INTERAGENCY

GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE

IGBC

NCDE

Jim Williams	FWP	Chair
Jeff Mow	GNP	Vice Chair

Numerically Recovered

+

Spatially Recovered

= Biologically Recovered

But not LEGALLY Recovered

NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy

---- DRAFT ---- DRAFT ---- DRAFT ----

April 2013

Photo by Rick Mace, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 3: Forest Plan Amendments to incorporate relevant direction from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy

Helena National Forest
Kootenai National Forest
Lewis and Clark National Forest
Lolo National Forest

Forest Service

May 2016

"…the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." –Gifford Pinchot, 1st Chief of the Forest Service, 1905

NORTHERN CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ECOSYSTEM

GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION MONITORING

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015

1. population trend,
2. survival rates,
3. reproductive rates,
4. movements and habitat selection,
5. distribution in western Montana,
6. mortality levels in the NCDE, and
7. levels of unreported mortality.

Monitoring Team Cooperators:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service

National Park Service, Glacier National Park

Parks Canada, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta

Blackfeet Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

British Columbia Ministry of Forests

Prepared By:

Cecily M. Costello, MTFWP
Lori L. Roberts, MTFWP

This annual report summarizes data collection efforts to date. It is not a peer-reviewed document, and data summaries and interpretations are subject to change.

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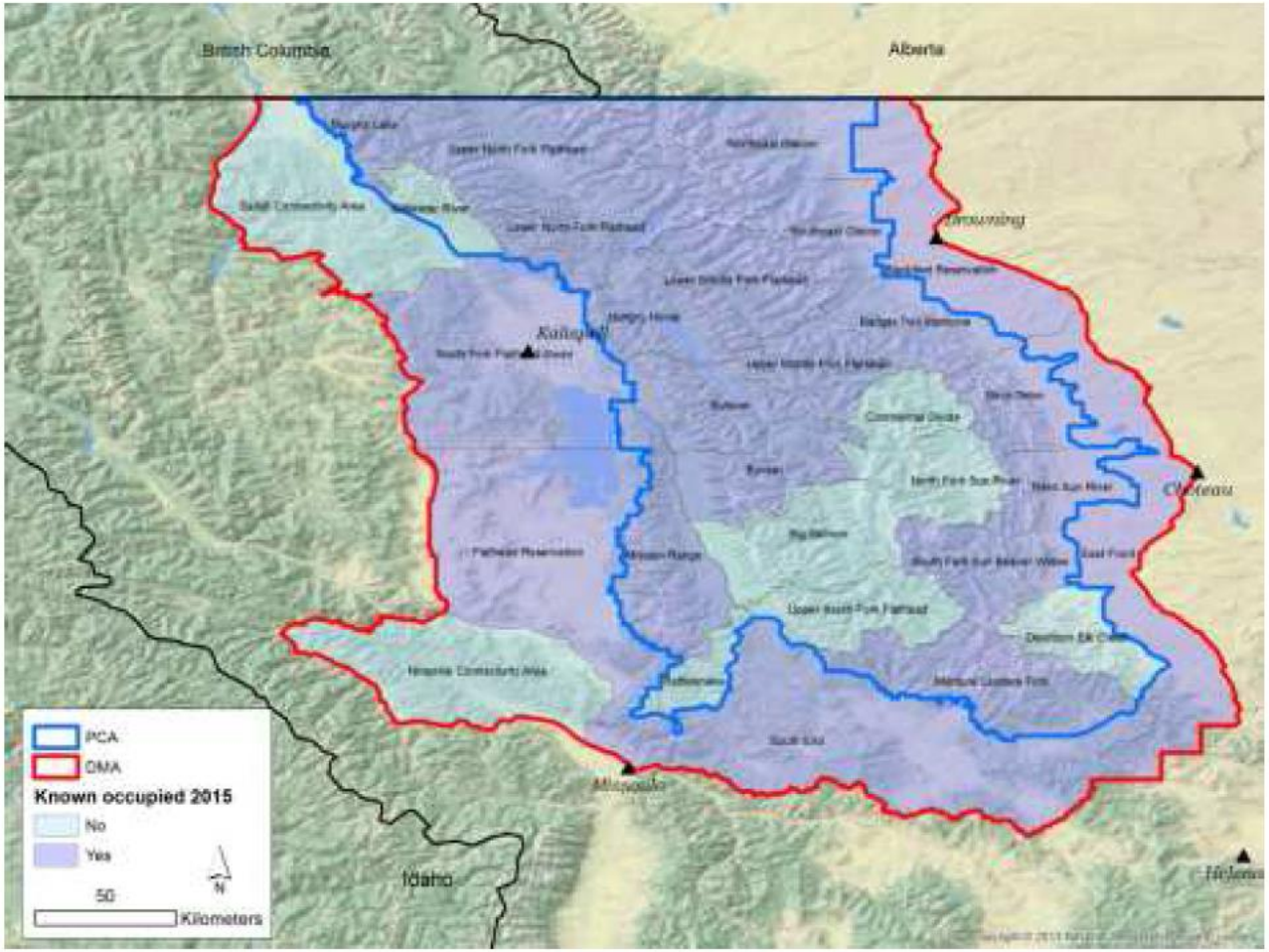
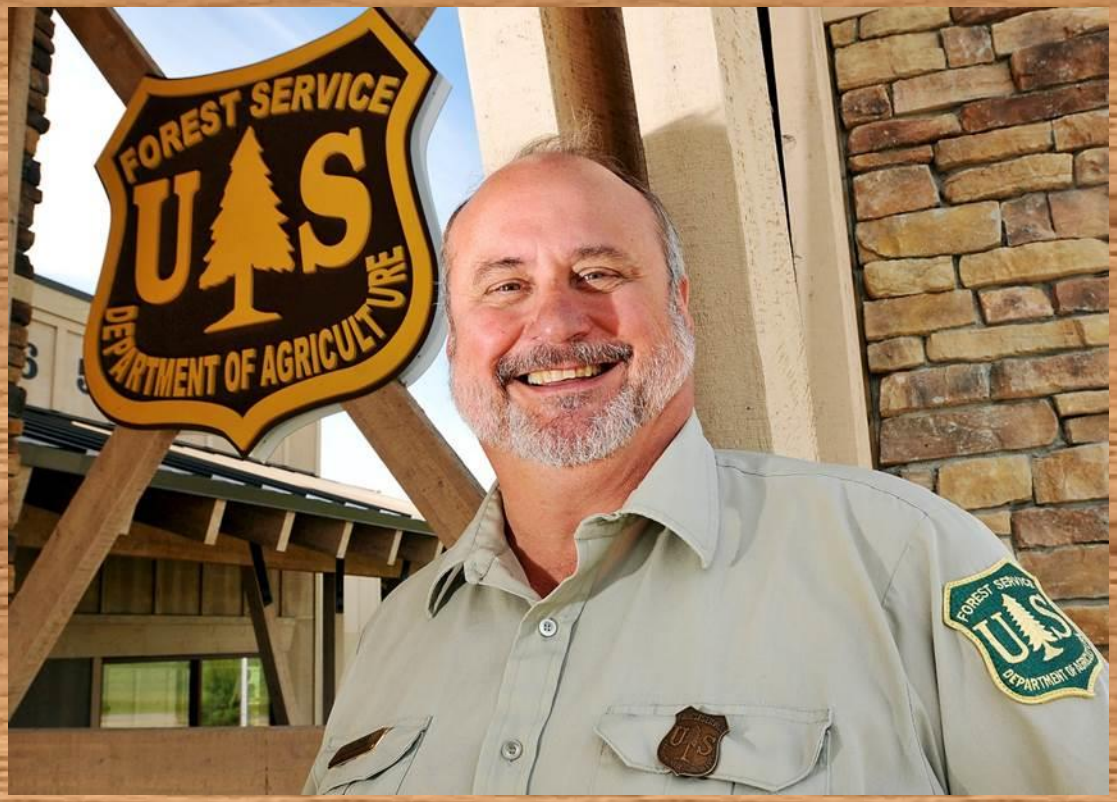


