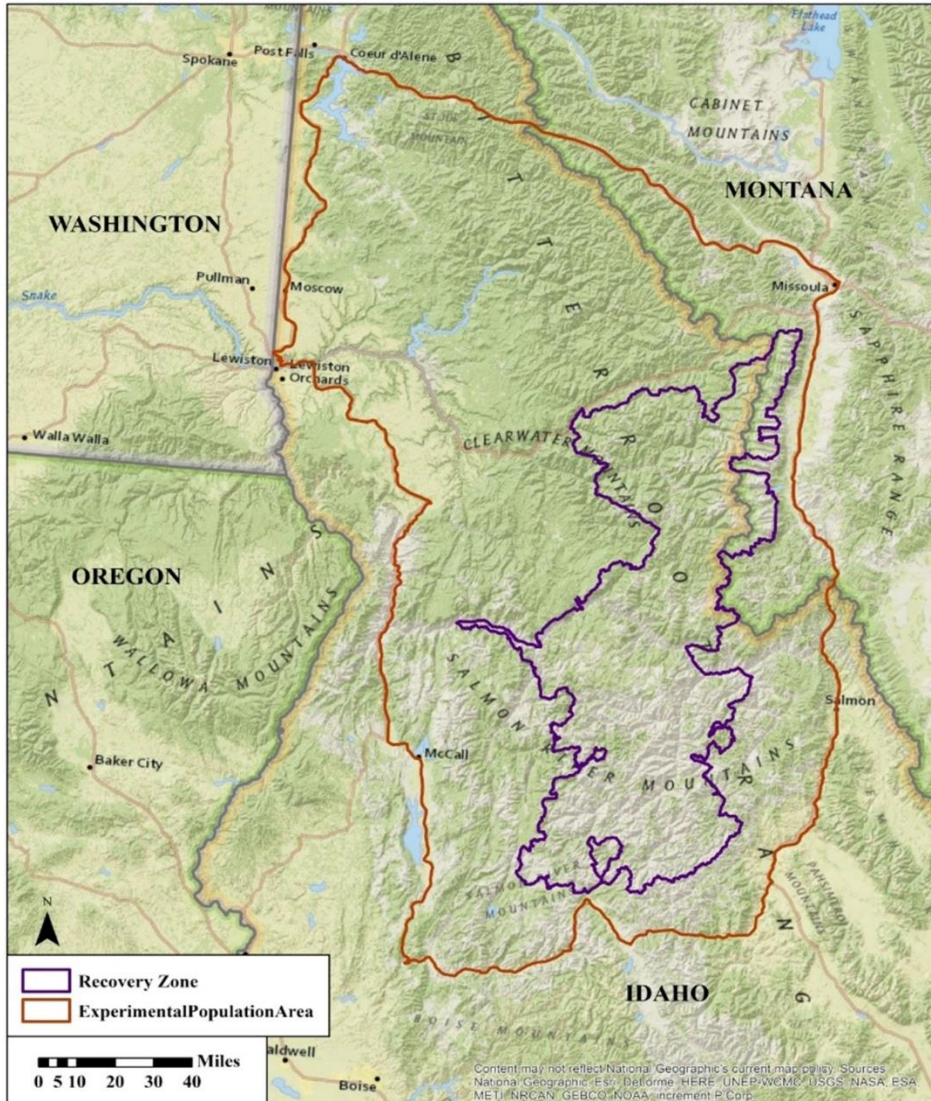


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Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee



Bitterroot Ecosystem



- Established a more complete Ecosystem Subcommittee
- Established a Science Committee
- Coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to identify relevant issues, establish a common understanding of current conditions and FWS expectations of FS. Also, set the framework for future 'next steps'
- Continue to see grizzly bears conducting forays into the periphery of the ecosystem.

