

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Norman, Kate](#); [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: FYSA: Tetonia bears
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:36:56 PM
Attachments: [1089.pdf](#)

Hello Kate and Jodi. Wanted to provide you an update on a developing grizzly bear issue FYSA. The Grizzly Bear Recovery Program (GBRP) has been having some long and challenging conversations with ID Dept of Fish and Game about a grizzly sow with 2 cubs that have become habituated to human presence. They have not shown any aggressive behavior, but are frequenting areas of high human use. They had been relocated once from near Gardiner, MT to West Yellowstone, MT - then moved roughly 50 miles west towards (over the course of about 3 weeks) the town of Tetonia, in Idaho. They are just a few miles from the town itself, which is very small with a lot of disjunct ranches spread across a large expanse. So not a lot in the way of concentrated subdivisions.... That said, they are once again frequenting areas of human use, foraging on fruit trees, etc.

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Happy to chat more if you have any questions, otherwise I'll keep you in the loop as this develops. Side note, Tetonia bear locations provided in the attached map (Tetonia proper just off map to the left) for context.

~S~

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From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia bears

Hi Sandy,

Below is an update on the Tetonia bears I sent to some of our regional and local folks yesterday. I haven't heard anything since yesterday afternoon. As an added clarification or update, without a clear relocation option outside of Idaho, IDFG is requesting to remove all three of these bears if they move closer to town. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to chat with Hilary and/or I.

- FWS Worked with IDFG and YNP on potential management options for a sow and two cubs of the year on the outskirts of Tetonia, Idaho. These bears were initially hazed out of Mammoth by park officials in early October after spending increasing time in and around park housing. They then started spending time in and around Gardiner, MT, again very near houses and people. The bears were mainly focused on apple trees, but their increasing activity during daylight hours, exceedingly high level of comfort around people, and lack of response to repeated hazing efforts led FWP to request trapping and relocating. All three bears were captured and relocated to an area of MT south of West Yellowstone on 10/17, but by early November had made their way to the outskirts of Tetonia, +/- 50 miles away. The bears once again seemed to be focused on apples and other fruit trees, but continued to show little regard for people and were repeatedly seen in and around houses, in yards, driveways, etc. Idaho is setting traps for all three bears and requesting the removal of the female. FWS is working with IDFG and YNP on potential relocation sites for the cubs.
 - UPDATE: 10/8 - The bears were not captured and have continued to move west, towards Tetonia. As of this morning, they are <3 miles from the town, and IDFG has requested permission to remove the female by additional means if she continues moving towards town. YNP informed FWS that they are not able to take these cubs, and IDFG is not comfortable relocating these cubs anywhere in the general area outside the park. IDFG is continuing to monitor the bears and is willing to continue the trapping effort as long as she does not move closer to town. We will provide more updates as the situation evolves.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
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