jerman@usda.gov>; Kerey Barnowe-Meyer (kereybm@nezperce.org) <kereybm@nezperce.org>; Linda Jackson - U.S. Forest Service, Payette NF (linda.l.jackson@usda.gov) <linda.l.jackson@usda.gov>; Mark, Chuck -FS <chuck.mark@usda.gov>; Martens, Justin - FS <Justin.Martens@usda.gov>; McKay, Tod G -FS <tod.mckay@usda.gov>; Oelrich, Katherine <katherine.oelrich@idfg.idaho.gov>; Parlette, Alicia A <alicia_parlette@fws.gov>; Probert, Cheryl -FS <cheryl.probert@usda.gov>; Pruss, Michael - FS <michael.pruss@usda.gov>; Mowry, Rebecca <rmowry@mt.gov>; rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org <rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org>; Upton, Carolyn -FS <carolyn.upton@usda.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>; Whitcomb, Hilary(Eddie) <hilary_whitcomb@fws.gov>
Cc: Boudreau, Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>; marty.mitzkus@usda.gov <marty.mitzkus@usda.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Another try

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Morning, Looks like first set of meeting dates were tough for a lot of members with overlapping commitments with other sub-committees, NW TWS, and work (and hopefully some quality outdoor

time). So thought I would cancel the last pool and shoot out some more dates and times later in November. I believe, unless we get some more agenda items, we can have some good conversations and cover a reports within a 4 hour time slot. Again it will be virtual. Please respond to the doodle pool below by 10/17 if available and will select a final date then.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/boQzX3ke>

Also, attached is a draft agenda so feel free to add to it, with the time needed to present. For sub-committee and agency member reports please provide them to me in a quick briefing email so I can better report out on Bitterroot g-bear conservation activities for the Dec. 6th-7th Exec Committee meeting. Thanks and hope everyone is enjoying this nice easy going start to Fall. JJ

Jim (JJ) Teare
Clearwater Regional Supervisor
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
3316 16th St, Lewiston, ID 83501
Work 208-799-5010, cell 208-221-0147
<https://idfg.idaho.gov>



From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Fall meeting
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:17:01 AM

Hi Sandi,

No, I'm not thinking we'd ask for decisions - I don't think agency decision makers will be there. I want to at least explain how that relocation went - I did the same after the Stevensville golf course bear in 2018 (basically the same thing happened 4 years later).

We have a meeting with USFS regional staff (Lydia Allen, Chris Savage) to talk thru this on Monday, and I'm hoping we can figure out how to finalize the plans. So I think I'll have a better idea of what to present at the IGBC meeting.

-Hilary

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fall meeting

Hi Hilary. JJ mentioned you requested the relocation site agenda item? Just wondering what you had in mind for that item? More just 'T'-ing up the issue, or looking for some decisions? Just want to make sure I'm oriented....

Thanks,

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Teare, Jim <jim.teare@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 9:35 AM
To: Allen, Lydia R -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>; Anderson, Matthew D -FS <matthew.anderson3@usda.gov>; Baumer, Amy E -FS <amy.baumer@usda.gov>; Becar, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.becar@usda.gov>; Conard, Ben <ben_conard@fws.gov>; Brett Barsalou <lawman208@hotmail.com>; Bruns, Jennifer <jennifer.bruns@idfg.idaho.gov>; carl petrick

