

2020 Biennial Report of Developed Recreation Baseline within the Grizzly Bear Primary Conservation Area (PCA) Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE)

This document fulfills the biennial developed recreation monitoring requirement of the Primary Conservation Area (PCA) for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). The number and capacity of overnight developed recreation sites and the number of day-use and administrative sites were compiled for each of the 23 Bear Management Units (BMUs). Those BMUs with any updates, corrections or changes are discussed below the tables. The last page of this document has a map of the BMUs.

Table 1 has been added to provide a quick overview and to track decision space as well as any one-per-decade increases that occur in each BMU. Table 2 provides a one-page look at all developed recreation sites with their current 2020 baseline values. Table 3 displays only overnight developed recreation sites comparing the 2018 and 2020 values. Table 4 displays the day-use sites, trailheads, and administrative sites, comparing 2018 and 2020.

After the tables is a specific description by BMU of any changes since 2018, including any increases in number or capacity as well as of any “decision space” that might occur due to reductions below the baseline. This decision space allows for on-the-ground increases in sites or capacity without having to use one of the one-per-decade allowances.

The baseline applies to overnight developed recreation sites. For each BMU, the number and capacity of overnight developed recreation sites is the baseline value unless there has been a change as allowed by the NCDE Conservation Strategy as incorporated into the federal land management agency plans. For updated or corrected baseline values, the cells in Table 2, 3, and 4 have been bolded and highlighted in a lighter tan. For changes that will not alter the baseline value, the table cells have been bolded and highlighted in a darker blue.

There is no baseline for day-use sites, trailheads, and administrative sites. For each BMU, the number of the sites by type is updated, or corrected in Table 4. For any updated or corrected values, the table cells have been bolded and highlighted in light tan.

Under the Application Rules for overnight developed recreation sites on Federal Lands (NCDE Conservation Strategy Chapter 3, and incorporated into the various federal land management agency plans), there is a list of acceptable changes that may adjust baseline values. All the baseline value changes for 2018 followed these application rules. The list is included here for reference.

- agency obtains better information or updated information in its database(s);
- agency acquires land that contained developed recreation sites;
- agency increases the number or capacity of a developed recreation site in order to comply with Federal laws;

- agency maintains or modifies an existing overnight developed or dispersed recreation site in such a way that does not increase the number of capacity of the site;
- agency modifies an existing developed recreation site to enhance human safety;
- agency operates a developed recreation site to allow overnight use only during the denning season;
- agency makes a corresponding reduction in the number or capacity of overnight developed recreation sites in the same BMU through any of the following means: 1) equal reduction in capacity a another site; 2) closure of developed site; or 3) consolidation and/or elimination of dispersed camping, when and where it can be enforced effectively and it is reasonably assured that new dispersed sites will not develop nearby.

Table 1. Status on Available Decision Space and 1 per 10 years/BMU Increases.

BMU	Is there Decision Space? ¹	Status and dates of the 1 in 10 years/BMU increase? ¹
Badger Two Medicine	----	----
Big Salmon	----	----
Birch Teton	----	----
Bunker	YES. Three campsites within one campground.	----
Continental Divide	----	----
Dearborn Elk	YES. One recreational residence.	----
Hungry Horse	YES. Two campsites within one campground.	----
Lower Middle Fork Flathead	----	----
Lower North Fork Flathead	YES. Two recreational residences.	----
Mission Range	----	----
Monture Landers Fork	----	----
Murphy Lake	YES. One cabin.	----
Northeast Glacier	----	----
North Fork Sun River	----	----
Rattlesnake	----	----
Southeast Glacier	----	----
Sullivan	----	----
Stillwater River	----	----
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	----	----
Teton Sun River	----	----
Upper Middle Fork Flathead	----	----
Upper North Fork Flathead	----	----
Upper South Fork Flathead	YES. One cabin.	----

¹ – See the BMU’s written discussion after the tables for what the decision space allows, and/or the 1 in 10 years/BMU increase. Under the Decision Space column, The site type and capacity listed is what was decreased. Under the 1 in 10 years/BMU increase is the site type and capacity for what was added.

Table 2. Habitat Baseline Monitoring 2020. Baseline value for developed sites is provided. Bold highlighting indicates an update or change.

