



Photo Credit: Yellowstone NPS



Photo Credit: Grand Teton NPS



Interagency
**GRIZZLY
BEAR**
Committee

Bear Smart
Community
Framework
OVERVIEW

Background

- The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) supports recovery and delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, research and communication.
- The IGBC supports collaborative community-led strategies that benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape.
- The IGBC Bear Smart Community Framework is intended to be consistent yet flexible to be adapted for the needs of individual communities.

Partner Agencies

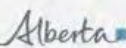





Photo Credits: People and Carnivores, Eric Johnston, Kim Johnston

Why does this matter?

- Bears have ecological and cultural significance
- Bear and human populations increasing or expanding in some areas
- Challenges when bears and people share the landscape
 - property damage
 - livestock depredation
 - human safety concerns

A black bear cub is shown in profile, leaning over a green plastic trash bin. The cub's head is inside the bin, and its front paw is reaching out to grab a piece of food, possibly a sandwich or a piece of bread, that is protruding from the bin. The background is a blurred green field. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

Human-bear Conflicts

- Serious negative encounters rare
- Easier to avoid conflicts than deal with one
- Anything with an odor can be an attractant



Photo Credit: Kim Johnston

IGBC Bear Smart Community Framework

The overall goal is to support collaborative community-based strategies that benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape.

IGBC Bear Smart Community Framework

- Both people and bears have a place on the landscape
- No 'one-size-fits-all' solution
- Multiple strategies needed
- Bear management and removal will continue to be tools
- May be used by communities in the development of proactive strategies that are within the community's jurisdiction
- Provides guidelines but is intended to be flexible



Framework Overview

1. Establish a Bear Smart Committee
2. Complete a Bear Smart Community Assessment
3. Develop a Bear Smart Community Plan
4. Implement the Bear Smart Community Plan





1. Establish a Bear Smart Committee

- Fundamental to community's success
- Should include a variety of perspectives that reflect the community
- Collaborative and community-based
- Operates on consensus
- Most successful communities will have a strong Bear Smart Committee



Bear Smart Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- Initiate and support development of Bear Smart Community
- Initiate, write and develop Bear Smart Community Assessment and Plan
- Work collaboratively to implement plan
- Monitor progress of program and evaluate community's management strategies
- Refine community plan as-needed
- Provide reports that share progress and provide direction

Examples of Potential Committee Members

Representative community members

Local governments

Tribal governments

State and Federal Agencies

Non-governmental organizations

Educator

Solid waste management

Community grant writer

Local tourism representative

Community interest groups



2. Complete a Bear Smart Community Assessment

- Goal: identify current and potential risks for human-bear conflicts
- Compile pertinent data to guide future work
- Reflect on challenges community faces



Assessment Components

1. *Community Description*
2. *Bear Population*
3. *Habitat and Wildlife Corridors*
4. *History of Human-Bear Interactions*
5. *Community Attractants*
6. *Education and Outreach Efforts*
7. *Solid Waste Management*
8. *Community Development*
9. *Enforcement*
10. *Human Safety and Community Attitudes*
11. *Mapping (optional)*

3. Develop a Bear Smart Community Plan

- Addresses specific issues and concerns identified in the assessment
- Guiding document for Bear Smart efforts in the community
- Represents agreed upon path for moving forward



Plan Components



- 1. Human Safety and Community Attitudes*
- 2. Attractant Management*
- 3. Green Space Management*
- 4. Education and Outreach*
- 5. Solid Waste Management*
- 6. Enforcement*
- 7. Evaluation and Monitoring*
- 8. Timeline*
- 9. Budget*



