

The Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the GYE

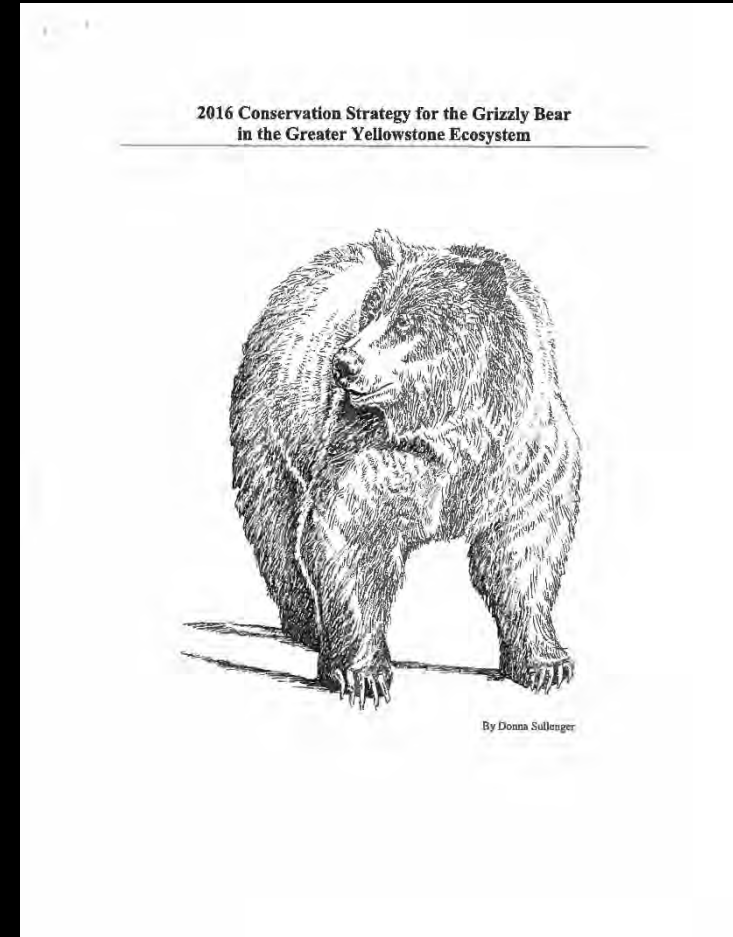


Concept for proposed revisions to 2016
document, chapter 3 –
Habitat Standards

Objective of the Standards

Strategy incorporated:

- *measurable habitat criteria*
- *'no net loss' of secure habitat with respect to 1998 conditions*
- *objective to reduce access-related disturbances and human caused-mortalities by maintaining or improving habitat*



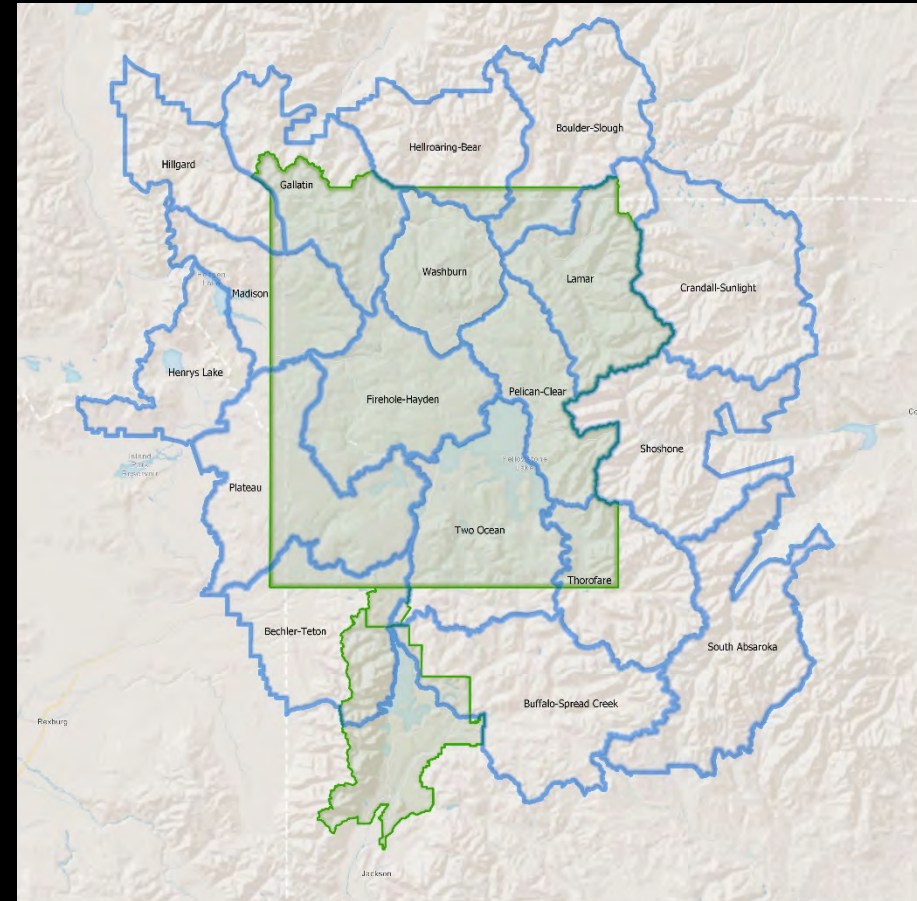
Where Do Standards Apply?



