Grizzly Bear Management

Ken McDonald

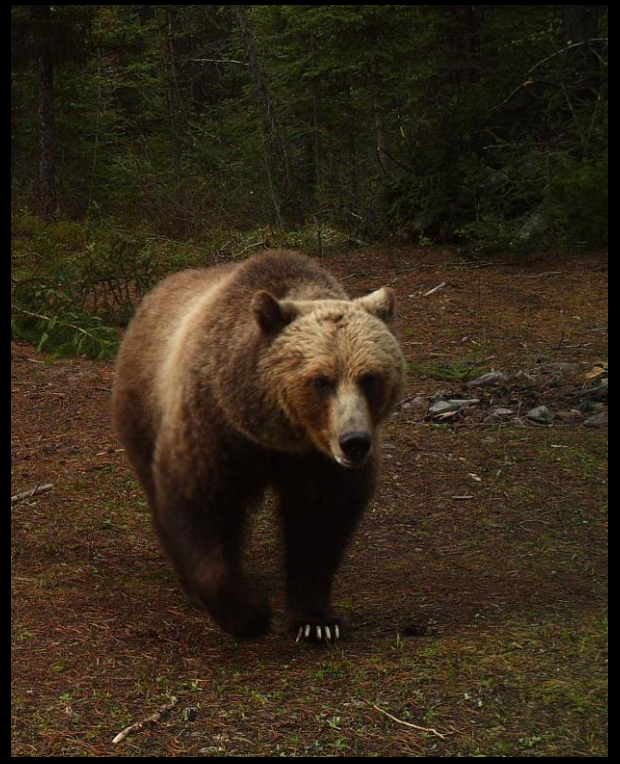
October 3-4, 2019



Grizzly Bear Management Plans

- Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Guidelines (1986)
- Recovery Plan for Grizzly Bears (rangewide) (1993)
- Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwestern MT (2013)
- Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (2017)
- Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana (2006)
- Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (2018)
- State Statutes and ARM

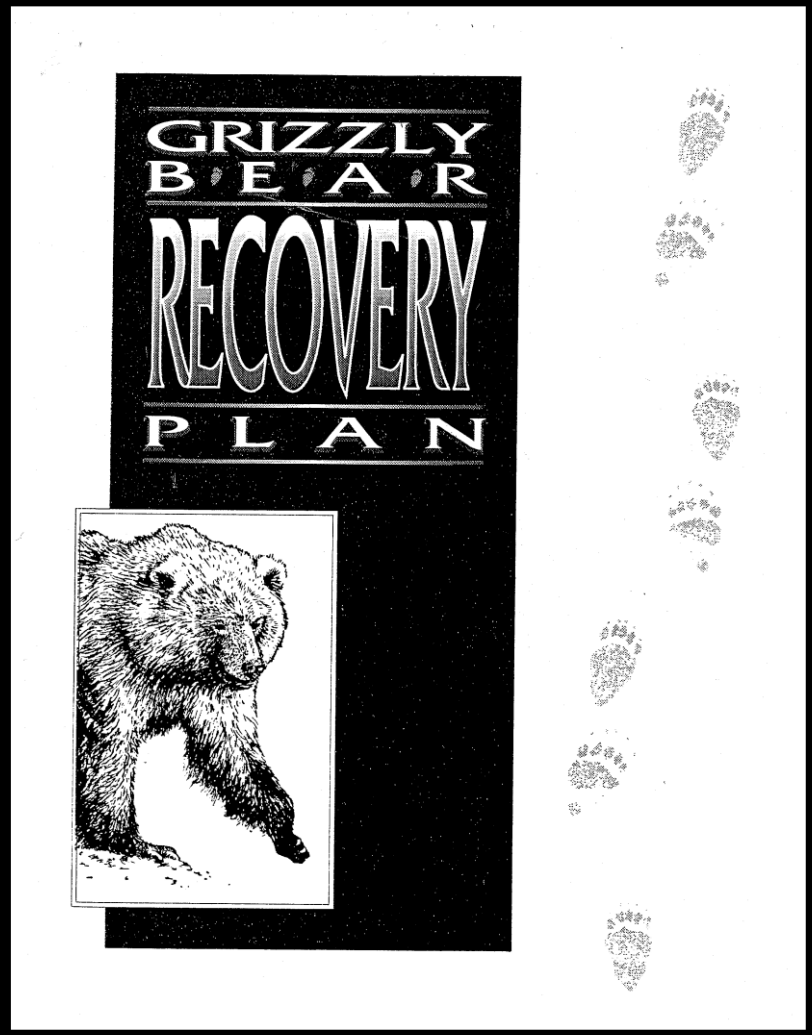
Montana's approach to managing grizzly bears will be outlined in two region specific documents. In the future when these plans need revision, FWP intends to incorporate both the southwestern and western grizzly bear management plans into one inclusive plan. This will provide a document that addresses grizzly bear management across the entire western portion of the State.



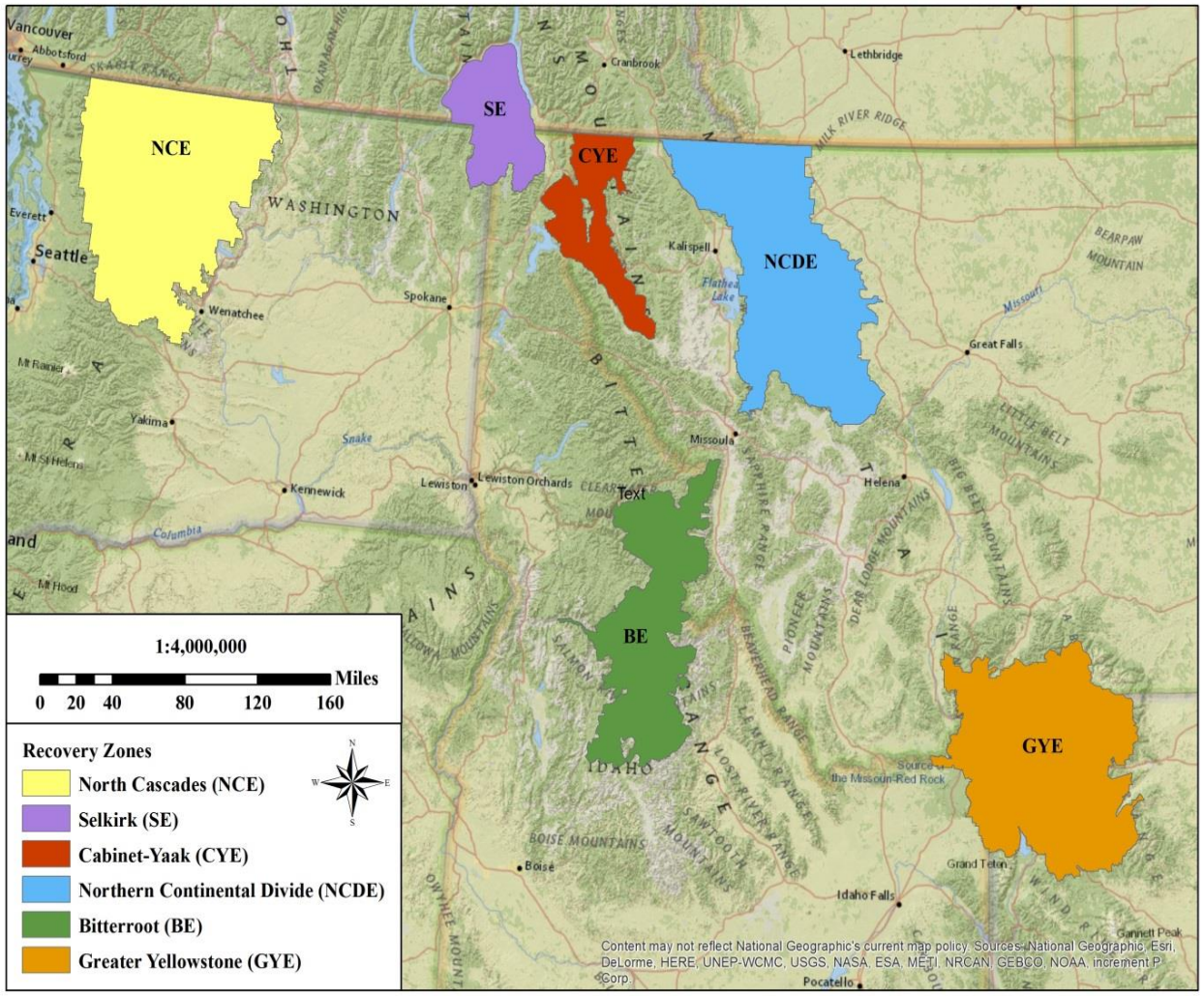
Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (1993)