(carl.petrick@usda.gov) <carl.petrick@usda.gov>; Lewis, Carly <carly_lewis@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Dan Huls <dhuls@rc.mt.gov>; D'Aversa, Mary A <mdaversa@blm.gov>; Diamond, David - FS, BOZEMAN, MT <david.diamond@usda.gov>; Dungan, Jason D -FS <jason.dungan@usda.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Harris, Rich <Richard.Harris@mt.gov>; Hotze, Bekee - FS <rebecca.hotze@usda.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; Jake Strohmeyer (Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov) <Jake.Strohmeyer@usda.gov>; Jamie Jonkel <jajonkel@mt.gov>; Jerman, Katelyn E -FS <katelyn.jerman@usda.gov>; Kerey Barnowe-Meyer (kereybm@nezperce.org) <kereybm@nezperce.org>; Linda Jackson - U.S. Forest Service, Payette NF (linda.l.jackson@usda.gov) <linda.l.jackson@usda.gov>; Mark, Chuck -FS <chuck.mark@usda.gov>; Martens, Justin - FS <Justin.Martens@usda.gov>; McKay, Tod G -FS <tod.mckay@usda.gov>; Oelrich, Katherine <katherine.oelrich@idfg.idaho.gov>; Parlette, Alicia A <alicia_parlette@fws.gov>; Probert, Cheryl -FS <cheryl.probert@usda.gov>; Pruss, Michael - FS <michael.pruss@usda.gov>; Mowry, Rebecca <rmowry@mt.gov>; rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org <rwinkel@clearwatercounty.org>; Upton, Carolyn -FS <carolyn.upton@usda.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>; Whitcomb, Hilary(Eddie) <hilary_whitcomb@fws.gov>
Cc: Tritz, Chasity <chasity.tritz@idfg.idaho.gov>; martin.mitzkus@usda.gov <martin.mitzkus@usda.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fall meeting

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Good morning. After reviewing the last doodle pool looks like Monday Nov 21st will be the best day to hold our Fall 2022 IGBC Bitterroot SC meeting. After getting a few more agenda items (thanks) had to stretch out the agenda (attached) a bit, so will run from 1200-1700 mountain standard time. Sure we will wrap up earlier than 1700. Wanted to get everyone time to share in the agenda. We still have time till meeting to add or change items, so let me know. Will send out agenda again when we get Zoom link set up. Sorry we are not planning for a face to face meeting again, but hopefully this one will be valuable. Need anything contact me.

Have a great day and rest of your fall. JJ

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:00:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I'm wondering if this would be an agenda item that would be pertinent for the Bitterroot grizzly bear forum meeting Lydia is trying to set up for Jan/Feb?

~ S ~

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

FYI...

From: Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

Ben—I 'chatted' with Chris during the executive meeting to give him a heads up on the convo. He said last week he was reaching out to Forest Supervisors so I assume he will wrap the Idaho folks in as well. I don't know what 'formal process' Cheryl is alluding to and I shared that piece with Chris, too. I suspect it has to do with some FS leadership impressions that public input is REQUIRED for this effort. Regardless, I have nothing to add but will follow up with Chris later this week. Perhaps we need to meet again in our small group?

Interesting discussion today for sure—and definitely some misconceptions of what was or wasn't being done. A pity there was no MT Forest Supervisor reps on the call. That may have helped with the discussion.

Lydia



Lydia Allen
Regional Program Leader
Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species

U.S. Forest Service
Northern Region (R1)

Office: (406) 329-3558
Cell: (208) 215-9707

Lydia.Allen@usda.gov

Bldg 26 Fort Missoula Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
www.fs.fed.us



From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 12:23 PM

To: Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

Thanks, Lydia.

I don't know if you want to loop Chris into this as well, but I would be curious to get your thoughts on how best to move forward given some of the conversation in this meeting that just ended. I am still unclear on this "process" I keep hearing about, and how or when that might play out. In our recent conversations, my sense was we are/were on the right track for getting these plans finalized. However, based on what Cheryl was saying (or at least my interpretation of what she was saying), that seems a little more nebulous. In addition to trying to figure all this out in general, I ask because I am tentatively slated to sit in on some FLT meetings over the coming months – the first being with the Helena-Lewis and Clark on December 14. I am more than happy to sit in/go to as often as folks want to invite me, but given some of the comments we just heard I guess I am looking for some input on whether this would be a good use of FLT meeting time at this point or if we need to have additional conversations with folks at the regional level first.

Either way, thank you for your continued help and communication on all this.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:16 AM

To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

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FYI. This is the relevant Forest Service Manual direction related to grizzly bear relocation/FS roles (manual = FS policy). Chris is working on this with the Forest Supervisors... Lydia



Lydia Allen
Regional Program Leader
Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species

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Office: (406) 329-3558
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Missoula, MT 59804

www.fs.fed.us



From: Allen, Lydia -FS

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:38 PM

To: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>

Subject: FSM 2676--species specific directives for grizzly bear relative to relocation

Hey Chris—finally got around to pulling the section of our directives up relative to our convo with Hilary C and Ben J of October 24. I highlighted those bits I thought most relevant but 2676.17a (translocation) is probably the most succinct. It does mention ‘involving the public as appropriate’ which may cause consternation with some line officers and/or forest supervisors.