Fig. 4. Documented occupancy by female grizzly bears with offspring of the 23 BMUs within the PCA and the 7 supplementary BMUs within Zone 1 during 2015. All BMUs have been occupied during the last 6 years.



U.S.
FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MONTANA
DNRC

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIO
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ASSOCIATION
MONTANA
SINCE 1909
OF COUNTIES

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION

A People of Vision

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE)
PROGRESS REPORT ON 5-YEAR PLAN TASKS 2013-2017

Jim Williams	FWP	Chair
Jeff Mow	GNP	Vice Chair

Green = completed and ongoing or working well
Red = continued staff emphasis or new work area

- Enhance cooperative efforts with local communities by working closely in partnership with local residents and county governments to build local support and understanding about grizzly recovery and ecosystem health. ONGOING
- Invite local County Commissioners as members of the Subcommittee. COMPLETED.

Complete the NCDE Conservation Strategy, including:

- Establish the area within which morality standards and mortality limits will be applied. - COMPLETED
- Establish the area within which habitat standards and habitat criteria monitoring will be applied. – COMPLETED.
- Decide whether to apply a tiered management intensity system involving higher levels of habitat and population management in a core area and lesser levels of management intensity in surrounding areas. – COMPLETED.

Develop demographic recovery criteria for the NCDE, including:

- Population monitoring methods – IN GOOD SHAPE WITH 2016 FWP REPORT.
- Sustainable mortality limits – **NCDE SCIENCE TEAM TO APPLY BIOLOGICALLY APPLICABLE DEMOGRAPHIC CRITERIA USED IN THE GYE TO THE NCDE, AS APPROPRIATE.**
- Unknown/unreported mortality calculation - IN GOOD SHAPE WITH 2016 FWP REPORT.
- Decide on and apply trend monitoring methods. - IN GOOD SHAPE WITH 2016 FWP REPORT.

A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN YELLOWSTONE AND GLACIER GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS

HAROLD D. PICTON, Department of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717

Abstract: Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) have been observed in 5 of the 7 mountain areas that link the Northern Continental Divide (Glacier Park) and Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bear populations in Montana. Thus these 2 populations, recognized by the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (U.S. Dep. Int. 1981) are possibly linked by a filter bridge. Portions of this bridge are not included in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. Current data is analyzed to make specific estimates of the population potential of the bridge units. Each unit is evaluated with respect to extinction time, migration, and potential as a viable bridge link using methods based upon biogeographic theory. This analysis suggests that these scattered observations should not be routinely classed as accidental and ignored as is currently the case.

Int. Conf. Bear Res. and Manage. 6:7–10

Studies of the last 20 years of related Montana grizzly bear populations have justifiably centered upon 2 areas: the Northern Continental Divide population, including Glacier National Park, extending south through the Great Bear, Bob Marshall, and Scapegoat wilderness areas, and the southern population including Yellowstone National Park and a limited contiguous area (Fig. 1). This southern population has been regarded as isolated from the northern population; this theoretical view is expressed in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (U.S. Dep. Int. 1981). The 2 areas, however, are linked by mountainous country in primitive or semiprimitive condition. The Recovery Plan does not encompass management of this intervening habitat and thus its possible role in future grizzly bear management has not been provided for. As interest in grizzly bears has grown, increasing numbers of reports of bears outside the 2 recognized population blocks have have come to me. Although many could not be verified, some are undeniable. These undeniable reports have sometimes been referred to as "accidental" observations in environmental impact statement documents (e.g., BPA 1981) and thus have not been incorporated into forest management plans or into the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. The number and pattern of the observations suggests several exploratory questions: does a biogeographic filter bridge (allowing intermittent travel) exist between the 2 populations? If potentially present, what are its properties? Can sufficient movement occur across the several hundred kilometers to be of genetic significance?