6 Recovery Zones

- Greater Yellowstone
- Northern Continental Divide
- Cabinet Yaak
- Bitterroot
- Selkirks
- North Cascades



Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones



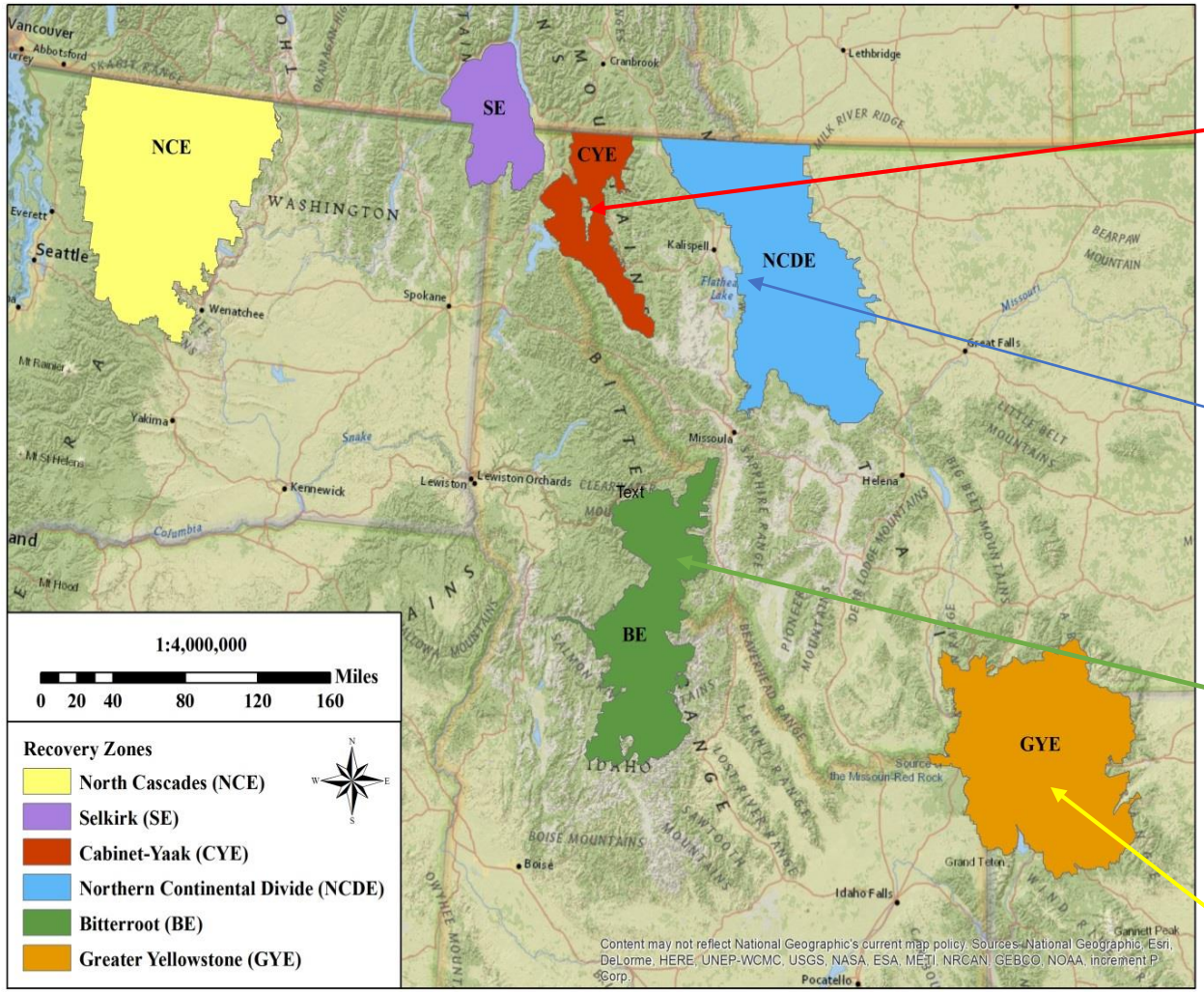
The overall goal of the plan is to remove the Grizzly bear from threatened status in each of the ecosystems in the 48 coterminous States

Two separate requirements must be met before the population within an ecosystem can be delisted – attainment of the population demographic parameters for that ecosystem, and 2) completion of an interagency conservation strategy that will ensure adequate regulatory mechanisms will continue to be present after delisting.

Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

The future of the grizzly bear will depend on integrating, as Kellert (1986) states: "the socioeconomic and utilitarian values of the general [local] population into the establishment and management of preservation programs." This implies that local communities must be owners of the concept of grizzly bear conservation. Value systems that are imposed on local communities will not foster support for the conservation of the grizzly. Local values and traditions must be integrated into grizzly bear preservation to enhance local support. A management system that seeks to integrate all biological, social, valuational, and institutional forces toward a common effort involving grizzly bear conservation (fig. 4) will have the highest chance of success.

Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan – Recovery Criteria



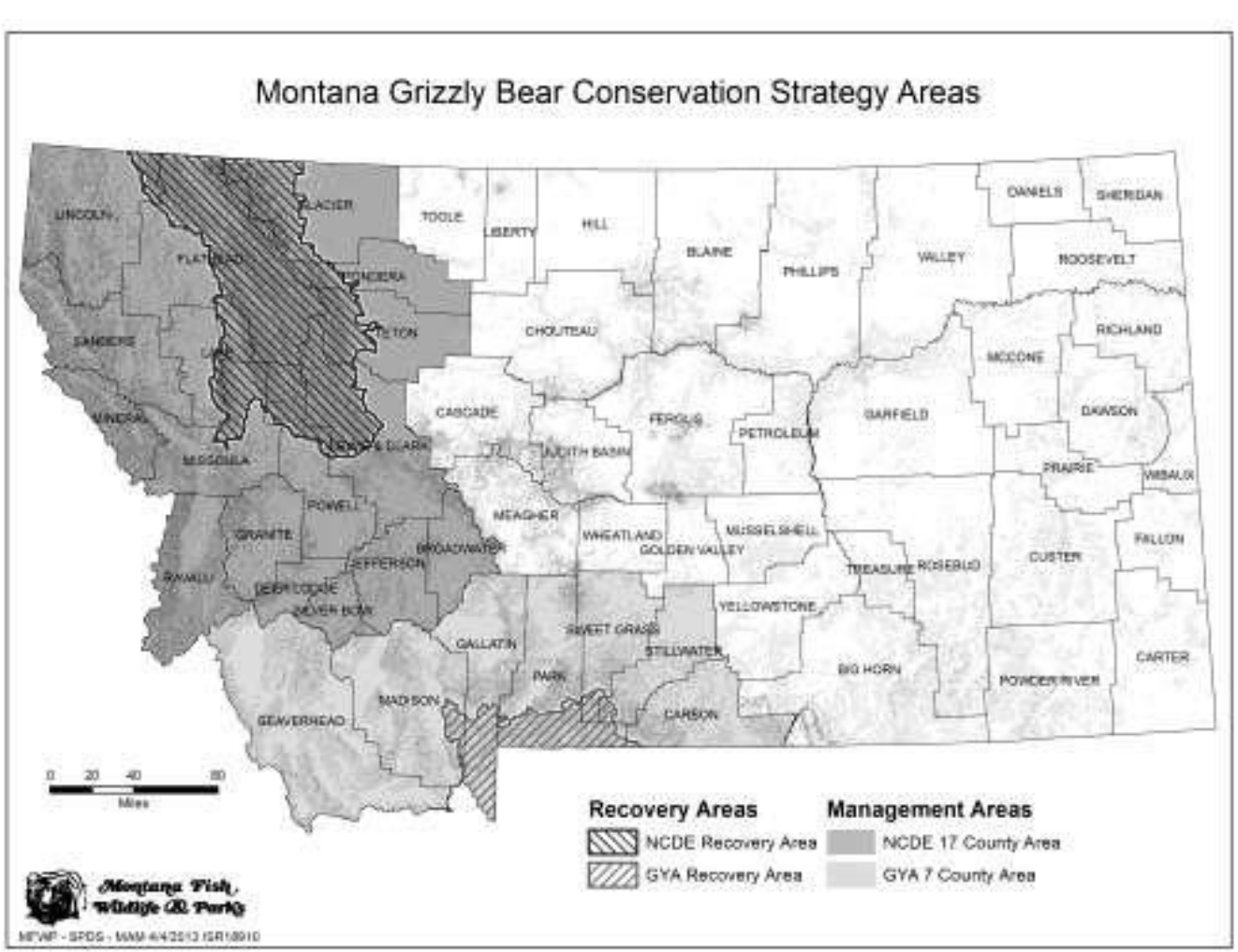
6 females with cubs (106 bears)
18/22 BMUs occupied in a 6 year period
Human-caused mortality <4% of est. population

