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Hi all,

Conflict season appears to be winding down. We are aware of several situations where bears are still awake and being monitored by local state agency personnel, and will respond accordingly if anything should arise. For now I will shift to bi-weekly updates, unless something of note pops up. If anyone would like more information in the interim, please don't hesitate to ask.

GBRP Conflict Update November 8 - 21

Montana

- 11/19 - FWS Conflict Specialists relocated a female cub of the year from Bigfork to an area in the Swan Valley. The cub was right in the town of Bigfork, wandering around local businesses (first reported outside one of the local bars). There was no sign of mom or other bears, but FWP Bear Managers decided it was not safe for the cub to remain in town and that a preemptive capture and relocation was the best option. The cub was in very good condition and was outfitted with a VHF eartag transmitter for sutre monitoring.
- The conflict staff attended the YES IGBC Subcommittee meeting in Bozeman. All four specialists have assisted with relocation efforts within this ecosystem, and this presented a good opportunity for the staff to introduce themselves and meet with various people within the bear world.

Wyoming

- No additional sightings of 399.
- No additional sightings of 863 and her cubs.

Idaho

- Hilary and Ben continue to work with Sandi Fisher from FWS Region 1 to follow up on the situation that unfolded outside of Tetonia during 11/7-11/10. There have been a lot of questions from the public, surrounding state agencies, both adjacent National Parks, and from within FWS about the events that ultimately led to the removal of all three bears. We have kept our comments to a minimum but

have been very transparent when asked directly. We met virtually with IDFG personnel immediately following the removals, including the Director, Deputy Director, Wildlife Bureau Chief, and the Regional Supervisor involved with the removals. We are planning an in-person meeting for early January to further discuss the situation and to ensure this does not happen in the future. Please contact Hilary or Ben with any questions or for further information.

- 11/27 - Hilary and Becca attended a public meeting in Tetonia to hear concerns and answer questions from residents. The meeting reportedly went very well, and attendees were very appreciative to have FWS in attendance.

Thanks all, and I hope everyone has a relaxing and conflict-free Thanksgiving!

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