This study was supported by the Mont. Agric. Exp. Sta.

DISCUSSION

Observational data (Table 1) verify tracks, photographs, hair samples, and dead bears. Direct observations made by trained individuals who have worked extensively with bears and who are well acquainted with species recognition are also included. The observation reporting rate has been about 0.04 verified observations/100 km^2/year compared to a rate of 0.07 verified observations/100 km^2/year in the area immediately adjacent to that used by radio-equipped Yellowstone grizzly bears in the Madison and Gallatin ranges as estimated from Basile (1981). A more organized effort has been made to collect information concerning the area adjacent to Yellowstone Park than in the areas being discussed here.

According to MacArthur and Wilson (1967) the number of species inhabiting mountain habitats (e.g., grizzly bears) is controlled by the area of their habitat unit. In a previous study (Picton 1979), I found that the occurrence of grizzly bears and other large mam-

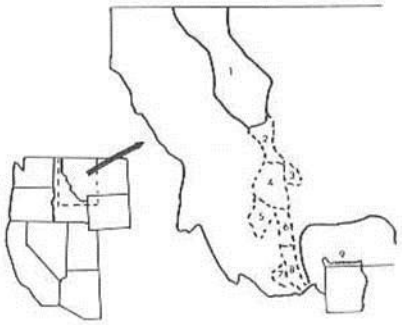
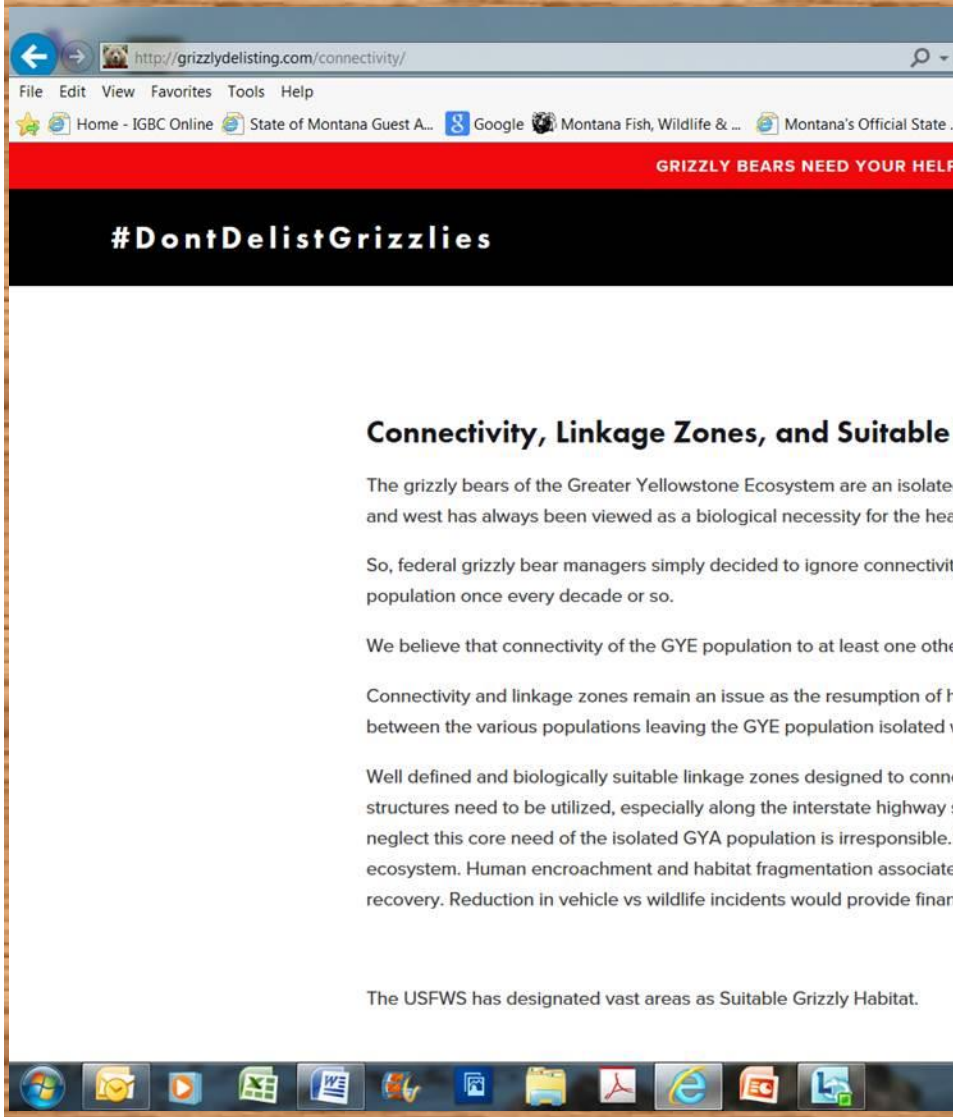
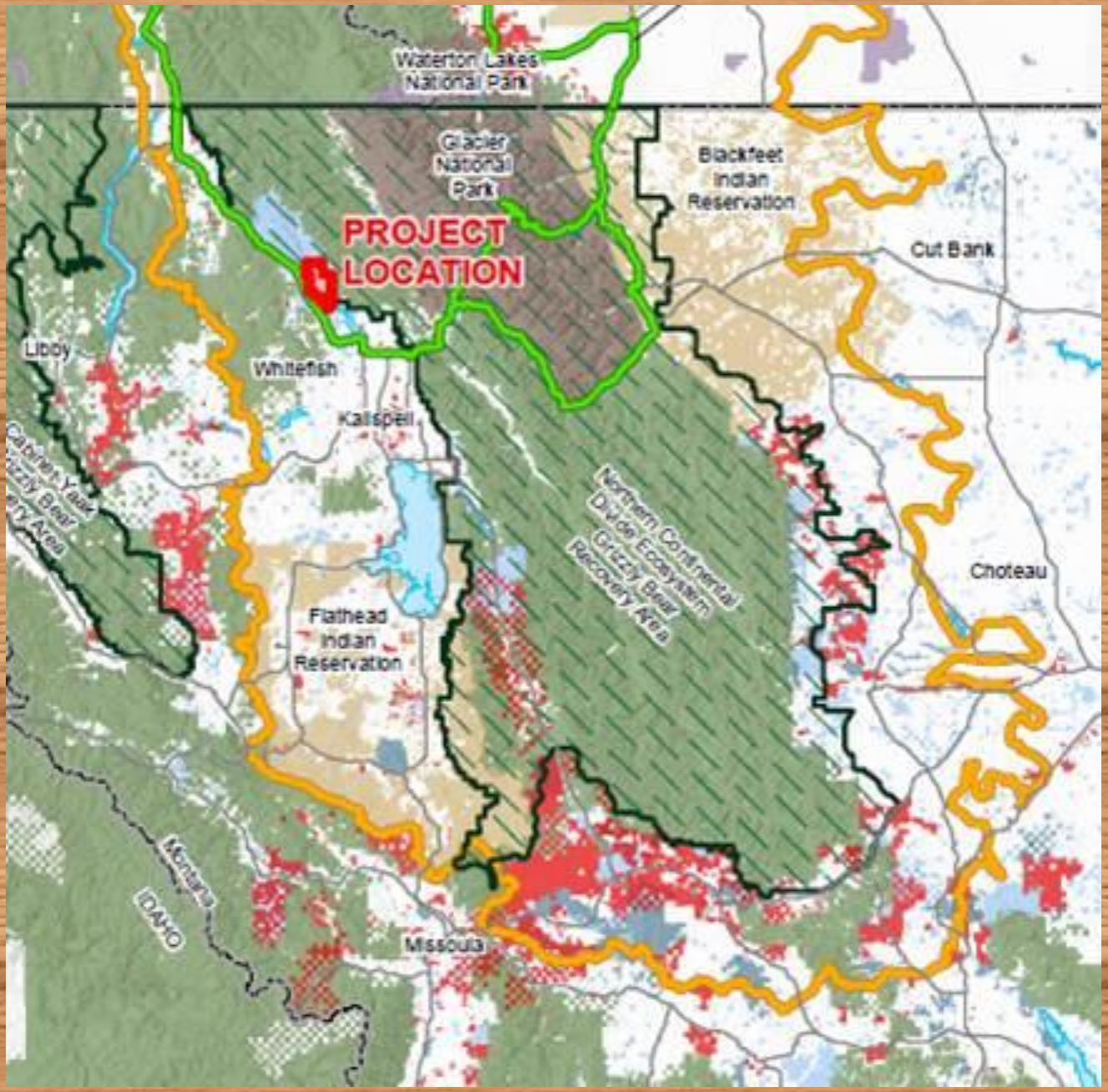
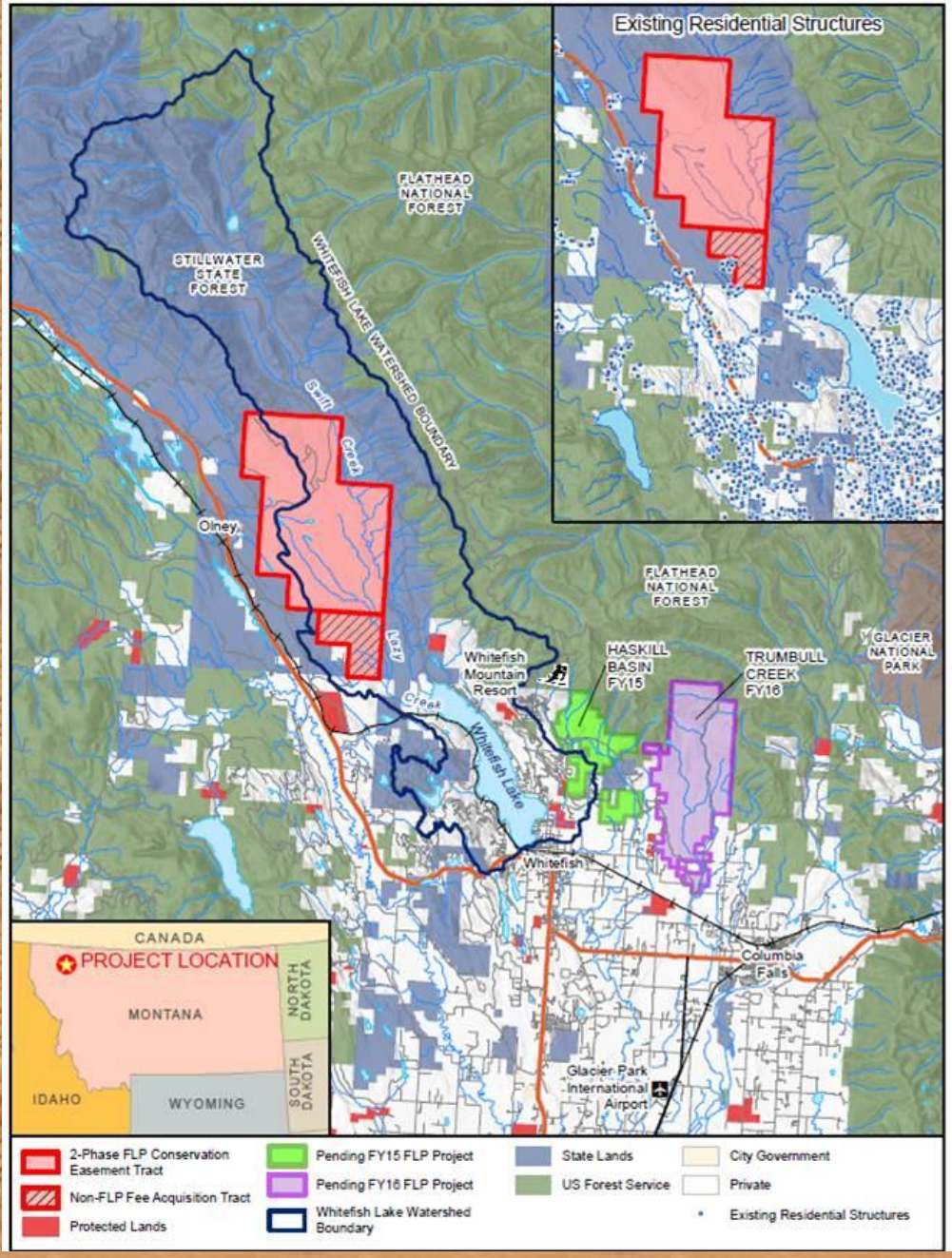


