

IGBC BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE

Fall Virtual Meeting

October 27th, @ 9:00 MST (0800 PST) to 1630 MST (1530 PST)

IGBC and Sub-Committee Members in Attendance: JJ Teare, Sandi Fisher, Chuck Mark, Matt Anderson, Cheryl Probert, Ben Conrad, Jamie Jonkel, Mary D' Aversa, Kerey Barnowe-Meyer, Jen Bruns, Mike Pruss, Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, David Diamond, Scott Jackson, Hilary Cooley, Wayne Kasworm, Hilary Whitcomb, Chad Bell (for Carolyn Upton), and Paul Klasner (for Linda Jackson).

Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions – JJ Teare, Chair

IGBC Executive Committee Update – David Diamond, Exec Coordinator

- David is the new IGBC Executive Coordinator. Started in June of this year. He has some prior experience with the IGBC Executive Committee and with the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee, but this is his first time joining a meeting with the Bitterroot Subcommittee.
- “Glad to be here with you! I look forward to learning from you”.

A bit about David -

- 20 year federal employee, FWS ESA water rights in OR/CA, NOAA agency management in DC, NPS Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee and now USFS and IGBC. He believes in partnerships and collaboration, which drew him to working with IGBC -

A bit about the IGBC:

- The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) supports recovery and delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, research and communication.
- Grizzly bear conservation is complex and only made possible through partnerships. The IGBC is a cooperative effort of its members. IGBC members recognize and mutually respect the authorities and mandates of all parties under federal and state law.
- The IGBC is not a governing body or legal entity. The IGBC consists of an Executive Committee and Subcommittees established by the Executive Committee.
- David is the only full time staffer for IGBC. All other participants are employees of their agencies, who participate in IGBC in addition to their agency roles. He is grateful to all of you!
- Committee Chairs rotate every two years. David is particularly grateful to past Chair Chuck Mark, and current Chair JJ Teare - coordinating this many moving parts take a lot of effort! The facts on the ground and the issues facing agencies are much different for BES than other Subcommittees. “Thank you Chuck and JJ for your leadership!”

Housekeeping

- For the meeting today there is no Executive Session, it is all open to the public.

- For all our meetings we get agendas out in advance, and we post the meeting materials after the fact. The new website and email distribution list that you will hear about today will help!
- We truly value public participation and engagement.

IGBC Update

- New IGBC Website - hoping to launch by end of November 2021
- IEO awards – 10/29 - extended to 11/12, more on that from Jen
- IGBC Subcommittees for the cycle of meetings this Fall
 - 10/27 Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee
 - 11/8-9 Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee
 - 11/16 Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee
 - 12/1 Northern Continental Divide Subcommittee
 - 12/7-9 Executive Committee

Science Sub-committee Report – Mike Pruss, Chair

We are lucky to have crossovers between other ecosystems, if you have suggestions let other systems know. Will be having regular subcommittee meeting in sync with other meetings, have room for more team members if you have Biologists that would be interested please have them join.

Short-term Products & Actions:

- DNA/Camera Survey
- Verified location database
- G-Bear conflict database for use by MT, ID & FWS
- Montana ~~FWS~~-FWP connectivity area modeling
- Bear location Information
 - 5 yr old female Clark Fork

Long-term Products & Actions

- Habitat modeling and monitoring
- Potential funding for mapping project
 - Looking for a student to participate
- Bitterroot Ecosystem recovery zone BMU mapping project
 - Using USFWS function with benefits from new information provided by postdoc habitat use and connectivity analysis.
- Human Attitude Surveys
 - Has been done in MT by MFWP and with cabinet yak ecosystem efforts
- Identification of Areas outside the recovery zone

Other Information

Information and Education on Food storage
 Next meeting in January will go over grant funding
 Will have the spring meeting in March

Information, Education and Outreach Sub-committee Report – Jen Bruns, Chair

- 7 members on the IE & O Subcommittee
- This group monitors grants
 - 4 grant recipients, these projects are wrapping up
 - 2022 Grant application: Deadline is November 12
 - 45,000 will be available for FY2022
- Bear Smart Community Working Group
 - What are Bear Smart Communities?
 - BSCP is a proactive conservation initiative that encourages efforts by communities, businesses & individuals to reduce human-bear conflicts
 - Working on building criteria for lower 48 programs

