

Chapter 6 Implementation and Evaluation

Implementation

A new committee will replace the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee. The new committee, the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Coordinating Committee (YGCC), is the body that will coordinate management and promote the exchange of information about the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. The YGCC will inform the IGBC about the Yellowstone grizzly bear population for the benefit of grizzly bear conservation and management.

The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Coordinating Committee

Within 30 days of a final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear population, the signatories of this Conservation Strategy will name their agency representatives to the YGCC. The three local government representatives will remain the same as on the YES committee. The person who was chairperson of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee when the final rule changing status is published will call the first meeting of the YGCC. At this first meeting, the YGCC will elect a chairperson.

At their first meeting the committee will develop and adopt, by a super-majority vote of the members present, a set of by-laws that will set forth rules and procedures used by the committee to make decisions and conduct business. At a minimum, by-laws will include: Future elections of chairmen or other officers and committee chairs as deemed appropriate, intervals of chairmen service, frequency of meetings, requirements for voting (in person versus attendance by proxy or by phone/video), definition of a quorum, the processes to make changes to the Conservation Strategy, threshold for changes that require re-signing of the conservation strategy, required vote to make changes (majority vs. super-majority), process to change by-laws. Chairpersons will be elected at intervals determined by the members of the YGCC. The YGCC will meet at least two times each year; public notification of these meetings will be made by the chairperson or her/his representatives. The YGCC will strive for consensus, but when consensus cannot be achieved, decisions of the YGCC will be determined by majority vote. The details on locations and times of meetings and other business issues associated with the functioning of the YGCC will be determined at the first meeting.

YGCC members' expenses will be paid by their respective agencies.

YGCC authorities include:

- Revise or amend the Conservation Strategy based on the best biological data and the best available science. Any such amendments will be subject to public review and comment. ~~Amendments will be made by the YGCC with a majority vote.~~
- ~~Establish meeting rules and procedures, and chairperson election rules for the committee.~~
- Seek funding to further the conservation of the Yellowstone grizzly bear by implementing this Conservation Strategy. Each agency is responsible for seeking the necessary funding to carry out the tasks assigned in this Conservation Strategy.

Some primary activities of the YGCC are:

- Coordinate implementation of this Conservation Strategy.
- Ensure that population and habitat data are collected annually by the IGBST, as specified in this Conservation Strategy, and evaluated to assess current status of the grizzly bear population.
- Share information and ~~implement coordinate~~ management actions ~~in a coordinated fashion.~~
- Identify management, research, and financial needs to successfully implement the coordinated Conservation Strategy.
- Implement a Biology and Monitoring Review as necessary. ~~and submit a petition for relisting as appropriate to ensure agency responsiveness to changing circumstances of the grizzly or its habitat in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.~~
- ~~Appoint a chairperson and members of the Information and Education Team, and coordinate information and education efforts.~~

This committee does not supersede the authority of the management agencies beyond the specific actions agreed to as signatories of this Conservation Strategy.

YGCC membership will consist of representatives of the following, each having one vote:

Federal

National parks: Yellowstone and Grand Teton

National forests: Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Custer-Gallatin, and Shoshone

One Bureau of Land Management representative

~~The Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey~~

State wildlife management agencies: Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

Local government: One representative from each state

Tribal: One representative from each Native American tribe with sovereign powers over reservation lands within the ecosystemDMA

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) and the Information and Education Team (I & E) will perform necessary tasks and report to the YGCC.

Comment [BN1]: We need to discuss this. The first part of this establishes that signatories to the CS designate their respective representatives based on this list. The tribes are listed as signatories to the CS.