Shall I share this with Hilary/Ben and make mention of it in my review of the LNF relocation

plan?

Thanks,
Lydia



Lydia Allen
Regional Program Leader
Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species

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From: [Jeff Juel](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] grizzly relocation in the Bitterroot NF
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 3:43:16 PM

Hilary,

Thank you for sharing those Guidelines. From 1986, it appears the agreements could use some updating.

As far as relocation sites, your email says "We are working with USFS and ID to set up a relocation site or 2 on the west side." Yesterday's IGBC Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee clearly revealed that there is almost nothing but opposition to that idea from the State of Montana, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Forest Service. If they wanted that to happen, by now--two decades after the BE Recovery FEIS and ROD--there would have been real progress to report. All you were able to divulge is that you/USFWS are working on that, over the winter, etc. and there's no target date.

Regarding Jamie Jonkel, as much as I respect most of his perspective on grizzly bears, it was extremely disappointing to hear him report the two relocated subadult grizzly bears traveled to Montana's Rocky Mountain Front after release, with him saying they "decided to **go back home**" which to me is code for agreeing that they don't belong in the Bitterroot.

So when your email says, "believe me when I say that the BE is a recovery zone that we want bears to reach!" I interpret that to mean USFWS alone. In recognition of the States' and Forest Service noncooperation on relocation sites, Friends of the Clearwater urges USFWS to not authorize any more specious reactionary relocations, in cases such as when those two subadult grizzly bears were shouldering the bulk of the BE recovery work on their own, without creating any conflicts with humans.

Have a good Thanksgiving,

Jeff Juel

On 11/18/22 8:16 AM, Cooley, Hilary wrote:

Hi Jeff,
The Guidelines are attached.

Had they gotten into conflict, we would have likely had fewer options. Long-time bear biologist, Jamie Jonkel, recommended the pre-emptive move. If anyone has a feel for what a bear might do, the likelihood of conflict, etc., it's Jamie. We had hoped to find a relocation site on the west side of Hwy 93, but that was not supported by all agencies. We are working with USFS and ID to set up a relocation site or 2 on the west side.

Please believe me when I say that the BE is a recovery zone that we want bears to reach!

Thanks again for your concern,

Hilary

From: Jeff Juel <jeffjuel@wildrockies.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] grizzly relocation in the Bitterroot NF

Hilary, Thank you for the reply.

I went to the IGBC website to look for those IGBC Guidelines you mention. I see an MOU, a Charter, and other documents but nothing specifically entitled IGBC Guidelines. Can you please help me to find those IGBC Guidelines?

As you are aware, a big part of Friends of the Clearwater's interest in the incident at hand is the recovery of the grizzly bear in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (BE). With the population in the BE currently being so small and fleeting, we fail to understand why the USFWS and/or the IGBC could not have accepted more of a risk, identified any potential conflict you feared as human caused to deflect any potentially bad PR away from the specific bears the agencies were already monitoring. I surely don't know as many details as you do, but it appears that the conflict situations the bears were falling into prior to crossing U.S. Hwy 93 were more serious than the Florence, MT situation.

ANY grizzly bears successfully making their way into the BE are inevitably going to negotiate such hazards. To me it appears the bears were being punished for their location, not for their behavior at the time. I welcome a telephone discussion with you about this. Please let me know when would be a good time for you.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Juel, Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
509-688-5956
jeffjuel@wildrockies.org

On 11/14/22 9:49 PM, Cooley, Hilary wrote:

Hi jeff,

Thanks for the question

We authorize states to do relocations through the grizzly bear 4(d) rule (50 CFR 17.40), through section 10 of the ESA, and through the IGBC Guidelines, which describe a joint conversation between agencies and a final decision by USFWS. Pre-emptive relocations are not uncommon when we feel that a bear is likely to get into conflict.

We chose to do it in this situation because there were many unsecure attractants in the area if these bears had gotten into conflict, local stakeholders would likely not have been supportive of any relocation south of I-90. By relocating them, we were hoping to get them away from the unsecure attractants, while keeping them south of I-90.

