

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Cc: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:26:09 PM

Thanks Ben (and no worries on the spelling of my name). Hilary called and gave me an update - if you can just keep me in the loop as this develops, or if you have any fruitful conversations about relocation options, I'd appreciate it.

Be well,

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia bears

Hi Sandy,

Below is an update on the Tetonia bears I sent to some of our regional and local folks yesterday. I haven't heard anything since yesterday afternoon. As an added clarification or update, without a clear relocation option outside of Idaho, IDFG is requesting to remove all three of these bears if they move closer to town. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to chat with Hilary and/or I.

- FWS Worked with IDFG and YNP on potential management options for a sow and two cubs of the year on the outskirts of Tetonia, Idaho. These bears were initially hazed out of Mammoth by park officials in early October after spending increasing time in and around park housing. They then started spending time in and around Gardiner, MT, again very near houses and people. The bears were mainly focused on apple trees, but their increasing activity during daylight hours, exceedingly high level of comfort around people, and lack of response to repeated hazing efforts led FWP to request trapping and relocating. All three bears were

captured and relocated to an area of MT south of West Yellowstone on 10/17, but by early November had made their way to the outskirts of Teton, +/- 50 miles away. The bears once again seemed to be focused on apples and other fruit trees, but continued to show little regard for people and were repeatedly seen in and around houses, in yards, driveways, etc. Idaho is setting traps for all three bears and requesting the removal of the female. FWS is working with IDFG and YNP on potential relocation sites for the cubs.

- UPDATE: 10/8 - The bears were not captured and have continued to move west, towards Teton. As of this morning, they are <3 miles from the town, and IDFG has requested permission to remove the female by additional means if she continues moving towards town. YNP informed FWS that they are not able to take these cubs, and IDFG is not comfortable relocating these cubs anywhere in the general area outside the park. IDFG is continuing to monitor the bears and is willing to continue the trapping effort as long as she does not move closer to town. We will provide more updates as the situation evolves.

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Norman, Kate](#); [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: FYSA: Tetonia bears
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 4:36:56 PM
Attachments: [1089.pdf](#)

Hello Kate and Jodi. Wanted to provide you an update on a developing grizzly bear issue FYSA. The Grizzly Bear Recovery Program (GBRP) has been having some long and challenging conversations with ID Dept of Fish and Game about a grizzly sow with 2 cubs that have become habituated to human presence. They have not shown any aggressive behavior, but are frequenting areas of high human use. They had been relocated once from near Gardiner, MT to West Yellowstone, MT - then moved roughly 50 miles west towards (over the course of about 3 weeks) the town of Tetonia, in Idaho. They are just a few miles from the town itself, which is very small with a lot of disjunct ranches spread across a large expanse. So not a lot in the way of concentrated subdivisions.... That said, they are once again frequenting areas of human use, foraging on fruit trees, etc.

(b) (5)
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Happy to chat more if you have any questions, otherwise I'll keep you in the loop as this develops. Side note, Tetonia bear locations provided in the attached map (Tetonia proper just off map to the left) for context.

~S~

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 - UPDATE: 10/8 - The bears were not captured and have continued to move west, towards Tetonia. As of this morning, they are <3 miles from the town, and IDFG has requested permission to remove the female by additional means if she continues moving towards town. YNP informed FWS that they are not able to take these cubs, and IDFG is not comfortable relocating these cubs anywhere in the general area outside the park. IDFG is continuing to monitor the bears and is willing to continue the trapping effort as long as she does not move closer to town. We will provide more updates as the situation evolves.

Thanks,

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Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Bush, Jodi](#)
Cc: [Norman, Kate](#)
Bcc: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Re: FYSA: Tetonia bears
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 8:09:34 PM

FYI, I just connected with Hilary again and she said Toby got back to her and said the decision was final. IDFG removed adult F plus one cub this afternoon. She is still in touch with GTNP to see if they will take the remaining cub (if they catch it- they don't know where it is right now). We talked about how this could cause a large Community outcry - she said IDFG asked them not to release info about this until they get things sorted out on their end. Probably tomorrow. I asked her if the cub was old enough that it could survive on its own if they can't find it; she said possibly. I'll continue to keep you in the loop as I hear more.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 9, 2022, at 5:27 PM, Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov> wrote:

I did talk to Hilary and we decided it would be good to reach out to Toby Boudreau....which she did. He was unaware of situation and agreed it could get messy. He was going to reach out to Matt Peiron, regional sup for IDFG. As of now, she hadn't heard back from either of them.

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On Nov 9, 2022, at 5:01 PM, Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov> wrote:

Be good to get on the horn with Hilary and Ben and chat on this topic.
This could go south BIG. JB

Jodi L. Bush
Deputy Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Region 1 – Pacific Northwest
911 NE 11th Ave Portland, OR 97232
Currently Teleworking at (503) 347-9902 Mobile
pronouns: she/her/hers

Please Note: I am sending this email at a time that works well for me. I respect your boundaries and don't expect a response outside of YOUR working hours.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:37 PM

To: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi
<jodi_bush@fws.gov>
Subject: FYSA: Tetonia bears

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b) (5) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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~S~

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406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Norman, Kate](#)
Cc: [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: Re: FYSA: Tetonia bears
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 12:09:46 PM

Hi Kate. I know we chatted briefly during the bull trout SSA call about further happenings re: grizzly bears, so just wanted to provide you with the latest update. I was able to connect with Jim Fredricks, one of Ed's Deputies, and discuss the current situation. Back story: The local Regional IDFG Supervisor coordinated with the Grizzly Bear Recovery Program (GBRP - Ben Jimenez) this morning, at which time they conveyed they had the location of the cub and were intending to remove it as well. However, early this morning the GBRP found out that Grand Teton NP may be willing to take the cub, and requested they dart the bear and not remove it. Local IDFG claimed the bear cub (young of year) was a human safety issue and they intended to proceed with removal based on approval given to them last night. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jim and I chatted earlier this morning and here's where we're at.... IDFG HQ seems to understand that removal of the bears already has been less than ideal, so to the extent they can relocate the remaining cub may help the optic of the situation, at least to some degree. Their first preference will be to dart the bear, before removal. The cub is in a heavy thicket and dogs can't get to it (trying to get it tree'd). They're going to try to bring in additional dogs to see if they can move the bear. If they are unsuccessful, they will back off and set a trap up and attempt to capture it tonight. Re: GTNP taking the bear; park biologists believe they will take the bear, but they do not yet have approval from the Superintendent, that is expected by early afternoon. If IDFG captures the bear and there is still uncertainty about whether the Park will take it, Ben committed to mobilizing staff out of Jackson ASAP to take the bear from IDFG and deal with it from there forward. If the the Park decides they will not take it, we are likely at a dead end and the cub will have to be euthanized.

No press release has been released as of yet regarding the sow and cub removed last night.

~S~

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From: Fisher, Sandi
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To: Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>

Cc: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: FYSA: Tetonia bears

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Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 3:28 PM

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Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>

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Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Bush, Jodi](#); [Norman, Kate](#)
Subject: Fw: Tetonia bears
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 3:24:37 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Jodi and Kate - here is the update from Hilary. I just talked to Jim Fredricks, Deputy Director for Operations and we're going to work on pulling together a debrief. We also are talking with them now about the press release, as they plan to indicate that "...they removed 3 bears in consultation with and with authorization of FWS....". Hilary, Ben and I have a call with Jim Fredricks and Ed Shriever at 3:30 to discuss the press release.

~S~

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Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

Hi Matt,

Just received a call from IDFG Regional Supervisor, Matt Pieron. IDFG was unable to dart the bear and chose to lethally remove it. I asked what had changed that required an urgent need to remove it without authorization from us. He said that it was a human safety issue and was unwilling to argue with me beyond that. I asked for a debrief with leadership. He agreed to set something up.

From: Cooley, Hilary
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia bears

Update for Martha...

A female grizzly bear with two cubs of the year was relocated from Gardiner, MT, to near West Yellowstone and recently moved to near Tetonia, ID. Bears are habituated but have never been in conflict or acted aggressively towards humans. IDFG is uncomfortable with the bears remaining close to Tetonia. They are feeding in riparian areas, presumably feeding on hawthorn, and venturing out into more open areas, presumably in search of other foods (see map below-Tetonia is just off map to the west). I

DFG was uncomfortable with the bears close (3miles) to Tetonia, and requested approval to remove due to human safety. Based on her high level of comfort around people, her repeated selection for food sources in around houses, and on the lack of response to multiple hazing efforts and a relocation effort, we gave permission to remove the sow if captured. We indicated our desire to find potential relocation options for the cubs. Neither IDFG nor Yellowstone were willing to take the cubs. We expressed our opinion that COYs were not a threat to human safety (based on conversations with multiple agency bear managers) and that we would like to consider alternative options to removal. Idaho Fish and Game said if the bears continued to move towards Tetonia (now about 3 miles west of their location), they did not view capture as a viable option and were only willing to lethally remove the bears. If we did not give them permission to do so, they said they would pull back all resources, and require us to come remove the bears.

We stated our displeasure with the position they were putting us in and our desire for all additional options to be considered, but ultimately gave IDFG permission to remove all three bears if they were convinced it was their only option, based on having no available relocation options. We offered additional personnel to help on the ground but were told they had it covered. That evening we heard from Grand Teton NP that relocation might be an option, pending approval from park officials. Shortly after that conversation, we received word that IDFG had removed the sow and one cub and were monitoring the remaining cub.

On Wednesday morning, we reached out to IDFG with this information and asked them to either capture or free-dart the cub given this new potential option. Idaho Fish and Game said they were going to move ahead with lethal removal if they could not safely dart the bear. We said this cub did not pose an immediate or demonstrable threat to human safety and were no longer authorizing the removal of the cub given a potential relocation option. We requested time to explore all available options. At that point IDFG personnel expressed their displeasure with our stance, said as far they were concerned the conversation was over, and after indicating we would hear from higher IDFG officials, ended the call.

Since that time, we have continued our communication with personnel from GTNP and Wyoming Game and Fish, still with the hopes of capturing the remaining cub. We have also been in contact with Sandi Fisher (IFWO), who has been in contact with personnel from the IDFG Director's office. Our understanding is that IDFG is now willing to try and capture the cub through additional means, including resetting traps if free-darting does not work in the current location. We are currently waiting to hear back directly from IDFG or from Sandi. We are concurrently continuing to coordinate with GTNP on potential relocation efforts and have also reached out to several approved zoos about potential placement if relocation is not an option.

(b) (6)

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Lawrence, Brent A](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:14:37 PM
Attachments: [TGB - JF edits.docx](#)

FYI...

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
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From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Sandi and Hilary
here you go. I don't have Ben's email, so forward it to him if necessary. Thanks

Grizzly sow and cubs euthanized near Tetonia after becoming habituated to populated areas

On Nov. 9, Idaho Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) euthanized a sow grizzly and one of two cub after the bears increasingly showed little fear towards humans and became habituated to foraging near homes and neighborhoods in adjacent rural areas. The second cub was euthanized the following day.

The sow grizzly and cubs first became a public safety concern this fall in the Mammoth area of Yellowstone National Park where they frequented and exhibited habituation to developed residential areas. After leaving the park, the grizzlies ended up in Gardiner, Montana where they again became a human safety concern, spending much of their time foraging next to homes. On October 17, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks captured and translocated all three bears to an area south of West Yellowstone, Montana. A GPS collar placed on the sow showed the bears moved south making their way through Wyoming and Idaho before settling and spending the last several weeks in rural residential areas east of Tetonia, Idaho.

In the interest of public safety, Idaho Fish and Game personnel spent a tremendous amount of time and effort keeping tabs on the bears since they first arrived in the Tetonia area on Oct. 28. Officers and biologists canvassed neighborhoods on a daily basis visiting with homeowners to make them aware of the bears' presence. Staff also provided information on the proper storage of attractants in an effort to prevent the bears from gaining human food rewards from trash or other unnatural sources.

Unfortunately, Data from the GPS collar and on the ground observations showed the sow and cubs continued to spend a considerable amount of time next to houses, making them a significant human safety concern. Though euthanization is never a desired outcome, given there were no relocation sites in Idaho that were far enough from human populations and because of consistent habituation, and the associated human risk, it was determined that these bears should be removed from the population.

