

From: Gunther, Kerry
To: [McDonald, Ken](#)
Cc: dkharrell@blm.gov; [Delissa Minnick, BLM WY](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer](#); [Tyers, Daniel - FS](#); dsaville@blm.gov; [Landenburger, Lisa A -FS](#); [Tom Rice, MACO](#); [Dan Wenk](#); [Jennifer Carpenter](#); [P White](#)
Subject: Re: Habitat sub-group conf call
Date: Friday, September 02, 2016 9:22:47 AM

Habitat Sub-Group:

One of the 2 stated objectives of the Habitat Standards in the Conservation Strategy is to reduce human-caused grizzly bear mortality. In attempting to figure out ways to do that effectively, I pulled the data on all human-caused grizzly bear mortality on public lands (USFS, NPS, BLM) during the 13 period from 2002 through 2014. I only looked at public lands since the Conservation Strategy does not (and cannot) regulate private lands. The results suggest that our current Habitat Standards don't really address our stated objective very well.

Here are the number of human caused mortality's from 2002 - 2014, broken down by federal land management agency:

U.S. Forest Service = 197
NPS = 22
BLM = 6 (Great job BLM!)

Here are the top 5 sources of mortality on federal lands from 2002 - 2014:

- 1.) Hunting Related = 114
 - 2.) Livestock Related = 25
 - 3.) Front Country Developed Site = 22
 - 4.) Roadkill = 21
 - 5.) Poaching/Malicious = 15
- all others insignificant

Both the Hunting Related and Livestock Related mortality's are generally occurring in what we currently define as Secure Habitat under the 1998 baseline. So how much is the 1998 baseline really doing to reduce those? Livestock related mortality is relatively minor (14%) and is addressed in the Grazing Allotment section of the Habitat Standards, so we have that covered already. The Developed Site Standard has a significant impact on federal land managers but is only a relatively minor source of mortality (12%) and is being adequately addressed through bear-proof infrastructure, education, and CFR regulations on federal lands, so the Conservation Strategy has already covered that in other chapters. Roadkill is also relatively minor (11%) and scattered widely and randomly across the ecosystem, so we probably can't do much to reduce vehicle strikes (I don't think there are any vehicle strike hot spots in the GYE but we could certainly analyze that data pretty quickly).

In the mid-1990's when the Conservation Strategy was written, Developed Sites were a significant source of mortality. But federal land managers have done a commendable job reducing those over the last 2 - 3 decades, so it is now only a minor source of mortality on federal lands. Thus the Habitat Standards, as written in the Conservation Strategy don't appear to reflect current data.

Just something to consider prior to today's meeting.

Kerry

On Thu, Sep 1, 2016 at 9:26 AM, McDonald, Ken <kmcdonald@mt.gov> wrote:

Lets plan on a conf. call Friday at 10 am to see where to go with Ch. 3 revisions. Call in info is as follows:

The call in information is: 712-432-1500 passcode 385665#

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

PO Box 200701

Helena, MT 59602

406-444-5645

kmcdonald@mt.gov

From: McDonald, Ken

Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 2:34 PM

To: McDonald, Ken; Gunther, Kerry; dharrell@blm.gov; Delissa Minnick, BLM WY; Jennifer Fortin-Noreus; Tyers, Daniel - FS; dsaville@blm.gov; Landenburger, Lisa A -FS; Tom Rice, MACO

Subject: RE: Habitat sub-group conf call

Attached are my notes from today's call, with next steps listed at bottom of page 1. (Kerry – can you please forward to Kate at Grand Teton NP?)

We will have a follow up call on Friday, Sept. 2 at 10 am.

The call in information is: 712-432-1500 passcode 385665#

Thank you,

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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kmcdonald@mt.gov

From: McDonald, Ken

Sent: Monday, August 8, 2016 8:57 AM

To: McDonald, Ken; Gunther, Kerry; dharrell@blm.gov; Delissa Minnick, BLM WY; Jennifer Fortin-Noreus; Tyers, Daniel - FS; dsaville@blm.gov; Landenburger, Lisa A -FS; Tom Rice, MACO

Subject: RE: Habitat sub-group conf call

WE will have a conf. call of the griz bear conservation strategy habitat subcommittee on 8:30 am on Thursday, August 11. The topic will be Developed Sites and the 1998 baseline.

The call in information is: 712-432-1500 passcode 385665#

Thank you

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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kmcdonald@mt.gov

From: McDonald, Ken

Sent: Friday, August 5, 2016 2:49 PM

To: Gunther, Kerry

Cc: dharrell@blm.gov; Jennifer Fortin-Noreus; Tyers, Daniel - FS; Delissa Minnick, BLM WY;
dsaville@blm.gov; Landenburger, Lisa A -FS; Tom Rice, MACO

Subject: Re: Habitat sub-group conf call

Ok. Plan on 8:30 on Thursday August 12. I will send the call in info on Monday

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

On Aug 5, 2016 1:19 PM, "Gunther, Kerry" <kerry_gunther@nps.gov> wrote:

That works for me.

Kerry

On Fri, Aug 5, 2016 at 2:13 PM, McDonald, Ken <kmcdonald@mt.gov> wrote:

How about first thing Thursday morning?

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

On Aug 5, 2016 12:22 PM, "Gunther, Kerry" <kerry_gunther@nps.gov> wrote:

I am not available on Friday.

On Fri, Aug 5, 2016 at 1:01 PM, McDonald, Ken <kmcdonald@mt.gov> wrote:

Does a conf call on Friday August 12 at 9 am work for folks?

Ken McDonald

Wildlife Division Administrator

On Aug 5, 2016 9:29 AM, "Gunther, Kerry" <kerry_gunther@nps.gov> wrote:

Habitat sub-group, here is the language for the Developed Site Standard that I developed which would give the NPS the flexibility it needs to address significantly increasing visitation while still protecting bear habitat.

Kerry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **White, P** <pj_white@nps.gov>

Date: Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 6:41 AM

Subject: Fwd: Developed Site Standard

To: Dan Wenk <dan_wenk@nps.gov>, Jennifer Carpenter <jennifer_carpenter@nps.gov>

Cc: Kerry Gunther <kerry_gunther@nps.gov>

Attached is some language regarding the 1998 baseline for developed site standards that Kerry developed. Once you are OK with the language, Kerry can send it to GRTE, USFS, and USFWS. Thanks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gunther, Kerry** <kerry_gunther@nps.gov>

Date: Wed, Aug 3, 2016 at 8:54 AM

Subject: Developed Site Standard

To: P White <pj_white@nps.gov>

PJ,

Here is a quick first stab at it. I think it would fit our needs.

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Kerry Gunther

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