Fig. 1. Area proposed as a possible bridge linking the 2 officially recognized habitat areas. The areas shown are 1, Northern Continental occupied grizzly bear ecosystem; 2, McDonald-Rogers Pass; 3, Elkhorn Mountains; 4, Champion-Thunderbolt; 5, Highland Mountains; 6, Tobacco Root Mountains; 7, Snowcrest Mountains; 8, Gravelly Mountains; 9, Yellowstone occupied grizzly bear ecosystem.

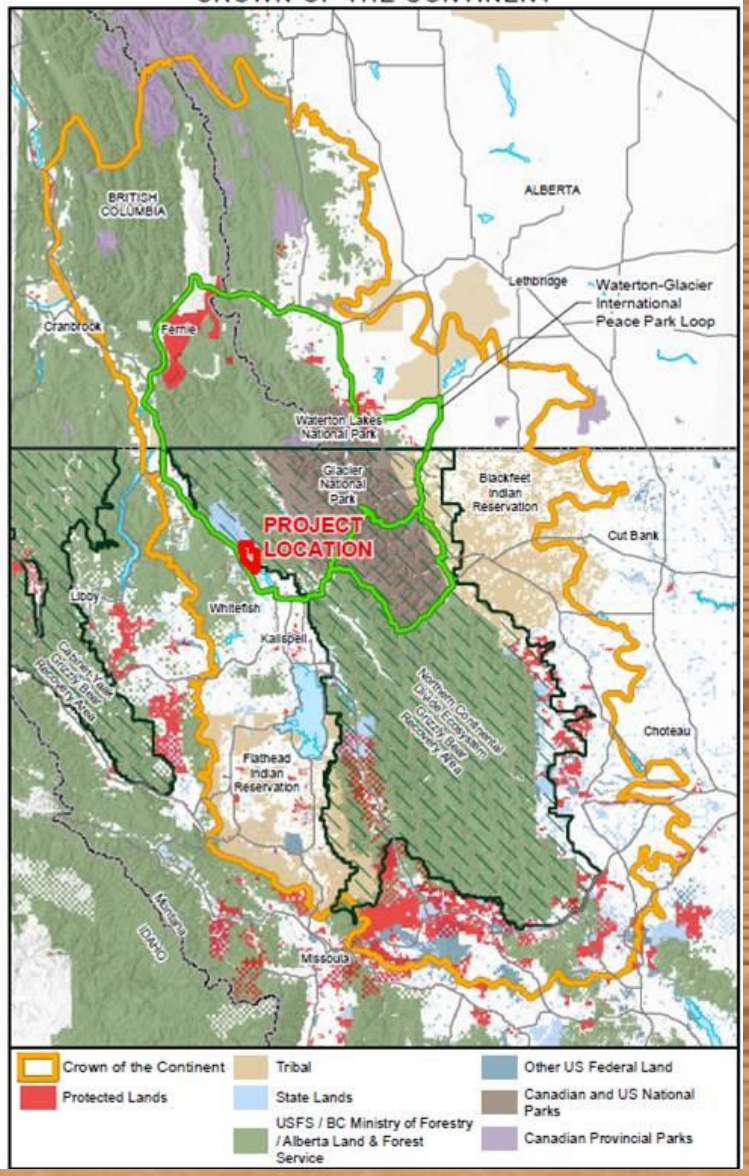



Waterton Lakes National Park
Glacier National Park
PROJECT LOCATION
Blackfeet Indian Reservation
Cut Bank
Libby
Whitefish
Kalispell
Choteau
Flathead Indian Reservation
Missoula
IDAHO