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks,Jim](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:02:34 PM
Attachments: [TGB - group edits FWS.docx](#)

Thank you Jim for the opportunity to review and provide input. Please see attached our recommended edits after working with our Idaho and Regional Office Public Affairs Officers.

Be well,

~S~

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Euthanization is never a desired outcome. However, there were no relocation sites available in Idaho and because of consistent habituation and potential for human risk, IDFG determined these bears should be removed from the population.

Idaho Fish and Game conferred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the process.

The sow grizzly and cubs first became a public safety concern this fall in the Mammoth area of Yellowstone National Park where they frequented and exhibited habituation to developed residential areas. After leaving the park, the grizzlies ended up in Gardiner, Montana, where they again became a human safety concern, spending much of their time foraging next to homes.

On October 17, all three bears were relocated south of West Yellowstone, Montana. A GPS collar placed on the sow showed the bears moved south making their way through Wyoming and Idaho before settling and spending the last several weeks in rural residential areas east of Tetonia. Data from the GPS collar and on-the-ground observations showed the sow and cubs continued to spend a considerable amount of time near human populations.

In the interest of public safety, Idaho Fish and Game personnel spent a tremendous amount of time and effort keeping tabs on the bears since they first arrived in the Tetonia area on Oct. 28. Officers and biologists canvassed neighborhoods on a daily basis visiting with homeowners to make them aware of the bears' presence. Staff also provided information on the proper storage of attractants in an effort to prevent the bears from gaining human food rewards from trash or other unnatural sources.

From: [Fredericks,Jim](#)
To: [Fisher, Sandi](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:23:30 PM

Thanks to both of you, and thanks for the difficult conversation earlier. I am confident that once the dust has settled on this, we can collectively review how we handled the situation (including our interagency communications) and do better next time.

Have a good weekend.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Thank you Jim for the opportunity to review and provide input. Please see attached our recommended edits after working with our Idaho and Regional Office Public Affairs Officers.

Be well,

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)

Acting State Supervisor

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office

4425 Burley Drive, Suite A

Chubbuck, Idaho 83202

208-237-6975 x 102 (O)

208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TGB - JF edits

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Hi Sandi and Hilary

here you go. I don't have Ben's email, so forward it to him if necessary. Thanks

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Fisher, Sandi](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Cc: [Hogan, Matt](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Marj\)](#)
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 7:15:42 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[idfg logo icon.png](#)

Thanks, Sandi. Interesting. Either way, thanks again to everyone for the communication and support throughout.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-214-0497

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 7:06:50 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

FYI...looks like the press release hit just a bit ago. Most of our recommended edits were incorporated.



Grizzly sow and cubs euthanized near Tetonia after becoming habituated to populated areas
idfg.idaho.gov

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 10, 2022, at 6:59 PM, Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov> wrote:

I am not aware of anything yet.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:42:30 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

Ok. Has this broken in the press?

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From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:41:38 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

Not that I'm aware of

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Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

Has a state ever removed a bear without approval?

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From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 3:04:44 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia bears

Hi Matt,

Just received a call from IDFG Regional Supervisor, Matt Pieron. IDFG was unable to dart the bear and chose to lethally remove it. I asked what had changed that required an urgent need to remove it without authorization from us. He said that it was a human safety issue and was unwilling to argue with me beyond that. I asked for a debrief with leadership. He agreed to set something up.

From: Cooley, Hilary
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Nelson, Marjorie (Marj) <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia bears

Update for Martha...

A female grizzly bear with two cubs of the year was relocated from Gardiner, MT, to near West Yellowstone and recently moved to near Tetonia, ID. Bears are habituated but have never been in conflict or acted aggressively towards humans. IDFG is uncomfortable with the bears remaining close to Tetonia. They are feeding in riparian areas, presumably feeding on hawthorn, and venturing out into more open areas, presumably in search of other foods (see map below-Tetonia is just off map to the west). I

DFG was uncomfortable with the bears close (3miles) to Tetonia, and requested approval to remove due to human safety. Based on her high level of comfort around people, her repeated selection for food sources in around houses, and on the lack of response to multiple hazing efforts and a relocation effort, we gave permission to remove the sow if captured. We indicated our desire to find potential relocation options for the cubs. Neither IDFG nor Yellowstone were willing to take the cubs. We expressed our opinion that COYs were not a threat to human safety (based on conversations with multiple agency bear managers) and that we would like to consider alternative options to removal. Idaho Fish and Game said if the bears continued to move towards Tetonia (now about 3 miles west of their location), they did not view capture as a viable option and were only willing to lethally remove the bears. If we did not give them permission to do so, they said they would pull back all resources, and require us to come remove the bears.

We stated our displeasure with the position they were putting us in and our desire for all additional options to be considered, but ultimately gave IDFG permission to remove all three bears if they were convinced it was their only option, based on having no available relocation options. We offered additional personnel to help on the ground but were told they had it covered. That evening we heard from Grand Teton NP that relocation might be an option, pending approval from park officials. Shortly after that conversation, we received word that IDFG had removed the sow and one cub and were monitoring the remaining cub.

On Wednesday morning, we reached out to IDFG with this information and asked them to either capture or free-dart the cub given this new potential option. Idaho Fish and Game said they were going to move ahead with lethal removal if they could not safely dart the bear. We said this cub did not pose an immediate or demonstrable threat to human safety and were no longer authorizing the removal of the cub given a potential relocation option. We requested time to explore all available options. At that point

IDFG personnel expressed their displeasure with our stance, said as far they were concerned the conversation was over, and after indicating we would hear from higher IDFG officials, ended the call.

Since that time, we have continued our communication with personnel from GTNP and Wyoming Game and Fish, still with the hopes of capturing the remaining cub. We have also been in contact with Sandi Fisher (IFWO), who has been in contact with personnel from the IDFG Director's office. Our understanding is that IDFG is now willing to try and capture the cub through additional means, including resetting traps if free-darting does not work in the current location. We are currently waiting to hear back directly from IDFG or from Sandi. We are concurrently continuing to coordinate with GTNP on potential relocation efforts and have also reached out to several approved zoos about potential placement if relocation is not an option.

(b) (6)

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Norman, Kate](#); [Bush, Jodi](#)
Cc: [Turner, Ally](#); [Lawrence, Brent A](#); [Holm, Jason](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tetonia bears
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2022 7:26:46 PM
Attachments: [idfg logo icon.png](#)
[image.png](#)

FYI of my message below...IDFG press release hit the streets and it appears most of our recommended edits were incorporated.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fisher, Sandi" <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Date: November 10, 2022 at 7:06:50 PM MST
To: "Cooley, Hilary" <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: "Hogan, Matt" <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>, "Jimenez, Benjamin S" <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>, "Nelson, Marjorie (Marj)" <marjorie_nelson@fws.gov>
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(b) (6)

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: YES agency update
Date: Friday, November 11, 2022 6:37:48 PM

Thanks Hilary - nothing additional from me. Side note, do you want me to reach out to Adam and Tyler and give them a heads up on the Tetonia bear incident?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 11, 2022, at 11:15 AM, Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov> wrote:

Potential Updates for YES:

1. Petition Status - I'm hoping that we can say petition responses are in review - it would be nice to give a new answer to show that we are making progress. Not sure if HQ will allow, but I'll ask.
2. NCE - NPS and FWS announced the initiation of a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to evaluate options for restoring and managing grizzly bears in the North Cascades of Washington, where the animals once thrived. The EIS process will identify a range of alternatives for restoring the bears to the mountainous region to support the recovery and eventual delisting of grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act in the contiguous United States. The agencies will also examine a 10(j) experimental population designation, which would give local land managers additional flexibility.
3. In July, FWS on boarded 5 new Grizzly Bear conflict positions. While these positions were established to assist states with conflict response, the majority of their time was spent conducting Information and Education programs, and working on conflict prevention projects. To ensure consistency and coordination, we'd like to offer staff to participate on the IEO.

Other topics for updates?

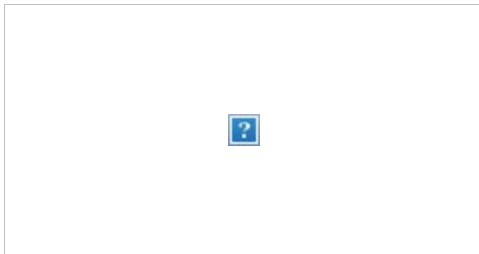
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: YES agency update
Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022 11:40:50 AM

Yeah, here's a fuller version of the story that includes some quotes from residents... Things like "“That [Fish and Game] decided on their own and that she was deemed a threat, that’s the part that most of us don’t understand. If the bears didn’t do anything, why was she euthanized?””

https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/local/idaho-authorities-kill-female-griz-and-two-cubs/article_af259fab-9401-5d0a-a6e9-2bb05c2cd3c6.html



Idaho authorities kill female griz and two cubs

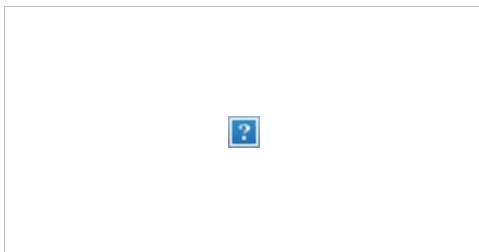
A female grizzly bear and her two yearling cubs were killed this week by Idaho Fish and Game in the rural northeast corner of Teton County, Idaho. Fish and Game officials said Friday that the ...

www.jhnewsandguide.com

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: YES agency update

Yes, I'll reach out on Monday.

Just saw this: https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/the_hole_scroll/idaho-authorities-kill-female-griz-and-two-cubs/article_967df7b7-a651-5e68-8205-345cbddb1803.html



Idaho authorities kill female griz and two cubs

The Idaho Fish and Game euthanized a sow grizzly and two cubs this week near homes in the Teton area northwest of Driggs. This photo of the female grizzly with her year-old cubs was taken at the ...

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 6:37 PM

To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: YES agency update

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Sent from my iPhone

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Other topics for updates?

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Tetonia sow and cubs
Date: Sunday, November 13, 2022 6:06:16 PM

Any thoughts on any kind of response? Or just see how things continue to develop? Has Matt weighed in any more on any of this?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 13, 2022, at 3:00 PM, Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov> wrote:

Many emails like this coming in...

From: (b) (6) net (b) (6) .net>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tetonia sow and cubs

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Ms. Cooley,

I was distressed to read about the sow and 2 cubs who were recently killed near Tetonia, ID. Now it is a crime for bears to eat berries near neighborhoods?

Supposedly the residents were warned of the bears' presence, but a woman who lives there said no one she knew had heard anything. And, Tetonia is not a big town, word would spread quickly.

Those animals were probably within days of denning with the cold and snow this area has received lately. Would it have been so difficult to let them do that?

USFWS and the state wildlife agencies seem to only see the threat in bears' proximity to humans, whereas so many sows and cubs are used to being around people, and probably not a threat at all if people don't do stupid things like leave garbage out.

It is the humans who need to be educated about leaving garbage, bird feeders, barbecues, etc., out, and fined heavily if they do. The USFWS and state agencies

could spend way more time and funds educating the public about living with grizzlies, instead of spending time and money in killing them.

More places also need to be found for re-location, and more effort made to do that.

I hope that with the weather MT, ID and WY are currently having that the majority of bears have denned, and we won't lose anymore to hunters or state agencies and the USFWS.

Sincerely,
Sharon Sutherland
Belgrade, MT

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Contact re: Tetonia Grizzly Bear
Date: Monday, November 14, 2022 9:55:03 AM

Hi Ben and Hilary. Just following up on my conversation with Ben and how to handle calls coming in about the Tetonia bear. There was a message on the answering machine at Camas National Wildlife Refuge (near Idaho Falls) from Mike Abbott (208) (b) (6) and he was wanting to talk with a US Fish and Wildlife person that has knowledge of the sow grizzly and cubs that were put down by IDFG in Tetonia.

Side note, we're still trying to coordinate with Brent and Jason (our Regional EA folks) as well - as soon as we hear back from them, I'll let you know what their thoughts on our messaging, etc.