10 females w/ cubs in GNP/12 outside (391 bears)
21/23 BMUs occupied in 6 year period
Human-caused mortality <4% of est. population

Develop planning documents necessary to recovery grizzly bears in the Bitterroot

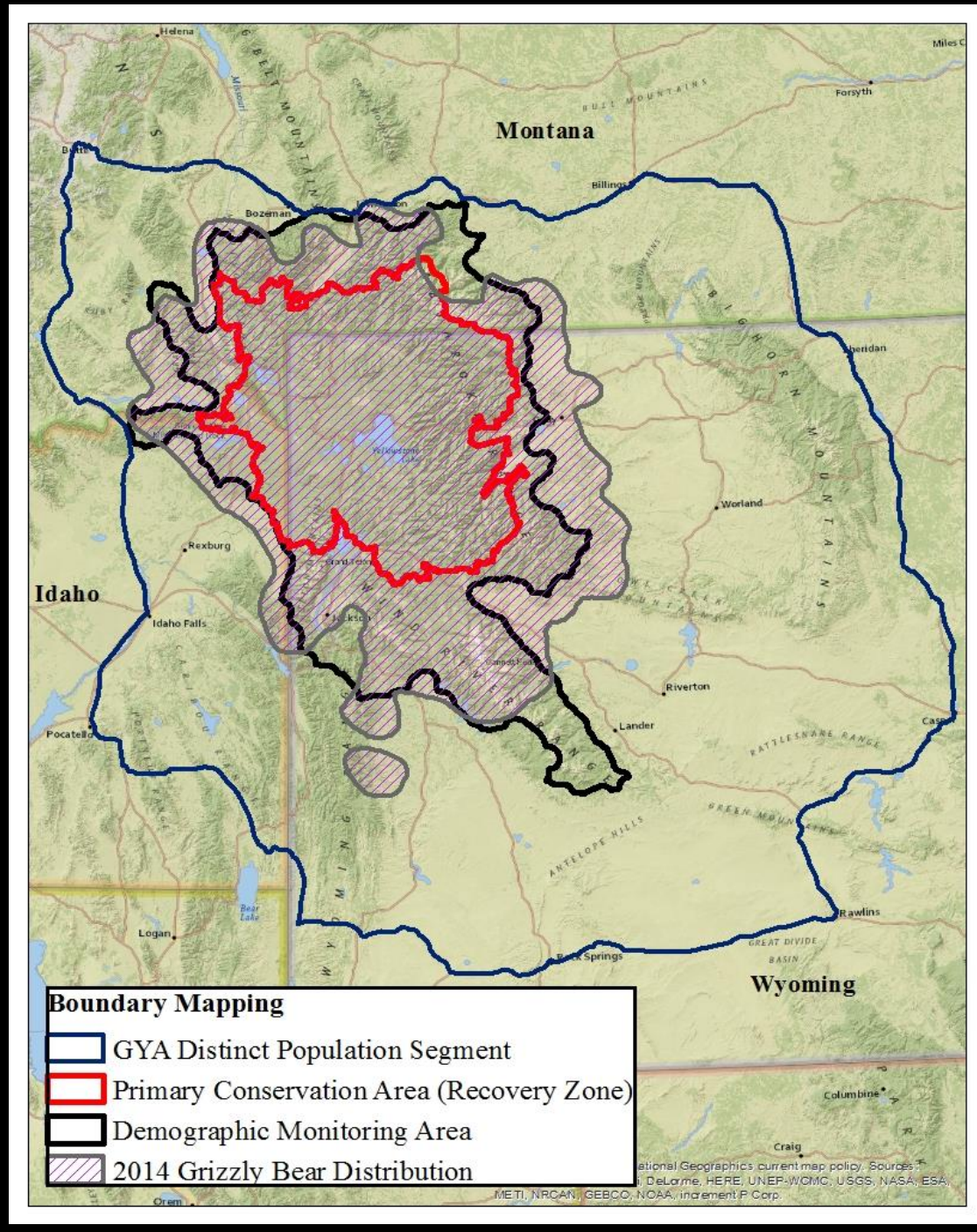
Maintain at least 500 bears
16/18 BMUs occupied in a 6 year period
Manage for a stable population within the GYE DMA around the 2002–2014 model averaged Chao2 estimate.

SW Montana Plan



For the purpose of this plan, the GYA is defined very broadly as 7 counties in southwestern Montana to include lands that may be accessed by grizzly bears in the near future.

County	Private property	Public property
Carbon	47%	53%
Stillwater	22%	78%
Sweet Grass	29%	71%
Park	55%	45%
Gallatin	47%	53%
Madison	53%	47%
Beaverhead	31%	69%


Montana
Idaho
Wyoming
Helena
Bozeman
Billings
Forsyth
Sheridan
Worland
Rexburg
Idaho Falls
Pocatello
Riverton
Lander
Rawlins
Logan
Craig
Columbine
Boundary Mapping
GYA Distinct Population Segment
Primary Conservation Area (Recovery Zone)
Demographic Monitoring Area
2014 Grizzly Bear Distribution



Southwest Montana Grizzly Plan (2013)

FWP's preferred alternative for managing grizzly bears in southern MT is to manage grizzlies in a manner that allows for a sustainable, adequately distributed population that is secure and stable enough to meet the provisions of the GYA Conservation Strategy (2007) and remain out of federal ESA protections. This approach is summarized in the approval of this proposed Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Southwest Montana.

FWP's current approach of management and that implemented since publication of the 2002 EIS has been sufficient to maintain grizzly populations while also maintaining social tolerance for grizzlies. FWP recognizes the dynamic nature of wildlife populations, ecosystems and human populations and acknowledges the need for equally dynamic and adaptive management strategies that keep the original goals in mind.

Southwest Montana Grizzly Plan (2013)

- Public support and tolerance for grizzlies is the key to their long-term recovery and reoccupancy of suitable habitats, and this support is contingent on local involvement and active local participation in plan development and implementation.

- All of the biological and social issues are interrelated, and no one part of the plan can function effectively without the others.

- This plan does not presuppose habitat problems exist with bear re-occupancy, but instead approaches the issues with the perspective of making sure local people are involved and given sufficient tools to respond to management changes as need arises.

- The key to a broader recovery lies in bears utilizing lands that are not managed solely for them but in which their needs are adequately considered along with other uses. The plan also recognizes the pivotal role private landowner support will play in a broader recovery.

Southwest Montana Grizzly Plan (2013)

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Goals for the Grizzly Bear - To manage for a recovered grizzly bear population in southwestern Montana and to allow for grizzly bear populations in areas that are **biologically suitable and socially acceptable.**

Preferred management approaches to manage:

- **Future Grizzly Distribution:** Continue to address grizzly/human conflicts in areas outside the core recovery area in a manner that considers overall grizzly conservation as well as human safety and social tolerance.
- **Human Safety:** Lethally remove bears displaying predatory behavior that kill/injure/attack people. Consider preemptively relocating a grizzly bear to avoid conflicts when there is a demonstrated threat to human safety.
- **Livestock Conflicts:** Focus on preventive programs to minimize livestock conflicts with priority toward those areas with a history of conflict or those areas currently occupied by bears.
- **Property Damage by grizzlies:** Focus on preventive measures, including securing attractants, and improving overall sanitation; the agency's bear management specialist works on these issues on public and private lands.
- **Nuisance Grizzly Bears:** Promote cost-sharing programs that focus on preventative work. Encourage interest groups to work together with FWP to minimize problems and increase tolerance for bears.
- **Hunting** - Incorporate regulated harvest after delisting as part of Montana's long-term conservation program.

