

From: [Buchanan, Jacqueline A -FS](#)
To: [Diamond, David M](#); martha.williams@mt.gov
Cc: [Roberts, Lori](#); [Jackson, Scott -FS](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [van Manen, Frank T](#); [Bond, Jennifer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: DRAFT agenda for December IGBC (for discussion with Advisors at 9AM)
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:04:10 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
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From: Diamond, David M <David_Diamond@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:16:27 AM
To: martha.williams@mt.gov <martha.williams@mt.gov>; Buchanan, Jacqueline A -FS <jacqueline.buchanan@usda.gov>
Cc: Roberts, Lori <LRoberts@mt.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; van Manen, Frank T <fvanmanen@usgs.gov>; Bond, Jennifer <jebond@mt.gov>
Subject: DRAFT agenda for December IGBC (for discussion with Advisors at 9AM)

Martha and Jacque:

Attached is a rough outline of an agenda for 12/9,10,11 for discussion at 9AM this morning. As you can see, we will need your input! For the executive session, you will need to work through staffing and budget issues, and evaluate the proposal from Idaho from this summer (see below). For the public meeting, the idea is to follow the typical winter business meeting approach, getting reports on progress to the 5 yr plan from IEO, science, 5 ecosystem subcommittees, and the executive committee. You may also want to use the "convening authority" to hear from other parties doing work (MTGBAC, USDA Wildlife Services, etc).

For example, at the recent YES meeting we were trying to establish partnerships to work on conflict reduction, and these 2 items re: livestock conflict prevention surfaced that are happening adjacent to IGBC...

1. USDA Wildlife Services / Western Landowners Alliance - John Steuber

WS is implementing non-lethal methods in Montana supported by Montana Livestock Loss Board, Natural Resource Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, etc. who provide funding for salaries & supplies. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks provides logistical support, referrals, & staffing to implement non-lethal methods. Livestock producers provide a cost share for

projects as well as staffing to help build fences. The Forest Service provides logistical support for 2 current range riders (Gravelly Range, and NW Montana).

2. USDA NRCS / Heart of the Rockies - Gary Burnett

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=nrcseprd1680415>
<https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2020/11/non-lethal-predator-control/>

Heart of the Rockies

NRCS Award: \$886,255

Landowner collaborative strategies for nonlethal predator control

States: AZ; CA; ID; MT; NM; OR; WA

Heart of the Rockies will accelerate innovation by developing a community of practice to implement nonlethal predator control techniques across diverse social and ecological contexts. Through a diverse partnership, the project will evaluate the effectiveness of techniques across occupied grizzly bear and wolf habitat, examining potential for conservation practices and developing collaborative strategies and producer guidelines for nonlethal predator control.

d.

David Diamond
Executive Coordinator
Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee
10 E Babcock St, Room 234, Bozeman, MT 59771
[406-697-3094](tel:406-697-3094) (cell)
[406-587-6733](tel:406-587-6733) (office)
david_diamond@nps.gov
www.fedgycc.org

From: Boudreau,Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 4:01 PM

To: Tim Woolley <tim.woolley@wyo.gov>; martha.williams@mt.gov <martha.williams@mt.gov>

Cc: Anderson, Hannah E (DFW) <hannah.anderson@dfw.wa.gov>; melany.glossa@usda.gov <melany.glossa@usda.gov>; jacqueline.buchanan@usda.gov <jacqueline.buchanan@usda.gov>; mary.farnsworth@usda.gov <mary.farnsworth@usda.gov>; eric.johnston@usda.gov <eric.johnston@usda.gov>; Carpenter, Jennifer C <Jennifer_Carpenter@nps.gov>; Taylor-Goodrich, Karen F <Karen_Taylor-Goodrich@nps.gov>; Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Unsworth, James W <james_unsworth@fws.gov>; Philbin, Michael J <mphilbin@blm.gov>; Regan, Claudia E <cregan@usgs.gov>; matt.besko@gov.ab.ca <matt.besko@gov.ab.ca>; jennifer.psyllakis@gov.bc.ca <jennifer.psyllakis@gov.bc.ca>; Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; brian.nesvick@wyo.gov <brian.nesvick@wyo.gov>; steven.beverlin@usda.gov <steven.beverlin@usda.gov>; christopher.savage@usda.gov <christopher.savage@usda.gov>; tamara.whittington@usda.gov <tamara.whittington@usda.gov>; Froschauer, Ann <ann_froschauer@fws.gov>; Conard, Ben