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: timeline
Date: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:27:06 PM
Attachments: [Tetonia Event Log_SF.docx](#)

Here are my edits.

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: timeline

A start...

Sandi & Ben: need your input

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

Tetonia events

Monday, 11/7/2022

0910 –Curtis Hendricks called Hilary C expressing that IDFG RS was concerned about human safety. He spent Saturday watching the bears walk driveways and come close to humans and residences and decided that a management action was needed.

Thursday, 11/11/2022

09:21-following a call from Ben expressing concern about a conversation he had with Matt P, Sandi reached out to IDFG in Boise to get more information. Her first call was at 09:37 to Toby Bodreau. Toby indicated he wasn't involved in the situation and had no information, suggested I call Jon R. At 09:40, Sandi called Jon R and reached his voicemail; left a message with a request to call back.

10:17-Sandi received a voicemail from a call forwarded from her office phone from Jim Fredricks wanting to discuss a 'grizzly bear situation' and 'some conversations between our various staff and some disagreement'. Sandi then got a direct call from Jim on her cell phone shortly thereafter and Sandi and Jim discussed the situation. On that call, Sandi relayed to Jim her conversation with Ben – that Ben had notified Matt P that GTNP was willing to take the bear cub and that IDFG was no longer authorized to kill the bear. Jim relayed that he understood the Park hadn't confirmed acceptance of the bear, so that was still an unknown. Sandi told Jim she'd double-check that, and if that were the case, would get back to him.

10:25-Sandi spoke with Ben who confirmed that final approval by the Park superintendent hadn't been rec'd yet, but that it was likely they would take it. He thought a final decision on acceptance of the cub by Teton would be made by late morning or early afternoon, but that if IDFG captured the bear prior to having a final decision, that he would mobilize a crew from Jackson to pick the bear up from IDFG.

10:32-Sandi called Jim F. and confirmed with him that final approval still had not been received by the Park, but that if IDFG were able to dart and capture the bear, Ben would immediately send a crew over to pick the bear up. Jim relayed that the bear was in a heavy thicket and the dogs were unable to get close enough to tree it. He stated they were going to try to get additional dogs to see if they could move the bear. If they are unsuccessful, they will back off and set a trap and attempt to capture it tonight.

10:42-Sandi rec'd a text message from Jon R stating he was sorry he missed my call, he had just left Jim F's office and got a briefing, and stated he "...hopes it works out".

14:30 –Matt Pieron called Hilary C stating that they attempted to dart the bear and were unsuccessful, so shot the bear. "We had no choice."

14:52-Jim F texted Sandi F to let her know that their staff euthanized the second cub. He stated "though our preferred course was to dart it, unfortunately it went high into a tree. Staff attempted to get a dart into it, but were unable."

15:30 – Conference call with Boise – short debrief and discussion about press release. Attendees - FWS: Sandi F, Ben J, Hilary C; IDFG: Ed S, Jon R, Jim F, Matt P

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 10:15:23 AM

Hi Jim. Yes, my apologies, we were assuming we'd travel to Boise - I neglected to mention that.

~ S ~

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Thanks Sandi. I'm checking and will get back to you as soon as I hear. Would the FWS staff be willing to come to Boise? You too have a great Thanksgiving!

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hi Jim. Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I talked to Hilary and Ben and the week of the 9th is all that we can make work of those two weeks. Either the afternoon of the 9th (preferred) or the morning of the 13th. Would either of those times work for you and your folks?

If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Sandi,

The carcasses have been disposed of consistent with the process we've used on the other lethal removals. That is, the skulls and claws were removed to be destroyed and the remainder of the carcasses were taken to the landfill.

As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hi Jim. I wanted to follow-up with you on a couple of items related to the Tetonia grizzly bear incident. First and foremost, our Grizzly Bear Recovery Program needs to know what happened to the bear carcasses. With Matt out, do you know what the final disposition of those were? Second, as we chatted briefly about the other day, it'd be good to have an after-action of sorts, so that we can have more effective communication and clear path forward for when this situation comes up in the future. I was hoping for a smaller group of folks at the

leadership level, just so we can keep the conversation efficient and productive. Would likely be myself, Hilary Cooley and Ben Jimenez from FWS. In thinking about potential agenda items, maybe we include:

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Relocation sites

I understand Idaho is not supportive of relocating bears outside of recovery areas, but I'm wondering if there is a conversation we can have about suitable areas within recovery areas (including areas MT and WY may designate that are near the ID border).

It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

Tetonia events

Monday, 11/7/2022

0910 –Curtis Hendricks called Hilary C expressing that IDFG RS was concerned about human safety. He spent Saturday watching the bears walk driveways and come close to humans and residences and decided that a management action was needed.

10:51 – Ben Jimenez spoke with Curtis and was briefed on the situation outside of Tetonia. Curtis asked about potential options, including removal of the bears. Given the time of year and current weather, Ben and Curtis discussed the possibility giving the bears more time to see if they would simply move on and den up on their own. However, given their proximity to people and the town of Tetonia, IDFG did not feel like waiting was a viable option. Ben said he would like to talk to people familiar with these bears (FWP and YNP) and gather more information.

12:54 – Ben spoke with the FWP bear manager who had captured and relocated the sow and cubs to make sure he understood the previous concerns surrounding the sow and her cubs, the sow's previous behavior, and previous efforts to mitigate these concerns (e.g., hazing).

13:21 – Ben left a message for YNP bear specialists.

17:33 – Ben spoke with Matt Pieron, IDFG Regional Supervisor. Matt reiterated IDFGs concern over human safety and asked about removing the bears. Ben told Matt he was trying to gather more information on the sow before deciding about potential removal but gave permission to set traps. Matt indicated IDFG did not want to relocate the sow within Idaho and asked if Yellowstone would be an option. Ben told Matt he would try and find out and they agreed to speak again Tuesday morning.

Tuesday, 11/8/2022

Note: Because this bear had been instrumented with a GPS collar allowing for remote uploading of GPS data, Ben and Hilary were able to view the GPS collar locations since these bears arrived in the area. Upon viewing these locations on Tuesday, it was clear that while there were some locations in fields and close to houses, the large majority of GPS locations were associated with riparian corridors in this area.

10:22 – Ben Spoke with YNP officials about the possibility of taking either all three bears, or at least the two cubs if IDFG was able to capture them. Park officials said they would discuss the request internally and get back to Ben.

10:52 – Ben Spoke to Matt Pieron. Matt informed Ben the capture efforts had been unsuccessful, and that the bears had moved further west, closer to Tetonia. Matt indicated the bears were now within 2.5-3 miles of town, and that IDFG was concerned about allowing the bears to get any closer to town. Matt requested additional options for the removal of at least the female, if not all three bears. Ben authorized removal of the female given her history and apparent comfort level around people, as well as multiple hazing efforts and a relocation that failed to affect her behavior. However, Ben indicated USFWS would like to look for relocation options for the cubs given the time of year (late fall) and previous conversations with multiple grizzly bear managers and biologists on the subject. Matt was initially open

to the possibility of relocating the cubs, but skeptical of doing so in Idaho. Ben told Matt he had spoken to YNP about the possibility of relocating cubs inside the park and was waiting to hear back. Matt expressed frustration about being asked to wait on an answer, and again stated his concern over allowing the bears to potentially move closer to town. Ben offered USFWS Grizzly Bear staff for added ground support, but Matt indicated they had it covered.

11:34 – Ben spoke to YNP bear management biologists to gather additional background information on the sow and her cubs, and to discuss the possibility of relocating the two cubs. Bear biologists and park officials continued to discuss the request.

12:23-13:10 – Ben had multiple conversations with Matt Pieron. Matt provided updates on the bears and again indicated IDFG was recommending removal of at least the female if not all three. Ben repeated he was authorizing removal of the female, but still looking at options for the cubs. Matt reiterated IDFGs concern for human safety and unwillingness to relocate the cubs within Idaho. Ben told Matt that USFWS did not consider cubs of the year to be an imminent threat to human safety and that he was still waiting to hear back from YNP. Matt again expressed frustration over what he saw as federal agencies taking longer to reach decisions while IDFG was in a position requiring immediate decisions. I stated that we had authorized the removal of the sow given IDFG's concerns for human safety but reiterated we did not consider the cubs a threat to human safety. Ben asked to include IDFG's regional Grizzly Bear Biologist in the conversation. Matt was initially hesitant to include the biologist. He stated the biologist was a direct report to him, and all decisions came through him. Matt asked what Ben hoped to get from the biologist that he was not getting from him. Ben clarified that I did not expect the biologist to make any decisions but thought the input from their own Grizzly Bear Biologists would be beneficial given his experience with grizzly bears in general, and in that area specifically. Matt eventually agreed to try and get the biologist on a conference call.

Ben was eventually able to speak with Matt Pieron and the biologist on a conference call. Matt again reiterated the recommendation to remove at least the female if not all three bears and IDFGs unwillingness to relocate the cubs within Idaho. Ben reiterated that USFWS did not consider cubs of the year to be an imminent threat to human safety. Matt also indicated IDFGs concern these cubs would pose future conflicts if left on the landscape. Ben indicated he understood that concern and was not trying to minimize the concern or the potential effort required to deal with these bears if they were to get into conflict in the future. However, Ben stated that those concerns were an unknown and did not warrant removal of the cubs at this point. Ben again offered USFWS Grizzly Bear staff to help IDFG on the ground, but the that offer was again declined. Ben again stated he was still waiting to hear back from YNP about the cubs, and that USFWS not authorizing removal if there was a potential relocation site available.

13:14 – Ben received word from YNP that they were unable to take the cubs.

13:30 – Ben informed Matt Pieron YNP was unable to take the cubs. Matt indicated IDFG would continue monitoring the bears in the hopes they would leave the area, but requested permission to remove the bears if they continued moving towards town and if the opportunity to do so safely presented itself. Ben indicated USFWS was not in favor of removing the cubs, that USFWS did not agree the cubs represented a risk to human safety, and requested IDFG explore all possible options. However, if no relocation sites were available, and IDFG had exhausted all options and honestly believed the bears represented a significant threat to human safety, USFWS would authorize IDFG to remove the bears.

Wednesday, 11/9/2022

15:06 – Hilary and Ben spoke with Toby Boudreau, IDFG Wildlife Bureau Chief. Toby had been unaware of the situation, and seemed surprised at the urgency to remove the cubs. Toby indicated he would ask IDFG Headquarters in Boise to try and find out if there was additional pressure on Matt Pieron to seek removal. Toby also asked if GTNP might be an option for relocating the cubs if they were captured.

17:44 –GTNP biologists informed Hilary they might be open to taking the cubs, but would have to check with park officials in the morning.

18:15 – Ben spoke with Matt Pieron to find out the status of the bears and to let Matt know GTNP might be able to take the cubs (now cub). Matt informed Ben that the female and one cub had been removed. Matt asked Ben and USFWS to hold off on putting word out about the removal of the female and cub out of concern for his people still on the ground. Ben told Matt he had to inform several of his superiors, but that USFWS would not put out any press releases. Ben said he would reach out to GTNP in the morning and let Matt know what he found out. Matt said his folks would leave the traps open in an attempt to capture the remaining cub and would otherwise monitor the cub overnight in the hopes it would leave on its own.

Thursday, 11/10/2022

08:22 – Ben and Hilary received word GTNP biologists were open to taking the remaining cub and were discussing the possibility with park officials.

08:24 – Ben spoke with Matt Pieron to get an update on the remaining cub and to let Matt know there was now a potential relocation site available. Matt said they were trying to assess their options given the cubs location and accumulating snow, but that they were open to continuing trapping efforts if logistically possible.

08:42 – Ben spoke with Hilary about the GTNP relocation possibility and about moving to capture only options for IDFG.

8:55-8:57 – Ben exchanged text messages with Matt Pieron asking Matt about the possibility of free-darting. Matt responded that they had considered it, and Ben replied that USFWS did not want to move forward with removing the cub now that GTNP might be an option. Ben offered more USFWS help, if necessary, given this development.