Update: USFS RAC Bitterroot National Forest Project, Assessing Bear Wise Infrastructure and Public Outreach on the BNF – Jessica Reyes, Wind River Bear Institute

Element 1: Education and Assistance in the Bitterroot Ecosystem

Wind River Karelian Bear Dog Partners, LLC (Contractor) will provide a team of 2 wildlife biologists working with 2 trained Wind River Karelian Bear Dogs in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (BE) for up to 14 days, to conduct community outreach and education and on-site human-bear conflict education, response, assessment and assistance, in order to prepare for grizzly bear population expansion and travel through the Bitterroot Valley (BV) linkage zone of the BE.

Element 2: Mapping Human-Bear Conflict Hotspots in Lolo, MT

Contractor will provide a technician to collaborate with FWP and the Lolo Community Council to create a working map of human-bear conflicts within the Lolo area. This will be an ongoing effort beginning with a targeted area in 2021, for Lolo, Montana. This map will help identify priority neighborhoods and needs for conflict mitigation, which will enable project collaborators to focus their efforts and resources more accurately and efficiently. This map will also be made available to the public.

The following is a bulleted summary of progress to date:

- We conducted 10 education and outreach presentations at Seeley Lake Elementary Bear Academy for grades K-8 and at Lolo Middle School for the 7th grade Science class.
- We conducted 2 field trips with Corvallis and Victor, MT, High School students and teachers for Michele Dietrich, Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council member and teacher. We developed the data collection forms for this and future high-school efforts to map local human-bear garbage conflict hotspots in Ravalli County. Students were shown how to use the forms to assess Bitterroot Valley predicted bear conflict "hot spots" for garbage conflicts, and potential sites for bear-resistant cans and enclosures for multiple residential cans, at pick-up sites. We also assisted the students and teachers in creating a Google survey [titled Bitterroot Bears](#) for their school websites, for Bitterroot Valley residents to fill out, to encourage them to report bear-garbage conflicts. It is a work in progress and will be

linked to the successful “Missoula Bears” website. This will provide additional data to help focus our efforts in the Bitterroot Valley.

- We participated in relevant interagency and organizational meetings, including the spring IGBC-Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee Meetings, the spring Bitterroot Sapphire Corridor Coalition meeting, the winter-spring Lolo Community Council meeting, and the USFS RAC meeting for the Bitterroot National Forest grant.
- We followed up on our 3 Bitterroot Valley focal, bear conflict hot spot areas where WRBI-WRKBDP/FWP/Defenders of Wildlife initiated work on securing attractants in 2019 and 2020. We conducted on-site visits and contacted the owners and staff, to monitor previously installed bear-resistant infrastructure for security and functionality, and to further assist the homeowners and businesses. These “hot spot” focal sites were:
 - Residents in Bass Creek Grizzly Bear Linkage Zone and the adjacent Larry Creek Loop;
 - Business owners in the Lolo Hot Springs Campground, Bar and Restaurant, The Lodge at Lolo Hot Springs, and The Jack Saloon. Grizzly bears have been observed within 1 to 10 miles of these sites, west of Lolo, MT and near HWY 12;
 - Public and residential sites on Lolo Creek: The Lolo Community Center and Travelers Rest State Park and adjacent residential sites at the heart of Lolo, MT, on the east end of Lolo Creek, and west of the junction of HWY 93 and HWY 12;
 - Sleeman Gulch Community Dump site, west of Lolo and adjacent to Lolo Creek.
- We assisted FWP and Defenders of Wildlife in initiating a Bear-Resistant Garbage Can Loaner Program for Lolo residents, with a focus on public sites and private, low-income families.
 - We loaned 3 Kodiak bear-resistant cans to the Lolo Community Center, to replace open barrels on the baseball fields that have historically attracted bears into the area due to the Center’s proximity to Lolo Creek, which is a key travel route for bears.
 - We also loaned 3 Kodiak bear-resistant residential garbage to low-income residents living adjacent to Traveler’s Rest State Park and the Lolo Community Center that have experienced chronic bear problems with bears getting into their residential garbage cans. This residential “hot spot” has had bears getting into garbage cans during daylight hours, with children playing on the baseball fields not even 100 yards away.
- We conducted an initial visual survey of residential sites on the south side of Lolo Creek, just west of the junction of HWY 93 and HWY 12, to assess garbage infrastructure status and on-site needs for future contact. This general area will be the focus of the 2021 field season efforts to conduct education and outreach to secure attractants and to identify bear-

resistant infrastructure needs in the Lolo area. We will move from east to west up the creek as far as possible, hopefully to at least parallel with Sleeman Gulch;