-Hilary

From: Jeff Juel <jeffjuel@wildrockies.org>

Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 11:34:40 AM

To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] grizzly relocation in the Bitterroot NF

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Jennifer, I'm inquiring about the recent relocation of two grizzly bears from west of US Highway 93 near the Bitterroot National Forest to the Sapphire Mountains. This is written up in a Missoulain article: https://missoulain.com/news/local/grizzlies-captured-in-bitterroot-relocated/article_75335e43-110a-51ba-849d-af2af0ab3667.html

The most recent Species Status Assessment states:

Management removals are allowed under the Act through a section 4(d) rule (50 CFR 17.40(b)). These types of removals encompass grizzly bear mortalities resulting from conflicts at developed sites (e.g., bears attracted to anthropogenic food sources), livestock depredation, and other situations where human life or property is considered threatened by bear presence. While lethal to the individual grizzly bears involved, management removals can promote conservation grizzly bears by reducing illegal killing of bears, providing an opportunity to educate the public about avoiding conflicts, and promoting tolerance of grizzly bears by responding promptly and effectively when bears pose a threat to public safety or repeatedly depredate livestock. Without the support of the people that live, work, and recreate in grizzly bear country, grizzly bear conservation will not be successful.

When I go online to read those regulations at 50 CFR 17.40(b), I don't find much that specifically directs or authorizes actions such as that particular relocation. Logically, it seems there would be some limits to what the US Fish and Wildlife Service allows Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to do with grizzly bears. So I'm wondering how authorization for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to do such relocations is made by the USFWS. Agreements? MOUs? Other permit(s)?

Thank you for your time.

--

Jeff Juel
Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
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--

Jeff Juel
Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater
509-688-5956
jeffjuel@wildrockies.org
<https://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org>

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); lydia.allen@usda.gov; [Savage, Christopher -FS](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 12:18:36 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hi Chris,

Jennifer will be able to provide more background on this since she's been part of these conversations from the very beginning. However, my understanding is that the term "communication plan" was selected by the Forest Service. Again though, I will let Jennifer fill that one in.

As far as the rest of the region, I think it varies. Would you be around for a quick phone conversation this afternoon? It might be easier to talk if you have a couple minutes.

Thanks either way,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 7:06:18 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

Good morning Hilary. What would help me out is a good understanding where we are across the region. I do some of the issues on the Lolo and Bitterroot and know what's been done on the Flathead and Kootenai. I do know some of the supervisors are struggling with the term communication plans and thinking some more encompassing of relocation strategy or plan.

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From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 7:10:26 AM
To: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>; Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

Hi Chris and Lydia,

Looking forward to our meeting next week.

Here are some questions we hope to talk through:

- What is needs to happen to finalize the relocation communications plans?
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Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

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Chris Savage
Renewable Resources Director
Forest Service
Northern Region

p: 406-329-3604
c: 406-291-9982
christopher.savage@usda.gov

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Missoula, MT 59804
www.fs.fed.us



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Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

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Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Subject: Grizzly Bear Relocations

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Thanks,

Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service

hilary_cooley@fws.gov

406-243-4903

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From: [Savage, Christopher -FS](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Allen, Lydia -FS](#)
Cc: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 11:50:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I'm not sure if they hooked it up yet. The three of us can meet in my office and I'll set up a teams invite.



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Renewable Resources Director

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Northern Region

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>; Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

Hi Chris and Lydia,

I came down with a snotty head cold and decided that I should work remotely today.

Does the room you were planning on meeting in have video call capabilities?

Ben is in Missoula and can still meet in person, if that makes sense?

Thanks,
Hilary

From: Savage, Christopher -FS <christopher.savage@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 8:06 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>

Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations

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From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Grizzly Bear Relocations
Date: Friday, October 21, 2022 8:31:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Hey Ben, would you mind replying to Chris?
I agree on the term, "communication plan", but I think there was a reason for using that term.
Jen?

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From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: Conflict Update
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:17:40 AM

Thanks Ben. Nice job.