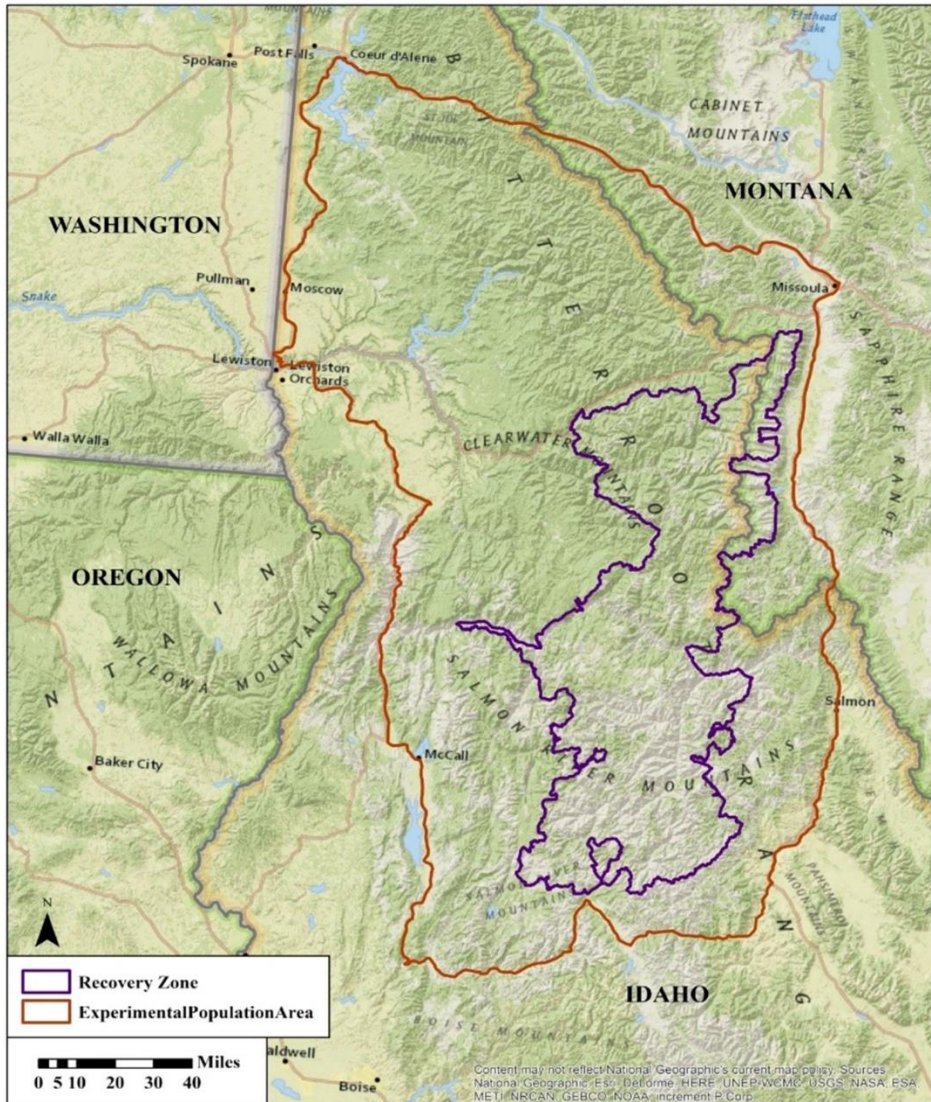


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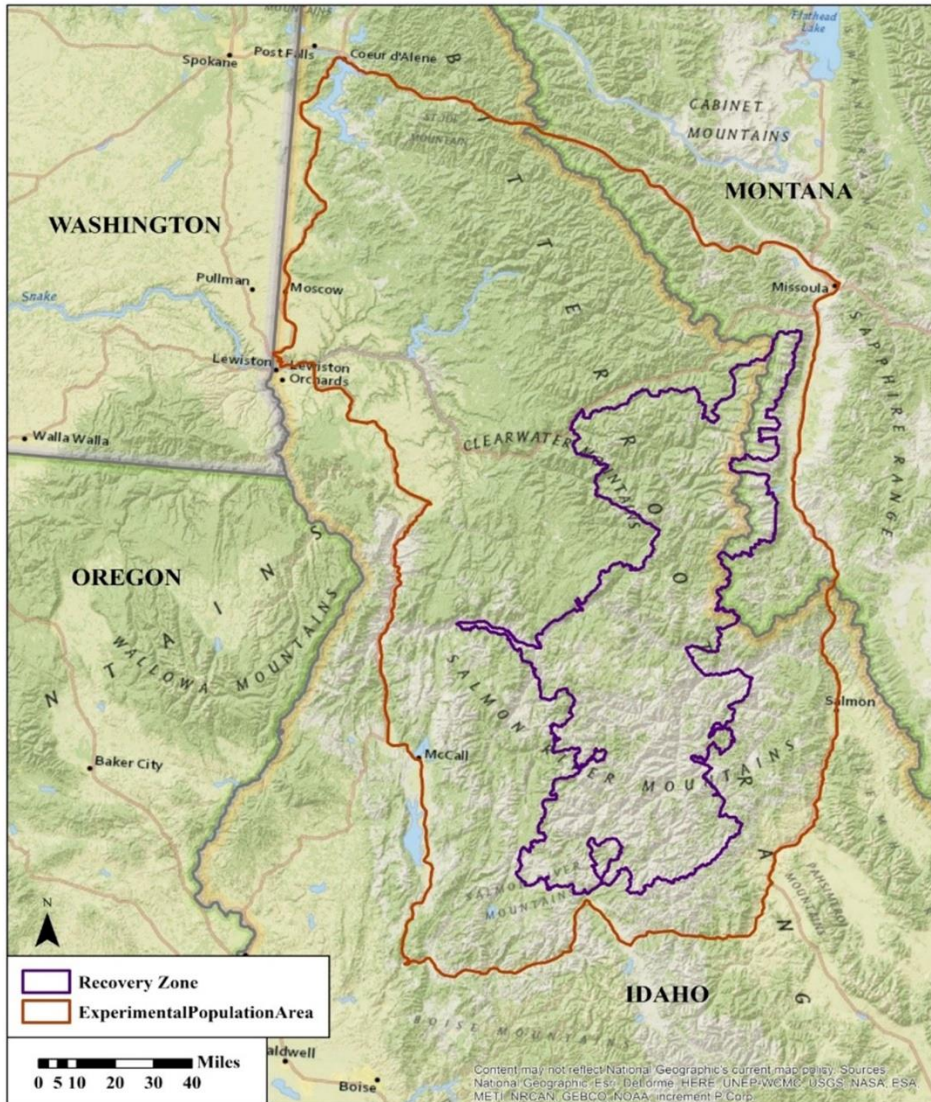
- Charged a subcommittee with developing a framework around food storage orders. Given the following considerations:
 - Areas to prioritize
 - When to implement
 - Assess needs (infrastructure, personnel)
 - Cost
 - Wilderness values
 - Consistency
 - Information/Education
 - Interagency and interdisciplinary coordination
- The Information, Education & Outreach Committee developed Goals, Priorities, Work Planned/Implemented and Potential Future Needs

