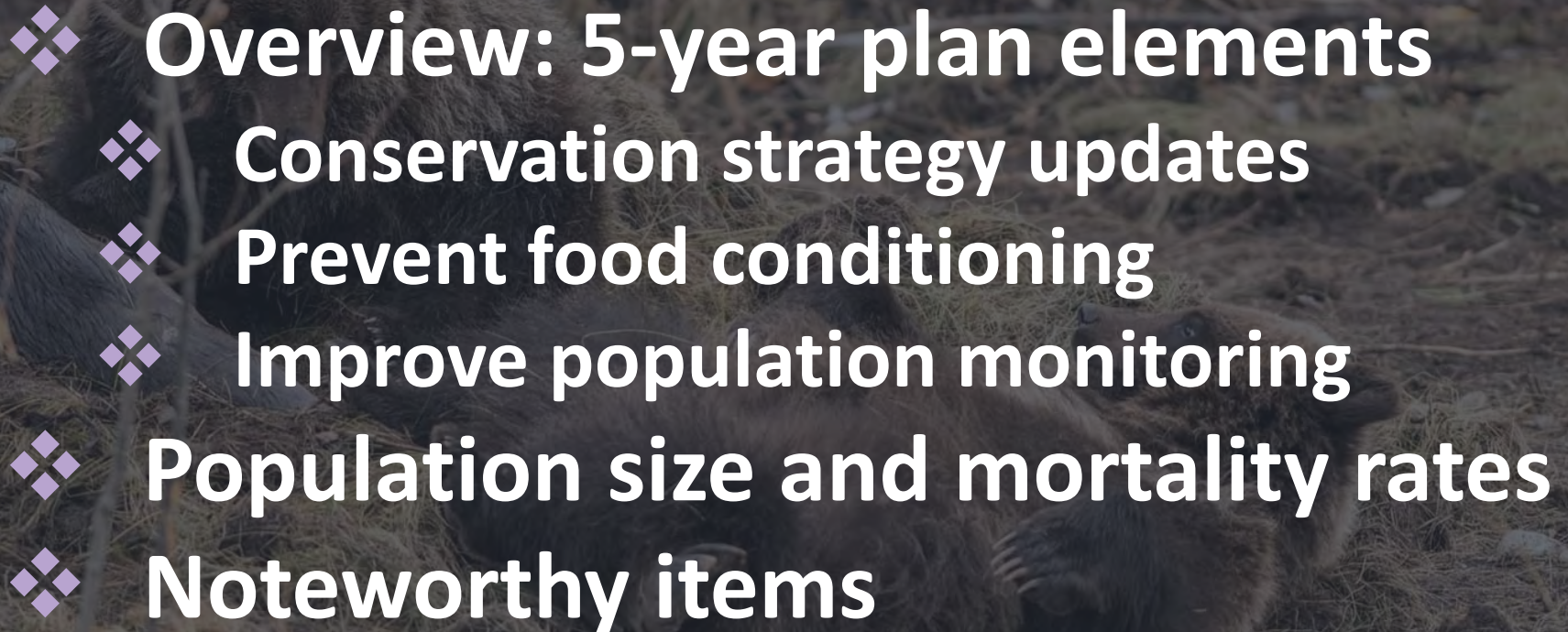


# **YES Accomplishments & Program of Work Reports**

**Tricia O'Connor**



# IGBC Outline for YES Report

- 
- ❖ Overview: 5-year plan elements
    - ❖ Conservation strategy updates
    - ❖ Prevent food conditioning
    - ❖ Improve population monitoring
  - ❖ Population size and mortality rates
  - ❖ Noteworthy items



# Overview of 5 Year Plan: Range-Wide Issues



# Planning Goal #1

## Conservation Strategy Updates



Final Conservation Strategy for the  
Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area



Developed by the Interagency Conservation Strategy Team

Original 2007

Revised 2016





# Planning Goal #1

## Conservation Strategy Updates

### ➤ Developed Sites



# Management Goal #2

## Prevent Food Conditioning

### 1) Campground infrastructure





# Management Goal #2

## Prevent Food Conditioning

### 2) Attractant Storage Order Standardization

#### ➤ GYE Proposal





# Management Goal #2

## Prevent Food Conditioning

### 3) Backcountry Discussion





# Research Goal #1

## Improve Population Monitoring (IGBST)

- **Re-assessment of Chao2 estimator**
  - Address underestimation bias
  - Improve trend detection
  - Reporting at Spring YES
- **Integrated Population Models (IPM)**
  - Collaboration across ecosystems (NCDE, GYE, CYE)
  - Academic partners (Univ. of Montana)
  - Initial model assessment planned for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020
  - First reporting expected at Spring YES
- **Miscellaneous research projects**
  - Evaluation of NPS Bear Management Areas (USGS, NPS, MSU)
  - Moth site ecology (2 projects: USFS; WGFD, USGS)
  - Physiological & energetic monitoring (USGS, WSU)
  - Predicting grizzly bear range expansion (USGS, MSU)





# Population Size & Mortality Rates





# Population and Mortality Report (IGBST)

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- **Demographic recovery criterion #1 (population)**

- Population estimate = 728
- More evidence of slightly increasing trend since early 2000s
- Continued range expansion; no evidence of bears vacating core of ecosystem

- **Demographic recovery criterion #2 (reproductive females)**

- Females with offspring (cubs, yearlings, 2-yr-olds) documented in all 18 Bear Management Units (18 of 18 units occupied at least 4 of last 6 years)

- **Demographic recovery criterion #3 (mortality)**

- 45% (18 of 40) of documented mortalities were outside DMA
- Primary causes inside DMA: livestock, vehicle strikes
- 2019 mortality rates in DMA
  - ✓ Within thresholds for independent females (3.6%)
  - ✓ Within thresholds for independent males (11.8%)

# Noteworthy Items





# Noteworthy Items

## Habitat Monitoring (IGBST)

### Good food production year

- High use of Army cutworm moth sites
- Average whitebark pine cone production; higher in southern portion of GYE
- Last 6 years of cone production at or above long-term average
- Good berry production and other foods (qualitative assessment)
- Good fall body condition among captured bears



# Noteworthy Items

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## Charter Development





# Noteworthy Items

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## Conflict Reduction Focus



Denali National Park & Preserve

# Questions?