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:30 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>; Small, Stephen M <stephen_small@fws.gov>; Zerrenner, Adam <Adam_Zerrenner@fws.gov>; Abbott, Tyler <Tyler_Abbott@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>; Armstrong, Ron <ron_armstrong@fws.gov>; Wolgemuth, Erryl <erryl_wolgemuth@fws.gov>; Coil, Dan <dan_coil@fws.gov>; Szuszwalak, Joseph A <joseph_szuszwalak@fws.gov>
Subject: Conflict Update

Hi all. Please see the conflict update below. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

GBRP Conflict Update September 26 – October 2

Montana

- 9/28 - Conflict specialists relocated a female cub of the year from outside of Dupuyer along the Rocky Mountain Front, to the Jocko Divide, adjacent to the Flathead Indian Reservation. The mother of this cub was captured after killing a calf and likely being involved in several other conflicts in the general vicinity. Once captured, FWP found that she had been captured several years prior for depredations in the same general area, and had been relocated as a result. Because of her history and that she had already found her way back, the decision was made to remove her. Given the time of year and that the cub was in good condition, the decision was made, in consultation with several people with decades of experience with grizzly bears and grizzly bear management, to relocate the cub as opposed to removing her as well.
- 10/1 - One of the two subadult grizzly bears, a 2 ½ year old male, that had been frequenting areas around Highway 93 in the northern Bitterroot valley was captured by FWP. Pictures indicated the other bear, which was presumed to be the sibling of this bear, was at the site but not captured. This bear determined to be a preemptive capture, so FWP relocated the bear on 10/2 to the lone FWP Commission approved site in the area; a site along the periphery of the Welcome Creek Wilderness at the north end of the Sapphire mountains.
 - UPDATE: 10/3 - The second grizzly, a female, was captured last night. This bear will also be released at the Welcome Cr site.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Rory Trimbo worked with FWP and landowners on

multiple fencing and conflict mitigation efforts throughout the Flathead, Valley.

- FWS Specialists Amber Kornak and Rory Trimbo took part in several educational events in the Flathead and Blackfoot Valleys.
- Hilary, Ben, and Amber attended a meeting put on by Trina Joe Bradley of the Rocky Mountain Front Rangelands Group. Members from WS along with FWP Director Hank Worsech and Chief of Staff Quentin Kujala were there as well. The meeting was reasonably well attended, and all three agencies fielded a litany of questions from the public.

Wyoming

- No additional sightings of 399.
- 863 and her cubs were not seen this week.
- WGF is dealing with an increasing number of grizzly bear conflicts greater distances outside the DMA. A family group was removed for repeatedly getting into conflict almost 30 miles east of the DMA boundary, along the Greybull River. The mother of this group had previously been relocated due to conflicts in this area.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Becca Lyon is working with Teton County to help residents comply with new LDRs and has been assisting BearWise Jackson Hole in the hiring process for their new program manager position.

Tribes

- Coordinated with CSKT wildlife staff on relocation site for the female cub relocated from the Rocky Mountain Front.
- FWS Conflict Specialist Morgan Vance will be spending several days meeting with and assisting Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife staff this coming week.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: RE: proposed BNF sites
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 9:44:00 AM

OK, thanks. It sounds like Cole is going to take the reins from a FS side to think about/look at sites as we move along. I think a lot of their folks are on leave or on fires (or were as of last week), but we are going to try and keep on this once folks are back around. I will keep you both posted as things develop.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: proposed BNF sites

I think there is. These are sites recommended by Robbie and Justin based on what they thought would be most successful in getting approved.

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: proposed BNF sites

Thanks, Jennifer, for pulling this all together. I don't know if it's too late in the process at this point, but if we are still in the draft phase of discussing potential relocation sites, do you two think there is an opportunity to look at these again?

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: proposed BNF sites

Hilary – these are the maps of the proposed sites for the Bitterroot NF that I sent to Robbie Piehl and Justin Martens on 5/24.

*Jennifer Fortin-Noreus
Wildlife Biologist
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Missoula, Montana 59812
406-243-4994*

From: [Kasworm, Wayne](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Subject: RE: The bears went over the mountain
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:10:50 AM

Ben,

Thanks for the update. My knowledge of this geography is next to nothing. I would defer to anyone else that knows more about locations for a release. Keep me in the loop.