- We assisted FWP Region 2, Bear Specialist Jamie Jonkel and Warden Lou Royce, by responding to bear conflict calls, on-site at 6 different locations, and via phone call at 4 locations, from Lolo to Darby, MT in the Bitterroot Valley.
 - We provided education and outreach on bear behavior, bear attractants, and on the importance of securing attractants. We gained their cooperation and assisted in securing the attractants and/or recommending further assistance and/or electric fencing through Defenders of Wildlife or Wildlife Services.
- We used the WK-9s as ambassadors for education both during presentations and on-site while responding to bear conflicts and for finding and validating bear sign and activity. We tracked the bears' travel routes to the sites and on-site to find attractants, determine level of bear conflict behavior and to demonstrate to residents how bears learn conflict habits;
- We assisted with handling of one adult male grizzly bear involved in cattle depredation on a ranch in Avon, MT, and in the hard release of one subadult female black bear using multiple anthropogenic food resources in a subdivision near Mullan Road, in Missoula, MT;
- We developed the data forms to track this project's progress and to provide a foundation for our mapping project. The project data we collect can now be superimposed on the 5 different and ongoing data collection systems in use by the separate agencies and organizations collaborating with us on this project. This includes Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Bitterroot National Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bitterroot Disposal. The data collected will provide information on public lands infrastructure and informational material needs, bear conflicts, on-site assistance needed and provided, public outreach and education, and an assessment of private land-owner garbage can and dumpster needs throughout the focal area of the Bitterroot Valley.
- We continued to work to raise awareness and collaboration for the projects: *"IEO PAWS for Bears in the Bitterroot Ecosystem"* and *"Mapping Human-Bear Conflict Hot Spots in Lolo, MT"*, to help prepare the BE for grizzly bear population expansion.

Update: Exploring the Human Dimension equation in G-bear Conservation in Idaho

How to Effectively Outreach to our Publics—Katie Shaw and Dr. Kenny Whallen, University of Idaho

Grizzly Bears and their Management in the western Bitterroot Ecosystem

Reappearing in the Bitterroot Ecosystem

- Several confirmed grizzly sightings in and around BE since 2007
- Lack of empirical evidence of BE residents' opinions on grizzlies and their management

Research Questions:

- What are BE residents' opinions towards grizzly bears and their management, and to what extent do these create cognitive or structural barriers or facilitators to tolerance?

- Which people, organizations, or agencies do BE residents identify as trusted managers of grizzly bears and champions of community management preferences?

Study Areas:

- Grangeville
- Elk City
- Orofino
- Kooskia
- Kamiah

Methods:

- Interviews
- Focus Groups

Grizzlies in the BE

- Common sentiment expressed by participants is they do not want grizzlies in the BE
- Many participants expressed more tolerance for natural recovery than reintroduction
- Expressed reasons for more tolerance for natural recovery:
 - “Letting Mother Nature take her course”
 - Out of people’s control- will just have to learn to live with it
- Common concern that there will still be a future reintroduction
- Participants associate with wolf reintroduction

4 Main Concerns Causing Intolerance:

- Fear for personal safety
- Concern for other animal populations
- Economic concerns
- Restrictions- ESA “baggage”

Tolerance towards Grizzlies:

- Many participants don’t see any benefits of grizzlies
- Many participants don’t want them to go extinct
- Participants expressed some appreciation for grizzlies: “Awesome” “Cool” “Majestic” “Beautiful”
- Some participants indicated they think grizzlies have a right to be here and have respect for them
- Some participants expressed opinions of acceptance because they feel they have no choice in grizzlies reappearing in the BE
- NIMBY sentiments

Who is Trusted for Grizzly Management?

