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Subject: GBRP August update
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Hi all,

Below is the August update for the GBRP. If any of you would like additional information on anything in here, or any additional details on issues/items not included, please let me know. Similarly, if any of you wish to not receive these moving forward, or think I have missed anyone who should be included on future updates, please let me know.

GBRP Update August, 2023

Libby:

- 2 adult female and 1 adult male grizzly bears were captured for research purposes during August.

SW MT DNA Project:

- Crews wrapped up a successful field season on the SW MT DNA project and have a couple of possible grizzly bears awaiting DNA analysis.

Tribal Relations:

- At the request of the Northern Cheyenne, FWS Conflict Specialist Morgan Vance travelled to Lame Deer, MT to meeting with personnel from the Tribal Natural Resource Department, Forestry and Tribal Council, as well as FWP Tribal Liaison and Diversity Coordinator, Kqyn Kuka. These meetings were in response to recent increases in black bear conflicts on the reservation, and provided attendees an opportunity to discuss conflict reduction strategies, incident response, and community education and outreach. FWS also provided several bear safety and awareness training sessions with Tribal and BIA employees.

Conflict:

Idaho

- 8/3 - Hilary, Wayne, Ben, and Rory, as well as Sandi Fisher and Christy

JohnsonsHughes from the Idaho FWS office met with IDFG personnel from the Clearwater and Panhandle Regions. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss lines of communications, protocols, and potential grizzly bear management scenarios in central and northern Idaho.

- The 2 subadult grizzly bears that had been a management concern NE of Ashton have largely moved out of the area. IDFG continues to receive sporadic reports of one or both bears and are responding as deemed appropriate to these calls.

Montana

- There were 5 management removals in MT during August:
 - FWP removed a food conditioned female grizzly in Big Sky
 - WS and FWP removed an old male grizzly for repeated cattle depredations in Tom Miner Basin
 - WS removed a female grizzly without cubs for cattle depredations in the Gravellys
 - FWP removed a habituated yearling male on the Rocky Mountain Front after a previous relocation effort and extensive hazing efforts had been unsuccessful.
 - A male grizzly died accidentally during a capture operation after a horse depredation on the Blackfeet Reservation
- 8/8 - FWS relocated a female grizzly bear and her cub from the Fortin area to a portion of the Flathead National Forest near the US-Canadian border. These bears were captured and relocated after getting into unsecured garbage at multiple residences.
- 8/26 - A female grizzly was killed in a defense of life encounter on the Flathead National Forest. The female grizzly charged the two men involved at close range, who both shot at and killed the bear. The individuals did not have bear spray, and one was accidentally shot during the encounter. Officials have found no evidence of the cub. [FWP: Grizzly bear killed in self-defense encounter in Whitefish Range \(kpax.com\)](http://www.kpax.com)

Wyoming

- There was 1 management removal in August within the DMA:
 - WGFD removed an older male grizzly in the Green River area that had been involved in multiple cattle depredations. This male had a severe

damage to its lower jaw and was in very poor condition.

- 8/5 - A private consultant working for the USFS was injured by a grizzly bear in a surprise encounter at close range. The individual was able to walk away from the scene of what was determined to be a defensive encounter, and no further management actions were recommended. [Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Wyoming Game and Fish Department investigates after individual injured by grizzly bear](#)
- 8/1-8/14 - The 2 subadults on Togwotee Pass continue to be visible from the highway on a regular basis, despite ongoing efforts from FWS, WGFD, USFS, and Teton County Sheriff. Based on the lack of response from these bears, the continued concerns over human behavior, as well as human and bear safety, WGFD and FWS decided to begin trapping efforts targeting these two subadults.
- 8/26 - A subadult male grizzly was captured near Togwotee Pass. While there is no way to know which bear this is, it is generally believed one of the two subs that had been frequenting the area this spring/summer, and perhaps the last several years. Similarly, while there is no way to know for sure, the assumption has been that these two subadults were the offspring of 863. WGFD relocated the bear, and FWS and WGFD communicated with both GTNP and IDFG during the effort. WGFD put out their standard press release, and FWS is considering putting out an additional release.
- 8/26 - 399 and her cub were seen south of GTNP in the vicinity of the Gros Ventre roundabout Saturday afternoon, heading towards the National Elk Refuge. Subsequent sightings put the two bears in the Spring Gulch area, N of Jackson. There have been additional reported sightings further south in the Boyl's Hill and Indian Springs area, but these sightings have yet to be confirmed. WGFD, FWS, and FS are coordinating efforts to monitor these areas as well as other areas 399 frequented in previous years, and to check out potential attractants throughout the greater area. FWS, WGFD, NPS, and local authorities are coordinating additional monitoring and potential response efforts.
 - NOTE: 399 does not have a collar, so all location updates come from agency personnel or the public.

General:

- The young male grizzly bear captured incidentally in a black bear research trap on the east side of the Bitterroot Valley has remained in the Sapphire range, between the Clark Fork and Bitterroot.

Thanks as always,

Ben Jimenez
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