

2017 Work Plan

North Cascades Management Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

Planned actions Item 1, Restoration EIS for the NCE:

- The NPS and USFWS are in the process of developing an EIS to examine alternatives for how to recover this population.
 - A draft EIS will be available for a 60-day public review early in 2017.
 - Public meetings will follow the release of the DEIS, with four meeting sites on the west side of the ecosystem, and four on the east side.
 - The NCE Technical Team will continue to provide support to the NPS contractor to assist as possible with document preparation and public review.

Planned actions Item 2, Outreach:

- Work closely in partnership with NGOs and other partners, local residents and county governments to build local support and understanding about grizzly recovery and ecosystem health.

Planned actions Item 3, Report follow-up:

- As possible, apply enhanced monitoring via DNA hair snags, automatic cameras, and follow-up on reported observations to assess the presence of grizzly bears in and adjacent to the North Cascades Ecosystem. Prioritize surveys in the portion of the ecosystem adjacent areas where grizzly bears have recently been detected in British Columbia.

Planned actions Item 4, Access management Part 1:

- Continue to support the Forest Service in upholding the 1997 interim guidance for core management until Forest Plans are revised.

Planned actions Item 4 Access management Part 2:

- Re-evaluate core areas and road management in the western part of the recovery area (Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF), after trails data have been updated.

Planned actions Item 5, Sanitation:

- Expand sanitation database to include a survey of waste receptacles needed to replace all non-wildlife-resistant units, as well as food storage containers and signage needed in addition to existing facilities.
- Provide sanitation signage to all trailheads and camping areas. Coordinate standardized signage/ language to be used throughout the ecosystem.

- Expand the NPS food storage requirements to other federal lands in the recovery area. We propose reviewing existing food storage orders on forests in other ecosystems.