



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

May 2025 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Upper Snake Region Grizzly Bear Management & Program Overview

Prepared by: Cade Bowlin

Position/Title: Regional Wildlife Biologist

Agenda Item No.: 12

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Background:

Grizzly bear management in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem portion of Idaho is comprised of three primary components: research and monitoring, conflict management, and outreach/education. Research and monitoring involve the systematic collection of data on bear populations, distribution, behavior, and habitat use with tools such as GPS telemetry, genetic analysis, and field observations. This information is essential for informed decision-making and adaptive management strategies. Conflict management aims to minimize human-grizzly bear interactions that could lead to dangerous situations or harm to humans and/or bears. The conflict management program works to reduce human-bear conflicts by responding to incidents involving people, property, and livestock using proactive strategies like public education, bear deterrents, and management captures when necessary. Outreach and education play crucial roles by informing the public about bear behavior, safety protocols, and conservation efforts, ensuring residents and visitors are well-equipped to prevent conflicts and protect both humans and wildlife. By fostering informed stewardship and promoting responsible behavior, these initiatives help mitigate potential conflicts and support the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in the region.

This presentation will give the Commission an overview of the grizzly bear management program in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem portion of Idaho.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are listed under the federal ESA, and accordingly the Department's management actions of grizzly bears in this area are coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Public Involvement Process:

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information only.

Justification:

Information will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, recommendations, or other input from the public.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information only.



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Suggested Motion:

N/A. This agenda item is for Commission information only.