The Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the GYE

Concept for proposed revisions to 2016 document, chapter 3 – Habitat Standards
Objective of the Standards

Strategy incorporated:

- measurable habitat criteria
- ‘no net loss ‘of secure habitat with respect to 1998 conditions
- objective to reduce access-related disturbances and human caused-mortalities by maintaining or improving habitat
Where Do Standards Apply?

Primary Conservation Area (Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone)
What is the Baseline?

- 1998 habitat conditions measured by bear management subunit
- Measurable sideboards on roads and developed sites
- Listed in Appendix E of the Strategy
- Guided by application rules
Success and Challenges

➢ Increase in visitor use

➢ Need for administrative infrastructure to manage use
Changing Conditions

- More bears more widely distributed
- More informed management
- Multi-agency effort
Potential Changes to the Standards

- Evaluated in cooperative manner
- Minimize deviations to 1998 baseline
- Available for public comment; approved by YGCC/YES
Objectives of this Presentation

- Summarize and affirm support for concept of proposed changes to developed site standard and associated language
- Determine process and timeline for public comment on proposed changes
Current Habitat Standards

- Secure Habitat
- Developed Sites
- Livestock Allotments
Secure Habitat

No net loss

- Contiguous areas > 10 acres and more than 500 m from an open or gated motorized road or trail
Visitor Use Developed Sites

- Campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, boat launches, rental cabins, summer homes, lodges, service stations, and restaurants
Administrative Developed Sites

- Unit headquarters, ranger stations, patrol cabins, park entrances, employee housing and other facilities supporting administration
Developed Site Standards

Allow changes to or construction of new sites if:

- Mitigated by closing or restoring another site in the same subunit
- Increased administrative infrastructure is necessary for enhancement of public land management and viable alternatives are not available
- Modifications reduce resource damage, detrimental environmental impacts or increase human safety
Dispersed sites
Tasks for a Technical Team

- Review the habitat standards for developed sites
- Recommend revisions to accommodate increased visitation
Approach/Sideboards

- Minimize deviation from 1998 Baseline
- Preserve previous habitat gains
- Alleviate administrative pressures
- Maintain unified approach (parks and forests)
- Avoid “status review”
- Track and report future changes
Improved Mapping

- Correct errors
- Replace developed area points (where appropriate) with ‘footprints’
Developed site maps and GIS algorithm
Proposed flexibility to provide added day-use facilities within 500m buffers of existing primary roads
Summary

- Technical team reviewed habitat standards
- Corrected mapping errors and replaced “points” with “footprints” of developed areas when appropriate
- More accurately represents human presence and management intent
- Imposes measurable sideboards
- Defines space for expansion within existing developed areas and primary road corridors
Acknowledgments

Technical Team:

Dan Tyers – USFS
Lisa Landenburger – USFS/USGS
Alison Reck – MSU
Andy Pils – Shoshone NF
Kerry Murphy – Shoshone NF
Randy Griebel – Bridger-Teton NF
Todd Stiles – Bridger-Teton NF
Josh Hemenway – Custer-Gallatin NF
Jennifer Fortin-Noreus – USFWS
Kerry Gunther – Yellowstone NP
Kate Wilmot – Grand Teton NP/John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
Next Steps

- Affirm direction, footprint approach
- Provide for public comment (as per the *Conservation Strategy*, p. 55):

  “Production of a draft document enumerating proposed revisions to the 1998 habitat standards will be released for public comment and approved by the YGCC “[YES]”

- Goal: Finalize revisions at fall YES meeting