

Current grizzly range

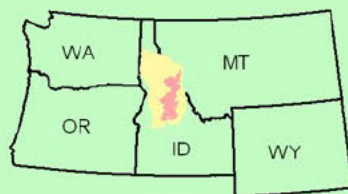
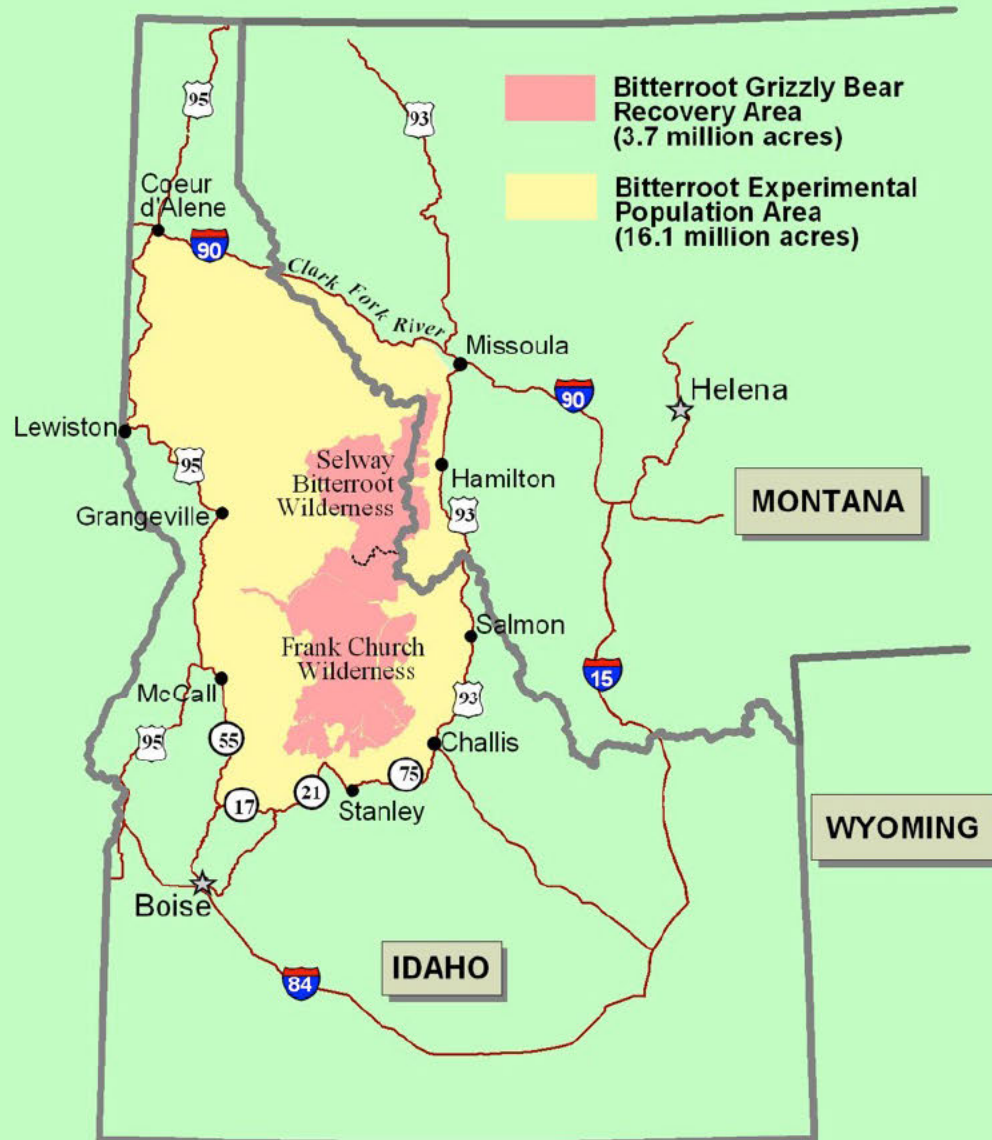


Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Restoration EIS

Started in 1995 completed in 2000

Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem





30 0 30 60 Miles



Bitterroot Restoration

- The main and perhaps only area in the lower 48 states where there is a chance to restore a grizzly population
- Proposed as a 10j Experimental population

