

**2009 – 2014 Five-Year Work Plan/Accomplishments  
Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Subcommittee  
Of the Interagency Grizzly bear Committee**

**Planned:** Enhance cooperative efforts with local communities by working closely in partnership with local residents and county governments to build local support and understanding about grizzly recovery and ecosystem health.

**Accomplished:** Ongoing efforts occurring, improved garbage transfer locations, multiple counties, multiple bear fairs for increasing awareness, utilizing bear rangers for individual/ community contacts, presence of bear management specialists across the NCDE and across land ownership emphasis. School programs, community presentations, fair booth programs are examples of the active outreach occurring that has made a difference.

**Planned:** Complete the NCDE Conservation Strategy by Dec. 31, 2012 including:

- Establish the area within which morality standards and mortality limits will be applied.
- Establish the area within which habitat standards and habitat criteria monitoring will be applied.
- Decide whether to apply a tiered management intensity system involving higher levels of habitat and population management in a core area and lesser levels of management intensity in surrounding areas.

**Accomplished:** Prepared a Draft NCDE Conservation Strategy, has received public comments and at this time comments are being considered for the final and or addressed. The Draft Strategy has established the described areas and addressed the core area and adjacent areas.

- **Planned:** Develop demographic recovery criteria for the NCDE informed by the Yellowstone model including:
  - Population monitoring methods
  - Sustainable mortality limits
  - Unknown/unreported mortality calculation
  - Decide on and apply trend monitoring methods
- **Accomplished:** Within the Draft NCDE Conservation Strategy is draft demographic standards. This is an area that continues to be updated from the draft. All of the criteria are included.
- **Planned:** Develop public lands habitat standards for the NCDE informed by the Yellowstone model:
  - Motorized access management standards
  - Site development standards
  - Livestock allotment standards including sheep used for weed control.
- **Accomplished:** All are included in the Draft NCDE Conservation Strategy. The NCDE public land managers are evaluating the habitat standards as described currently and also included gas/oil development in addition to as described.
- **Planned:** Develop demographic and habitat monitoring protocols:

- Assign responsibility for annual reporting systems on demographic monitoring including population size, trend, sustainable mortality, and unknown /unreported mortality.
  - Assign responsibility for the annual reporting of habitat standards on public lands including the mortised access management, amount of secure habitat by subunits, developed sites by subunits, and livestock allotments by subunits.
- **Accomplished:** All included in the draft plan and reporting of the both the demographic information will be included in Rick Mace presentation on agenda (FWP responsibility). Habitat standards are also being reported with motorized access and secure habitat by subunits on opposite years across the NCDE; and the developed site and allotment information by subunit on the alternate years across the NCDE within the Primary Conservation Area (data steward Kathy Ake responsibility in cooperation with all agencies) .
  - **Planned:** Get habitat standards in the 5 forest plans (FNF, KNF, LNF, HNF, LCNF), and in plans for GNP, BLM, MTDNRC, and tribal management plans using appropriate processes.
  - **Accomplished:** Ongoing
  - **Planned:** Get all agencies to sign a MOU to implement the NCDE Conservation Strategy.
  - **Accomplished:** All within the NCDE supported the Draft NCDE Grizzly Bear Strategy and engaged with the development. MOU is ongoing with the completion of the Final and the completion of demographic standard.

**Planned:** Report NCDE trend estimate results using female survival and fecundity monitoring.

**Accomplished:** Occurring and ongoing – report on agenda (Mace)

**Planned:** Propose delisting before December 2014

**Accomplished:** Progressing, but delayed on December 2014 date.

**Planned:** Improve conditions that allow for interchange and dispersal between NCDE and Bitterroot, NCDE and the Yellowstone, and NCDE and Cabinet Yak ecosystems.

**Accomplished:** Addressed in NCDE Draft Conservation Plan and monitoring is seeing bears using and moving into the areas that allow the access to described areas.