

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Norman, Kate](#)
Cc: [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: Re: FYSA: Tetonia bears
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 12:09:46 PM

Hi Kate. I know we chatted briefly during the bull trout SSA call about further happenings re: grizzly bears, so just wanted to provide you with the latest update. I was able to connect with Jim Fredricks, one of Ed's Deputies, and discuss the current situation. Back story: The local Regional IDFG Supervisor coordinated with the Grizzly Bear Recovery Program (GBRP - Ben Jimenez) this morning, at which time they conveyed they had the location of the cub and were intending to remove it as well. However, early this morning the GBRP found out that Grand Teton NP may be willing to take the cub, and requested they dart the bear and not remove it. Local IDFG claimed the bear cub (young of year) was a human safety issue and they intended to proceed with removal based on approval given to them last night. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jim and I chatted earlier this morning and here's where we're at.... IDFG HQ seems to understand that removal of the bears already has been less than ideal, so to the extent they can relocate the remaining cub may help the optic of the situation, at least to some degree. Their first preference will be to dart the bear, before removal. The cub is in a heavy thicket and dogs can't get to it (trying to get it tree'd). They're going to try to bring in additional dogs to see if they can move the bear. If they are unsuccessful, they will back off and set a trap up and attempt to capture it tonight. Re: GTNP taking the bear; park biologists believe they will take the bear, but they do not yet have approval from the Superintendent, that is expected by early afternoon. If IDFG captures the bear and there is still uncertainty about whether the Park will take it, Ben committed to mobilizing staff out of Jackson ASAP to take the bear from IDFG and deal with it from there forward. If the the Park decides they will not take it, we are likely at a dead end and the cub will have to be euthanized.

No press release has been released as of yet regarding the sow and cub removed last night.

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
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208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fisher, Sandi
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 8:09 PM
To: Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>

Cc: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: FYSA: Tetonia bears

FYI, I just connected with Hilary again and she said Toby got back to her and said the decision was final. IDFG removed adult F plus one cub this afternoon. She is still in touch with GTNP to see if they will take the remaining cub (if they catch it- they don't know where it is right now). We talked about how this could cause a large Community outcry - she said IDFG asked them not to release info about this until they get things sorted out on their end. Probably tomorrow. I asked her if the cub was old enough that it could survive on its own if they can't find it; she said possibly. I'll continue to keep you in the loop as I hear more.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 9, 2022, at 5:27 PM, Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov> wrote:

I did talk to Hilary and we decided it would be good to reach out to Toby Boudreau....which she did. He was unaware of situation and agreed it could get messy. He was going to reach out to Matt Peiron, regional sup for IDFG. As of now, she hadn't heard back from either of them.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 9, 2022, at 5:01 PM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

Be good to get on the horn with Hilary and Ben and chat on this topic.
This could go south BIG. JB

Jodi L. Bush
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Please Note: I am sending this email at a time that works well for me. I respect your boundaries and don't expect a response outside of YOUR working hours.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:37 PM

To: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>

Subject: FYSA: Tetonia bears

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 Teton, 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, Teton bear locations provided in the attached map (Teton 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: Teton 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
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
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