Area for Bitterroot Recovery

- Wilderness is the core and only area for reintroduction
- Size of wilderness core is 5600 sq. mi.
- Wilderness larger than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined
- Bears would also occur outside wilderness and be accommodated with existing uses



Bitterroot Experimental Population Reintroduction

- All bears fully protected against illegal killing
- Management by citizen/agency committee with a mandate to make decisions that will lead to recovery
- Committee must use best available science and involve public in decision process
- Committee will be disbanded if it does not make decisions toward recovery

Bitterroot Experimental Population Reintroduction

- Although a signed record of decision is still in place to reintroduce 25 bears over 5 years, this has never been funded due to political “interest”.

Background

- 1932 – last confirmed grizzly bear mortality
- 1946 – last verified grizzly track
until...
- Sept. 2007 – grizzly bear killed by a black bear hunter in upper Kelly Cr.
- We know from his DNA that this bear came from the Selkirks 140 miles to the northwest

Background – policy & status

- The grizzly in the Bitterroot area is currently listed as threatened under ESA
- In 2000 – An EIS process was completed with a decision to re-introduce 25 bears with Citizen Management Committee (CMC) oversight
- This reintroduction would be as an experimental population with CMC oversight but ONLY if grizzly bears are reintroduced there
- If grizzly bears re-occupy the Bitterroot area naturally, they will be fully listed under ESA and an experimental population with CMC oversight would not be possible

Background – policy & status

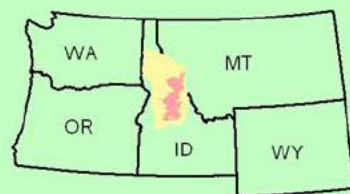
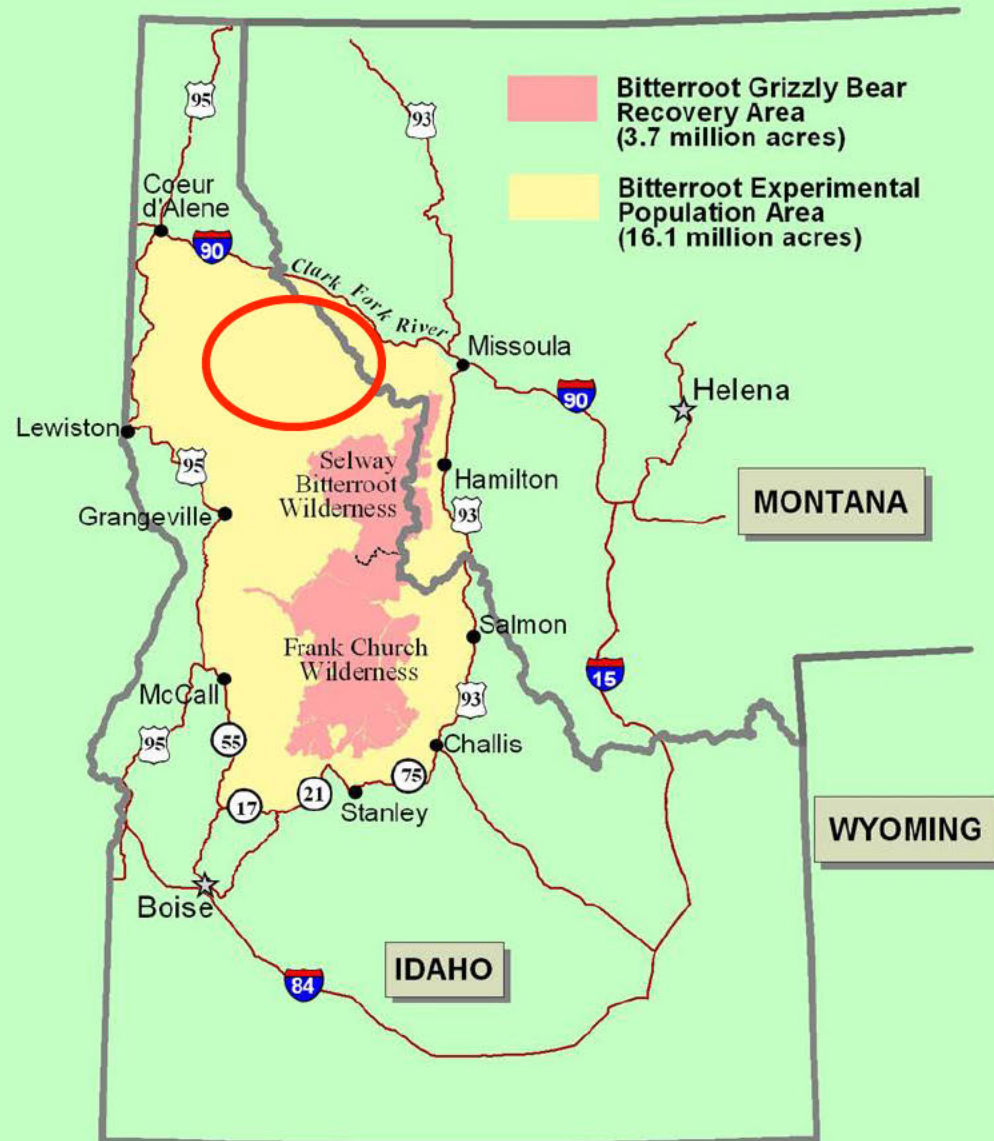
2000 Bitterroot Grizzly Reintroduction EIS defined a population of grizzlies as:

