

**DEVELOPING A CONSERVATION STRATEGY:
NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ECOSYSTEM (NCDE)
NCDE Conservation Strategy Team**

April 29, 30, 2010

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Headquarters – Kalispell

SESSION OBJECTIVES

1. Complete work from earlier assignments.
2. Make significant progress on habitat standards, etc.
3. Review remaining work and extend the calendar accordingly.

AGENDA ITEMS

Thursday, April 29: 10:00 AM – Late Afternoon

- Starting...
 - Objectives for the session/agenda review; “housekeeping”; Team member needs
 - Who’s here? What’s new?
- Delisting Line and connector concept:
 - Final discussion and tentative agreement
 - What does it mean to our habitat discussion?
- Furthering the discussion on population:
 - Additional information from Team members (unreported mortality numbers and what they mean to population maintenance; population baseline discussion)
 - Tentative agreement on population objectives
 - What else does this influence/solve in terms of our work as a Team?
- Moving through the collaborative process on Habitat standards, etc.
 - Reviewing suggested Guiding Principles
 - What’s the relationship between trend and habitat “stuff”?
 - Specific work on food storage; road density; visual/cover/timber harvest; site development; allotments; others?
 - Tasks and assignments

Friday, April 30: 8:00 AM – Mid-Afternoon

- Refocusing...
- Continuing habitat work – Small group reports out, discussion and where possible, tentative agreement
- Nuisance Bear small group presentation and discussion to include purpose, goals, and a list of defined issues:
- “Hanging loose” issues: Anything we can now say about the “Distribution Line”?; Anything we can now say about the “Mortality Line”?; tasks and assignments
- New research/monitoring proposals/projects:
 - Mike Madel graduate project presentation
 - Others?
- Where do we go from here?
 - Where are we in the process?
 - Expanding the calendar

Discussion Ground Rules

- We recognize that Team members will report back to their managers and peers.
- When consensus has been reached, we each commit to being an advocate for the agreement with our managers and peers.
- We seek and honor the input and discussion of identified resource people.
- We recognize that designated Team members will be the decision makers on recommendations and agreements for the draft Conservation Strategy.
- As designated Team members, we commit to attending scheduled Team meetings barring “emergencies”. If substitutes are sent, we will fully brief that person and explain that they will be discussion participants but not decision makers. Absence of the designated member from a meeting implies agreement with the Group’s progress at that meeting.
- We each participate – everyone “airs”...
- We recognize that decisions and agreements may be interim and change based on future discussion. Final agreements come at the end of the process.
- We avoid side conversations.
- We turn off electronic communication devices unless with the permission of the Team. When our computers are on – we use them to take notes, not e-mail, etc.

NCDE Conservation Strategy Team Charter

The NCDE Conservation Strategy Team will be a blended policy/science group. The Team is expected to collaboratively develop a NCDE draft Conservation Strategy that is biologically and legally defensible and concurrently participate in Recovery Plan revision tasks for the NCDE. Their work will include tasks agreed to and assigned by the NCDE Sub-Committee as well as the science and policy liaison (ongoing communication, data sharing, and issue discussions) necessary to produce the draft document. In addition, Team members will be responsible for keeping their individual agencies aware of specific issues and progress with those issues; and keeping the NCDE Sub-Committee current on the team’s actions, process, and progress.

Agency Conservation Strategy Team Representatives are as follows:

APHIS - Policy/science – Kraig Glazier

Bureau of Land Management - Policy/science – Gayle Sitter

National Park Service - Policy/science – John Waller

US Fish & Wildlife Service - Document/process management – Chris Servheen;

Policy/science – Chris Servheen, Ann Vandehey

US Forest Service - Policy (managers) Cathy Barbouletos replaced by Deb Mucklow in April 2010; Science – Steve Anderson; Wendy Maples

US Geological Survey - Policy/science – Kate Kendall

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Policy – Regional Supervisor – Mack Long;

Headquarters – Lauri Hanuska-Brown; Science – Rick Mace

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - Policy/science – Ross Baty

Blackfeet Tribe - Policy/science - Dan Carney

Confederated & Salish Tribes - Policy/science - Stacy Courville

Team Technical Advisors will include the following:

Kathy Ake, Tonya Chilton, Jamie Jonkel, Mike Madel, Tim Manley
(Chuck Schwartz, Mark Haroldson, Gary White, Steve Cherry)

Liaison to the IGBC - Ken McDonald