BMU Name	Recreational Residences	Campgrounds		Other Sites with Overnight Use		Day-Use Trailheads	Other Day-Use Sites	Admin. Sites
		# of Campgrounds	# of Campsites	# of Sites	Type of Capacity			
Badger Two Medicine	-	1	17	-	-	12	1	2
Big Salmon	32	5	69	3	8 cabins; 9 rooms	7	5	11
Birch Teton	7	3	27	2	7 cabins; 1 room	11	1	0
Bunker	-	8	59	3	17 cabins; 2 rooms; 4 bunkhouses	26	5	4
Continental Divide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dearborn Elk	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	2
Hungry Horse	-	19	169	1	1 cabin	40	23	4
Lower Middle Fork Flathead	10	12	32	-	-	16	7	12
Lower North Fork Flathead	3	17	545	10	51 cabins; 185 rms; 2 bunkhouse; 1 residence; 362 employee beds	62	36	23
Mission Range	1	1	26	1	1 cabin	17	5	-
Monture Landers Fork	-	5	47	1	1 cabin	41	13	7
Murphy Lake	-	17	109	5	5 cabins	38	25	1
Northeast Glacier	-	27	430	7	27 cabins; 350 rooms; 322 employee beds	30	22	15
North Fork Sun River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Rattlesnake	-	1	3	1	1 cabin	3	-	0
Southeast Glacier	-	11	146	2	5 emp. beds	14	9	9
Sullivan	20	15	116	2	9 cabins; 1 room; 1 bunkhouse	33	12	9
Stillwater River	-	2	3	-	-	1	-	1
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	74	7	72	5	17 cabins; 2 rooms; 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites	16	3	9
Teton Sun River	17	3	36	1	2 bunkhouses	12	2	6
Upper Middle Fork Flathead	-	2	21	2	2 cabins	14	1	5
Upper North Fork Flathead	-	24	182	8	9 cabins	38	8	19
Upper South Fork Flathead	-	-	-	1	1 cabin	5	2	6

Recreational Residences. These are full-time or seasonal recreational residences on Federal lands. We have no authority to limit increases in capacity at these sites so it is not reported for these essentially private residences. However, any new recreational residences will have to follow the developed recreational site standard.

Other Sites with Overnight Use. Cabin rentals, guest lodges with or without rooms and/or cabins, camps, etc. Capacity is the number of cabins, rooms, bunkhouses, employee beds (Glacier NP) and RV sites.

Campgrounds. Campground development ranges from fully developed with all amenities to very minimal development and not much above a dispersed site. There are group sites included; however, the number accommodated at one group site is variable. Dispersed campsites are not counted here.

Day-Use Trailheads. Trailheads range from fully developed to a turn-out at a road closure.

Other Day-Use Sites. Site includes businesses, restaurants, river/lake access, picnic areas, points of interests, etc.

Admin. Sites. Administrative sites include ranger stations, work centers, guard stations, active fire lookouts, etc. While these sites are not subject to the Developed Site standards, increases in the number of administrative sites on Federal lands will be minimized so they are reported here to provide transparency and accountability.

Table 3. Comparison of 2018 and 2020 Overnight Sites (Recreational Residences, Campgrounds, and Other Sites with Overnight Use)¹.

BMU Name	Recreational Residences		Campgrounds				Other Sites with Overnight Use			
	2018	2020	# of Cmpgnds		# of Sites		# of Sites		Capacity	
			2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020
Badger Two Medicine	---	---	1	1	17	17	---	---	---	---
Big Salmon	32	32	5	69	66		3	3	8 cabins; 9 rooms	8 cabins; 9 rooms
Birch Teton	7	7	3	3	27	27	2	2	7 cabins; 1 room	7 cabins; 1 room
Bunker	---	---	8	59	59	59	3	3	17 cabins; 2 rooms 4 bunkhouses	17 cabins; 2 rooms 4 bunkhouses
Continental Divide	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dearborn Elk	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hungry Horse	---	---	19	19	169	169	1	1	1 cabin	1 cabin
Lower Middle Fork Flathead	10	10	12	12	32	32	---	---	---	---
Lower North Fork Flathead	3	3	17	17	545	545	10	10	51 cabins; 185 rooms; 2 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 362 employee beds	51 cabins; 185 rooms; 2 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 362 employee beds
Mission Range	1	1	1	1	25	26	1	1	1 cabin	1 cabin
Monture Landers Fork	---	---	5	5	47	47	1	1	1 cabin	1 cabin
Murphy Lake	---	---	17	17	109	109	5	5	5 cabins	5 cabins
Northeast Glacier	---	---	27	27	430	430	7	7	27 cabins; 350 rooms; 322 employee beds	27 cabins; 350 rooms; 322 employee beds
North Fork Sun River	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Rattlesnake	---	---	1	1	3	3	1	1	1 cabin	1 cabin
Southeast Glacier	---	---	11	11	146	146	2	2	5 employee beds	5 employee beds
Sullivan	20	20	15	15	114	116	2	2	9 cabins; 1 room; 1 bunkhouse	9 cabins; 1 room; 1 bunkhouse
Stillwater River	---	---	2	2	3	3	---	---	---	---
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	74	74	7	7	72	72	5	5	17 cabins; 2 rooms 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites	17 cabins; 2 rooms 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites
Teton Sun River	17	17	3	3	36	36	1	1	2 bunkhouses	2 bunkhouses
Upper Middle Fork Flathead	---	---	2	2	21	21	2	2	2 cabins	2 cabins
Upper North Fork Flathead	---	---	24	24	182	182	8	8	9 cabins	9 cabins
Upper South Fork Flathead	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1 cabin	1 cabin

¹ - The darker blue shading indicates there was an update, and the baseline value will remain the same, which allows for the decision space summarized in Table 1 above. The lighter tan shading indicates there was an update & correction to the baseline, and the baseline value will be changed.