Wayne

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 5:45 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>
Subject: The bears went over the mountain

Hi all,

I just wanted to pass along a quick update on conversations surrounding these two young bears that have made their way to the Bitterroot River valley bottom (a little north of Florence, last I heard?). Besides the conversations I've had with you two, Hilary and Jennifer, I have spoken to Jamie, Liz, Randy, Lydia Allen, Bryson Bell (LNF), and Justin Martens (BNF). It's obviously all preliminary at this point, but IF the decision is made to try and preemptively capture these bears I think everyone is at least open to the idea of finding a spot for them in the Sapphires. I have been pushing for the conversation to lean heavily on Jamie's input as to what area(s) would give these bears the best chance of success, and in his mind that would be the southern Sapphires, up around the areas around Rooster Comb, head of Sleeping Child, etc. So, we'll see what happens, but at least the ball is inching forward on the people side. I imagine there will be lots of conversations to come, but I would certainly love to hear any thoughts any of you might have. I will certainly keep folks posted if/as I hear anything on my end.

Thanks all,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#)
Subject: RE: The bears went over the mountain
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:40:01 PM
Attachments: [20220726_GB species list area_website.v2.jpg](#)
[20220524_BNF_proposed_relocation_sites_north.jpg](#)

Hi all,

All good considerations. We proposed a couple of location a little more in the middle that are on the Bitterroot, Eightmile-Threemile, Spring Gulch, and Claremont. I'm curious what Jamie would think of these? I've attached a map with the rough locations. In addition, the USFS had previously expressed reluctance to have relocations in areas where grizzly bears aren't mapped as "may be present" so I've also attached that map for referral.

Thanks!

Jennifer

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: The bears went over the mountain

Hi Jennifer and Wayne,

Wayne, agreed, and have been talking with Jamie quite a bit about pros and cons of potential sites/areas. Jennifer, I also agree that such a movement south would be a harder sell from a PR standpoint. Both Liz and Randy expressed similar thoughts and concerns, but both also suggested they are open to all conversations. I think Jamie's concerns, and I would tend to agree, are that these bears just passed through North Sapphires at pretty good clip, so the idea of sending them right back up there present some questions. In addition, while there are two preapproved relocation sites, it's really not that far from the I-90 Corridor, hwy 93, and some pretty populated portions of rock Creek, upper woodchuck, etc. It's also just a very heavily roared and heavily used area in general, especially with archery season right around the corner. I know none of that is news to you, Jennifer, I'm just describing the conversations I've had with Jamie. All that said, I think your point is definitely a good one, and one that will have to consider if we actually find ourselves in a situation to make this decision. Do you think something more central would be more palatable? There's some pretty big country just north of Skalkaho pass, around the upper reaches of Burt Fork and such. Like you pointed out as well, we could be having a very different conversation if they make their way to the west side of 93 on their own... then things get really interesting!

Whatever the case, I think these conversations are important, so keep it coming!

Ben Jimenez
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-214-0497

From: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:47:00 AM

To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>

Subject: RE: The bears went over the mountain

Hi Ben,

Thanks for the update. Although I'm sure Jamie is correct that it is a good place I worry that it is too far south for public perception. That is over 60 km south of where they are currently being spotted and that we have a negative perception for a relocation. I think that the Lolo NF relocation site in the north Sapphires is closer and may be more publicly accepted. However, this all depends on where they move on their own too.

Jennifer

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 5:45 PM

To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>; Kasworm, Wayne <wayne_kasworm@fws.gov>

Subject: The bears went over the mountain

Hi all,

I just wanted to pass along a quick update on conversations surrounding these two young bears that have made their way to the Bitterroot River valley bottom (a little north of Florence, last I heard?). Besides the conversations I've had with you two, Hilary and Jennifer, I have spoken to Jamie, Liz, Randy, Lydia Allen, Bryson Bell (LNF), and Justin Martens (BNF). It's obviously all preliminary at this point, but IF the decision is made to try and preemptively capture these bears I think everyone is at least open to the idea of finding a spot for them in the Sapphires. I have been pushing for the conversation to lean heavily on Jamie's input as to what area(s) would give these bears the best chance of success, and in his mind that would be the southern Sapphires, up around the areas around Rooster Comb, head of Sleeping Child, etc. So, we'll see what happens, but at least the ball is inching forward on the people side. I imagine there will be lots of conversations to come, but I would certainly love to hear any thoughts any of you might have. I will certainly keep folks posted if/as I hear anything on my end.

