

Swan Lands Coordinating Committee Wildlife Subcommittee Description

Mission

The Swan Valley is home to grizzly bears, wolves, wolverine, lynx, moose, elk, deer and more. This subcommittee tracks the current science and policy related to sensitive wildlife species, and leverages resources to address the needs for monitoring, research, education, community outreach and innovative conservation strategies.

Participation

In general, the Wildlife Subcommittee meetings are attended by various agency wildlife biologists including officials from, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Park; Montana Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Rural Initiatives—in addition to staff from the local conservation non-profits (SEC and NwC).

Meetings

The Wildlife Subcommittee meets once in the spring and again in late fall/early winter. These meetings give participants an opportunity to update one another on current and upcoming projects related to wildlife in the Swan Valley. This round robin update format provides an opportunity for the different agency personnel and local participants to better understand the extent of wildlife work happening in the valley and often leads to discussions about potential for collaboration, pooling of resources, sharing of information, etc..

Our next meeting is set for next Wednesday, December 14th, from 1:00-3:30pm.

Purposed Agenda for next meeting:

- Round robin wildlife updates
- Presentations
 - Swan Valley Bear Resources Annual Report
 - Winter Carnivore Project
 - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) wildlife monitoring update

Swan Valley Bear Resources (SVBR)—The mission of Swan Valley Bear Resources (SVBR) is to offer community resources to promote coexistence between people and bears.

- We have distributed a total of 163 bear resistant garbage containers and 29 bear resistant dumpsters throughout the valley.
- We hosted two educational events for the public. The Spring Bear Wake Up Social had 105 people attend, and the Bear Fair had 250 in attendance.
- We consulted two landowners on implementing electric fence to reduce bear conflicts.
- We responded to 29 reported bear conflicts in the valley.