Primary
Conservation Area
(Grizzly Bear
Recovery Zone)

What is the Baseline?

- 1998 habitat conditions measured by bear management subunit
- Measurable sideboards on roads and developed sites
- Listed in Appendix E of the Strategy
- Guided by application rules



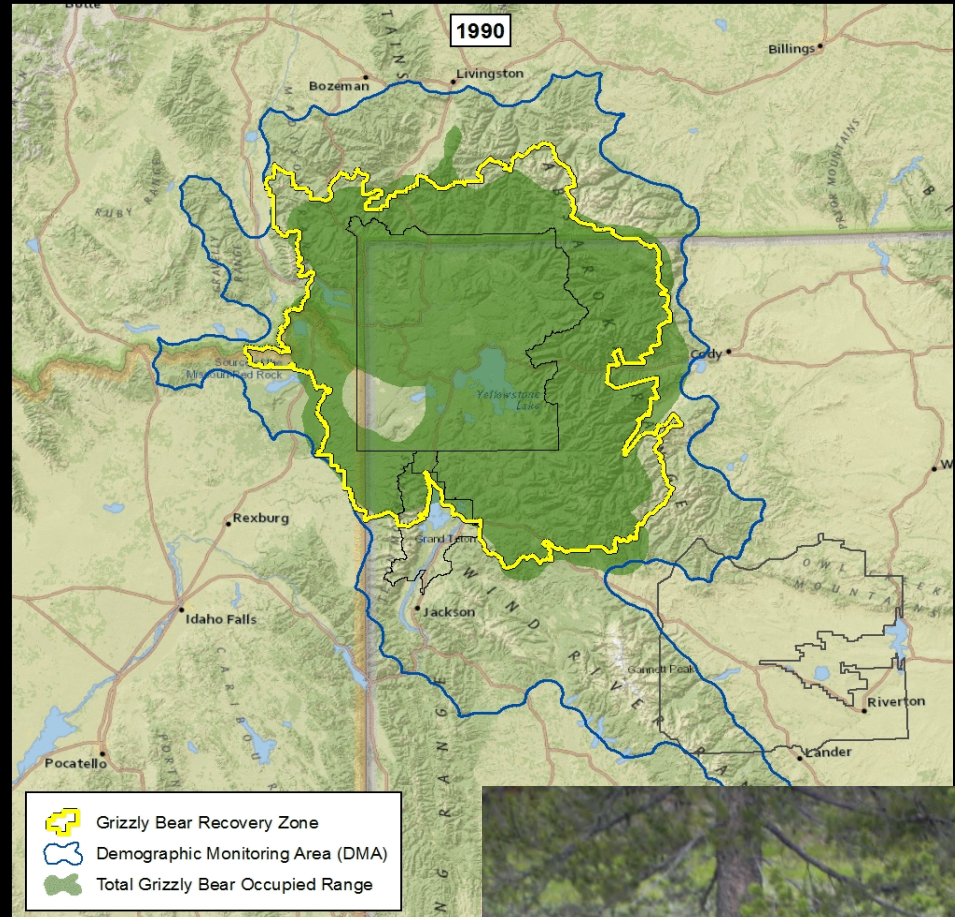
Success and Challenges

- Increase in visitor use
- Need for administrative infrastructure to manage use



Changing Conditions

- More bears more widely distributed
- More informed management
- Multi-agency effort