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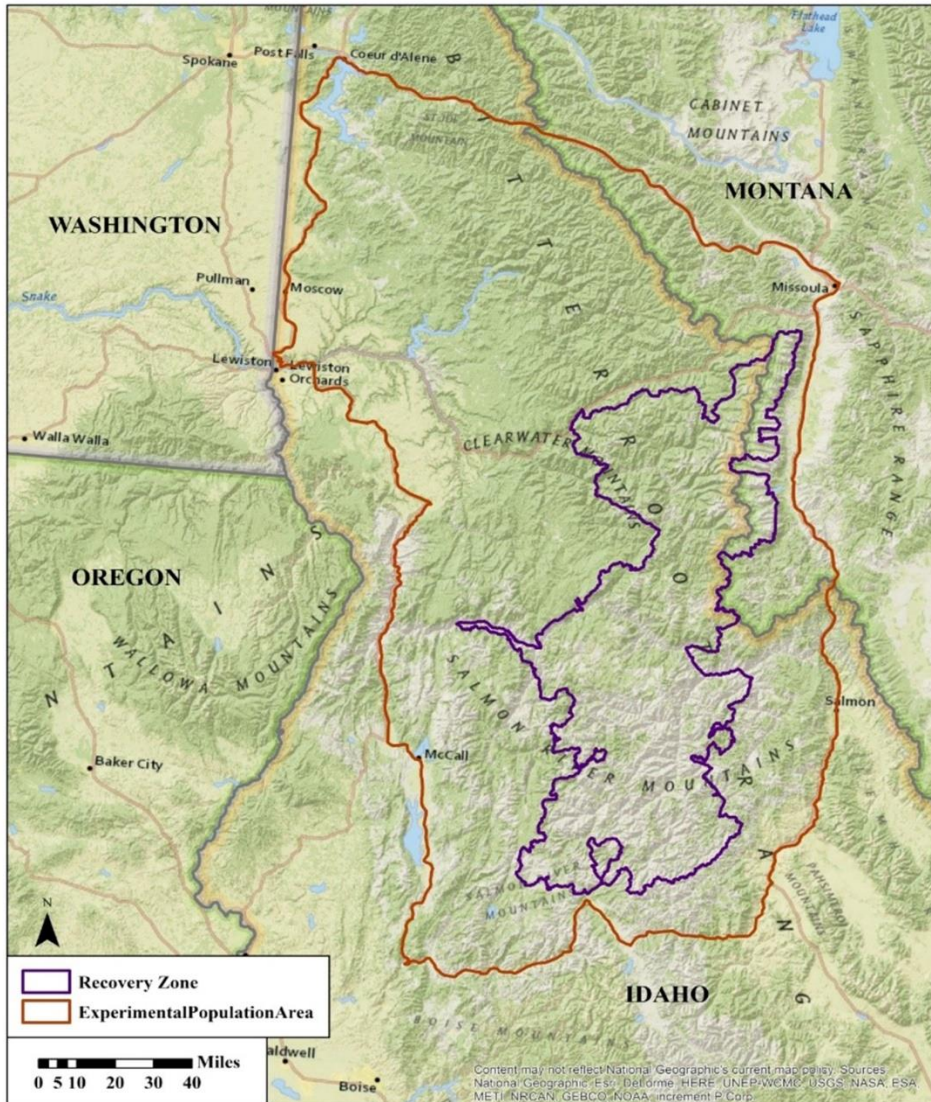
➤ Developed a Communication Strategy:

- Improve and increase public messaging related to safety and “bear awareness.”
- Educate the public about food storage and sanitation, including identification of bear attractants (e.g., garbage collection sites, livestock boneyards, hunters bait sites, and anthropogenic foods).
- Keep the public informed about grizzly bears in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (BE), including both the presence of bears in the BE as well as information on how to be safe in bear country.
- Help the public learn to live in bear country, by working with employees, communities and partners to incorporate best management practices into their operations.
- Communicate about the FWS and USFS’s coordinated efforts to recover grizzly bears through implementation of section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.

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“F&G officer spots grizzly bear tracks about 7 miles south of Grangeville in April”



Ongoing Information, Education, and Outreach Efforts