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Subject: GBRP Update
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:12:33 PM

Hi all,

Below is our GBRP update for May 9-21, apologies for the slight delay. Please reach out with any questions or comments.

GBRP Update May 9-21, 2023

Libby:

- Training was completed for 14 summer technicians working in the Cabinet-Yaak/Selkirk May15-19. Beginning May 22, staff will be in the field doing hair snagging and some limited trapping to deploy radio collars.

SW MT DNA Project:

- Training was completed for 4 summer technicians May15-19. Beginning May 22, staff will be in the field doing hair snagging.

Tribal Relations:

- GBRP is assisting Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife while they are in the process of hiring a new bear management specialist and expanding their bear management capacity. FWS Libby office has offered three spaces at a trapping and handling training at the WSU bear center in late May to Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife staff. FWP and WS are also offering additional support with grizzly bear conflict management throughout this process.

Conflict:

Montana

- Several depredations confirmed adjacent to NCDE (Rocky Mountain Front and Blackfoot Valley).
- 5/11 - An adult male grizzly was captured and lethally removed on the Blackfeet Reservation after killing multiple calves over a 3-day period.

- 5/16 - Dead grizzly found near East Glacier on Blackfeet Reservation. Bear was turned over to FWS OLE and taken to Bozeman. Learned of an additional grizzly that was shot by rancher on Blackfeet Reservation on 4/29. Both mortalities are under investigation.

Wyoming

- 5/13 - Adult male grizzly captured and lethally removed outside of Cody after killing 3 calves over 2-3 days.
- 5/10 - A picture of female grizzly taken along Hwy 26/87 showed an eartag, identifying her as Grizzly 863.
- 5/12-5/21 - 1-2 subadult grizzlies have been consistently active and visible along Hwy 26/287, as well as in campgrounds, residential and developed areas near the base of Togwotee Pass. FWS, WGFD, and FS have responded to bear jams, bears in yards, bears in campgrounds, etc., often multiple times per day. These bears may be the subadult offspring of 863, but there is no way of confirming at this point. These bears show minimal response to auditory hazing (yelling, vehicle horns, cracker shells, etc.), and limited response to contact hazing (beanbags, rubber bullets, etc.). Encounters thus far have included:
 - 5/12 - Homeowner in the Buffalo Valley subdivision reported 2 subadults charged her dog in her yard.
 - 5/17 - 2 subadults observed laying in grassy area between the restaurant and cabins at the Hatchet Resort.
 - 5/17-5/21 – FWS, WGFD, or FS have received reports and responded to 2 subadults multiple times per day.
- 5/16 - Grizzly 399 was spotted with 1 cub in Pilgrim Cr. area, within Grand Teton National Park.
- A man has been charged by Park County DA for the illegal killing of a male grizzly bear between YNP and Cody on 5/1.

[Wapiti Man Admits Shooting Grizzly Near Cody, Wyoming. Says He Thought It Was A Black Bear | Your Wyoming News Source \(cowboystatedaily.com\)](#)

General:

- Hilary traveled to the Pew Charitable Trust Connectivity, Corridors and Crossings conference in Tucson, AZ to discuss grizzly bear connectivity challenges.
- IGBC subcommittee season in full swing. Staff attended YES meeting (Cody),

NCE meeting (virtual), and NCDE meeting (Helena). SE/CYE meeting in Libby on 5/23.

Thanks as always,

Ben Jimenez
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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