

# Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee Report of 2020 Accomplishments to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

December 11, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Ben Conard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Ecological Services Office, Subcommittee Chair  
Jeanne Higgins, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Vice-Chair

## Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

### Objective 1: Augment the population

- No bears moved to Cabinet Mountains in 2020.
- MFWP captured 1 subadult female in NCDE; deemed unsuitable due to mgmt.
- 22 bears added since 1990 (14 females and 8 males).

## Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

### Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- Most in-person I&E canceled due to pandemic.
- Other routine outreach, I&E, landowner assistance, and securing attractants continued (see rept. for details)

## Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

### Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- 1 adult male and 1 adult female mortality thus far in 2020 (male mistaken ID by Idaho black bear hunter, female under investigation).
- Determined 2 orphaned cubs counted as mortalities in 2018 are still alive (DNA/hair snagging).

## Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

### Objective 3: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- Some rub trees and hair corrals (curtailed due to Covid-19 protocols).
- Captured and collared 3 additional bears in Cabinet-Yaak.
- 0.9% growth rate for Cabinet-Yaak (2019).
- 11 of 22 BMUs occupied by females with young 2014-2019.

## Goal 2: Connectivity to achieve occupancy standards and linkage

- Vital Ground purchased Wild River Estates west of Troy, MT.
- Linkage zones used in land-use planning (e.g. BMU 22 Project, Lolo NF).
- USFWS monitoring bear movement and DNA data.

## Goal 3: Apply results of research to habitat management

- Review of U Montana report on Pacific Northwest Trail routes and habitats.
- USFS using habitat quality maps for management decisions (e.g., Black Ram Project, Kootenai NF).

## Goal 4: Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee

- No explicit 2020 accomplishments.



## Selkirk Ecosystem

# Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

## Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- Most in-person I&E canceled due to pandemic.
- Other routine outreach, I&E, landowner assistance, and securing attractants continued (see rept. for details).
- IDFG, with Y-Y Conservation Initiative grant, fenced Mount Hall waste transfer site (Boundary Co., ID)

## Selkirk Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- 1 male mortality: under investigation.
- 1 female mortality: vehicle strike.

## Selkirk Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 2: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- Some rub trees and hair corrals (curtailed due to Covid-19 protocols).
- Captured and collared 5 additional bears in the Selkirks.
- 2.5% growth rate for Selkirks (2019).

## Goal 2: Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery

With assistance from SCYE partners...

- British Columbia hair snag sampling (year 1) covered the eastern 65 percent of the South Selkirk Population Unit in 2020.
- The remaining western 35% to be sampled in 2021, with a population estimate from both sides of the border occurring in 2022.