08:59 – Ben spoke with Matt Pieron. Matt indicated his people had equipment to attempt free darting the cub and would make every effort to do so if the opportunity presented itself. However, he stated if they were unable to safely dart the bear, he was instructing his people to remove the bear. Ben told Matt USFWS was no longer authorizing the removal of the bear since a potential relocation site had become available. Matt again stated that IDFG viewed this bear as a threat to human safety and that he could not allow the bear to remain in the area. Ben reiterated that USFWS did not consider this remaining cub a threat to human safety and that there was no immediate need to remove the bear. Matt said that in his mind the conversation had already been had and the decision had already been made. Ben explained that previous conversations and previous decisions had been based on having no relocation sites were available at that point. However, there was now a relocation site available, and

USFWS was therefore no longer authorizing the removal of the bear. Matt asked if GTNP had explicitly stated they would take the bear or if it was just potential. Ben indicated they were still awaiting final approval from park officials, but either way USFWS would have someone on site to collect the bear if IDFG could dart or capture it, and USFWS and GTNP would take it from there. Matt said he was not going to argue about this anymore, that Ben or Hilary would be hearing from his superiors, and that as far as he was concerned the conversation was over. Matt then hung up.

09:21-following a call from Ben expressing concern about a conversation he had with Matt P, Sandi reached out to IDFG in Boise to get more information. Her first call was at 09:37 to Toby Bodreau. Toby indicated he wasn't involved in the situation and had no information, suggested I call Jon R. At 09:40, Sandi called Jon R and reached his voicemail; left a message with a request to call back.

10:17-Sandi received a voicemail from a call forwarded from her office phone from Jim Fredricks wanting to discuss a 'grizzly bear situation' and 'some conversations between our various staff and some disagreement'. Sandi then got a direct call from Jim on her cell phone shortly thereafter and Sandi and Jim discussed the situation. On that call, Sandi relayed to Jim her conversation with Ben – that Ben had notified Matt P that GTNP was willing to take the bear cub and that IDFG was no longer authorized to kill the bear. Jim relayed that he understood the Park hadn't confirmed acceptance of the bear, so that was still an unknown. Sandi told Jim she'd double-check that, and if that were the case, would get back to him.

10:25-Sandi spoke with Ben who confirmed that final approval by the Park superintendent hadn't been rec'd yet, but that it was likely they would take it. He thought a final decision on acceptance of the cub by Teton would be made by late morning or early afternoon, but that if IDFG captured the bear prior to having a final decision, that he would mobilize a crew from Jackson to pick the bear up from IDFG.

10:32-Sandi called Jim F. and confirmed with him that final approval still had not been received by the Park, but that if IDFG were able to dart and capture the bear, Ben would immediately send a crew over to pick the bear up. Jim relayed that the bear was in a heavy thicket and the dogs were unable to get close enough to tree it. He stated they were going to try to get additional dogs to see if they could move the bear. If they are unsuccessful, they will back off and set a trap and attempt to capture it tonight.

10:42-Sandi rec'd a text message from Jon R stating he was sorry he missed my call, he had just left Jim F's office and got a briefing, and stated he "...hopes it works out".

14:30 –Matt Pieron called Hilary C stating that they attempted to dart the bear and were unsuccessful, so shot the bear. "We had no choice."

14:52-Jim F texted Sandi F to let her know that their staff euthanized the second cub. He stated "though our preferred course was to dart it, unfortunately it went high into a tree. Staff attempted to get a dart into it, but were unable."

15:30 – Conference call with Boise – short debrief and discussion about press release. Attendees - FWS: Sandi F, Ben J, Hilary C; IDFG: Ed S, Jon R, Jim F, Matt P

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Re: timeline
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:18:13 PM
Attachments: [Tetonia Event Log_SF_BJ.docx](#)

I think this is good. I accepted edits. Attached here.

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: timeline

OK. I think I covered each of those points. Have a look, and let me know what you think.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 7:35 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: timeline

Thanks Ben. Looks pretty good, but I'll take a closer look today.

A few things:

-would be good to add the times we offered Becca to help haze, etc. Didn't we offer this early on in the hopes that they would move on and decide to den?

-probably should put in there that the bear had a collar, which indicated she was sticking very close to the riparian corridor and eating natural foods. We also knew right where they were and could see that they were occasionally venturing out, walking near houses, but we saw no evidence of a conflict.

-Before authorizing removal, didn't we urge IDFG to give it some time due to the time of year (they would likely den soon)?

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 8:53 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: timeline

I added my own timeline of conversations and such between Monday and Thursday morning. I did not include the multitude of conversations I had with GTNP, WGF, Matt Hogan, or either of you two throughout the day on Thursday. If either of you think any or all of those would be important to include, let me know and I will add them as best I can. Hilary, since you were involved directly or by proximity in many of the conversations Monday and Tuesday, can you please have a look and make sure my recollections line up with yours? If anything in there seems out of order or confusing, let me know and we can address those as well.

Either way, thanks a bunch to both of you.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: timeline

Here are my edits.

~S~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-237-6975 x 102 (O)
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: timeline

A start...

Sandi & Ben: need your input

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Cc: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: Debrief
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:46:58 AM

I can do 8-9. Is that too early for either of you?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2022, at 9:24 AM, Jimenez, Benjamin S
<benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov> wrote:

Yes, thanks.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-214-0497

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:17:47 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi
<sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: Debrief

Trying to set up a time early next week to debrief.
Does Monday 11/21 before 10am work for you both?

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Cc: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: Debrief
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 10:02:16 AM

That's totally fine. Not sure we need more than a half hour. How about we shoot for 8:30-9:00.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2022, at 9:50 AM, Jimenez, Benjamin S
<benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov> wrote:

I am usually dropping off a kiddo at 8:15. Could we do 8:20? Or you two can get started and I can join in a little late.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Debrief

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Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2022, at 9:24 AM, Jimenez, Benjamin S
<benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov> wrote:

Yes, thanks.

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish & Wildlife Service

406-214-0497

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:17:47 AM

To: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Subject: Debrief

Trying to set up a time early next week to debrief.

Does Monday 11/21 before 10am work for you both?

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Morrison, Hugh R](#)
Cc: [Norman, Kate](#); [Bush, Jodi](#)
Subject: Re: community meeting in Tetonia on Sunday?
Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 6:43:34 PM

Understood - will do, Hugh.

Thanks, Sandi

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2022, at 6:39 PM, Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov> wrote:

Thanks Sandi. I think it is worth letting IDFG know.

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Pacific Region One
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)

I live and work in the traditional homelands of the Chinook, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, and Wasco people who have made their homes along the lower Columbia River for thousands of years.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>
Cc: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: community meeting in Tetonia on Sunday?

Also, as an aside, our PAO just flagged this: https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/idaho-lawmakers-follow-up-on-petition-to-delist-grizzlies/article_8f7e1462-66d0-11ed-9101-53b906f93b36.html

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2022, at 5:58 PM, Fisher, Sandi

<sandi_fisher@fws.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)



Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2022, at 5:46 PM, Morrison, Hugh R
<hugh_morrison@fws.gov> wrote:

Sorry - One last question: Does Matt/IDFG know that
Hilary is attending the meeting?

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Pacific Region One
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)

*I live and work in the traditional homelands of the Chinook,
Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah,
and Wasco people who have made their homes along the lower
Columbia River for thousands of years.*

From: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi
<jodi_bush@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: community meeting in Tetonia on Sunday?

Sandi,

Thanks for this additional information. [REDACTED]

Have a great weekend!

Hugh

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Pacific Region One
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)


I live and work in the traditional homelands of the Chinook, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya, Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, and Wasco people who have made their homes along the lower Columbia River for thousands of years.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>
Cc: Norman, Kate <Kate_Norman@fws.gov>; Bush, Jodi <jodi_bush@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: community meeting in Tetonia on Sunday?

Hi Hugh. Yes, there were a few people that commented on the Tetonia bear issue; some community members, some members of NGO (Sierra Club). Hilary called me this morning and told me about the invite; they invited her and the regional supervisor for IDFG (Matt Pieron). Matt declined the invite due to other commitments. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)



Be well, Sandi

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2022, at 4:51 PM, Morrison,
Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov> wrote:

Sandi,

I understand that during the GYE
Subcommittee meeting this week, there was
a public statement provided by one of the
residents of Tetonia and that Hilary agreed
to attend a community meeting in Tetonia
on Sunday. It would be great to get your
perspective of how that meeting might go.

Thanks,

Hugh

Hugh Morrison
Acting Regional Director
Pacific Region One
911 NE 11th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
(503) 231-2282
(he/him/his)

*I live and work in the traditional homelands of the
Chinook, Clackamas, Cowlitz, Kalapuya,
Kathlamet, Molalla, Multnomah, and Wasco
people who have made their homes along the
lower Columbia River for thousands of years.*

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Hogan, Matt](#); [Morrison, Hugh R](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Cc: [Lyon, Rebecca J](#)
Subject: Tetonia Meeting
Date: Sunday, November 20, 2022 7:31:36 PM

Hi everyone,

Becca and I attended the Tetonia meeting tonight. There were 12-15 community members in attendance. Meeting lasted ~2 hrs. People were angry and frustrated about what happened, but very respectful and calm. Becca and I mostly listened. We answered questions about what they can do to prevent this from happening again, how to get IDFG to take their perspective more seriously, and how does the conflict decision process work. I was asked if protocols were followed, and I said I'd rather not get into that.

Having USFWS attend the meeting clearly meant alot to the community and well worth our time.

-Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Bush, Jodi](#); [Norman, Kate](#)
Subject: Fw: Tetonia Meeting
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 6:14:32 AM

FYSA...

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2022 7:31 PM
To: Hogan, Matt <Matt_Hogan@fws.gov>; Morrison, Hugh R <hugh_morrison@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Lyon, Rebecca J <rebecca_lyon@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Meeting

Hi everyone,

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Having USFWS attend the meeting clearly meant alot to the community and well worth our time.

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Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia meeting
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 4:43:16 PM

Hi Jim,

Hi Jim,

Becca Lyon (Becca is our conflict specialist in Jackson) and I attended the Tetonia meeting. There were 12-15 community members in attendance. Meeting lasted ~2 hrs. People were angry and frustrated about what happened, but very respectful and calm. Becca and I mostly listened. We answered some general questions about the conflict decision process, the 4d regulations, questions about what they might do to prevent this from happening again and talked about ways to get more bear aware messaging out to the public. I was asked if protocols were followed, and I said I'm not going to get into that. They respected that answer and didn't push us.

-Hilary

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
hilary_cooley@fws.gov
406-243-4903

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From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 3:55:51 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia meeting

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--

Hi Hilary,

Would you be able to give me the cliff notes version of how the meeting went yesterday and what was discussed?

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 9:13 PM

To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Subject: Tetonia meeting

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Hi Jim,

I was invited to a meeting with Tetonia community members on Sunday afternoon. It sounds like it will be small with fewer than 10 people. I plan on attending, but was clear that I don't want to get into any arguments or finger pointing. I plan on listening and providing information about conflict in general, what kinds of things people can do to prepare for bears, how can we help, etc.

I'll be traveling tomorrow, but you can reach me on my cell phone if you have concerns/questions:

(b) (6)

Grizzly Bear Recovery Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service

hilary_cooley@fws.gov

406-243-4903

From: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
To: [Hogan, Matt](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Mari\)](#); [Small, Stephen M](#); [Zerrenner, Adam](#); [Abbott, Tyler](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#); [Kasworm, Wayne](#); [Armstrong, Ron](#); [Wolgemuth, Erryl](#); [Coil, Dan](#); [Szuszwalak, Joseph A](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Conflict update
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:53:50 AM

Hi all,

Conflict season appears to be winding down. We are aware of several situations where bears are still awake and being monitored by local state agency personnel, and will respond accordingly if anything should arise. For now I will shift to bi-weekly updates, unless something of note pops up. If anyone would like more information in the interim, please don't hesitate to ask.

GBRP Conflict Update November 8 - 21

Montana

- 11/19 - FWS Conflict Specialists relocated a female cub of the year from Bigfork to an area in the Swan Valley. The cub was right in the town of Bigfork, wandering around local businesses (first reported outside one of the local bars). There was no sign of mom or other bears, but FWP Bear Managers decided it was not safe for the cub to remain in town and that a preemptive capture and relocation was the best option. The cub was in very good condition and was outfitted with a VHF eartag transmitter for sutre monitoring.
- The conflict staff attended the YES IGBC Subcommittee meeting in Bozeman. All four specialists have assisted with relocation efforts within this ecosystem, and this presented a good opportunity for the staff to introduce themselves and meet with various people within the bear world.