<ben_conard@fws.gov>; Boone, Christopher T <ctboone@blm.gov>; Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca
<Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca>; paul.frame@gov.ab.ca <paul.frame@gov.ab.ca>; Cooley, Hilary
<hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; Roberts, Lori
<LRoberts@mt.gov>; van Manen, Frank T <fvanmanen@usgs.gov>; chuck.mark@usda.gov
<chuck.mark@usda.gov>; patricia.oconnor@usda.gov <patricia.oconnor@usda.gov>; Arnold, Randy
<rarnold@mt.gov>; rodney.smoldon@usda.gov <rodney.smoldon@usda.gov>; Potter, Stephanie E
<stephanie_potter@fws.gov>; csmithwmi <csmithwmi@msn.com>; dtyers
<daniel.tyers@usda.gov>; Diamond, David M <David_Diamond@nps.gov>; amy.baumer@usda.gov
<amy.baumer@usda.gov>; danielle.c.oyster <danielle.c.oyster@gmail.com>; Shultz, Denise M
<Denise_M_Shultz@nps.gov>; Tabish, Dillon <Dillon.Tabish@mt.gov>; kirsten.a.kaiser@usda.gov
<kirsten.a.kaiser@usda.gov>; kannis <kannis@mt.gov>; Smith, Kate <kate.smith@mso.umt.edu>;
Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>; Walsh, Patrick <Patrick_Walsh@nps.gov>; White, Rollie
<rollie_white@fws.gov>; catherine.pearson@usda.gov <catherine.pearson@usda.gov>;
leslie.richardson@usda.gov <leslie.richardson@usda.gov>; heather.trussel@usda.gov
<heather.trussel@usda.gov>; nat.hile@usda.gov <nat.hile@usda.gov>; Norman, Kate
<Kate_Norman@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Summer IGBC meeting

IGBC members--

Several recent events prompt Idaho to ask that IGBC review our charter and work organization structure. We recognize there are only a few days before our video meeting, but want to put this on the horizon, recognizing it would involve a longer-term effort.

The pending 5-year status review, various lawsuits, related media coverage and public discussion, and the continued growth and expansion of grizzly bears in Idaho and elsewhere have led us to reconsider how to improve IGBC's performance and effectiveness. Although including the YES Committee as a subpart of the IGBC charter is an appropriate short-term measure, it's important to Idaho to structure the IGBC to ensure we achieve delisting and continue interagency conservation beyond delisting.

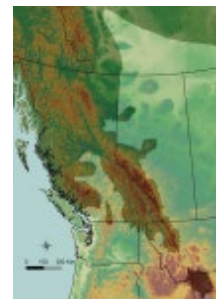
At the recent May meeting of the Selkirk & Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems Subcommittee, Subcommittee members recognized that a lot of the issues and recommendations for other ecosystems sounded very familiar and asked whether the Executive Committee could provide recommendations related to issues in common among Subcommittees.

Idaho has also come to realize that it's counterproductive from a conservation standpoint to keep treating populations of 50 or 100 grizzly bears as separate or isolated "ecosystems," when they are actually part of a larger, connected meta-population from the lower-48 to Canada & Alaska. It's not an effective use of agency and community resources, and it's not consistent with sound wildlife management principles.

The IGBC's delayed review of the recovery plan (a 5-year work plan item) and various other items under the ExComm and individual Subcommittee 5-year plans have been overtaken by events, and it's an appropriate time to revisit work organization from a higher elevation.

For example, are there issues that we can more effectively address at a broader, regional level, instead of having 10 different forest supervisors and various local state managers examine the issue in multiple subcommittees?

At a higher elevation approach, it remains important to have interagency coordination on:



- Population monitoring (to ensure achievement of minimum objectives for population size/survival/distribution in demographic monitoring areas)
- Habitat monitoring/management
- Conflict management and prevention
- Research
- Public information & education

Idaho asks the rest of the Executive Committee to consider charter revision to expressly reform Subcommittees along these substantive categories with a more regional focus, reserving opportunities for local consideration of unique geographic items. This approach would allow better focused (and likely smaller) subcommittees that are likely to be more productive.

As an alternative solution, Idaho would also support restructuring/consolidation of existing "Ecosystem" Subcommittees, with ExComm's commitment to improve assignment/delegation of "larger-scale" substantive issues to appropriate interagency teams and focus the geographic Subcommittees on considering unique local issues. Idaho's desired result is to improve productivity of Subcommittee work through better integration, and avoid duplication and inconsistencies that occur when geographic stovepipes review the same substantive issues. Idaho would like to get a sense from the rest of the group at next week's meeting as to the value in pursuing either approach.