- Participants expressed preference for state management
 - IDFG fairly trusted
- Federal agencies largely distrusted because:
 - Participants believe federal agencies force their agenda
 - Participants’ opinions influenced by wolf reintroduction
 - Some participants feel agency staff are hard to reach
 - Federal agency staff are seen as outsiders
- Some NGOs trusted, some distrusted

- Many participants overall perceive NGOs as litigators

Identification of New Release Sites/Review of MT SB337 – USFWS (Jennifer Fortin Noreus)

MT SB337: Passed this last legislative session. Effective March 2, 2022, MFWP can (1) only relocate bears to sites previously approved by the commission; and (2) respond to conflicts outside recovery zones but cannot relocate those bears. USFWS and MFWP are currently working on an MOU to clarify each agencies roles. The USFWS is working on hiring folks to handle relocation of bears when conflicts occur outside of recovery zones. The USFWS will also be reaching out to land management partners to identify relocation sites that the USFWS can use. This effort will build off of the work began with Jamie Jonkel. (Jenifer can you add a few more details on this legislation.)

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SW MT DNA Project – Jennifer Fortin-Noreus

Project Overview: Goal: Document presence of grizzly bears in SW Montana outside current distributions, survey methods, and preliminary results

2021 Pilot Year Field Effort

- Crews
 - USFWS
 - Defenders of Wildlife
 - Lolo NF
- Survey sites:
 - 140 sites of UDFS land
 - 3-4 weeks per site
 - 3,446 coral nights
- Timing: mid-May through end of August
- Site location based on previous verified sightings and recommendations of biologists
- Hair Coral Setup
 - Protocol used on the CYE and SE
 - Hair corrals with cameras
 - Sites
- Detections
 - Grizzly bears detected at 1 site
 - Black bears detected at 100 sites
 - 52 sites with camera issues
 - 805 hair samples collected
 - 181 hair samples sent to lab for DNA analysis
- Future Actions
 - Reporting of preliminary results
 - Summarize 2021 verified sighting information from partners
 - Assess potential areas for improvement
 - Reporting of final results from pilot year

- Coordination for 2022 field season

Agency Reports – G-bear Conservation Actions for 2021

People & Carnivores – Brittani Rosas

People and Carnivores contracted with Idaho Conservation League early this summer to begin planning for an assessment of all bear resistant infrastructure in northern Idaho and parts of Montana. After discussions with a few managers about geography and data that needs to be collected, People and Carnivores has since narrowed the scope to starting in the northern portion of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and working south. We're starting our planning right now and will be hiring a contractor to begin field work next June. We hope to have the assessment completed by fall of next year. The contractor will be producing a report that will be handed to Forest Service personnel. Our partners include ICL and Idaho Panhandle National Forest personnel and we're planning on reaching out to Idaho Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Our goals are to provide useful information to managers on the ground and also those who work to get funding to address equipment needs. This is an exciting project and we are glad that we are a part of it.

Salmon Challis NF- Chuck Mark

- Installed grizzly bear sanitation and identification information at trailheads, campgrounds, and public-gathering locations (stores), mostly in and around the Continental Divide.
- Shared “Be Bear Aware” information with employees on the North Fork and Salmon-Cobalt RDs and taught how to use bear spray and carry into the field.
- Validated male grizzly bear at a bear bait station on Grizzly Hill, which is just south of Lemhi Pass. Game camera pictures were from the fall hunting season 2020.
- Will restart Forest Plan Revision with the focus on the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. We will be revising both plans separately versus combining both plans into one plan.

Bitterroot NF – Matt Anderson

- Thanks for everyone for helping with outreach
- Signage at trail heads
- Looking at relocation process

Nez Perce Clearwater NF- Cheryl Probert

- About 110,000 acres burnt this year, about 58,000 of this was front country
- We conducted bear education with firefighters
- Working on Forest plan revision with other agencies, what the final proposal decision will be
- Working on may be present maps with FWS
- Working with outfitters and guides to get ahead of bear human conflicts
- Assessment on people and carnivores
- Approved funding for mobile bear box
 - YCC group built the base
 - Will put at Kelly creek
- Working on be bear aware trailer
- Conducting bear spray trainings
- Working with IDFG on bear charging simulator

Lolo NF- Chad Bell

- We have been installing new/replacing bear signs on the Forest
- Adding/replacing bear resistant trash bins and food lockers on the Forest
- Working with the USFWS on updating our Forest Plan consultation
- We are in the very early stages of Forest Plan revision and more specific information will be released to the public after we officially start the process.

Payette NF – Linda Jackson

The Payette is currently mapped **outside** of the 'may be present' area for grizzlies.

