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## **GBRP Conflict Update August 8-14**

### Tribal Coordination

- FWS Conflict specialist, Morgan Vance, spent 3 days on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to meet grizzly bear staff and start getting up to speed on grizzly bear conflict issues. We will debrief and provide additional information next week.

### Montana

- 2 sub adult grizzly bears were spotted several times in and around the river bottom of the Bitterroot Valley, north of Florence on or around August 9. It is believed that these same two bears were seen several days prior near Potomac near Highway 200 in the southern end of the Blackfoot valley on August 3, then near Turah along I-90 east of Missoula on August 5, and eventually over the Sapphire divide on the east side of the Bitterroot south of Missoula on August 7. The last reported sighting of these bears put them on the west side of I-90. The bears have not gotten into any conflict situations, but have been seen multiple times along roads and highways, presumably feeding on roadkill. We have been in contact with FWP personnel including the local bear manager, regional wildlife manager, and regional supervisor, as well as USFS personnel including district rangers on the Missoula District of the Lolo National Forest and the Stevensville District of the Bitterroot National Forest. The hope is that these bears move on without incident, but we felt it was important to at least start various conversations in case a trapping and relocation effort were to be considered.
- FWS conflict specialists have again been on call in multiple situations, but no bears were captured.

### Wyoming

- 863 and her cubs continue to be seen sporadically along Highway 26. FWS specialist Becca Lyon and USFS bear ambassadors responded to several bear jams of varying sizes, including multiple hazing efforts.

### Idaho

- FWS conflict specialists Amber Kornak and Rory Trimbo have been in contact with IDFG about the logistics of a potentially large-scale fencing effort north of Bonner's Ferry. We will continue to work with IDFG on how best to move forward with this project, including a site visit by Rory. There may also be support available

from Defenders of Wildlife and the American Bear Foundation.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

Thanks,

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