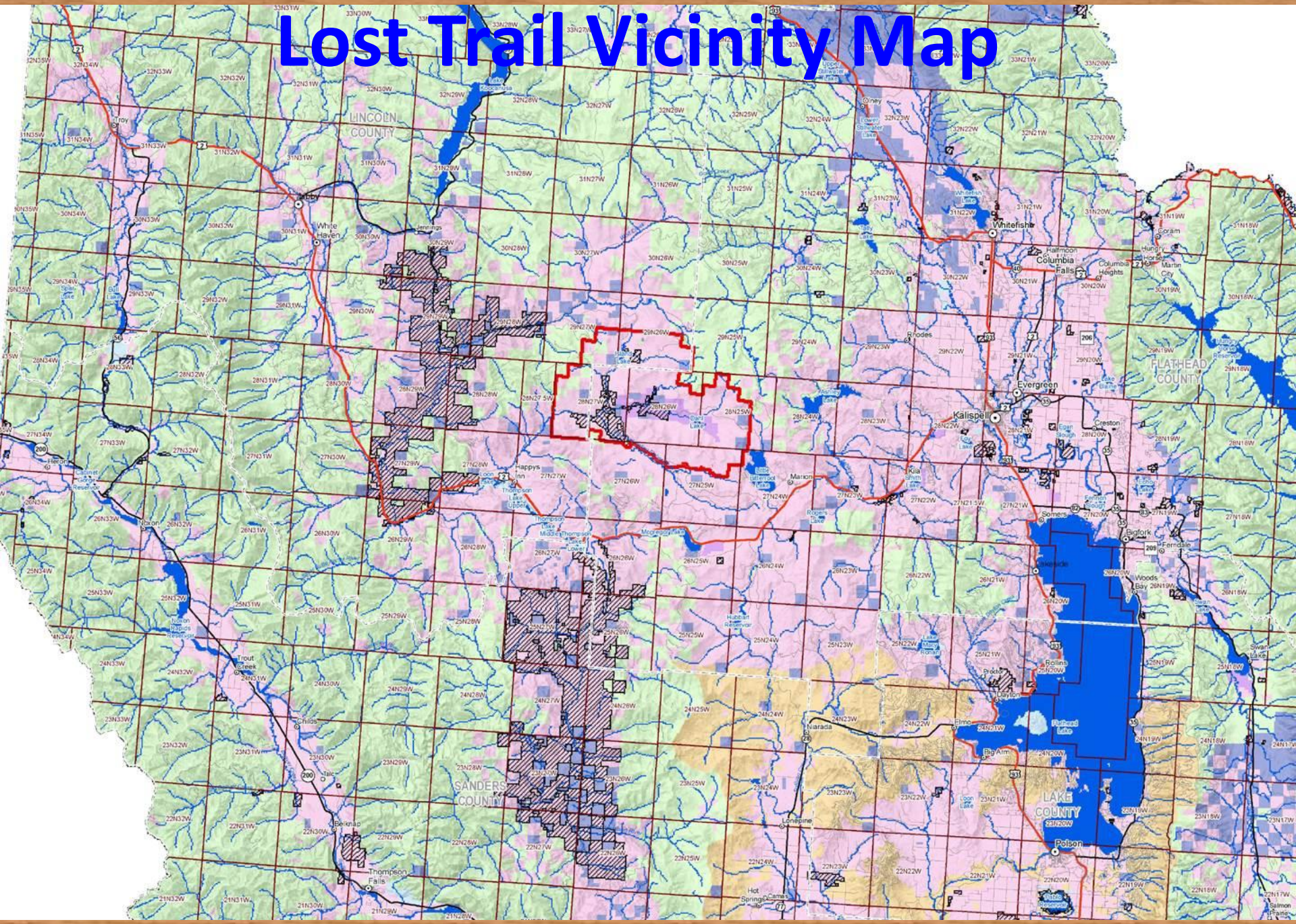


WHITEFISH LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT

FY17 FOREST LEGACY PROPOSAL



Lost Trail Vicinity Map

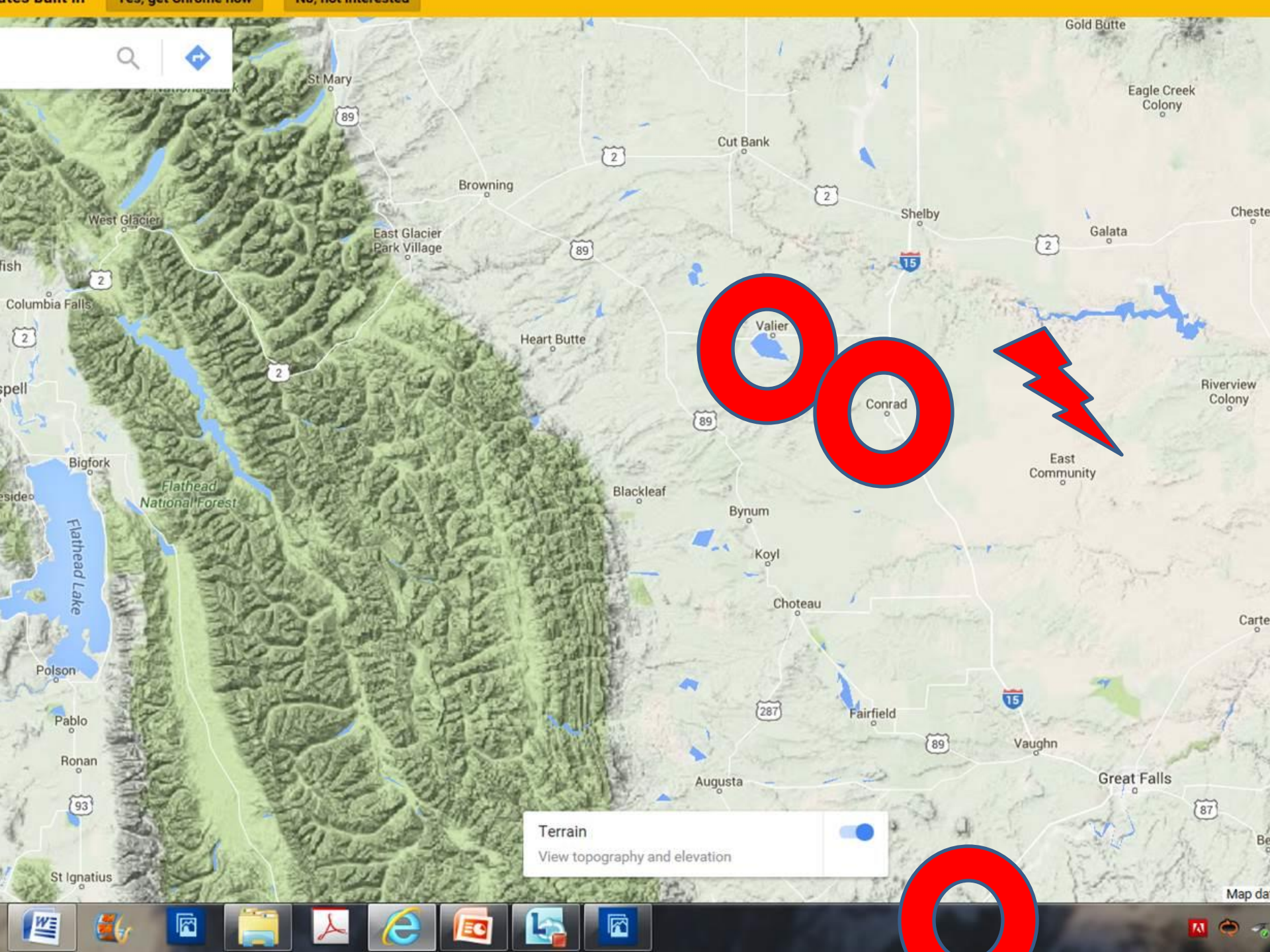


Northern Ecosystem • Transboundary Grizzly Bear Monitoring Team

We have about 1,000 grizzly bears in the NCDE right now…

And growing at 2-3% and occupying new and historical habitats…

Livestock Feed


Gold Butte
St Mary
Eagle Creek Colony
Cut Bank
Browning
Shelby
West Glacier
East Glacier Park Village
Galata
Columbia Falls
Valier
Heart Butte
Conrad
Riverview Colony
Bigfork