Wyoming

- No additional sightings of 399.
- No additional sightings of 863 and her cubs.

Idaho

- Hilary and Ben continue to work with Sandi Fisher from FWS Region 1 to follow up on the situation that unfolded outside of Tetonia during 11/7-11/10. There have been a lot of questions from the public, surrounding state agencies, both adjacent National Parks, and from within FWS about the events that ultimately led to the removal of all three bears. We have kept our comments to a minimum but

have been very transparent when asked directly. We met virtually with IDFG personnel immediately following the removals, including the Director, Deputy Director, Wildlife Bureau Chief, and the Regional Supervisor involved with the removals. We are planning an in-person meeting for early January to further discuss the situation and to ensure this does not happen in the future. Please contact Hilary or Ben with any questions or for further information.

- 11/27 - Hilary and Becca attended a public meeting in Tetonia to hear concerns and answer questions from residents. The meeting reportedly went very well, and attendees were very appreciative to have FWS in attendance.

Thanks all, and I hope everyone has a relaxing and conflict-free Thanksgiving!

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:37:58 AM

Well, other than right now, that's the only time I'm available Can you talk right now? I'm free till noon then have another call.

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 11:36 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hi Sandi,
Yes, can chat today, am around all day, only conflict is 1-2.
Thanks,
Lydia

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 6:51 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hi Lydia. I'm wondering if you might have a moment to chat today, or maybe next week, about a meeting we're scheduling with ID Dept of Fish and Game. It's related to a grizzly bear removal that occurred near Jackson, WY a couple weeks ago. There's a bit of a backstory to it, and I'd like to get your perspective.

Hope you're well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,
The carcasses have been disposed of consistent with the process we've used on the other lethal removals. That is, the skulls and claws were removed to be destroyed and the remainder of the carcasses were taken to the landfill.

As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hi Jim. I wanted to follow-up with you on a couple of items related to the Tetonia grizzly bear incident. First and foremost, our Grizzly Bear Recovery Program needs to know what happened to the bear carcasses. With Matt out, do you know what the final disposition of those were? Second, as we chatted briefly about the other day, it'd be good to have an after-action of sorts, so that we can have more effective communication and clear path forward for

when this situation comes up in the future. I was hoping for a smaller group of folks at the leadership level, just so we can keep the conversation efficient and productive. Would likely be myself, Hilary Cooley and Ben Jimenez from FWS. In thinking about potential agenda items, maybe we include:

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Relocation sites

I understand Idaho is not supportive of relocating bears outside of recovery areas, but I'm wondering if there is a conversation we can have about suitable areas within recovery areas (including areas MT and WY may designate that are near the ID border).

It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Grimm, Lydia T](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 7:18:31 AM

Morning all. Looks like the IDFG team can't meet the morning of Jan 9th due to the start of the legislative session. I know the morning of the 13th wasn't ideal, but is it still doable by all? If so, what would be the best time....don't know if folks would try to fly in the night before, or morning of? Please let me know...

Thanks,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer,Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

We're all available on AM of January 13th. The 9th is the beginning of the legislative session, which may require the Director's presence. We can begin whenever works best for those who will be travelling – for now, we'll keep the entire morning available. I'll follow up with you in advance of the meeting to finalize time and agenda.

-Jim

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Tetonia bear questions
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 8:45:31 AM

From: Michael Abbott <(b) (6)>.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2022 7:56 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Tetonia bear questions

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

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

From: Michael Abbott <(b) (6)>.com>
Date: Sun, Nov 27, 2022, 7:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Tetonia bear questions
To: Tracy Walker <>.com>, John Garvey <>.com>, Jenn Fisher <>.com>, Jeanette Beard <>.com>, <>.com>, <>.com>, John and Barb Beller <>.com>, Kelly Dobbs <>.com>, <Hilary_Cooley@fws.gov>, Becca Lyon USFWS - Jackson <rebecca_lyon@fws.gov>, Don Weber <webgas@ida.net>

Fyi, from the IFG Deputy Director in Boise. Please forward to others that I don't have emails for (e.g., Tracy Stull, Hope Strong, Gary Doucette, others?).

He did say the decision to kill the bears came from the top (Director) and that they identified neighbor communication as something they needed to improve on going forward.

I responded very diplomatically telling him about our Tetonia Club meeting, and reiterating our strong feelings that they could have given these bears a little more time (esp. since the weather turned to full-on winter right after they killed them), and we don't think a lethal action is justified just based on a bear passing near homes when the bears don't show aggression or get into anything (these bears didn't). In fact, very very few people would have ever known about these bears if the mom hadn't been collared and IFG hadn't been running around like chickens worried about them.

I think the challenge we have in the future is educating a few of our neighbors (and incoming neighbors) on the relative risks these bears pose, because I think they (IFG) responded to them. It's a substantial risk like other things out here but it's not certain death like some seem to think. And I also think IFG's public safety policy should be based on demonstrated threat, not the public's perception of threat (i.e., fear). I offered a volunteer neighborhood bear "ambassador" program for IFG to help with public education/awareness of actual risks, esp

since I think one of the reasons they overreacted was the major drain on their staff during hunting season (when they should have been out checking tags). A neighborhood bear ambassador could help in reducing secondhand hearsay and fear mongering that only hurts conservation efforts. Let me know if your interested in helping with that.

I do think we made a some progress with IFG in that I don't think they expected the major blowback they got from most neighbors and think (hope) they will think twice next time before deciding to shoot.

Best,
Mike

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

From: **Fredericks,Jim** <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Date: Wed, Nov 23, 2022, 9:05 AM

Subject: Tetonia bear questions

To: Michael Abbott <(b) (6).com>

Dear Mr. Abbott:

I spoke at length with Regional Supervisor Matt Pieron following your conversation with him last week. I know Matt expressed to you how difficult the decision to lethally remove these bears (and then carry out the action) was for us at IDFG. We certainly did not make this decision lightly, and it is an outcome that saddens us as well.

These bears had been subject to hazing in Yellowstone National Park and relocated by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks because of habituation behavior after the bears left the Park. After relocation south of West Yellowstone, it didn't take long for these bears to make their way down to the valley near Tetonia near homes and other areas posing public safety risk. Despite our outreach to over 100 homes and measures to help people secure attractants, the bears did not leave the area as we had hoped they would. We certainly did not desire a lethal outcome for the bears but thought it was necessary for public safety. When this type of situation occurs, we review the events and decision-making processes that led to the bears ending up at this location in Idaho, as well as the processes and communications associated with the decision to remove the bears. Ultimately we (IDFG as well as other agencies) have the responsibility to learn what we can from this experience. Your email identified community communications as an area where we can improve.

It's my understanding that Matt's conversation with you answered most of the questions in your email. Matt also spoke with your neighbors who attended the recent Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee meeting in Bozeman and presented a letter on your behalf.

I appreciate that you and some of your neighbors are comfortable assuming a greater level of risk than others, and you view that as an acceptable trade-off for living where you do. As you recognize, there are widely varying perspectives on what level of risk people are willing to tolerate. With wildlife management, we see those perspectives evolve when they shift from the abstract to reality on the front lawn or near the school bustop. We also hear from people who are uncomfortable sharing their safety concerns publicly when they may disagree with their neighbors' views. We can't

agree to a posting telling people about forthcoming lethal action for individual bears. Experience elsewhere tells us that's not a constructive course, and it increases risks for those performing an already difficult task.

The decision to remove the bears was made after internal discussions amongst our bear experts and other IDFG staff, and after conferring with USFWS. I can't speak to who offered what perspective during those discussions, but ultimately, IDFG's Director approved the removal of the bears, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service concurred with this decision.

As Matt noted, the circumstances surrounding any incident where bears present a public safety risk are highly variable. Regardless of what is captured in policy guidance, potential risk is not something that can be objectively measured, and at some point, it is a matter of judgement. These bears would not have been in Idaho if other federal/state agencies and bear experts felt they posed no risk. These bears ended up in Idaho because they were considered a public safety risk both in Yellowstone NP, and in Gardiner MT.

As I believe Matt told you, he went to great lengths to reach out to many of the homeowners in the area once the bears had been removed to let them know of the outcome, so those closest to the situation could hear from the department first, rather than hear about it from the media.

I appreciate your sharing your concerns and your years of support for wildlife and outdoor recreation. I hope we will be able to cooperate on situations with more positive outcomes for wildlife in the future.

Jim Fredericks
Deputy Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut St. PO Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
(208) 287-2787
(c) 208-755-7455



From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Cc: [Schriever, Ed](#); [Boyer, Mary](#); [Rachael, Jon](#); [Trever, Kathleen](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 10:21:01 AM

Sounds good. Folks on this end are working out flights, etc - so we'll hold the whole morning as well. Once we fine-tune arrival/departure times for folks flying in/out, I'll circle back with you all.

Thanks,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer, Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael, Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

We're all available on AM of January 13th. The 9th is the beginning of the legislative session, which may require the Director's presence. We can begin whenever works best for those who will be travelling – for now, we'll keep the entire morning available. I'll follow up with you in advance of the meeting to finalize time and agenda.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I talked to Hilary and Ben and the week of the 9th is all that we can make work of those two weeks. Either the afternoon of the 9th (preferred) or the morning of the 13th. Would either of those times work for you and your folks?

If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,

The carcasses have been disposed of consistent with the process we've used on the other lethal removals. That is, the skulls and claws were removed to be destroyed and the remainder of the carcasses were taken to the landfill.

As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM

To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. I wanted to follow-up with you on a couple of items related to the Tetonia grizzly bear incident. First and foremost, our Grizzly Bear Recovery Program needs to know what happened to the bear carcasses. With Matt out, do you know what the final disposition of those were? Second, as we chatted briefly about the other day, it'd be good to have an after-action of sorts, so that we can have more effective communication and clear path forward for when this situation comes up in the future. I was hoping for a smaller group of folks at the leadership level, just so we can keep the conversation efficient and productive. Would likely be myself, Hilary Cooley and Ben Jimenez from FWS. In thinking about potential agenda items, maybe we include:

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
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- Relocation sites

I understand Idaho is not supportive of relocating bears outside of recovery areas, but I'm wondering if there is a conversation we can have about suitable areas within recovery areas (including areas MT and WY may designate that are near the ID border).

It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: JHNG Heads-up
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 12:56:06 PM

Hey, just wanted to let you know that Jason Holm, our EA ARD, reached out to say that he's getting more questions from that Jackson Hole News and Guide reporter about the Tetonia bears. Apparently they have had a lot of opposition to their original story, largely from Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Jason feels this should be a R6 lead so I think Hugh will be reaching out to Matt to see if R6 EA can take this. I think they want an interview (likely with you). Just didn't want you to be blindsided.

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:39:16 PM

FYI below from Jim; he provides info on the disposition of the carcasses and also asked about dates in January to meet. I cannot do the week of Jan 16th. The week of Jan 9th is also tight, but I'm available either the afternoon of Monday the 9th or the morning of the 13th. I assume we'd want to shoot for Boise. Do either of those dates work for you both - including travel to/from Boise? If not, maybe we can look later into January?

Thanks,

~ S ~

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,

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-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#)
Cc: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:49:50 AM

Hi Lydia. That isn't ideal, as by the time you get from the airport to the Fish and Game office, it would be at least 11:00 mst. Can you see if you can fly in the evening before? I think that's what Hilary and Ben are planning on.

Thanks,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

It looks like the earliest I can fly in is an 8 am pt departure with arrival at 10:17 am mt in Boise. If that's going to be too late, I can see about flying in the night before and staying over, let me know.

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Friday morning probably best for me. We could travel Thurs and Fri afternoon.

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:53 AM
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Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 12:53:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Well, I hate to jossle around your flight schedule. We have limited options, as I'm in a Management Team meeting the entire week prior. So would be difficult to have a 2nd pre-meet. Not sure what is the lesser of two evils, having you try to move your flight or having an early morning pre-meet

~ S ~

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To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

I currently don't plan on arriving in Boise until after 9 pm, but I can probably move that if you tell me what time you want me to be there Thursday. Alternatively I could do a 7:30 am Boise pre-meet but remember that's 6:30 Portland time for me, so I can't promise to be coherent, I am not a morning person.