20XX GRIZZLY BEAR

Montana Hunting Regulations

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



DRAFT season structure Proposal

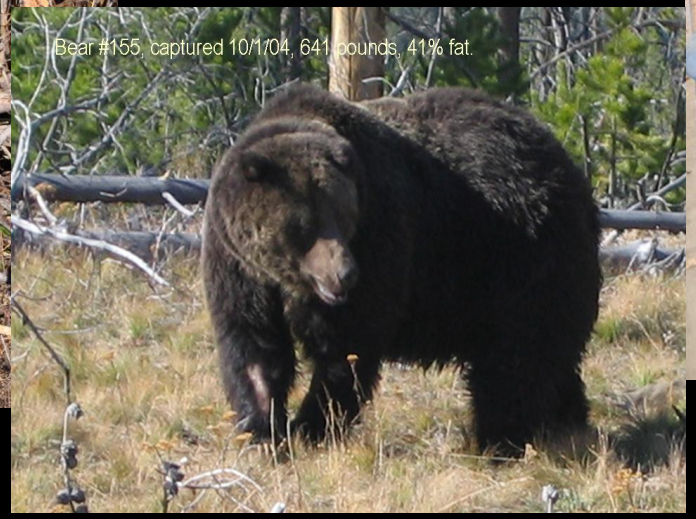
Grizzly bear. Ursus arctos horribilis. Photo by Donald M. Jones

Apply for General Licenses and Special Licenses Online: fwp.mt.gov

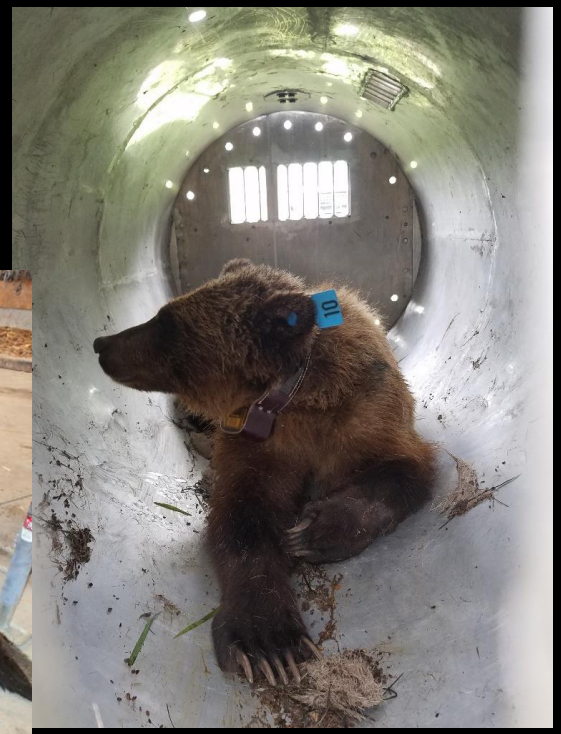
How are we doing this

- Bear Specialists in Bozeman (2), Red Lodge (1) focused on conflict prevention and conflict response
- Contracted outreach specialists (2)
- Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team