“verified evidence...of at least two different female grizzly bears with young or one female seen with different litters in two different years”

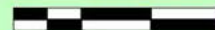
Bitterroot Grizzly Survey 2008-2009

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30 0 30 60 Miles



Sampling Methods

- hair samples from barbed-wire hair corrals
 - baited with non-consumptive lure (cow blood and fish mixture poured on the ground)
 - sites checked and hair collected after 14 days
- hair samples collected from
- motion-and-heat-triggered cameras used at most baited sites



Methods

Sites baited only in July and August.

All sites placed more than 100 yards off trails and more than 500 yards from any campsites or developed areas.

sites chosen based on:

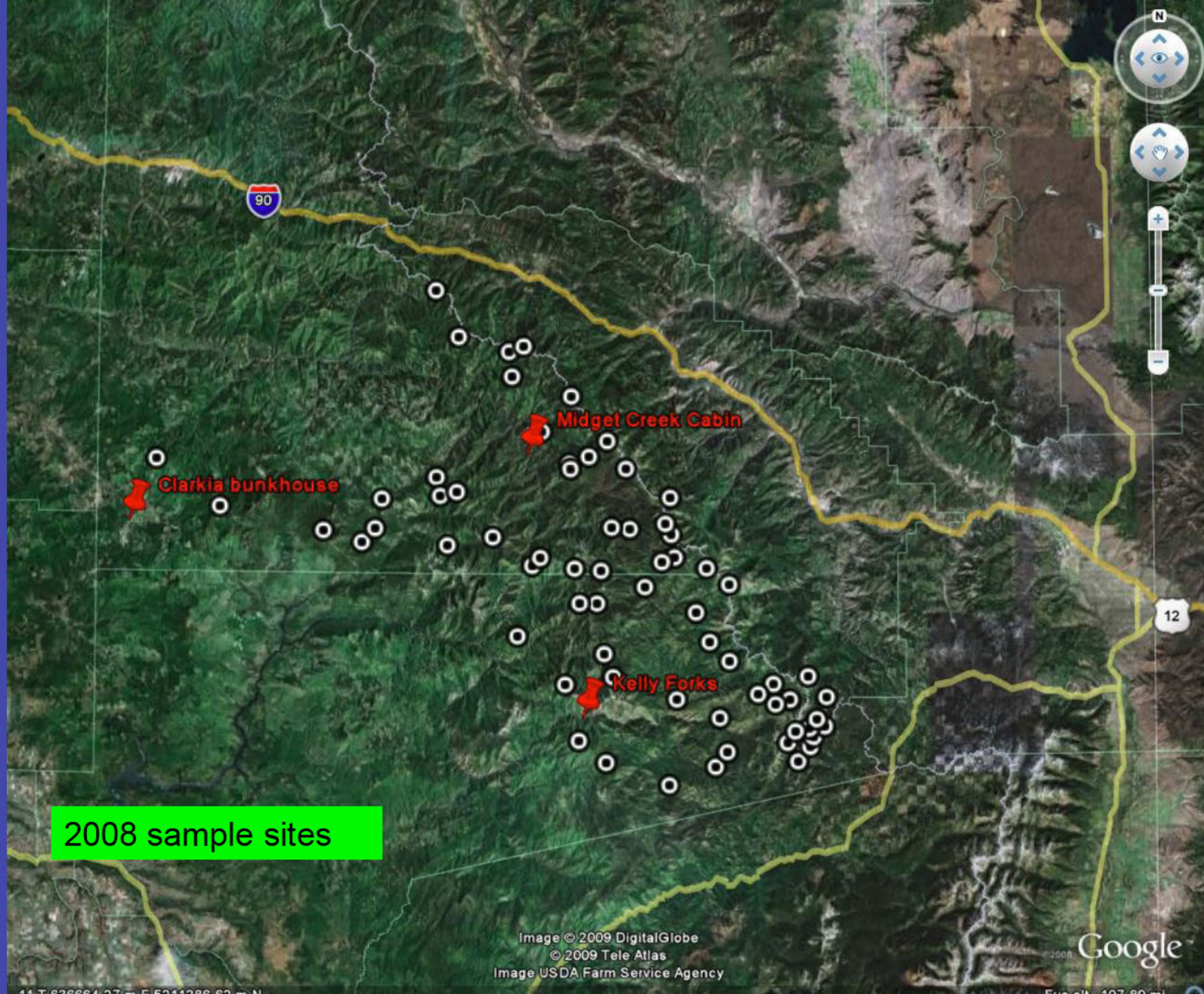
- expert opinion of IDFG, MTFWP, USFWS
- locations of recent sighting reports
- natural movement areas (i.e., stream confluences, ridgelines, and saddles)