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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 11:31:10 AM
Attachments: [apple-touch-icon-precomposed.png](#)

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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 11:59:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hilary and Ben, here's what I currently have for agenda items. Does this capture what we talked about in Bozeman last week?

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Supervisory and Communication Structure for FWS and IDFG for coordination purposes;
- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
- IDFG Conflict Specialist funding needs (statewide)

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To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Morning all. Looks like the IDFG team can't meet the morning of Jan 9th due to the start of the legislative session. I know the morning of the 13th wasn't ideal, but is it still doable by all? If so, what would be the best time....don't know if folks would try to fly in the night before, or morning of? Please let me know...

Thanks,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer, Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael, Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

We're all available on AM of January 13th. The 9th is the beginning of the legislative session, which may require the Director's presence. We can begin whenever works best for those who will be travelling – for now, we'll keep the entire morning available. I'll follow up with you in advance of the meeting to finalize time and agenda.

-Jim

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 1:51:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Not entirely sure yet who will be there from IDFG, but from previous conversations with Jim, it'd be him, Ed (though with his pending retirement, I'm not sure if that's still the case), Jon, Toby, and Kathleen. I'll confirm that with him though.

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Thanks all. I pretty much plan on showing up when and where folks tell me to, and so far all of this looks/sounds good. Do we know who will be attending on the IDFG side? (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Ben Jimenez
Conflict Coordinator
Grizzly Bear Recovery Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
406-214-0497 (cell)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 11:36 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Unless you expect topic creep, 3 hour seems like more than enough. I know we'll be doing a pre-

meet review a week before, but recommend we also allow at ½ hour for us to convene/check in on any updates/new matters just in case before we meet with IDFG.

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

If it's a relatively small group, I would guess we can cover it in 3 and hopefully less!

Thanks Sandi

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Not yet, I was holding to see what your flight schedules were like. But it sounds like everyone will be coming in the evening before. If that's the case, we could probably do 8:30-11:30...unless you think we need more than 3 hours? That would give you enough time to get to the airport by 12:00, which should be more than enough time for a 1:19 flight. Thoughts on how long we need for the meeting?

~ S ~

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Thanks Sandi.

Do we have a time set up for the meeting yet?

Wondering if we could make a return flight at 1:19?

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 9:12 AM

To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>

Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

If interested, I'll be staying at the Oxford Suites, located near our FWS office.

[Boise Hotels](#)
oxfordsuitesboise.com



Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2022, at 10:57 AM, Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Ok, wasn't sure if 11 am was out of the question. . .I will plan on doing overnight and be available for whenever on Fri. I'll let you know if any issues (we have limited travel budget FY 23).

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hi Lydia. That isn't ideal, as by the time you get from the airport to the Fish and Game office, it would be at least 11:00 mst. Can you see if you can fly in the evening before? I think that's what Hilary and Ben are planning on.

Thanks,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

It looks like the earliest I can fly in is an 8 am pt departure with arrival at 10:17 am mt in Boise. If that's going to be too late, I can see about flying in the night before and staying over, let me know.

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Friday morning probably best for me. We could travel Thurs and Fri afternoon.

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

I can do Friday 1/13 morning but will check on flight times to determine the earliest, would be nice not to do an overnight but TBD.

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 6:19 AM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM

To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Cc: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer,Mary
<mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>;
Trevor,Kathleen <kathleen.trevor@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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-Jim

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:57:27 AM

Hi Jim. Just to coordinate a bit on timing of the meeting, would 8:30-11:30 work for you and your folks? We need to firm up travel schedules for folks flying in, so just wanted to get the start/stop time narrowed. Meeting attendees from FWS would be myself, possibly Lisa Ellis (our new State Supervisor), Hilary C., Ben Jimenez, and possibly Lydia Grimm. Lydia is one of our Solicitors and would be attending if Kathleen plans to attend. A revised list of potential agenda items we might consider....

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Supervisory and Communication Structure for FWS and IDFG for coordination purposes;
- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
- IDFG Conflict Specialist funding needs (statewide)

Please let me know your thoughts on the agenda items (add/delete/modify) and your thoughts on meeting attendees.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer, Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael, Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

We're all available on AM of January 13th. The 9th is the beginning of the legislative session, which may require the Director's presence. We can begin whenever works best for those who will be travelling – for now, we'll keep the entire morning available. I'll follow up with you in advance of the

meeting to finalize time and agenda.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I talked to Hilary and Ben and the week of the 9th is all that we can make work of those two weeks. Either the afternoon of the 9th (preferred) or the morning of the 13th. Would either of those times work for you and your folks?

If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,
The carcasses have been disposed of consistent with the process we've used on the other lethal removals. That is, the skulls and claws were removed to be destroyed and the remainder of the

carcasses were taken to the landfill.

As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. I wanted to follow-up with you on a couple of items related to the Tetonia grizzly bear incident. First and foremost, our Grizzly Bear Recovery Program needs to know what happened to the bear carcasses. With Matt out, do you know what the final disposition of those were? Second, as we chatted briefly about the other day, it'd be good to have an after-action of sorts, so that we can have more effective communication and clear path forward for when this situation comes up in the future. I was hoping for a smaller group of folks at the leadership level, just so we can keep the conversation efficient and productive. Would likely be myself, Hilary Cooley and Ben Jimenez from FWS. In thinking about potential agenda items, maybe we include:

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Relocation sites

I understand Idaho is not supportive of relocating bears outside of recovery areas, but I'm wondering if there is a conversation we can have about suitable areas within recovery areas (including areas MT and WY may designate that are near the ID border).

It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Ellis, Lisa A](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:08:07 AM

FYSA regarding the Tetonia Bear After-Action meeting.... I had asked if 8:30-11:30 mst worked for them, and it sounds like it does. From Jim:

Hello Sandi,

Yes, those times work on our end. At this point, I believe we'll have myself, Ed, Toby, Jon, and Kathleen. I've invited Josh, as well from OSC, as they want to be kept in the GB loop, but I'm not sure if he'll attend yet or not. As for agenda, Frank Edelman, our Technical Services Bureau Chief been heavily involved with ITD on highway 20 wildlife crossing discussions. When he found out we were meeting, he asked if we could include 15 minutes on the agenda to get some FWS perspective on highway 20 crossing structures as related to grizzly bears. He would only be there for that portion of the meeting.

I'm fine with talking on HW20, though don't think we can dive too much into the technical on that. See below, he also wants to invite Tricia Hebdon to be there for the conflict funding discussion.

Sounds like we're also roughly figuring on this group having a breakfast check-in at 7:30 am the morning of the 13th to make sure we've talked through any last moment items. We'll need an extra shot of double espresso for Lydia . But let me know if folks end up not staying at the Oxford, in which case we'll need to pivot.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

One more addition on our side. Tricia Hebdon is the asst. wildlife chief. She's been engaged in the conflict specialist funding issue so it would be good to have her participate at least for that discussion.

From: Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Jim,

I'd like to pull Tricia in as well – she has already been working w/ FWS and regions and R1/R6 on the conflict funding needs topic.

Jon

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 12:08 PM
To: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>;
Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boudreau,Toby
<toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>
Cc: Joshua Uriarte <Joshua.Uriarte@osc.idaho.gov>; Edelmann,Frank
<frank.edelmann@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

All – see below regarding the grizzly bear meeting we have slated for January 19th. Initial purpose was to follow up on the tetonia bear removal, but Sandi would like to cover some additional topics. The intent is to keep the meeting fairly small, so I'm not planning to invite any RSs, but let's make sure we have the folks we need in the room. KT, see her note on Lydia. I don't think it would be a bad thing to have legal there from both parties. Josh – up to you on whether you want to attend.

As far as agenda items, let me know if there are additional topics to those below. Frank has suggested we have a brief discussion on highway 20 wildlife crossing structures as related to grizzly bears. Frank can elaborate on that outside of this email. For now, I'll let Sandi know the proposed time works for us and I'll follow up with any additional agenda ideas.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Please let me know your thoughts on the agenda items (add/delete/modify) and your thoughts on meeting attendees.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
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Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:09:36 AM

Sounds good, Jim. And happy to talk HW20, though don't think we can get too into the technical on that one since we won't have all the right parties there. But can at least speak to FWS perspective.

Appreciate the coordination.

If I don't talk to you before then, have a great Holiday season.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
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Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. Just to coordinate a bit on timing of the meeting, would 8:30-11:30 work for you and your folks? We need to firm up travel schedules for folks flying in, so just wanted to get the start/stop time narrowed. Meeting attendees from FWS would be myself, possibly Lisa Ellis (our new State Supervisor), Hilary C., Ben Jimenez, and possibly Lydia Grimm. Lydia is one of our Solicitors and would be attending if Kathleen plans to attend. A revised list of potential agenda items we might consider....

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Supervisory and Communication Structure for FWS and IDFG for coordination purposes;
- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
- IDFG Conflict Specialist funding needs (statewide)
- Highway 20 and wildlife crossings

Please let me know your thoughts on the agenda items (add/delete/modify) and your thoughts on meeting attendees.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM

To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Cc: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer,Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

We're all available on AM of January 13th. The 9th is the beginning of the legislative session, which may require the Director's presence. We can begin whenever works best for those who will be travelling – for now, we'll keep the entire morning available. I'll follow up with you in advance of the meeting to finalize time and agenda.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I talked to Hilary and Ben and the week of the 9th is all that we can make work of those two weeks. Either the afternoon of the 9th (preferred) or the morning of the 13th. Would either of those times work for you and your folks?

If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,

The carcasses have been disposed of consistent with the process we've used on the other lethal removals. That is, the skulls and claws were removed to be destroyed and the remainder of the carcasses were taken to the landfill.

As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that

keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hi Jim. I wanted to follow-up with you on a couple of items related to the Tetonia grizzly bear incident. First and foremost, our Grizzly Bear Recovery Program needs to know what happened to the bear carcasses. With Matt out, do you know what the final disposition of those were? Second, as we chatted briefly about the other day, it'd be good to have an after-action of sorts, so that we can have more effective communication and clear path forward for when this situation comes up in the future. I was hoping for a smaller group of folks at the leadership level, just so we can keep the conversation efficient and productive. Would likely be myself, Hilary Cooley and Ben Jimenez from FWS. In thinking about potential agenda items, maybe we include:

- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
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I understand Idaho is not supportive of relocating bears outside of recovery areas, but I'm wondering if there is a conversation we can have about suitable areas within recovery areas (including areas MT and WY may designate that are near the ID border).

It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Cooley, Hilary](#)
To: [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Fisher, Sandi](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Mari\)](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Request for information: IDFG removal of three grizzlies in Nov.
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:11:07 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NPCA_NRDC_Nov_2022_USFWS_Letter.pdf](#)

FYI...

From: Sarah Lundstrum <slundstrum@npca.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Cc: Betsy Buffington <bbuffington@npca.org>; McNamara, Amy <amcnamara@nrdc.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for information: IDFG removal of three grizzlies in Nov.

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Hi Hilary,

I hope this finds you well and Happy Holidays.

Please find attached a letter of request for more information regarding the removal of the sow and two cubs northwest of Driggs, ID in early November. I'm sending on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), please feel free to reach out for further clarification if needed, to bbuffington@npca.org and amcnamara@nrdc.org.

Thank you,
Sarah



Sarah Lundstrum (she/her)
Glacier Senior Program Manager

National Parks Conservation Association
C: 406-250-5346 | slundstrum@npca.org | npca.org

Preserving Our Past. Protecting Our Future.

*****I understand that my working hours/time zone may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal work schedule. Please note NPCA is closed on Fridays. *****

December 14, 2022

Dr. Hilary Cooley, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Montana
University Hall, Room 309
Missoula, MT, 59812

Dear Dr. Cooley:

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) request that the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provide details regarding the process and events that led to Idaho Fish and Game shooting a grizzly sow and her two cubs on the 9th and 10th of November 2022, northwest of Driggs, Idaho.

