

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Subject: Matt update for review/additions
Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 11:14:57 AM

Please read over if you have time, and provide whatever comments or additions you have. I can exclude the various management removal bullets if folks think it makes these too long. WGFD also removed a couple bears from outside the DMA, but I didn't know if those (or any of these) were of interest.

GBRP Update August, 2023

Libby:

SW MT DNA Project:

Tribal Relations:

- At the request of the Northern Cheyenne, FWS Conflict Specialist Morgan Vance spent several days 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, Rory, Sandi Fisher, and Christy JohnonsHughes 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 frequenting populated areas and areas of high human use NE of Ashton have largely moved out of the area. IDFG continues to receive sporadic reports of one or both of these bears, but they are infrequent. IDFG is responding as deemed appropriate in coordination with FWS.

Montana

- 8/6 - FWP removed a dry female grizzly bear from Big Sky after the bear had received consistent food rewards over several weeks. Multiple efforts were made to fence attractants in the area and haze this bear, but these had no effect on her

behavior, which was becoming increasingly bold.

- 8/8/ - FWS relocated a female grizzly bear and her cub from the Forin area to a portion of the Flathead National Forest near the US-Canadian border. These bears were captured and relocated after they got into unsecured garbage at multiple residences.
- 8/10 - WS and FWP removed an old male grizzly from Tom Miner Basin after several depredations. The bear had a previous conflict history, had exceedingly worn teeth, and was in very poor body condition.
- 8/18 - WS removed an old, dry female from the Gravellys after multiple cattle depredations.
- 8/26 - A male grizzly bear accidentally died in a capture related incident on the Blackfeet Reservation. The bear was captured by Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife and WS after attacking and injuring a horse that eventually had to be put down. FWS, WS, and Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife are reviewing the incident.
- 8/26 - A female grizzly was killed in a defense of life encounter on the Flathead National Forest. The two individuals involved in the incident were scouting prior to the opening of archery season, when they encountered a female grizzly with a cub at close range. The female charged the two men, who both shot at and killed the bear. No evidence of the cub has been detected thus far. [FWP: Grizzly bear killed in self-defense encounter in Whitefish Range \(kpax.com\)](https://www.kpax.com/story/news/2018/08/26/grizzly-bear-killed-in-self-defense-encounter-in-whitefish-range/1086087001/)

Wyoming

- 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 working alone on the Shoshone National Forest. After the encounter, the man was able to walk away from the scene and get help. WGFD determined this to be a defensive encounter, and indicated the individual responded correctly to the situation. No further management actions were recommended.
- 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 of human behavior (e.g., bear jams, unsafe and unethical viewing practices, etc.), as well as human and bear safety, and the desire to try all possible options to keep these bears out of conflict, WGFD and FWS decided to begin trapping efforts, targeting these two subadults.
- 8/24 - FWS received reports of multiple bears frequenting campgrounds on the Wyoming side of Beartooth Pass. The bears were showing high levels of comfort

around people, and were not responding as desired to hazing efforts. FWS is working with WGFD on potential options moving forward, including the use of Karelian Bear Dogs.

- 8/26 - A subadult male grizzly was captured near Togwotee Pass. As previously discussed with WGFD, we all felt the situation up there had reached a point where trapping was our best remaining option, and that we would look to relocate whatever was captured. 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. This young male was fit with a VHF collar and released in WY on the west side of GTNP by WGFD personnel. FWS and WGFD communicated with both GTNP and IDFG. WGFD will put out their standard press release, and FWS will put out an additional release outlining the history of the issues up on the past, the combined efforts that have put forth, and the problematic behavior of people that have put us in the situation.
- 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.

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 Valleys.

Thanks!

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