Methods

- all hair samples processed by Wildlife Genetics International in Canada
- error rate is impeccable (close to 0)
- each hair sample identified to bear species using DNA

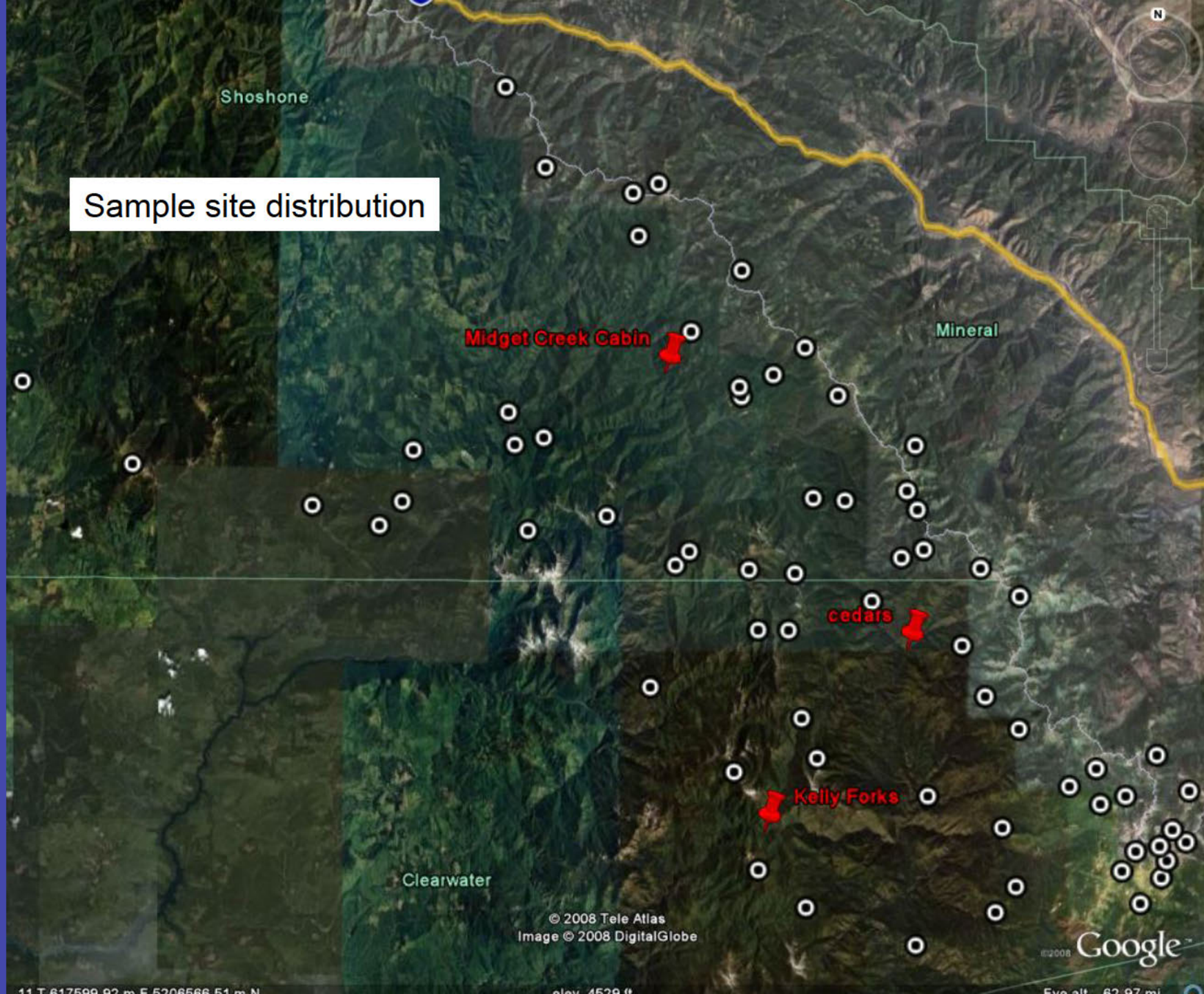
Hair corral methods

- 68 barbed-wire hair corral sites
- 3 crews used to place sites and collect samples
- sample period: July 7 – Sept 6
- each site sampled for 14 days
- 952 “trap nights” = (68 sites x 14 days)
- No rub trees found although all areas searched