Our organizations have worked for decades at the federal, state and local level to support grizzly bear recovery in the Northern Rockies. We share some of the concerns raised by many area residents and want to understand the process and rationale that led to Idaho Fish and Game using lethal action against these grizzly bears. Depending on how this management action occurred, it could have implications for grizzly bear management across Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Specifically, we request that the Service answer the following questions in a timely manner:

- What offense did these bears commit that justified their lethal removal?
- Was the lethal removal of this sow and two cubs in accordance with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines and the Grizzly Bear Special Rule (50 CFR 17.40)? If so, please explain how.
- Did Idaho Fish and Game request and receive written or oral approval from the Service for lethal action? Who from the state agency made that request?
- Who within the Service approved the specific request from Idaho Fish and Game to kill these bears? Who in the Service verified the reasons given by the state agency to justify this lethal action? What internal process did the Service follow to reach the decision to kill these grizzlies?

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Buffington
Northern Rockies Director
National Parks Conservation Association
bbuffington@npca.org | 406-579-2196

Amy McNamara
Northern Rockies Director
Natural Resources Defense Council
amcnamara@nrdc.org | 406-581-7962

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Ellis, Lisa A](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:18:13 AM

Ok, perfect. Lydia confirmed she'd be at the Oxford as well. Lisa and I will be in Boise all week for a Management Group meeting, and it should end early enough on Thursday for me to pick you and Ben up. We can plan on that.

~ S ~

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:35 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Ellis, Lisa A <Lisa_Ellis@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Thanks Sandi.

I have no problem talking about hwy 20.

Ben and I will be at Oxford Suites. Flight arrives Boise 4:30 on Thurs and departs at 1:20 on Fri. What is your schedule? Wondering if we can get an airport pickup? No problem if not - we'll get an Uber.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Ellis, Lisa A <Lisa_Ellis@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

FYSA regarding the Tetonia Bear After-Action meeting.... I had asked if 8:30-11:30 mst worked for them, and it sounds like it does. From Jim:

Hello Sandi,

Yes, those times work on our end. At this point, I believe we'll have myself, Ed, Toby, Jon, and Kathleen. I've invited Josh, as well from OSC, as they want to be kept in the GB loop, but I'm not sure if he'll attend yet or not. As for agenda, Frank Edelman, our Technical Services Bureau Chief been heavily involved with ITD on highway 20 wildlife crossing discussions. When he found out we were meeting, he asked if we could include 15 minutes on the agenda to get some FWS perspective on highway 20 crossing structures as related to grizzly bears. He would only be there for that portion of the meeting.

I'm fine with talking on HW20, though don't think we can dive too much into the technical on that. See below, he also wants to invite Tricia Hebdon to be there for the conflict funding

discussion.

Sounds like we're also roughly figuring on this group having a breakfast check-in at 7:30 am the morning of the 13th to make sure we've talked through any last moment items. We'll need an extra shot of double espresso for Lydia . But let me know if folks end up not staying at the Oxford, in which case we'll need to pivot.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

One more addition on our side. Tricia Hebdon is the asst. wildlife chief. She's been engaged in the conflict specialist funding issue so it would be good to have her participate at least for that discussion.

From: Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Jim,

I'd like to pull Tricia in as well – she has already been working w/ FWS and regions and R1/R6 on the conflict funding needs topic.

Jon

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 12:08 PM
To: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boudreau,Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>
Cc: Joshua Uriarte <Joshua.Uriarte@osc.idaho.gov>; Edelmann, Frank <frank.edelmann@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

All – see below regarding the grizzly bear meeting we have slated for January 19th. Initial purpose was to follow up on the tetonia bear removal, but Sandi would like to cover some additional topics. The intent is to keep the meeting fairly small, so I'm not planning to invite any RSs, but let's make sure we have the folks we need in the room. KT, see her note on Lydia. I don't think it would be a bad thing to have legal there from both parties. Josh – up to you on whether you want to attend.

As far as agenda items, let me know if there are additional topics to those below. Frank has suggested we have a brief discussion on highway 20 wildlife crossing structures as related to grizzly bears. Frank can elaborate on that outside of this email. For now, I'll let Sandi know the proposed time works for us and I'll follow up with any additional agenda ideas.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:57 AM

To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Please let me know your thoughts on the agenda items (add/delete/modify) and your thoughts on meeting attendees.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer,Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
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If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

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~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,

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Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#); [Ellis, Lisa A](#)
Cc: [Melbihess, Tracy](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management
Date: Thursday, January 5, 2023 11:02:47 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sure - can do!

~ S ~

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Ellis, Lisa A <Lisa_Ellis@fws.gov>
Cc: Melbihess, Tracy <tracy_melbihess@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management

Hi Sandi,

Thanks for that context, **Exemp 5 DPP & AC**

[REDACTED]

Thanks!
Lydia

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>; Ellis, Lisa A <Lisa_Ellis@fws.gov>
Cc: Melbihess, Tracy <tracy_melbihess@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management

Good morning Lydia. Kathleen had sent that same document over to us months ago **Exemp 5 DPP/AC**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Cc: Melbihess, Tracy <tracy_melbihess@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management

FYI, Kathleen sent me a large compendium of materials, see attached. **Exemp 5 DPP/AC**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I expect to talk with her about further sometime next week before our 1/13 meeting (and she confirmed it was a typo in her email as to the meeting date).

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Grimm, Lydia T
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2022 1:50 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <Sandi_Fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Cc: Melbihess, Tracy <tracy_melbihess@fws.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management

FYSA. I'll confirm with Kathleen that I'm coming, and let you know what she sends my way.

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
US DOI-Office of the Solicitor-PNW Region
(503) 231-2174

From: Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Upcoming (January 19) meeting re grizzly bear 4d nuisance management

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or responding.

Hi Lydia—

I understand you may be the federal legal counsel attending the upcoming (January 19) meeting between Idaho and the US Fish and Wildlife Service reps regarding grizzly bear nuisance/conflict management under 4d rules. If so, I think it may be helpful to send you some documents and briefly discuss them in advance of the meeting related to the 4d rule at 50 CFR 17.40(b) and the interagency grizzly bear guidelines referenced in the rule.

But I thought I'd confirm you were attending before lobbying you the documents. Let me know when you have a chance.

Thanks & regards--



Kathleen E. Trever
Deputy Attorney General
Lead Deputy - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut Street
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
Phone: (208) 287-2710
Email: kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov

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From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 8:20:49 AM

Hi Jim. Hope you had some great Holidays and your New Year is off to a great start as well. I just wanted to reach out to touch base before our meeting next week. We're planning to be to your IDFG office at 8:30 am next Friday. As we discussed in previous emails/chats, I think we had the agenda below:

- Introductions/Meeting Objectives;
- Supervisory and Communication Structure for FWS and IDFG for coordination purposes;
- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
- IDFG Conflict Specialist funding needs (statewide)
- Highway 20 and wildlife crossings

Note I did tweak it just a bit from our last email communications, but just to add the introduction/meeting objectives item and a light reorg to the 2nd agenda item. We have some folks that need to depart for 1:00 flights, so I believe we we're shooting for an 11:30 end time.

Please let me know if I've mischaracterized anything or if you all had any further tweaks in mind. Otherwise, we'll see you next week.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Sounds good, Jim. And happy to talk HW20, though don't think we can get too into the technical on that one since we won't have all the right parties there. But can at least speak to FWS perspective.

Appreciate the coordination.

If I don't talk to you before then, have a great Holiday season.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

Yes, those times work on our end. At this point, I believe we'll have myself, Ed, Toby, Jon, and Kathleen. I've invited Josh, as well from OSC, as they want to be kept in the GB loop, but I'm not sure if he'll attend yet or not. As for agenda, Frank Edelman, our Technical Services Bureau Chief been heavily involved with ITD on highway 20 wildlife crossing discussions. When he found out we were meeting, he asked if we could include 15 minutes on the agenda to get some FWS perspective on highway 20 crossing structures as related to grizzly bears. He would only be there for that portion of the meeting.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
- IDFG Conflict Specialist funding needs (statewide)
- Highway 20 and wildlife crossings

Please let me know your thoughts on the agenda items (add/delete/modify) and your thoughts on meeting attendees.

Be well,

~ S ~

 Sandi Fisher (she/her)
 Acting State Supervisor
 Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
 208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Schriever,Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer,Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael,Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever,Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hello Sandi,

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If I don't talk to you before then, have a good Thanksgiving.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Sandi,

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As far as an after-action meeting, I concur that would be in our collective best interest. I mentioned it to Ed, Kathleen, and Jon this morning and I think we're all in agreement. Also in agreement that keeping it small would be most productive. In looking at calendars, I think you're probably correct in that it's going to be hard to get all the right people together in a room before the new year, but we should be able to get a date identified shortly after. The week of the 9th or the 16th may work. If you check with your folks and consider potential dates, I'll follow up on our end.

-Jim

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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It would probably be good for this to be an in-person meeting, maybe sometime after the Holidays.

Please let me know what you think about the above, and if you could pass along any info you have about the Tetonia bears, that'd be appreciated.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Fredericks, Jim](#)
Cc: [Rachael, Jon](#); [Schriever, Ed](#); [Trever, Kathleen](#); [Edelmann, Frank](#); [Hebdon, Tricia](#); [Boudreau, Toby](#); [Joshua Uriarte](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion
Date: Sunday, January 8, 2023 10:45:11 AM

Hi Jim. Appreciate you getting back to me, and yes, Lisa will be able to attend. She'll be here for the week, then will be moving to Boise permanently early February. She's looking forward to meeting IDFG leadership and getting to know you all better. And yes, we're all very happy to hear of Hugh's selection!

See you in a few days.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 8, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Cc: Rachael, Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Edelmann, Frank <frank.edelmann@idfg.idaho.gov>; Hebdon, Tricia <tricia.hebdon@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boudreau, Toby <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>; Joshua Uriarte <Joshua.Uriarte@osc.idaho.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Hi Sandi. Thanks for the follow up and the agenda, which looks good. Friday the 13th it is, at IDFG from 8:30 to 11:30 (at the latest). I've copied our staff who will be attending, with Frank and Tricia joining us for the last two agenda items. I've also copied Josh with OSC, as he may attend. Do you know yet whether Lisa will be able to join? We look forward to meeting her. Also, nice to see you have a permanent fill on the Regional Director. Ed and I were with Hugh in New Mexico this week and were able to congratulate him in person.

Jim Fredericks
Deputy Director
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut St. PO Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
(208) 287-2787

(c) 208-755-7455



From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 8:21 AM
To: Fredericks, Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Hi Jim. Hope you had some great Holidays and your New Year is off to a great start as well. I just wanted to reach out to touch base before our meeting next week. We're planning to be to your IDFG office at 8:30 am next Friday. As we discussed in previous emails/chats, I think we had the agenda below:

- Introductions/Meeting Objectives;
- Supervisory and Communication Structure for FWS and IDFG for coordination purposes;
- Discussion on the 4d Rule, and associated guidelines and process;
- Review of habituated bears and use of areas near people, including what constitutes a threat to human safety;
- Relocation sites (within occupied areas);
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Note I did tweak it just a bit from our last email communications, but just to add the introduction/meeting objectives item and a light reorg to the 2nd agenda item. We have some folks that need to depart for 1:00 flights, so I believe we we're shooting for an 11:30 end time.

Please let me know if I've mischaracterized anything or if you all had any further tweaks in mind. Otherwise, we'll see you next week.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)

Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:09 AM
To: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

Sounds good, Jim. And happy to talk HW20, though don't think we can get too into the technical on that one since we won't have all the right parties there. But can at least speak to FWS perspective.

Appreciate the coordination.

If I don't talk to you before then, have a great Holiday season.

Be well,

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Acting State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Fredericks,Jim <jim.fredericks@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Tetonia Bear Follow-up Discussion

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Cc: Schriever, Ed <ed.schriever@idfg.idaho.gov>; Boyer, Mary <mary.boyer@idfg.idaho.gov>; Rachael, Jon <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>; Trever, Kathleen <kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov>
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4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
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208-241-8043 (C)

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: Tetonia; check in call?
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:31:01 PM

Ben and Hilary, would something between 5-6 mst work after I pick you up from the airport?
Could do a conf call.