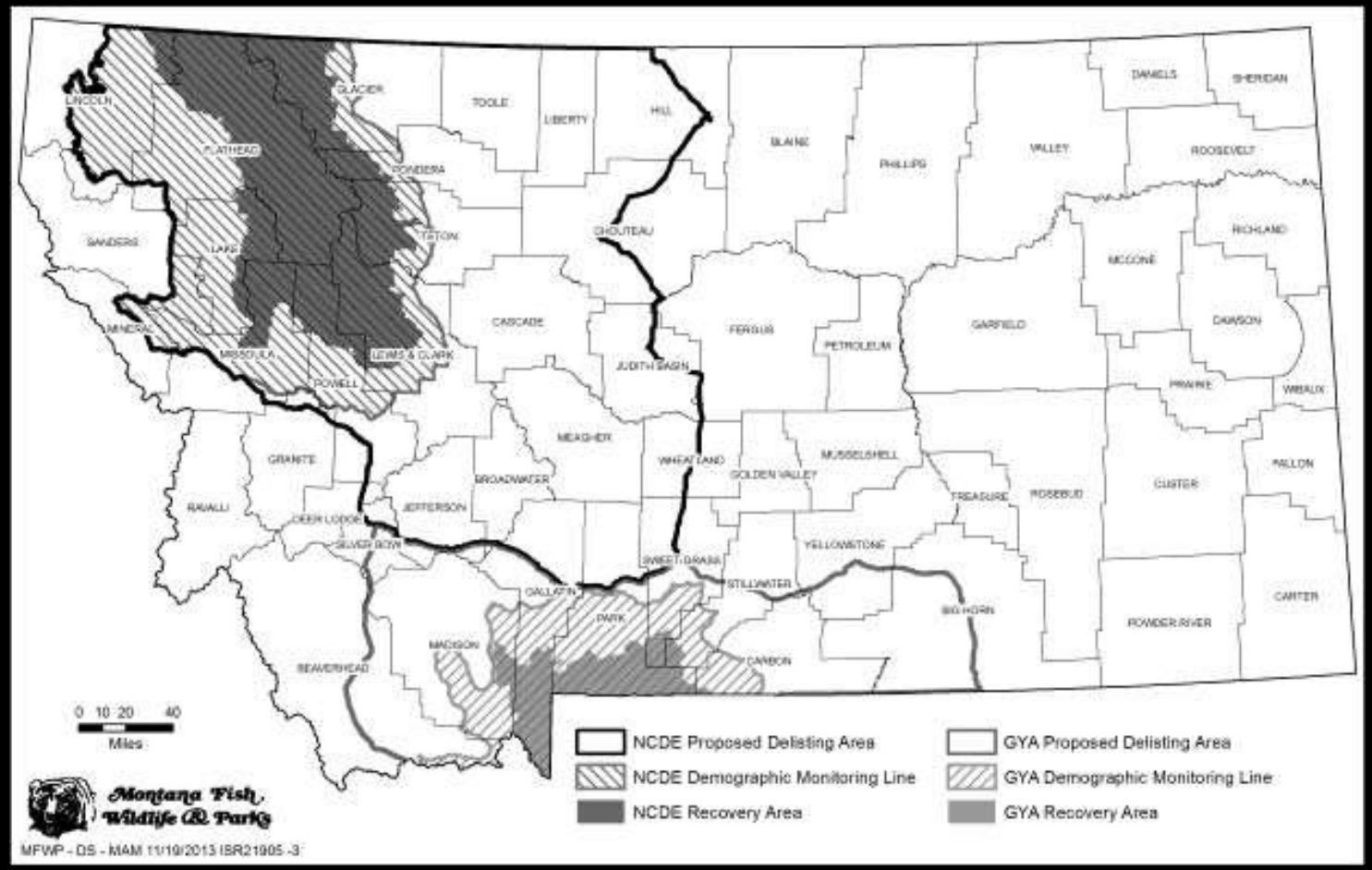
SW MT Grizzly Plan

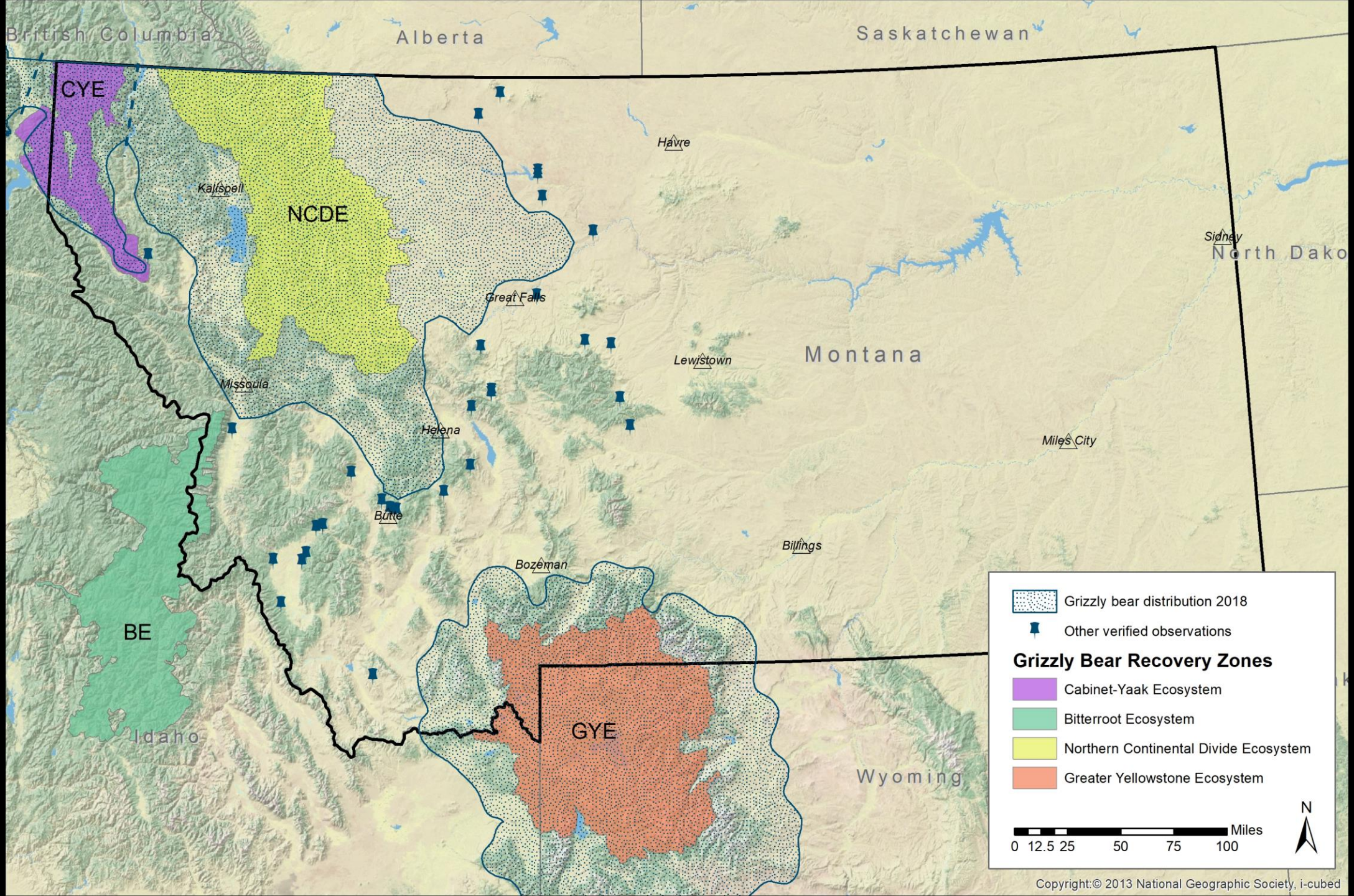
Management of non-conflict grizzly bears in **areas between the NCDE management area and the DMA** of the GYA will be compatible with maintaining some grizzly occupancy.

Maintaining presence of non-conflict grizzly bears in areas between the NCDE and GYA, such as the Tobacco Root and Highland Mountains, would likely facilitate periodic grizzly movements between the NCDE and GYA.

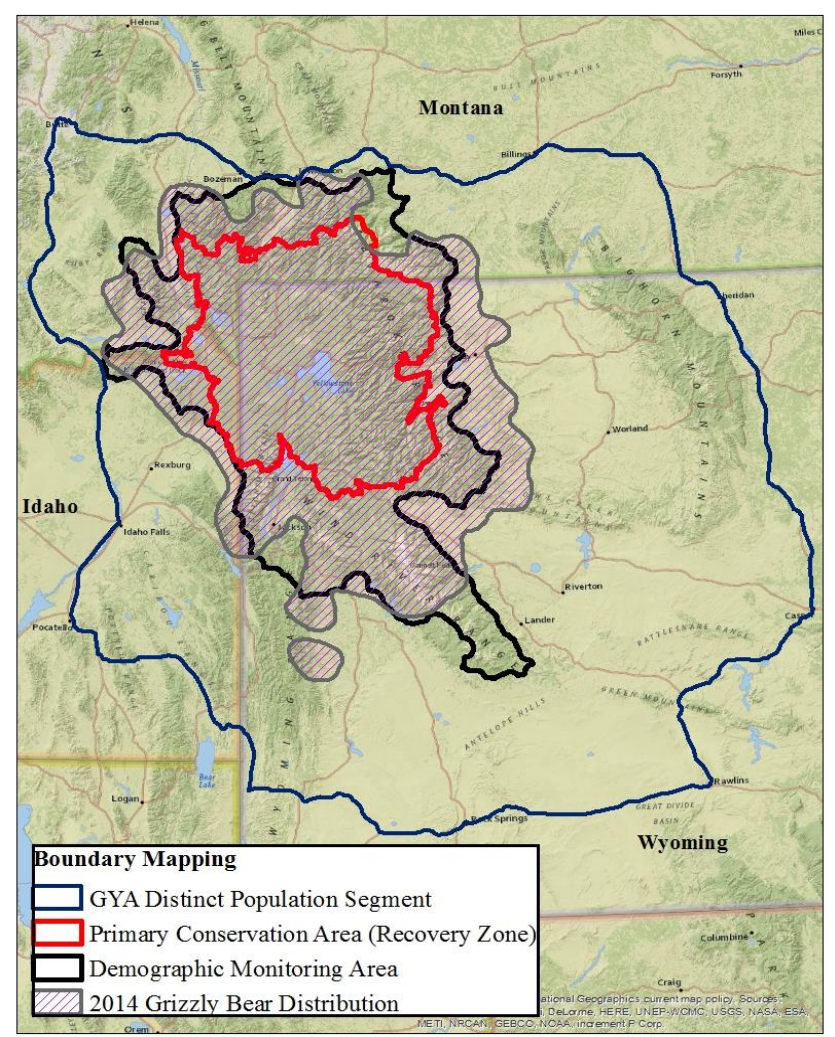
Conflict management and removal of problem grizzly bears will remain a priority within these areas like the rest of Montana. Human safety will always be prioritized over facilitation of grizzly movement for genetic connection between the ecosystems.

FWP did not consider an alternative to limit grizzly bear distribution to just the recovery area. In FWP's opinion, this approach is logistically impossible and biologically undesirable.




British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
CYE
NCDE
BE
GYE
Kalispell
Havre
Great Falls
Lewistown
Missoula
Helena
Butte
Bozeman
Billings
Miles City
Sidney
North Dako
Montana
Idaho
Wyoming
Grizzly bear distribution 2018
Other verified observations
Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones
Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem
Bitterroot Ecosystem
Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
N
Miles
0 12.5 25 50 75 100
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Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (2016)



This Conservation Strategy was developed to be the document guiding management and monitoring of the GYE grizzly bear population and its habitat upon recovery and delisting.

- The PCA will be a secure area for grizzly bears, with population and habitat conditions maintained to ensure a recovered population is maintained for the foreseeable future and to allow bears to continue to expand outside the PCA.
- Outside of the PCA, grizzly bears will be allowed to expand into biologically suitable and socially acceptable areas.
- Manage the GYE grizzly bear population within the area called the Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA), to ensure a recovered population in accordance with the established Recovery Criteria.
- Expand public information and education efforts.
- Provide quick responsive management to address grizzly bear conflicts.
- Manage grizzly bears as a game animal; including allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate

GYE Conservation Strategy



- Maintain at least 500 bears in the GYE.
- Monitor the distribution of females with young of all ages and having a target of at least 16 of 18 BMUs (Bear Management Units) within the PCA occupied at least one year in every six, and no two adjacent BMUs can be unoccupied over any six-year period
- Manage for a stable population within the GYE DMA around the 2002–2014 model averaged Chao2 estimate.