We have been in contact with USFWS to see if they will be updates to the 2020 map that established this status. It sounds like there were some potential errors in the modelling effort for that 2020 map.

We are awaiting any updates to see if that designation stays as is.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sandi Fischer/Ben Conard/ Wayne Kasworm

Bear Capture:

- Captured 7/27/21 about 3 miles west of Heron, MT
- 4 or 5 year-old female
- Released 7/27/21 on USFS in Rice Draw south of Heron
- Weighed 235 pounds
- Dug up dead livestock, pre-emptive management capture
- After release went north of Clark Fork River until late August
- Returned south of Clark Fork River for most of August and September
- Moved south into NF of Coeur d'Alene River in early October

Seen at numerous black bear bait sites and area of wolf trapping

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Jamie Jonkel

- Thus far the only grizzly reports FWP R2 has verified on the Montana side of the Bitterroot Ecosystem are a photo of an adult male grizzly taken this summer East of the Sula Ranger Station in Reimel Creek; photos of front tracks in the East Fork (from when the radio-collared bear "Lingenpolter" was in the area); and the grizzly photographed over in the Big Hole this late summer (Miner Creek). Jennifer Fortin-Noreus with the USFWS, will be presenting on the results of this summer's DNA study, Lingenpolter's movements along with some information on a second grizzly bear hair sample from the Sapphire Range's Moose Creek.
- FWP R2 continues to field reports of verified grizzly activity east of the Bitterroot Ecosystem, in the Rock Creek, Flint Creek and Warm Spring Creek areas of the Upper Clark Fork Basin. These grizzly bears are most likely coming south from the Blackfoot Valley.
- And again, this summer FWP R2 received multiple reports of "possible" grizzlies in the Lolo National Forest portions of the Lower Clark Fork Drainage (Superior, St Regis, Haugan, etc.) but nothing that could be officially verified. The only reports verified in that area have been north of Interstate 90.

- In the Bitterroot Valley and Lolo Creek areas, FWP R2 did receive a handful of "possible" grizzly reports, but nothing that can be officially verified. Game wardens received a report of a female with young up Jennings Camp Creek in the East Fork of the Bitterroot last week. The Wind River Bear Institute went down there with bear dogs but were unable to find anything other than black bear sign. The department received a handful of photos and video from the public this year that all turned out to be black bear or were too blurry to determine species. These reports were from Upper Lost Horse Creek, the Burnt Fork and other areas along the Bitterroot Face and Sapphire Range. Note, the MPG Ranch's collared black bears have been making a splash---these collared study bears are ranging widely in the Bitterroot Valley and lots of folks are thinking they are grizzlies. Midsummer, FWP, had a pretty good report of a grizzly up on ST Marry Peak---but the observation could not be verified. Sadly, the only way we can officially verify is if we have an actual photo of the bear, a photo of the front track or dig site, or a DNA sample.
- Great headway has been made this summer regarding education, community outreach and prevention on the Montana side of the Bitterroot Ecosystem.
- In the lower Clark Fork Valley and Bitterroot Valley Chuck Bartlebaugh, with the Be Bear Aware Campaign, has attended multiple events at businesses with his Be Bear Aware Trailer. Michele Dieterich, former member of the MT Governor's Grizzly Bear Council, continues to work with the local Ravalli School System and as arranged for multiple school events and field trips. And students continue to work with the Bitterroot National Forest's Bear Ranger, the Wind River Bear Institute and Bitterroot Disposal on various sanitation projects, bear-resistant garbage can test efforts and education events.
- This summer the Bitterroot Sanitation Work Group was officially launched. The group includes Bitterroot Disposal, local game wardens, state and forest biologists, the Wind River Bear Institute, People and Carnivores, Defenders of Wildlife, and various community and county representatives. The focus of this group is the reduction of black bear conflicts as they relate to garbage and residential attractants.
- Last summer Defenders of Wildlife purchased 30 Kodiak bear resistant cans for the community of Lolo. The Wind River Bear Institute is in the process of distributing these cans at homesites along Lolo Creek that are experiencing issues with black bears.
- This fall Defenders of Wildlife purchasing 37 Kodiak bear-resistant cans for Bitterroot Disposal. Bitterroot Disposal and FWP game wardens are working together to determine where the cans should be placed.
- Last summer Defenders of Wildlife purchased six bear-resistant food lockers for all the FWP campgrounds and fishing access site that allow overnight camping. FWP is in the process of placing these food lockers.
- Defenders of Wildlife and FWP are working closely with the Bitterroot National Forest and this spring were awarded RAC funding to purchase 10 bear-resistant food lockers for USFS campgrounds and acquired funding for the Wind River Bear Institute to assist the USFS with assessing campgrounds and education and outreach.
- In addition, the Wind River Bear Institute, received funding from Vital Ground, IGBC and Defenders of Wildlife to assist FWP R2 with conflict reduction and response in the Bitterroot Valley. The Wind