2008 sample sites

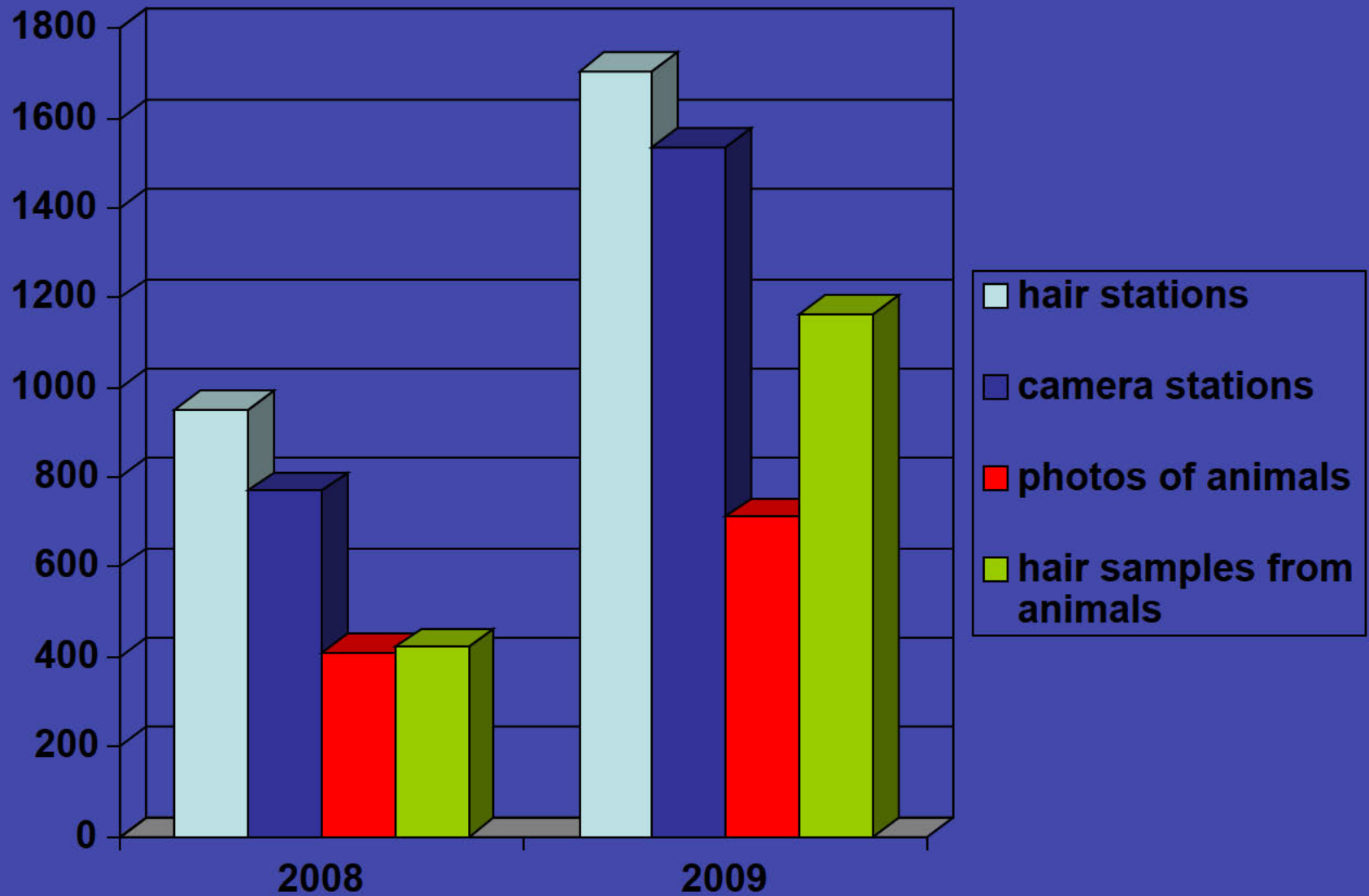
Sample site distribution





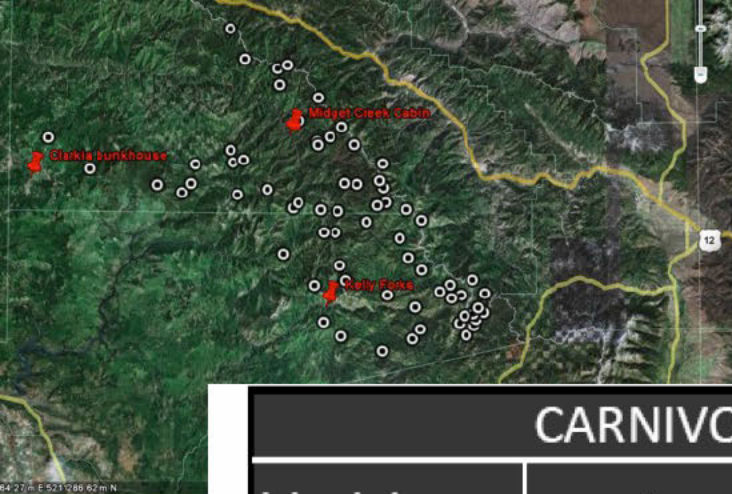
2009 sample sites

Sampling Effort and Results 2008 and 2009



Hair and camera stations reported as nights sampled

All hair samples reported are non-ungulate hair samples



2008 Results

CARNIVORES					
black bear	coyote	marten	mtn.lion	wolf	
84	5	22	1	7	119
UNGULATE/OTHER					
deer	elk	moose	other*		
177	33	54	25	289	
GRAND TOTAL					408
* dog, snowshoe hare, squirrel, unknown					



2009 Results

CARNIVORES								
study area	black bear	bobcat	coyote	lion	marten	skunk	wolf	
Bitterroots	86	0	11	5	12	0	4	118
Clark Fork	162	4	11	4	6	2	1	190

UNGULATE/OTHER				
study area	deer	elk	moose	other*
Bitterroots	54	17	12	11
Clark Fork	102	127	16	64

GRAND TOTAL				711
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* includes 34 hares, 1 porcupine, 5 birds, 33 rodents, and 2 unidentifiable animals.

Results

- No sign of any grizzly bears was found over 2 years of intensive sampling. Lots of black bears and wolves, but no grizzly bears