	Total Grizzly Bear Population Estimate		
	≤674	**675-747**	**>747**
Total mortality rate for independent FEMALES.	**≤7.6%**	**9%**	**10%**
Total mortality rate for independent MALES.	**≤15%**	**20%**	**22%**
Total mortality rate for dependent young.	**≤7.6%**	**9%**	**10%**

Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana (2006)



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

GRIZZLY BEAR
MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR WESTERN MONTANA

FINAL PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
2006-2016



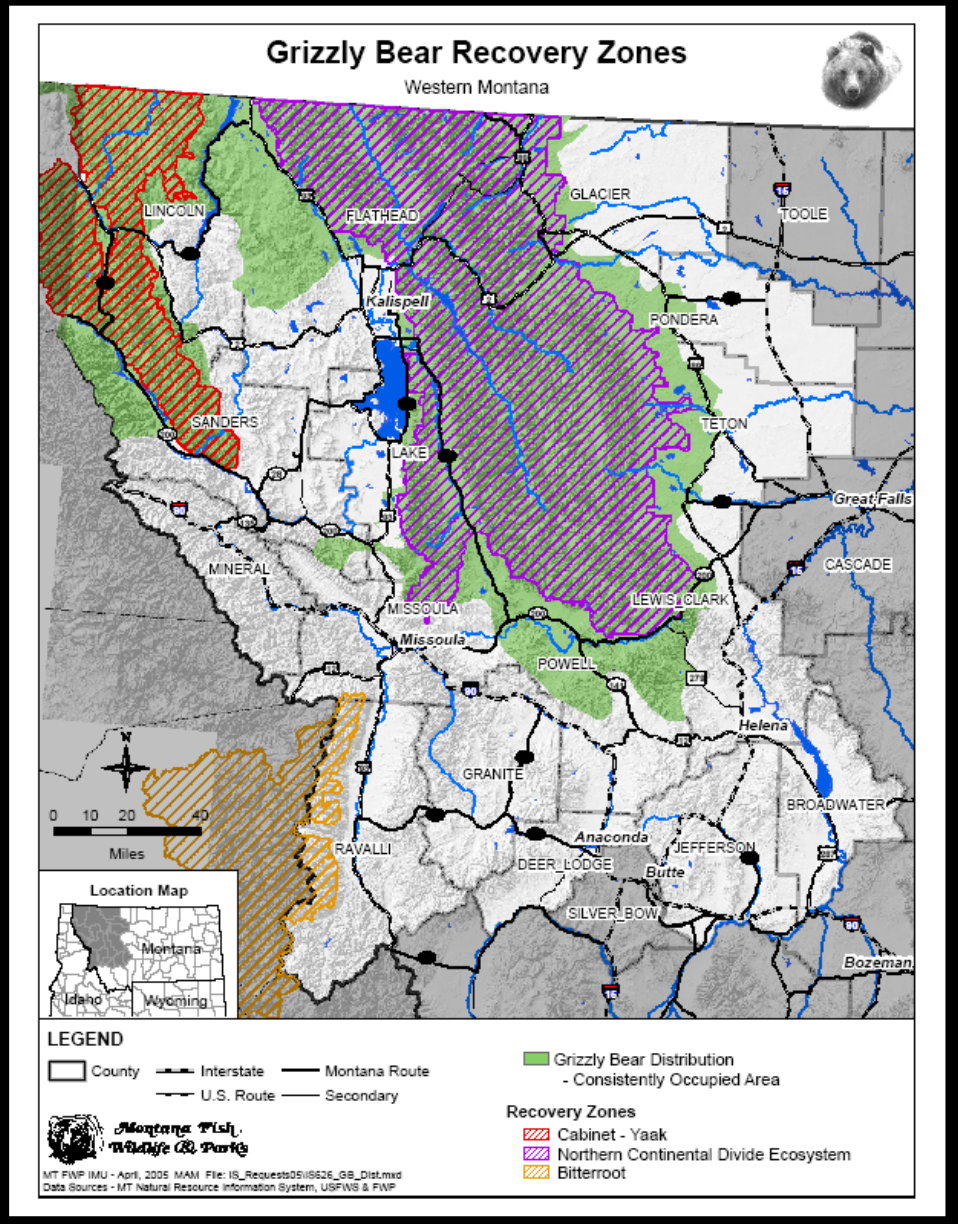
With input from the
Montana Grizzly Bear Working Groups
and other interested parties

December 2006

Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana (2006)

This plan and final programmatic impact statement deals directly with the portion of western Montana that encompasses the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem (CYE), the Bitterroot Ecosystem and adjacent lands in western Montana.

The proposed action of this document is to create and adapt a management program for the entire area of western and northwestern Montana.



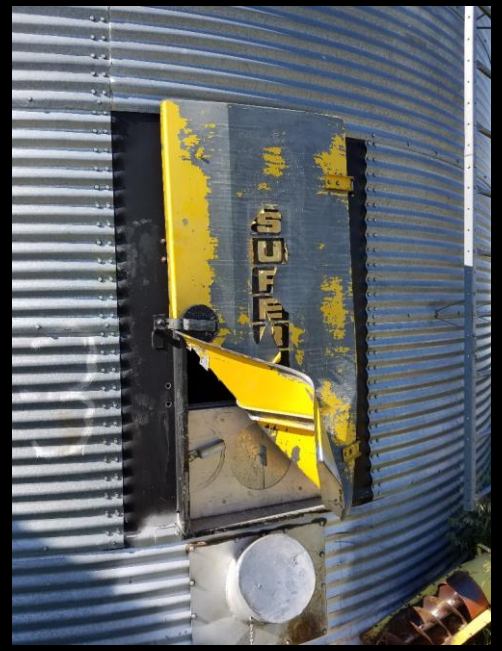
Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana (2006)

- **Conflict Management** - FWP will focus immediate conflict management action in areas already occupied by grizzly bears, i.e. NCDE, C-Y, and surrounding areas. Major emphasis will be placed on educating people about safety measures and preventing conflicts.
- **Human Safety** - Bears that kill people in either an unprovoked or provoked situation will be removed from the population if they can be reasonably identified.
- **Management Control** - If the bear is already habituated and/or food conditioned and is viewed as a threat to human safety, that bear would be removed (euthanized or relocated to a research facility/zoo). FWP will seek expansion and enforcement of practical and effective attractant-storage requirements within western Montana.
- **Livestock Conflicts** - Management efforts will be directed at depredating animals. FWP, in cooperation with WS and other agencies, will focus on preventive programs aimed at minimizing livestock conflict with priority toward those areas with a history of conflict or currently occupied by bears.
- **Property Damage** - FWP will focus on preventive measures, including management aimed at elimination of attractants, and better sanitation measures; the agency's bear management specialists will work on these issues on both public and private lands.
- **Hunting** - Goal is to allow for limited regulated harvest upon delisting of bears implemented within a scientifically sound framework that maintains a viable and self-sustaining population.

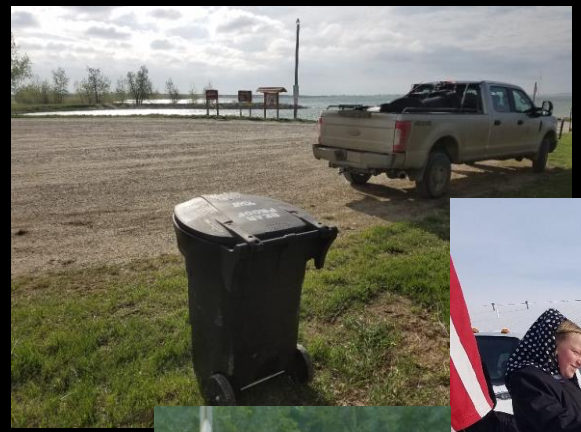
How are we doing this?

- Bear Specialists in Libby, Kalispell, Missoula, Choteau, Deer Lodge, and soon to be Deer Lodge
- NCDE Bear Monitoring Program – Research Biologist
- Internal and External Outreach Specialists




















YOU ARE IN BEAR COUNTRY
Be Bear Aware



Grizzly Bear Management Plan for Western Montana (2006) – Preferred Alternatives

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem - Accelerated Recovery
This alternative evaluated accelerated recovery in the Cabinet-Yaak through more rapid augmentation and reduced human-use mortality of the population. Based on data assembled for the 1986 State Grizzly Bear Management Plan, sufficient habitat exists to support at least 90-120 bears in the Cabinet-Yaak area.