Potential Changes to the Standards

- Evaluated in cooperative manner
- Minimize deviations to 1998 baseline
- Available for public comment; approved by YGCC/YES



Objectives of this Presentation

- Summarize and affirm support for concept of proposed changes to developed site standard and associated language
- Determine process and timeline for public comment on proposed changes

Current Habitat Standards

- Secure Habitat
- Developed Sites
- Livestock Allotments





Secure Habitat

No net loss

- Contiguous areas > 10 acres and more than 500 m from an open or gated motorized road or trail

Visitor Use Developed Sites



- Campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, boat launches, rental cabins, summer homes, lodges, service stations, and restaurants

Administrative Developed Sites



- Unit headquarters, ranger stations, patrol cabins, park entrances, employee housing and other facilities supporting administration

Developed Site Standards

Allow changes to or construction of new sites if:

- Mitigated by closing or restoring another site in the same subunit
- Increased administrative infrastructure is necessary for enhancement of public land management and viable alternatives are not available
- Modifications reduce resource damage, detrimental environmental impacts or increase human safety

Dispersed sites



Tasks for a Technical Team

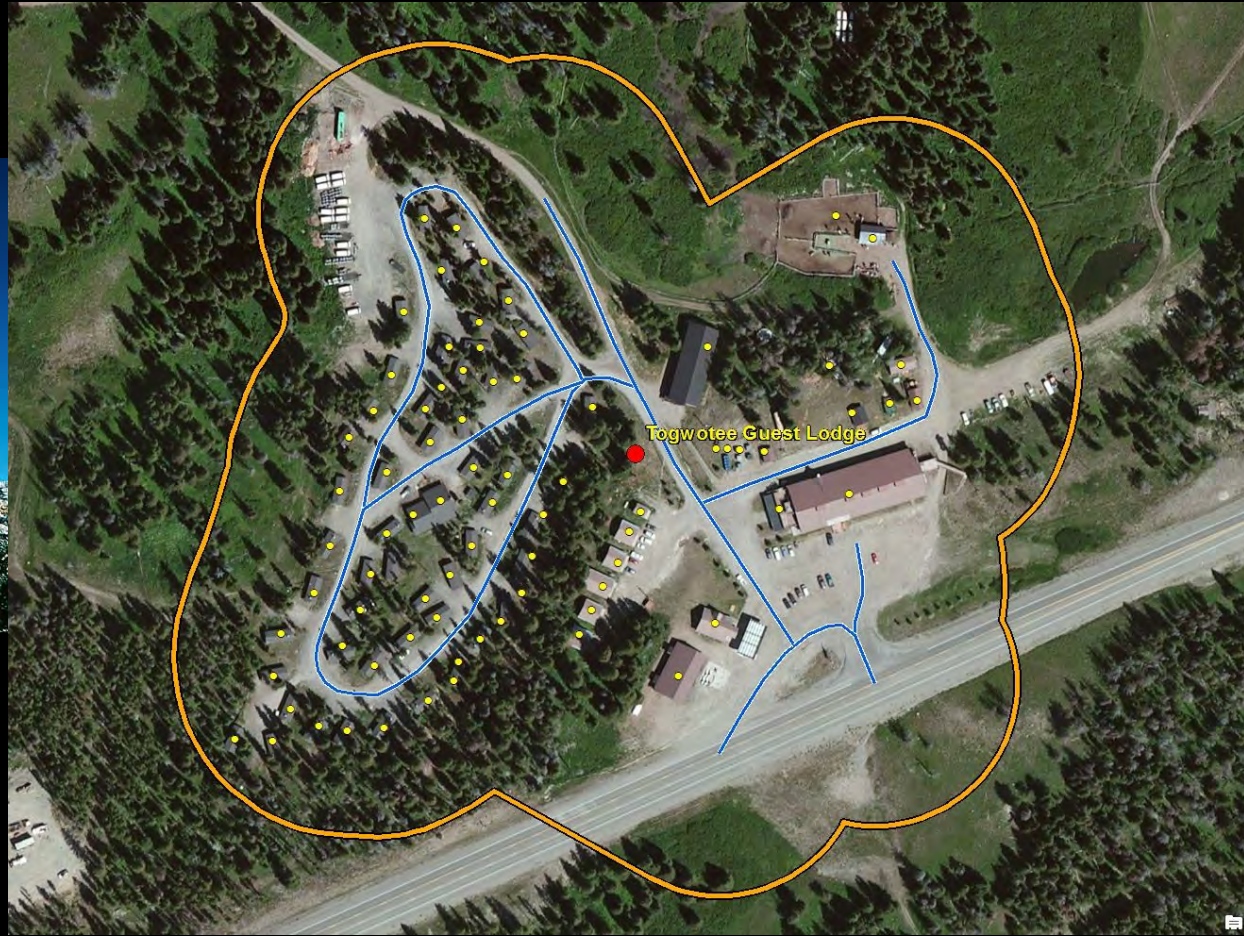
- Review the habitat standards for developed sites
- Recommend revisions to accommodate increased visitation