Flathead National Forest
East Community
Blackleaf
Bynum
Flathead Lake
Koyl
Choteau
Polson
Fairfield
Pablo
Vaughn
Ronan
Augusta
Great Falls
St Ignatius
Terrain
View topography and elevation


G637 Ad Female Gbear "Swan" w/3yearlings
bedded in riparian shrubfield on Sheep Cr.
4-21-2012


Ad Female Gbear "McDee"
arlings feeding in open
ass prairie, Dupuyer Cr


Near Valier, Montana


Cascade, Montana

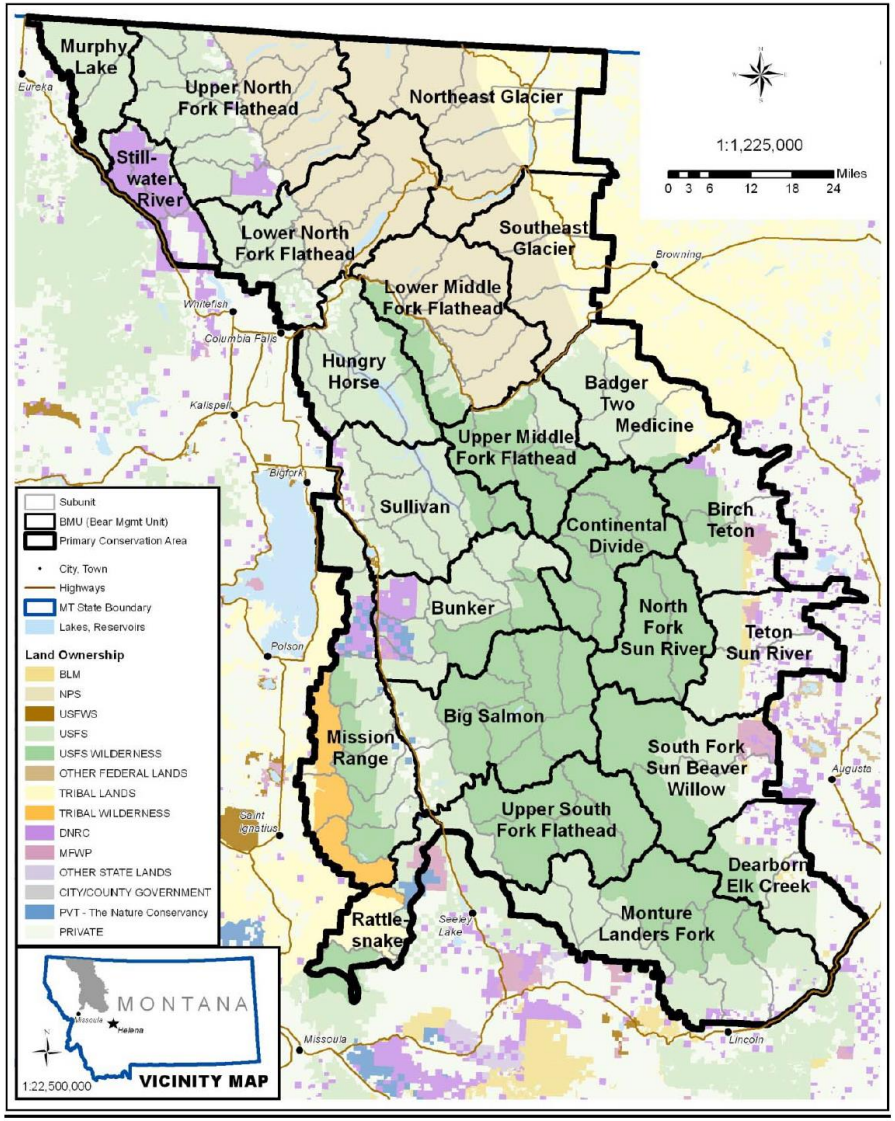


Figure 2. Bear Management Units (BMUs) in the NCDE Primary Conservation Area. BMU subunits are outlined in light gray.







And if this group fails?


We get this….