Thanks all,

Ben Jimenez

Conflict Coordinator

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service

406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Cc: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Relocation plan docs
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:56:06 AM
Attachments: [20220713_OP_MT_Grizzly_Relocations_Final.docx](#)
[20220713_FAQs_MT_Grizzly_Relocations_Final.pdf](#)
[20220713_NR_MT_Grizzly_Relocations_Final.pdf](#)
[20220713_NR_MT_Grizzly_Relocation_Template_Final.docx](#)
[20220614_Draft_communication_plan_for_all_forests_template.docx](#)
[20220922_Draft_communication_plan_for_Lolo_NF.docx](#)
[20220922_Draft_communication_plan_for_Bitterroot_NF.docx](#)

Hilary – For the external comms plan, the FAQs and NR were shared with the forests on July 14th. They reviewed the OP and template before we finalized but did not share the final version with them.

For the internal comms plan, the 20220614 template for all forests was shared mid-June but then Ben met with the leadership team and asked for suggested edits in case folks couldn't be reached. I've also updated the template specifically for the Lolo and Bitterroot NFs.
Jennifer

*Jennifer Fortin-Noreus
Wildlife Biologist
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Missoula, Montana 59812
406-243-4994*

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Relocation plan
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:04:08 AM
Attachments: [20220922 Draft communication plan for Lolo NF.docx](#)
[20220614 Draft communication plan for all forests template.docx](#)

Sandi -

Our docs for relocations:

1. external communications plan
2. internal comms plan/ MOU with Lolo NF (just needs their signature)

These might be more helpful when discussing with Ed...

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Cc: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: relocation process
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:30:29 AM
Attachments: [4-1-19 Draft 2 FWP R2 Grizzly Relocation Protocol .docx](#)

Sandi -

Jamie Jonkel (FWP) drafted this document, RElocation Protocol, but it applies to FWS protocol as well.

See bottom of p. 11-14 for the most applicable process to these bears in the BE...

In addition, our process for identifying new sites has been:

- discuss with FWP and USFS
- Draft MOA/Communication plan between USFS and USFWS
- Meet with county commission
- put out press release notifying public we are now doing relocations, the types of bears we will and will not relocate, the site characteristics
- put out press release immediately following a relocation notifying the public that we relocated a bear, the rationale, and approximate area.

Talk in a few...

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
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FWP NEWS RELEASE

Region 2 Headquarters

3201 Spurgin Road • Missoula, MT 59804

Media Contact: Vivaca Crowser • 406.542.5518 • Vcrowser@mt.gov

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

DRAFT NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October X, 2022

Two grizzly bears trapped and moved in the Bitterroot Valley this week

LOLO – Wildlife officials trapped and moved two sub-adult grizzly bears this week from the northern Bitterroot Valley bottom to a remote spot in the nearby Sapphire Mountains.

The pair had been spending time in the northern Bitterroot since early August when they first moved south from the Blackfoot Valley, across the Sapphire Mountains, and eventually into the area between Florence and Lolo.

Although the bears had not yet been in conflict with attractants or people, they were increasingly spending time near garbage, fruit trees and livestock food in recent weeks, prompting Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff to consider preemptively moving the bears.

In consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), FWP staff trapped, radio-collared and relocated the bears to a remote area on the edge of the Welcome Creek Wilderness in the Sapphire Mountains of the northern Bitterroot. The site was one that was approved by the Fish & Wildlife Commission earlier this year as a relocation site for grizzlies, when situations such as this arise.

Both bears were two years old, and one was a 230-pound male and the other a 172-pound female, likely siblings. Two years old is a natural time for some bears to begin venturing out and exploring new territory, and FWP bear specialist, Jamie Jonkel, said this pair's activity in the Bitterroot is a reminder of the bears' natural expansion into more places.

Although grizzly bears don't inhabit the Bitterroot Valley in numbers like they do in many other parts of western Montana, grizzlies are dispersing into more places as they travel between areas with established populations. Activity in the Bitterroot Valley has steadily increased over the past 10 years.