Photo Credit: Eric Johnston

4. Implement the Bear Smart Community Plan

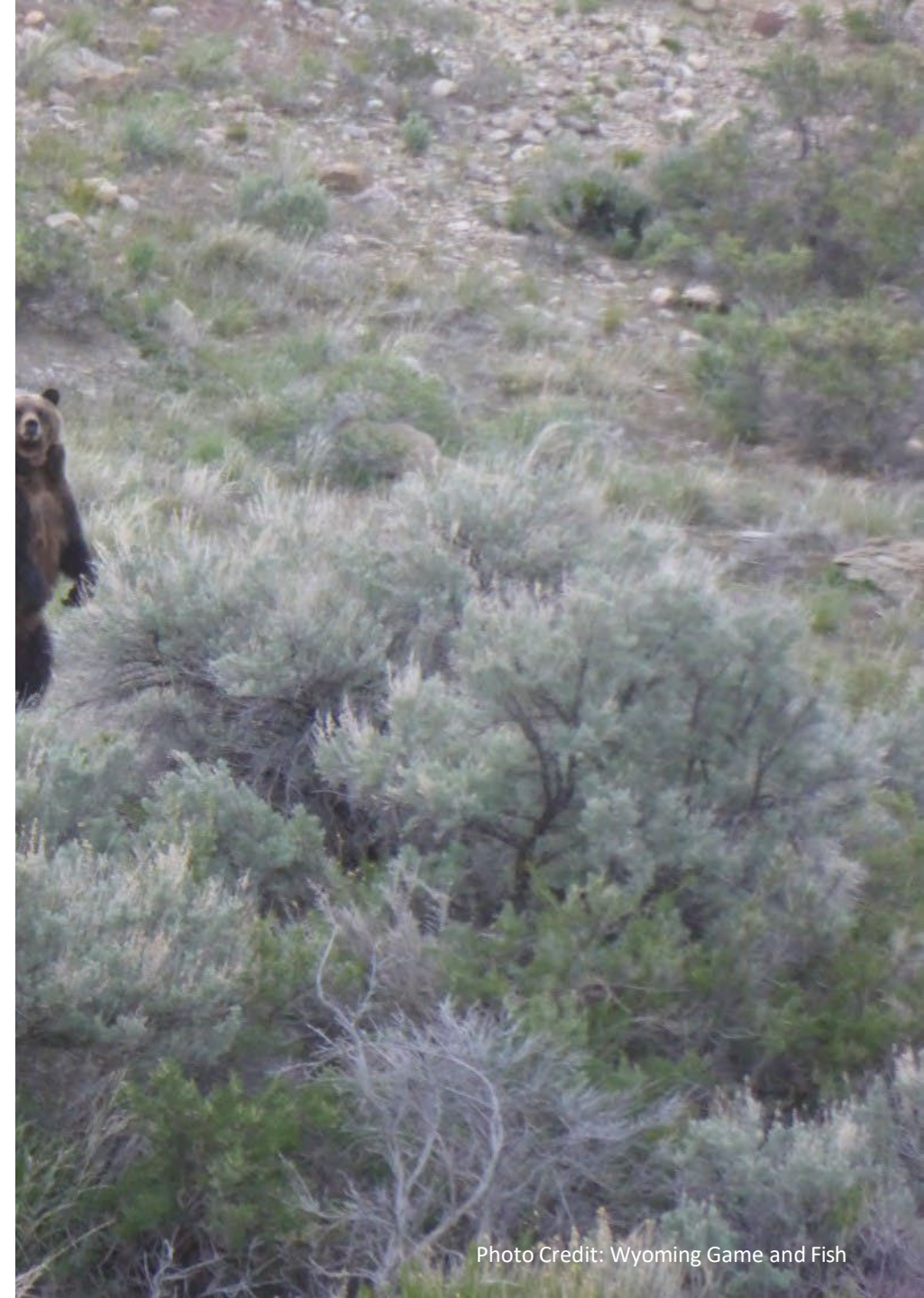
IGBC Bear Smart Community Coordination

- Becoming Bear Smart may take time, and will require continued efforts over time.
- Feel free to share your work with the IGBC Bear Smart Community Technical Working Group, which will continue to coordinate best practices across the states of Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Each State will decide how to handle specific engagement with communities.
- Communities can look to their State wildlife agencies, and may also be able to find assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in making progress on this framework.
- Communities are encouraged to develop and periodically review:
 - List of Bear Smart Committee members
 - Completed Bear Smart Community Risk Assessment
 - Completed Bear Smart Community Plan
 - Report on the implementation of Bear Smart Community Plan



Additional Information

- Full details are in manual, including resources and additional information
- Manual is available at IGBC website: <https://igbconline.org/programs/bear-smart-communities/>



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Proactive approaches can help reduce the potential for future conflicts. There has been a substantial amount of research on bear behavior and human-bear conflicts over the last several decades and this information can be used to develop effective human-bear conflict mitigation strategies that help communities and bears more effectively share the landscape.

The IGBC supports collaborative community-led strategies that benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape. At the December 2022 meeting, the IGBC Executive Committee adopted the IGBC Bear Smart Community framework. The framework may be useful for communities that are voluntarily interested in establishing their own Bear Smart Committees, completing a Bear Smart Community Assessment, and developing and implementing a Bear Smart Community Plan. The framework is intended to be flexible enough so that it can be adapted by individual communities to fit their needs.

- **[IGBC Bear Smart Community Framework \(12/2022\)](#)**
- **[IGBC Bear Smart Community Manual \(5/2023\)](#)**
- **[IGBC Bear Smart Community References \(5/2023\)](#)**
- **[IGBC Bear Smart Community Presentation \(5/2023\)](#)**



Questions?

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