Approach/Sideboards

- Minimize deviation from 1998 Baseline
- Preserve previous habitat gains
- Alleviate administrative pressures
- Maintain unified approach (parks and forests)
- Avoid “status review”
- Track and report future changes

Differences in Developed Sites



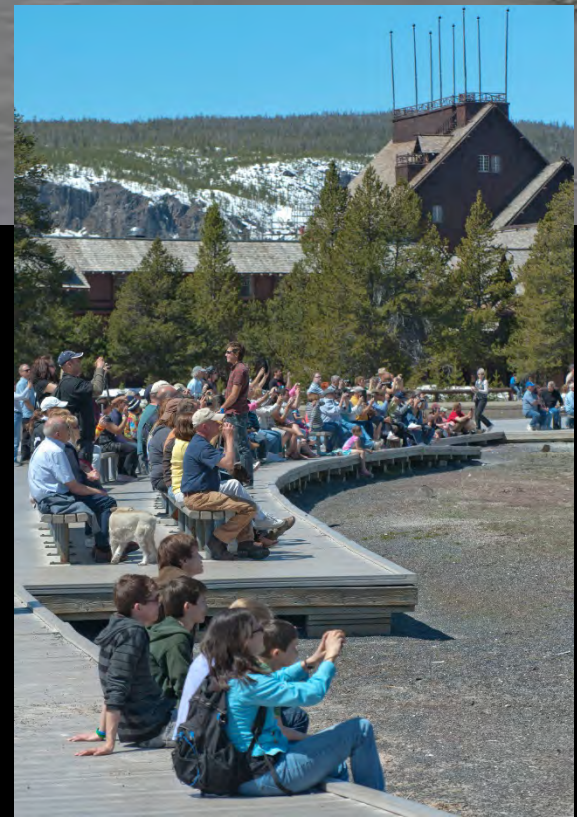
Improved Mapping

- Correct errors
- Replace developed area points (where appropriate) with 'footprints'



Developed site maps and GIS algorithm





Road Corridors

Proposed flexibility to provide added day-use facilities within 500m buffers of existing primary roads



Summary

- Technical team reviewed habitat standards
- Corrected mapping errors and replaced “points” with “footprints” of developed areas when appropriate
- More accurately represents human presence and management intent
- Imposes measureable sideboards
- Defines space for expansion within existing developed areas and primary road corridors

Acknowledgments

Technical Team:

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Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway



Next Steps

- Affirm direction, footprint approach
- Provide for public comment (as per the *Conservation Strategy*, p. 55):

“Production of a draft document enumerating proposed revisions to the 1998 habitat standards will be released for public comment and approved by the YGCC “[YES]

- Goal: Finalize revisions at fall YES meeting