

**Draft Meeting Record KVRI Grizzly Bear Subcommittee Meeting**  
**July 11, 2024 10:00 a.m.**  
**Boundary County Annex Building**

**Attendance:**

Austin Terrell, Office of Species Conservation (OSC)  
Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League (ICL)  
Bill & Cara McEnam, Private Citizens  
Bob Blanford, Landowner/Industry  
Caleb Davis, U.S. Rep Fulcher's Office  
Caitlin Jacobs, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)  
Chris Bachman, Conservation Director, Yaak Valley Forest  
Chuck Roady, Landowner/Industry  
Caitlin Jacobs, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG)  
David E. Byer, Private Citizen  
George Gehrig, Northern Mountain Biodiversity Challenge (NRMBC)  
Heather Fuller, Idaho Pacific Northwest Forest (IPNF)  
Hilary 'Eddie' Whitcomb, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Jeff Gilberg, Private Citizen  
John O. Conner, Landowner  
Jonathan Luhnnow, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)  
Jeremy Gaffield, IDFG  
Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Private Citizen  
Michelle Caviness, US Forest Service (USFS)  
Maxwell Martell, USFWS  
Maisie Powell, National Forest Foundation (NFF)  
Nate Gatty, IDFG  
Rick Alonzo, City of Bonners Ferry  
Rob Morris, IDFG  
Sarah Thompson, IDFG  
Sandi Fisher, USFWS  
Sandy Ashworth, Social, Cultural, Historical  
Shelby Therrian, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)  
Sydney Koberstein, KTOI, KVRI Reporting Secretary  
Theresa Wheat, KTOI  
Wayne Kasworm, USFWS

- Welcome & Introductions were made at 10:00 a.m.
- Meeting agenda overview presented by Shelby Therrian, KTOI

**APHIS Electric Fencing Program:**

Max Martell, US Wildlife Services, led an introduction of the APHIS Electric Fencing Program, providing the details of this service to manage the increasing Grizzly Bear territory through fencing. A short discussion followed which included the need for a spreadsheet and maps to track this activity.

**Bear Updated Data**

Wayne Kasworm, USFWS, discussed his observations and methods for analyzing food crops like huckleberries, service berries, and mountain berries, including counting berries and resting sugar content with a refractometer. He noted the importance of these crops for animal nutrition.

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**Bear-Related Updates and Transboundary Cooperation**

Wayne discussed the decision to use British Columbia as a source of bears for the Northern Continental Divide, as well as the potential for international cooperation to establish a transboundary grizzly bear population in the Cascades. He also provided updates on various bear-related incidents, including a bear getting into a silo and another responding to a beehive.

**Summit Planning and Outreach Strategies**

Eddie Whitcomb, USFWS, talked about planning a deeper dive into sanitation issues, following conversations from the IGBC Summit last winter. The team decided to have further discussions on the topic and generally was supportive of a field trip in the fall, possibly to Whitefish or Kalispell. Discussions with the larger IEO to come.

**Bear Spraying Recycling Update**

Shelby Therrian discussed the Bear Spray Recycling and stated that the drop off locations are currently at the Sturgeon Station Travel Center, Bonners Ferry, USFS Ranger Station, Bonners Ferry and Fish & Game in Bonner County.

**Bear Fair Planning**

Shelby and Austin Terrell, OSC, led discussion on various organizational and promotional aspects for the upcoming Bear Fair, scheduled September 28, 2024. This includes shortened sessions and the introduction of new workshops. They emphasized the importance of outreach to potential sponsors, vendors, and visitors, through social media and local advertising. Shelby and Austin discussed the need for efficient planning and organization for the success of the event, such as the promotion to collaborate with the Farm Bureau booth, and a community cider booth. Potential challenges, such as weather and securing necessary equipment, were also addressed.

Food at the fair was talked about and Austin suggested he would check into possible options such as food truck vendors as a potential option for refreshments. The committee will collaborate as soon as possible. Maxwell Martell will include electric fencing demonstration at the Bear Fair.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting was called at 11:36 a.m.

Meeting Record prepared by Sydney Koberstein