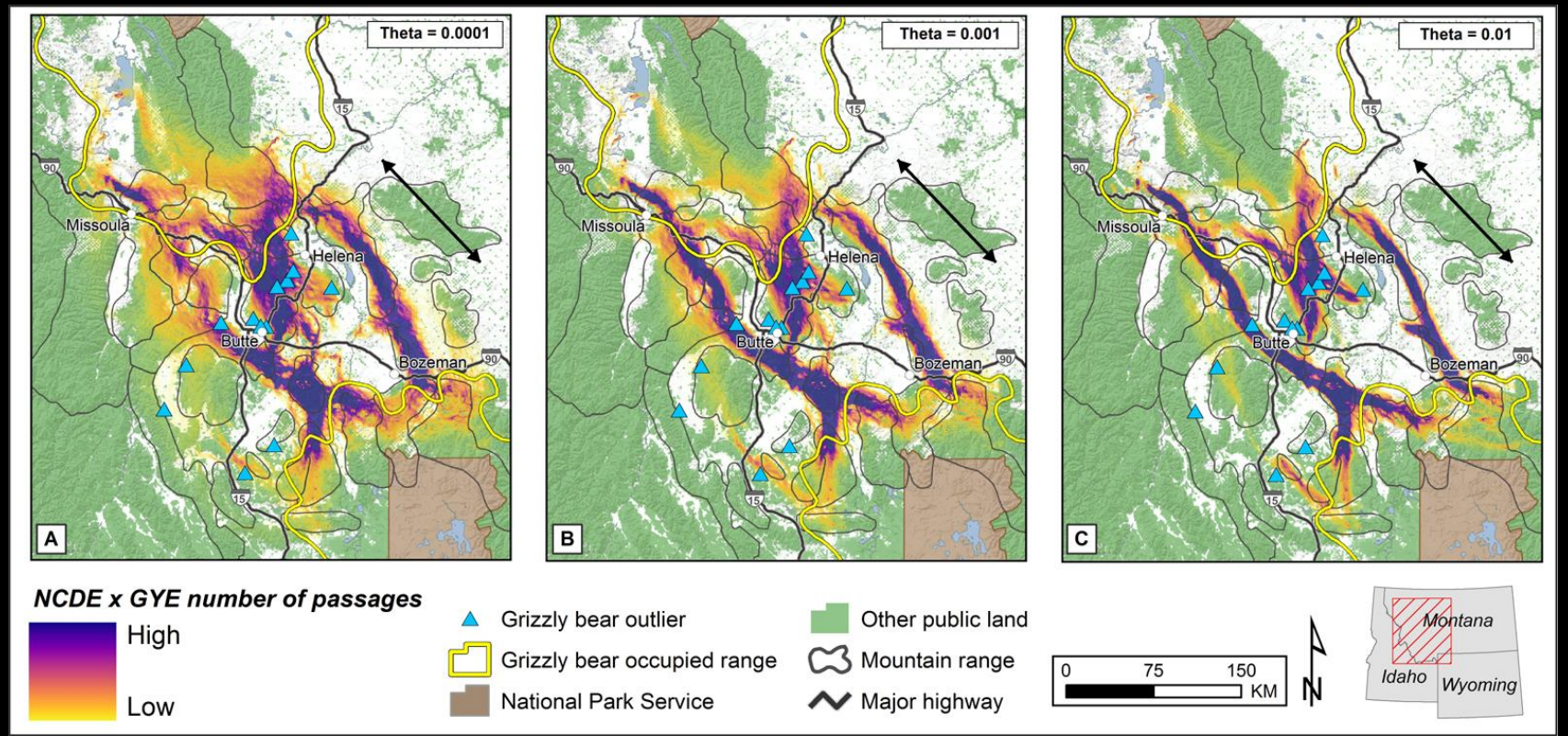
NCDE - Continue Existing Program
Recovery programs to date have resulted in successes in portions of this ecosystem. Basic grizzly bear management programs and activities are in place and current processes allow for periodic updates and changes such as those identified in this plan. Furthermore, evidence from previous reviews indicated a large and healthy population that remains connected to the population in Canada. As many program changes needed to benefit grizzly bears have already occurred and have been or are being implemented, FWP's preferred alternative in the NCDE is to continue these successful efforts.

Bitterroot Ecosystem – Preparatory Planning - Under this alternative, preparatory planning would be undertaken for the anticipated presence of grizzly bears within the ecosystem whether they arrive through natural migration or through a USFWS decision to reintroduce as per their Record of Decision on the Final EIS for Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem.

Future Distribution

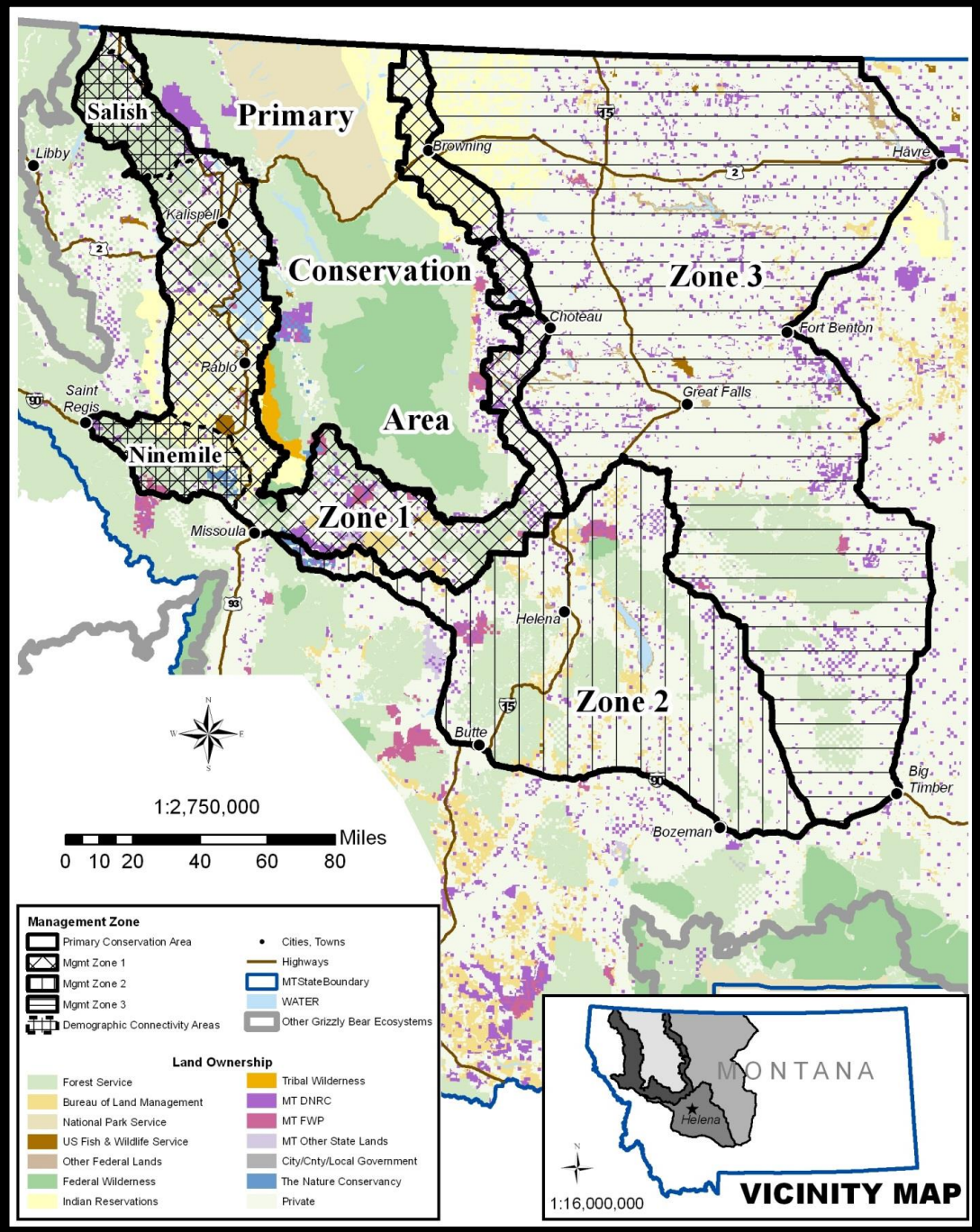
FWP expects grizzly bear distribution to continue to increase. Preferred approaches to managing movement of grizzly bears into new areas include:

- FWP views habitat linkage as providing opportunities for bears to naturally reoccupy suitable, but unoccupied habitat, and will continue to work with Idaho, Canada, and the IGBC to address this issue.
- Areas of potential focus to address linkage problems with movement of bears are the Bitterroot and other intermountain valleys in western Montana, and the Continental Divide and Upper Blackfoot from north of Lincoln south through the upper Clarkfork drainage into the Pipestone Pass and Anaconda-Pintler areas as well as the Evaro area, Highways 2, 93, and 200 and Interstate 90.



Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bear in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (July 2018)

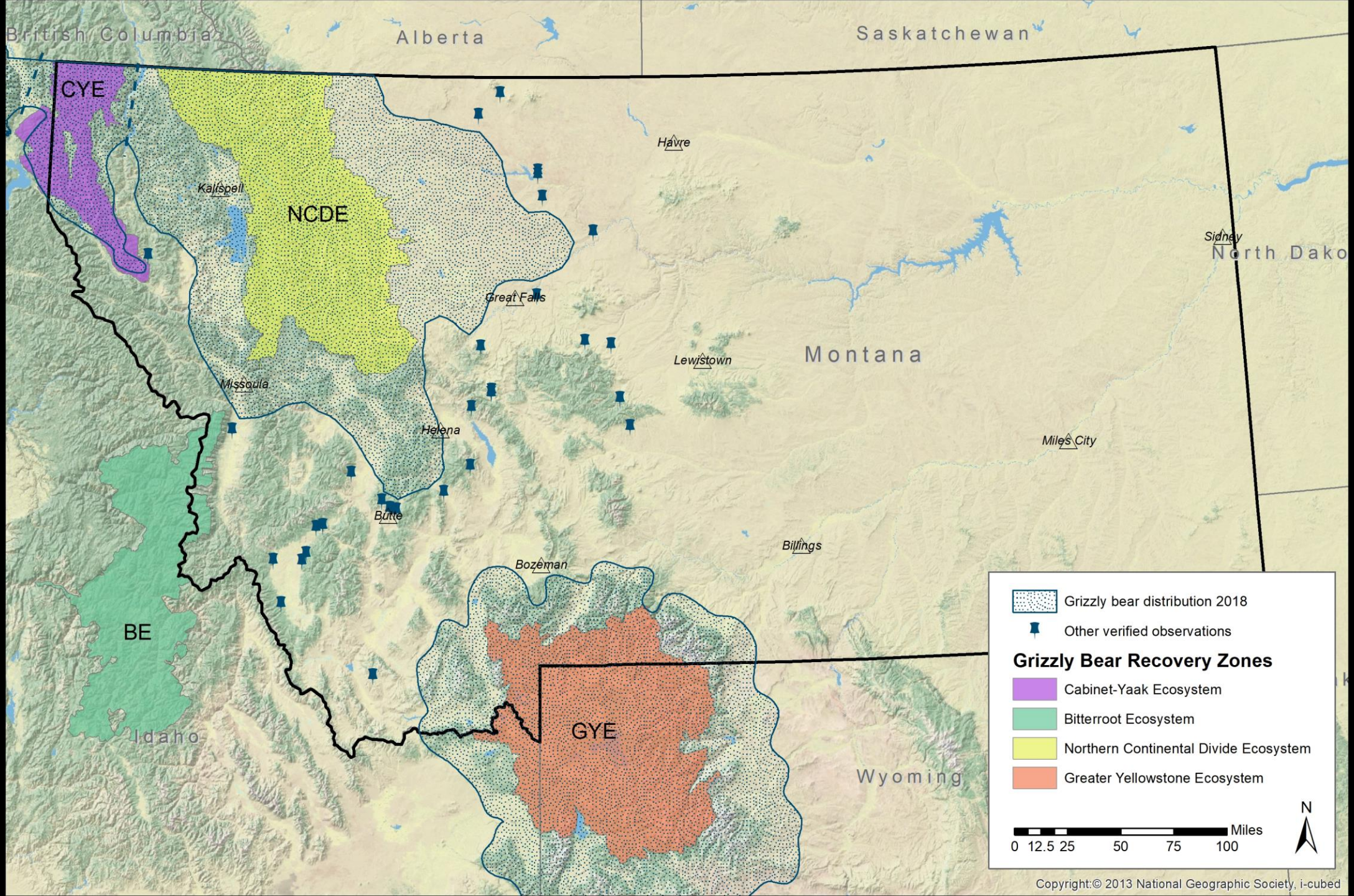
- This Conservation Strategy will serve as the management plan for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem post-delisting. It contains commitments to manage the population and habitat at or above specific levels, and to monitor population and habitat metrics. In addition, it describes how the State, Federal, and Tribal agencies will work together and coordinate to ensure its implementation.



- The PCA and Zone 1 together (10,521,581 acres; 42,579 sq km) will be the area within which population data are collected and sustainable mortality limits apply. This combined area will be referred to as the Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA).
- In Management Zone 2 (4,658,932 acres; 18,854 sq km), the objective is to maintain existing resource management and recreational opportunities and allow agencies to respond to demonstrated conflicts with appropriate management actions.
- Grizzly bears currently occupy Zone 3 , and their numbers are expected to increase, but this may be incompatible with human presence because these areas often lack forest cover, land ownership is mostly private and agricultural uses predominate. In Zone 3, grizzly bear occupancy will not be actively discouraged. Grizzly bears will not be captured and removed just because they occur in Zone 3, nor will they be captured and removed from Zone 3 unless there are conflicts that can only be resolved by capture and relocation or removal of the offending bear. Grizzly bears will be managed primarily though conflict response. The extent of Zone 3 will be determined in the USFWS' Final rule delisting grizzly bears in the NCDE.

NCDE Conservation Strategy

- Demographic Objectives - Maintain a well-distributed grizzly bear population within the DMA; Manage independent female survival and independent male and female mortalities from all sources to support a 90% or greater estimated probability that the grizzly bear population within the DMA remains above 800 bears, considering the uncertainty associated with all of the demographic parameters; and Monitor demographic and genetic connectivity among populations.
- Habitat Objectives - The general approach is to maintain the habitat conditions that existed during the period when the NCDE grizzly bear population was stable to increasing. Habitat management objectives are specific to the PCA and Zones 1, 2, and 3, each with varying levels of habitat protections depending on their relative importance to the NCDE grizzly bear population.
- Conflict - The emphasis of grizzly bear conflict management will be quick response by management authorities, removal of the source of the conflict where possible, and the use of non-lethal solutions. Depending on the circumstances of the conflict


British Columbia
Alberta
Saskatchewan
CYE
NCDE
BE
GYE
Kalispell
Havre
Great Falls
Lewistown
Missoula
Helena
Butte
Bozeman
Billings
Miles City
Sidney
North Dako
Montana
Idaho
Wyoming
Grizzly bear distribution 2018
Other verified observations
Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones
Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem
Bitterroot Ecosystem
Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
N
Miles
0 12.5 25 50 75 100
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Statutory Direction

87-5-301. Grizzly bear -- findings -- policy. (1) The legislature finds that:
(a) grizzly bears are a recovered population and thrive under responsive cooperative management;
(b) grizzly bear conservation is best served under state management and the local, state, tribal, and federal partnerships that fostered recovery; and
(c) successful conflict management is key to maintaining public support for conservation of the grizzly bear.
(2) It is the policy of the state to:
(a) manage the grizzly bear as a species in need of management to avoid conflicts with humans and livestock; and
(b) use proactive management to control grizzly bear distribution and prevent conflicts, including trapping and lethal measures.

87-1-217. Policy for management of large predators -- legislative intent. (1) In managing large predators, the primary goals of the department, in the order of listed priority, are to:
(a) protect humans, livestock, and pets;
(b) preserve and enhance the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood activities; and
(c) preserve citizens' opportunities to hunt large game species.