The recent events are also a reminder to be extra diligent about securing bear attractants. "This is the time of year when more bears visit the valley bottoms in search of food and are often tempted by the attractants we have around our homes," Jonkel said. "This year has been especially tough for bear conflicts, as there was a shortage of berries and other natural bear foods in many places."

Black and grizzly bears can be found throughout much of the western half of Montana, so it is important to review bear safety tips and keep the areas around your home free from bear attractants to prevent issues for bears and people.

Around home, be sure to keep garbage indoors until the day of collection; remove bird feeders when bears are out and active; consider using electric fencing around chickens, garden areas and compost piles; and move other attractants such as pet food, dirty barbecue grills and ripe fruit indoors or into a secure building.

FWP and USFWS specialists work to help landowners and communities avoid bear conflicts. If you see a bear or sign near your residence that may result in a conflict, call your local bear specialist at the contact number found on FWP's website: fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management/bear/contact.

For more information on living, working, and recreating in Montana's bear country, visit the FWP Bear Aware webpage at fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management/bear/be-bear-aware.

-fwp-

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Nelson, Marjorie \(Mari\)](#); [Small, Stephen M](#); [Zerrenner, Adam](#); [Abbott, Tyler](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#)
Subject: Weekly update
Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 4:49:49 PM

Hi all,

Below is our weekly conflict update. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have additional thoughts or questions.

GBRP Conflict Update August 31 – September 5

Montana

- A female grizzly with a cub of unknown age (not sure if it's a large cub of the year or a small yearling) has gotten into several hives outside of Lewistown, MT. Grizzly bears are not common in this area, so these bears are drawing added attention. WS has deemed the female a conflict bear, meaning FWS would relocate these bears if captured. WS set multiple culverts in an attempt to capture both female and cub but have been unsuccessful thus far. WS will consider adding snares if the bears remain in the area and culvert traps remain unsuccessful. We are discussing potential relocation sites with USFS and FWP.
- The two subadult grizzly bears that have been observed in the Bitterroot Valley sporadically over the past 3-4 weeks have shown back up again. They were captured on a game camera on private land outside of Florence, MT, on the west side of Highway 93. FWP and FWS are concerned that while there have been no conflicts reported involving these bears, they have remained in an area with high conflict potential for over a month and have been relatively visible throughout. In addition, these bears have crossed Highway 93 multiple times in areas where wildlife are frequently struck by vehicles. Therefore, after conversations between FWS and FWP, FWP bear managers have set out a bait station to see if there is an opportunity to capture these bears preemptively. If the bears continue to visit the site, FWP may attempt to capture these bears in the coming days. If these bears are captured, we would likely look to relocate these bears somewhere in the Bitterroot Valley. Any location would be discussed with personnel from the Bitterroot National Forest as well as FWP.
- 9/4/2022 - FWS Conflict Specialists Rory Trimbo and Morgan Vance relocated a female grizzly bear and her yearling cub from outside of Eureka to the North Fork of the Flathead River. This bear was captured by FWP in a trap set after an unknown bear had broken into a garage, presumably going after pet food. The trap

had been open for 4-5 nights before this female was captured, so FWP was uncertain whether she was the bear involved. However, she had been previously captured for killing chickens, so the decision was made to move her further away to hopefully reduce the likelihood of her getting into additional conflicts.

- FWS Conflict Specialist Amber Kornak is working with WS in preparation for an electric fencing project near Dupuyer Creek, on the Rocky Mountain Front. This project will involve a producer that has had multiple depredations, and should be a good opportunity for a collaborative effort between FWS and WS. In addition, Amber has been working with USFS and FWP personnel on collaborative educational opportunities

Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs were not seen along the highway this past week(2nd week in a row).
- FWS Conflict Specialist Becca Lyon attended a hazing training put on by YNP Bear Managers and contributed to multiple educational events with WGF, USFS, and Safari Club International. In addition, Becca and WGF personnel have been going to sites grizzly 399 visited last fall, and working with residents to preemptively clean up, fence, or otherwise secure attractants.

Idaho

- FWS Conflict Specialists continue planning work on a collaborative fencing project with IDFG and Defenders north of Bonners Ferry.

Tribal Coordination

- Have been in communication with Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife about ongoing grizzly bear conflicts on the Blackfeet Reservation, and have communicated with both Blackfeet and CSKT on recent FWS relocation efforts.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)