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Tetonia; check in call?

Hi,
I had my call with Kathleen Trever from ID AG's office earlier, it might be good if we could talk on phone before Friday just so I can update you on the topics/issues she raised. I am pretty open tomorrow after 11 MST and before I leave for airport at 6 MST, so feel free to suggest a time that might work for you all; it involves a bit more than just the "updates" discussion we would have on Friday so that's why I think it would be good to talk before hand.
Thanks!
Lydia

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor
(503) 231-2174
+++++
Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
601 S.W. Second Ave. Suite 1950
Portland, OR 97204-3172
lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov

From: [Fisher, Sandi](#)
To: [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Grimm, Lydia T](#); [Jimenez, Benjamin S](#)
Subject: Re: Tetonia; check in call?
Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:51:26 PM

I can't do 11; I'm tied up in a meeting.

~ S ~

Sandi Fisher (she/her)
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
208-241-8043 (C)

From: Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>; Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: Tetonia; check in call?

Sandi - are you available at 11:00? That would give us more time to prep or follow up.

If that doesn't work, 5:00 is fine.

From: Fisher, Sandi <sandi_fisher@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Grimm, Lydia T <lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <hilary_cooley@fws.gov>; Jimenez, Benjamin S <benjamin_jimenez@fws.gov>
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Thanks!

Lydia

Lydia T. Grimm, Attorney-Advisor

(503) 231-2174

+++++

Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region

U.S. Department of the Interior

601 S.W. Second Ave. Suite 1950

Portland, OR 97204-3172

lydia.grimm@sol.doi.gov

11/10/22 9:53 AM

I got a call from Ben this morning and he gave me the latest update on the remaining cub. FYI, I reached out to Toby and he suggested I contact Jon. So I have a voicemail into Jon to see if we can get on the same page. If I don't hear from him soon, I'll reach out to Ed.



Cooley, Hilary 11/10/22 12:25 PM

Thanks Sandi. Sounds like they have backed down a bit.

11/10/22 12:27 PM

Yeah, I had a couple conversations with Jim Fredricks and Ben after I chatted you. I really hope they dart that bear or capture it in the trap....



Cooley, Hilary 11/10/22 12:29 PM



Yes, me too. Thanks for your support, sandi

Of course!

Anytime!

Always!

Type a new message



11/10/22 4:10 PM

Hi Brent - not clear from your out of office if you're around today? If so, do you have time to chat about the grizzly bear incident that I think Ally gave you a heads up on?



Lawrence, Brent A 11/10/22 4:10 PM

yes. here

i can chat when you're availabl.

11/10/22 4:14 PM

Ok. Joe S isn't available and we're noodling with a press release ID Dept of Fish and Game wants to put out that we don't agree with. Could use some PAO eyes. But would help if I gave you some context. Not sure how much Ally gave you. I'll email you the press release now and then maybe jump on a call?



Lawrence, Brent A 11/10/22 4:14 PM

I just talked with Joe.

11/10/22 4:14 PM

Oh, Hilary wasn't able to connect with him.



Lawrence, Brent A 11/10/22 4:14 PM

I think I have full context from Ally, Let me review and I'll give you a call.



1

11/10/22 4:22 PM

Side note as you're reviewing. The initial draft first sentence apparently read 'On Nov 9th and 10th, Idaho Fish and Game in consultation...' I told IDFG that we didn't feel that was accurate from our perspective given that the authorization was not there for them to remove bears on the 10th. They changed to just say "on Nov 9th..." in the version you're reviewing. I still feel like it can be implied FWS gave authorization for bear taken on the 10th.



Type a new message



November 16, 2022

11/16/22 1:43 PM

Hey - so Hillary Copley and I are at an IGBC (grizzly bear meeting) for the Yellowstone ecosystem. There will be public comment at the end today and we expect there will be comment about the Tetonia bear. Unless directed specifically to FWS, we would propose to defer to IDFG. That said, if they state they had authorization to remove all the bears, do we pipe up? I don't want to cause a public slap fight here, but I also don't want to put us in a position where we're not transparent given what our record shows.



Holm, Jason 11/16/22 1:48 PM

There's more freedom than in a media response. I would be honest, but focus on it as a difference of approach, rather than a conflict between the agencies.

does that make sense?

11/16/22 1:56 PM

Yep, 100%. Thanks.



Type a new message





Hilary >



Wed, Nov 9 at 6:56 PM

Hi sandi, Hilary here.
Toby got back to us and said decision was final. Idfg removed adult F plus one cub this afternoon. I am Still in touch with GTNP to see if they will take the remaining cub (if they catch it- they don't know where it is right now).

Damn...that's too bad...to say the least. This could get ugly when the community finds out.

Yes. They asked that we not out the word out until they get things sorted out- probably tomorrow.



HC



Hilary >

Ok, thanks for the heads up. Here's to hoping they find the remaining cub and the Park will take it. Is it old enough to survive on its own if they can't find it?

Possibly

So, just for clarification, had they already killed the bears by the time Toby reached out?

I don't know the exact timing- it was close

Thu, Nov 10 at 3:09 PM

Can I call u in a few?



Hilary >



Sure. Jim wants to get on the phone with you, me and Ed... today...and whoever else. I can give you more context why.

I can make whatever work

They were hoping for 3:30. But can you call me when you can? I'm meantime, I'll see if they have a conf line we can call into.

Yes. Please add Ben. I'll call u in a sec.

Ok

Conf line number for IDFG call.... (b) (5)

No access code?



Hilary >



He didn't send one. I'll double check.



Confirm, no access code.

No answer from joe. He might be gone for weekend already. I think we'll need to just provide edits on our own.

Ok, email from Jim just came in.

To you too.

Downloading now

Do you want me to see if I can pull in our regional PAO? Brent Lawrence.



Hilary >



Yes great. Teams call?

Lemme see if he's available...or Jason Holm maybe?

Ed just called...on phone now

Ok. Brent Is available if you want to jump on a call with him when done with Ed.

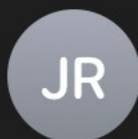
Thu, Nov 10 at 5:36 PM

Side note, I talked to Jodi and gave her a rundown of the full story. She suggested it might be a good idea to have Ben document in a telephone record all of the calls he had with Matt and what was said. While it's fresh in his mind.



Hilary >

Good suggestion. He put together a lengthy update, which I cut down and sent to Matt. I'll ask him to review and add more details for his records.



Jon >



iMessage

Thu, Nov 10 at 10:42 AM

Sandi, sorry I missed your call this morning. I just left Jim Fredericks' office and got a briefing — so I know everyone has the same info now. I hope it works out. Thanks for reaching out.

Sounds good, thanks Jon.

Delivered



BJ

Ben >

Text Message

Thu, Nov 10 at 9:58 AM

Hey Ben, Sandi here. FYI, reached out to Toby and he suggested i contact Jon Rachel. I left him a voicemail. If I don't hear from him soon, I'll probably try to reach Ed. But please let me know if you hear anything more in the meantime.

Will do. Thank you

And do let me know if I can provide any additional information to anyone along the way

Thu, Nov 10 at 2:06 PM

Any additional word from IDFG?



BJ

Ben >

No, nothing.

Ok, thanks. I wouldn't be terribly surprised if I don't hear from Matt again anytime soon, so if you hear do anything will you pass it along?

For sure. Do you want me to try to circle up with Jim before COB to get an update?

Yeah, that would probably be helpful from our end and for the park folks

Did you get confirmation from park yet?



BJ

Ben >

Been in communication with, but still waiting for final approval. We will have the capacity to hold the bear until we get that decision though

Ok. Have we offered to help them with trapping, etc? Not that they may want it, but...

Yes, we have. We aren't set up to trap independently, but have offered personnel

Conf line number for IDFG call.... (b) (5) 3:30.
Hilary calling you about it now.

Let me know if you have a quick minute at some point?



JF

Jim >

Text Message
Thu, Nov 10 at 2:52 PM

Hi Sandi. Jim Fredericks here. I wanted to let you know that our staff euthanized the second cub. Though our preferred course was to dart it, unfortunately it went high into a tree. Staff attempted to get a dart into it, but were unable. I'm available if you'd like to discuss.

Yes, I just heard from Hilary. Can I call you in a few, we do need to discuss.

Yes

Ok, we can make 3:30 work. Do you have a con line number we can use?



HC

BJ



2 People >

Text Message
Mon, Nov 14 at 10:00 AM

FYI, Jason Holm (our ARD for EA) is suggesting You all draft up a response for us to use. Which it sounds like you're already kind of planning. He was also going to try to reach out to Matt...

More on the suggestion from Jason-he said short and sweet...just enough to give media something beyond 'no comment's

Hilary Cooley

Ok. Matt said he is unavailable today but Clint is up to speed. Joe S also out of office.

HC

Who is Clint?



HC

BJ



2 People >

HC

Sorry- Clint Riley is special assistant to Matt (I think that's his title)

Tue, Nov 15 at 10:00 AM

Good morning. Jason Holm is pinging us about a statement...did you all have an opportunity to draft something up yesterday?

Hilary Cooley



HC

Yes we do have. Ben might be in a house closing so I'll send it now.

Ben Jimenez

BJ

Thanks you too. Still meeting, but is there something going out, or are they wanting to have a look at things just in case?



HC

BJ



2 People >

They want something to have on hand. I believe they're just being proactive, not necessarily putting something out ahead of an ask. But I'll double check that assumption.

Ben Jimenez

Sounds good, thank you. As you will see, we left an optional statement at the end, and I think we would want to talk that through before we made a decision on which one to go with

BJ

To be clear, this will be an 'if asked' statement. It'll need to get HQ approval. PAOs are smoothing it out so as not to place blame on IDFG. Just so we don't create a new story about FWS v IDFG.



HC

BJ



2 People >

Ben Jimenez

Ok. Will we have a chance to review changes or edits they make? I definitely can appreciate not wanting to create an additional story, but also think it makes sense to be careful about concessions and such at this point in case there are any flareups down the road

BJ

Here's what they're proposing: In mid-October, after repeatedly returning to human occupied areas in Mammoth and Gardiner, Montana, an adult female grizzly bear and her two cubs were relocated to an area south of West Yellowstone. The family traveled south and settled near Tetonia, Idaho. After closely monitoring the bears in the



HC

BJ



2 People >

traveled south and settled near Tetonia, Idaho. After closely monitoring the bears in the general area for 7-10 days, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) became increasingly concerned for human safety and sought authorization to remove the bears.

Because of the adult female's high level of comfort around humans and resistance to hazing, USFWS initially authorized removal of the adult female grizzly, while exploring potential relocation options for the two cubs. By late afternoon on 11/9, with no relocation sites available, IDFG removed the adult female and one cub. On 11/10, IDFG authorized personnel on the ground to remove the remaining cub.



HC

BJ



2 People >

Ben Jimenez

OK. This seems reasonable to me. My main concern in terms of a press release or anything was just wanting to make sure we are not painting ourselves into a corner if something were to come up down the road from a legal standpoint or otherwise. This stuff is all obviously new to me, and perhaps I'm a little shell-shocked by the number of FOIAs we've faced even in my short time. I appreciate everybody's patience and willingness to walk me through it.

BJ

No worries Ben. I think this specific situation is new to all of us.



ES

Ed >

Text Message
Sat, Nov 19 at 9:11 AM

Hi Ed - Sandi Fisher here. My apologies for reaching out on a Saturday, but I wanted to be sure you were aware that Hilary Cooley has been asked to attend a small public meeting in Tetonia Sunday afternoon. I understand Matt was also invited but declined due to other obligations. The intent is just for her to answer questions as best she can, it's not about placing blame or getting into a he-said-she-said argument. I just wanted to make sure you were aware.

Thx



JF

Jim >

Yes, (b) (5)

Ok, no access code needed?

No.

Sat, Nov 19 at 7:47 AM

Hi Jim. My apologies for reaching out on a Saturday, but I wanted to be sure you were aware that Hilary Cooley has been asked to attend a small public meeting in Tetonia Sunday afternoon. I understand Matt was also invited but declined due to other obligations. The intent is just for her to answer questions as best she can, it's not about placing blame or getting into a he-said-she-said. I just wanted to make sure you were aware.