FOR THOSE WHO **LOVE** *The* **LAND**

Rendezvous with

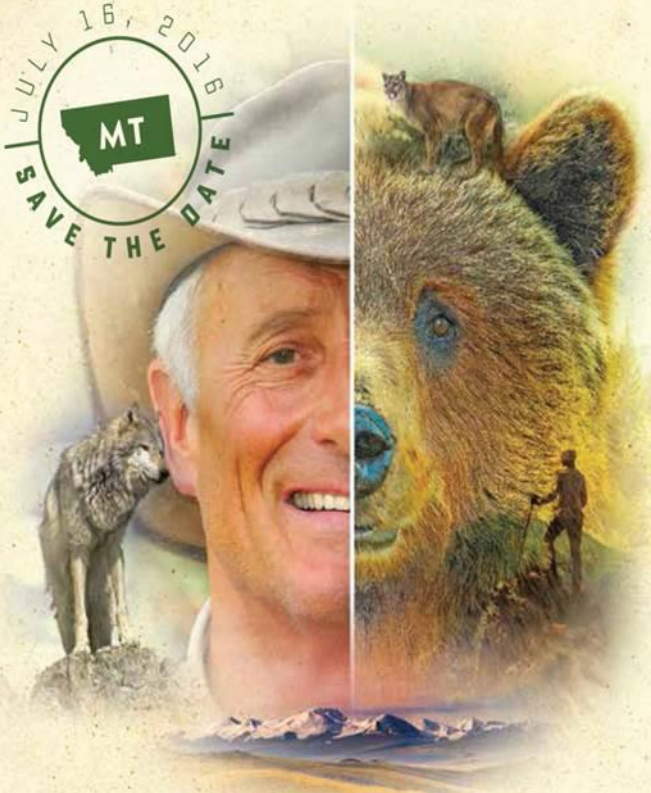
JACK HANNA

AND MONTANA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY
FOUNDATION FOR A "WILD" TIME.

7.16.16 FROM **5-9PM**

BAR W RANCH, WHITEFISH

JULY 16, 2016
MT
SAVE THE DATE



MONTANA'S
OUTDOOR
LEGACY FOUNDATION

www.mtoutdoorlegacy.org/event/hanna-rendezvous-on-the-wild-side

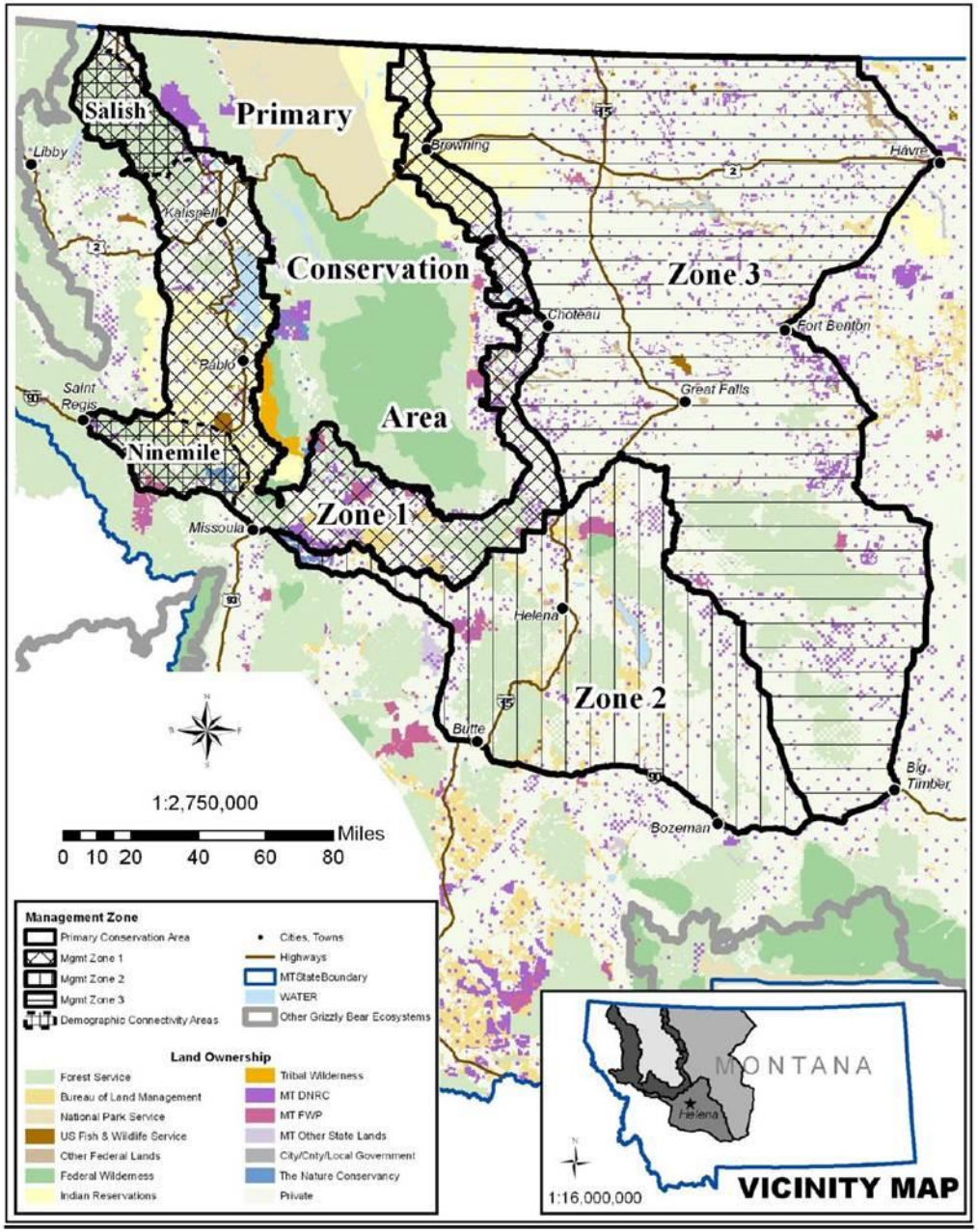


Figure 1. Grizzly bear management zones specified in this Conservation Strategy. The Salish and Ninemile Demographic Connectivity Areas within Zone 1 are delineated by cross-hatching.

THANKS