River Bear Institute has been working diligently with various neighborhoods, communities, and business to resolve issues with bears and will distributing bear spray to hunters and posting "Hunter Know Your Bears" signage.

- Defenders of Wildlife Field Representative Russ Talmo continues to assist homeowners with containing chickens, livestock, and other attractants through the Electric Fence Incentive Program. Multiple fences were erected this summer in the Bitterroot Valley.
- Adam Bacca, with the Wildlife Services Wildlife Conflict Prevention Program has worked with the agricultural community on two large scale electric fences in the Bass Creek and Davis Creek Drainages.
- This summer People and Carnivores hired a specialist to work in the Bitterroot Valley. Britanni Rosas, will be working with Ravalli County residents on conflict mitigation. In addition to working with all the partners on various Bitterroot Valley projects Rosas will be working with the MPG Ranch on a program that will be offering free electric fence to any residences experiencing conflicts with bears that live adjacent to the ranch.
- The Bitterroot-Sapphire Wildlife Corridor Coalition continues to work closely with the Five Valleys Wildlife Passage Working Group and the Montana Department of Transportation on issues related to wildlife collision and wildlife passage across the Bitterroot Valley.
- And finally, FWP R2, is in the process of reviewing applicants for a full-time bear management position in the Bitterroot Valley. This new individual will be assisting the Region 2 bear management team across the region but will be prioritizing bear conflicts in the Bitterroot Valley.

Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Clearwater Region- Jen Bruns, JJ Teare

- We experienced our worst drought, highest temperatures and most extreme fire season in all time. Not a great time for a visit from a G-bear this season within the Idaho Bitterroot.
 - IDFG Staff extremely busy with Fire season and an EHD outbreak this summer until recently.
- IDFG did not do any specific monitoring for G-bears this year.
- We did not detect any G-bears within the Clearwater Region this year.
 - No reports came in from the public to IDFG
 - Or credible the last 2 years
 - We did continue with our Wolf Camera work in 2021– 150+cameras
 - Photos just picked up and being analyzed
 - From the 2020 Wolf Camera efforts we did not detect any G-bears in the Clearwater
 - 98K pics
 - Did pick up 2,200 Black Bear photos
- Recently just put out 17 scent pump camera sites in the ID Bitterroot for Wolverine as part of a multi-state effort to estimate occupancy in the lower 48. Higher elevations. Will be recovered next June/July.
- IDFG Clearwater id obtain a G-bear culvert trap and a couple GPS collars in case needed
 - IDFG is responsible to address problem bear/wildlife issues

Clearwater Outreach

- Spring Bear Aware messaging campaign to spring/fall hunters

- 2 News Releases
 - “Hunters and hikers urged to be 'Bear Aware' as they head into the field this spring”
 - “It's spring in the Clearwater-- Be Bear Aware!”
- E-mail

 - To 19,323 recipients
 - Region 2 – Units 7, 9, 10, 12, & 17
 - Deer – Hunt Areas: 14, 15-1X, 16-1X
 - Lolo Elk Zone
 - Elk City Elk Zone
 - Selway Elk Zone
 - Elk – Hunt Areas: 14-1, 14-2

Last year, gave out bear ID card/brochure with each bear tag holder. We may try this again this upcoming spring season.

Next Meeting

IGBC 12/7 - 12/9

All meetings will stay zoom for now

Spring Meeting will be held in May

Adjourn

Note: The public could actively watch and listen the meeting and ask questions of presenters and Agency Staff through the monitored “Chat” function. Public involvement was done during 2 public Q &A sessions and after each presenter if time allowed in agenda. In addition two public comment documents were distributed though email among IGBC members received through email.