Agency Coordination/Conflict Management Sub-Group

First Meeting Lead: **Steve Schmidt, IDFG** **First Meeting (Conference Call)** **Date:** May 20, 2016

Sub-Group Chair **Dan/Tyers/**Joe Alexander

Chair to email this report to Brian Nesvik brian.nesvik@wyo.gov by May 25, 2016

Subgroup members: dminnick@blm.gov; pj_white@nps.gov; lgrosskopf@parkcounty.us; jgalexander@fs.fed.us; steve.schmidt@idfg.idaho.gov; jeff.gould@idfg.idaho.gov; jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu

May 20, 2016 call participants: Steve Schmidt, **Jeff** Gould, **Dan** Tyers, **Loren** Grosskopf, **Delissa** Minnick, PJ White, **Jennifer** Fortin-Noreus

Next conference call: June 3rd 1:00pm. Steve Schmidt to arrange for call.

Theme #	Theme	Originator	Is the Theme necessary to update the Conservation Strategy based on changes that have occurred in the science or delisting framework or to improve the strategy?	Is this item relevant to the Conservation Strategy or should it be addressed somewhere else?	Approximate additional time required by this sub-group to address this Theme	**Sub-group recommendations and notes**
1	NPS unit managers be included in the discussions and decision making process that occur during annual meetings regarding the allocation of harvest	NPS	No	Not relevant to C.S. Address elsewhere if needed	None	Notes: The states welcome input from NPS. Dialogue between the states and NPS is beneficial. Decisions regarding harvest outside of the Parks are the purview of the states.

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	mortality by the states.					If needed, address in MOA between Parks and States
2	Chapter on conflict bears has outdated terminology that needs to be changed	States	Yes	Yes	Two weeks Next call June 3rd at 1:00pm	Recommendation: Edit chapter 4 of the Conservation Strategy
3	Connectivity/Linkage/ Genetic Management	States/USFS	No	Not relevant to C.S.	None	Notes: This is a USFS issue. What does the FS need to do to facilitate connectivity? Is the USFS in concert with the states and other agencies? What is expected of the USFS regarding the issue? How should the USFS manage forests between ecosystems? Not so much about genetics. More about habitat connectivity. Probably does not require additional language in C.S. Perhaps this issue should be addressed by IGBC. Don't know where it should be addressed? The question of potential in-breeding for this population of grizzly bears as a problem has been studied and addressed at least a couple times. The outcome of those studies has been that in-breeding is not a problem, and if it ever should be a problem, it could easily be addressed by swapping management bears with another grizzly bear ecosystem.

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						Translocation protocols between grizzly bear ecosystems could be addressed by IGBC.
4	USFS concerns about moving bears is related to safety, and want to know when bears are moved on/off forest service ground	USFS	No	Edit Chapter 4 as suggested	Two weeks	Notes: Issue: FS should receive notifications when bears have been translocated to National Forests. States already have agreements with FS for pre-approved release sites. Add sentence to this paragraph to require notification to USFS after bears have been moved. Chapter 4 o State and tribal wildlife agencies in coordination with the appropriate federal agencies will predetermine adequate and available sites for relocations outside of the National Parks. Relocation sites should be agreed upon before the need for relocation occurs. In order to deal with conflict bears more efficiently, managers should have full access to relocation sites

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						without having to conduct individual consultation for each relocation.
5	Food storage, consistency of orders, and linkage to the NCDE	USFS	No	Not relevant to C.S.	None	Should be addressed by IGBC
6	Coordination and consultation re: moving bears is vague and overly burdensome in some portions	USFS/States	Yes	Edit Chapter 4	Two Weeks	Notes: States cannot be required to consult with federal agencies when dealing with conflict bears but do plan to inform and coordinate with agencies.
7	How do we see the USDA sheep station as it relates to connectivity	USFS	No	Already addressed by C.S.	None	Note: Disposition of sheep allotments already addressed in Conservation Strategy page 31 • The number of domestic sheep allotments and the number of domestic sheep grazing within the PCA has been reduced; the remaining domestic sheep allotments are to be phased out as opportunities arise. Sheep grazing permittees and herders must

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						follow strict requirements in their grazing permits to protect grizzly bears and reduce grizzly bear/grazing conflicts. IDFG working with Sheep Station to make sure Station employees are properly trained to deal with grizzly bear conflicts. Herders currently not permitted to shoot bears and required to report all sightings of grizzly bears.
8	Limit on bear relocations to other ecosystems	County Commissioners	No	Consider edits to Chapter 4 of C.S.	Two weeks	Notes: By definition, removals are bears that will not be allowed in the wild. Why are we limiting removals to institutions or zoos? Let the agencies decide where to move bears. Bear translocations addressed by state management plans C.S. Chapter 4 All relocations outside the PCA will be governed by state management plans. Idaho Fish and Game Commission Position Statement 2010: The Idaho Fish and Game Commission opposes all translocations of Yellowstone grizzly bears from inside the Primary Conservation Area to locations outside the Primary Conservation Area in Idaho.

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						The Commission also opposes translocations of Yellowstone grizzly bears already outside the Primary Conservation area to locations which would further expand the range of the bear in Idaho. Idaho Grizzly Bear Plan 2002 It is the policy of this management plan that no grizzly bears from the Yellowstone population be translocated to unoccupied range within Idaho.