Toby

Toby Boudreau

Wildlife Bureau Chief

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

600 South Walnut Street

Boise, ID 83712

208-287-2745 (office)

208-221-4528 (cell)



From: Tim Woolley <tim.woolley@wyo.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2020 6:07 AM

To: Williams, Martha <Martha.Williams@mt.gov>

Cc: Boudreau, Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>; hannah.anderson@dfw.wa.gov; melany.glossa@usda.gov; jacqueline.buchanan@usda.gov; mary.farnsworth@usda.gov; eric.johnston@usda.gov; jennifer_carpenter@nps.gov; Karen_Taylor-Goodrich@nps.gov; matt_hogan@fws.gov; james_unsworth@fws.gov; mphilbin@blm.gov; cregan@usgs.gov; matt.besko@gov.ab.ca; jennifer.psyllakis@gov.bc.ca; Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; brian.nesvick@wyo.gov; steven.beverlin@usda.gov; christopher.savage@usda.gov; tamara.whittington@usda.gov; ann_Froschauer@fws.gov; ben_conard@fws.gov; ctboone@blm.gov; Alec.Dale@gov.bc.ca; paul.frame@gov.ab.ca; hiliary_cooley@fws.gov; scott.jackson@usda.gov; Roberts, Lori <LRoberts@mt.gov>; fvanmanen@usgs.gov; chuck.mark@usda.gov; patricia.oconnor@usda.gov; Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>; rodney.smoldon@usda.gov; stephanie_potter@fws.gov; csmithwmi@msn.com; daniel.tyers@usda.gov; david_diamond@nps.gov; amy.baumer@usda.gov;

danielle.c.oyler@gmail.com; denise_m_shultz@nps.gov; Tabish, Dillon <Dillon.Tabish@mt.gov>; kirsten.a.kaiser@usda.gov; Annis, Kim <KAnnis@mt.gov>; kate.smith@mso.umt.edu; Jodi_Bush@fws.gov; patrick_walsh@nps.gov; rollie_white@fws.gov; catherine.pearson@usda.gov; leslie.richardson@usda.gov; heather.trussel@usda.gov; nat.hile@usda.gov; kate_norman@fws.gov

Subject: Re: Summer IGBC meeting

The Executive Committee voted to include the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES) Charter as a subpart of the IGBC Charter in December 2019. I have made the needed edits (highlighted in the subcommittee section page 7) and included the YES Charter in the Appendix A. I recommend we approve as final.

We can cover this under agenda item #3 in subcommittee reports.

Thanks.

On Thu, May 7, 2020 at 5:48 PM Williams, Martha <Martha.Williams@mt.gov> wrote:

TO: IGBC Executives

CC: IGBC Subcommittee Chairs; IGBC Advisors

Subject: IGBC Summer Meeting

At our Winter meeting in Missoula we planned to meet this summer in the Bitterroot Ecosystem June 23-25. After discussion with Vice-Chair Jacque Buchanan and the IGBC Advisors, I propose that we forego an in person meeting this summer, and instead schedule a half day virtual meeting June 24, with one or more follow-up, half-day virtual meeting in July.

Due to Covid-19, all of our organizations are in the midst of uncertainty about our operations and our travel. I want to make sure that all the IGBC members can fully participate, and I think a virtual venue may be the only way to ensure that this June. The Advisors had worked with the Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee to develop an agenda for an in-person meeting in Hamilton MT, including a field trip, presentations on historical context in the Bitterroot, a public listening session, and a panel discussion featuring key perspectives. I am hopeful that these plans can be implemented in the Summer of 2021.

Recent [Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee \[igbconline.org\]](http://igbconline.org) and [Montana's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council](http://montanagovernment.org) meetings have shown that virtual meetings can be substantive and engaging. Even without the Bitterroot-specific content, our IGBC executive group has significant business for a virtual meeting June 24 from 1-5PM:

- Discussion regarding COVID-19 effects on agency operations, field seasons, conflict management, monitoring, recreation users (executive members) (45 Min)
- Business meeting items (executive coordinator, budget, workplan) (30 min)
- Subcommittee items (30 min)
- Conflict reduction (1 hr) (Analysis of the Subcommittee responses to Chair Hogan's March 2019 letter)
- [IEO 2020 Summit Report \[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com) (15 min)
- Container Testing Program (15 min)
- Update on Montana Grizzly Bear Advisory Council (15 min)

For the conflict reduction and IEO topics, I think more time will be needed for IGBC to engage, and so I propose at least one additional virtual half day meeting in July. Please complete this survey to find a date in July. <https://doodle.com/poll/5btphpu9i9dy>
By COB Tuesday May 13, please let me know if you approve of this proposal. Please also feel comfortable to let me know if you have any objections, revisions, or other suggestions to make our meeting a success. Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times.

Martha Williams

Director

[Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#)

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 444-3186

[Montana FWP](#) | [Montana Outdoors Magazine](#)



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