Table 4. Comparison of 2011 and 2018 Day-Use Sites and Administrative Sites¹.

BMU Name	Day-Use Trailheads		Other Day-Use Sites		Administrative Sites	
	2018	2020	2018	2020	2018	2020
Badger Two Medicine	12	12	1	1	2	2
Big Salmon	7	7	5	5	11	11
Birch Teton	11	11	1	1	---	---
Bunker	27	26	5	5	4	4
Continental Divide	---	---	---	---	4	4
Dearborn Elk	3	4	1	1	2	2
Hungry Horse	39	40	22	23	4	4
Lower Middle Fork Flathead	16	16	7	7	12	12
Lower North Fork Flathead	63	62	35	36	23	23
Mission Range	17	17	5	5	---	---
Monture Landers Fork	41	41	13	13	7	7
Murphy Lake	38	38	25	25	1	1
Northeast Glacier	30	30	18	22	15	15
North Fork Sun River	---	---	---	---	5	5
Rattlesnake	3	3	---	---	1	0
Southeast Glacier	14	14	9	9	8	9
Sullivan	32	33	12	12	10	9
Stillwater River	1	1	---	---	1	1
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	16	16	3	3	9	9
Teton Sun River	12	12	2	2	6	6
Upper Middle Fork Flathead	14	14	1	1	5	5
Upper North Fork Flathead	39	38	8	8	19	19
Upper South Fork Flathead	5	5	2	2	6	6

¹- Tan (or lighter) shading indicates there has been an update.

Only those BMUs where a change or update occurred are listed below. If there is any decision space and/or the 1 in 10 years/BMU increase is planned or has occurred, it will be listed for that BMU with an explanation of the update. For overnight sites (campgrounds, recreational residences, guest lodges, etc.), it will be noted whether the update is a change in the baseline. For day-use sites, it is an update.

Big Salmon BMU (Spotted Bear & Swan Lake RDs, Flathead NF).

- Number of Campgrounds did not change; however, the Number of Sites increased by 3. There were 3 host campground sites that have been existing and were not counted in previous monitoring reports. This is a correction in the baseline for Number of Sites. The baseline value for Number of Sites should have been and is 69.

Bunker BMU (Spotted Bear & Swan Lake RDs, Flathead NF).

- Number of Campgrounds has not changed; however, the actual Number of Sites has decreased by 3 to 56. Three (3) sites were removed during the reconstruction of Van Lake campground. The baseline value will not change and remain at 59. This is NOT a change in the baseline for the Number of Sites. ***The baseline value remains at 59 for the Number of Sites for this BMU, and allows this decision space.***
- Number of Trailheads has decreased by 1 to 26. There was one trailhead that did not exist. The updated value is 26.

Dearborn Elk BMU (Rocky Mtn. Front RD, HLC NF).

- For tracking purposes only. For the Number of Recreational Residences there is 1 recreational residence available as decision space for the agency to increase within the BMU. ***The baseline value remains at 1 for this BMU, and allows this decision space.***
- Number of Day-Use Trailheads increased by 1 from 3 to 4. The Forest Service acquired private land, and has built a trailhead for the Falls Cr trail. The updated value is 4.

Hungry Horse BMU (Hungry Horse & Swan Lake RDs, Flathead NF).

- For tracking purposes only. For the Number of Sites, there are 2 sites available as decision space for the agency to increase sites at another campground in the BMU. ***The baseline value for number of Campground Sites remains at 169, and allows this decision space.***
- Number of Day-Use Trailheads increased by 1 trailhead to 40. There was an existing trailhead missing from the list. The updated value is 40.
- Number of Other Day-Use Sites increased by 1 to 23. A site has been built and is now existing, per signed FLK decision. The updated value is 23.

Lower North Fork Flathead BMU (Glacier View RD, Flathead NF and Glacier NP).

- For tracking purposes only. For the Number of Recreational Residences, there are two residences that could be rebuilt that were burnt within the BMU. ***The baseline value is 3 for this BMU, and allows this decision space.***
- Number of Day-Use Trailheads had decreased by 1 from 63 to 62. Glacier NP has deleted one trailhead that has not existed for years as users would have to cross the North Fork of the Flathead River. The updated value is now 62.
- Number of Other Day-Use Sites has increased by 1 from 35 to 36. Glacier NP missed a Point of Interest. It has been added. The updated value is now 36.

Mission Range BMU (Flathead NF and Flathead IR).

- Number of Campgrounds did not change; however, the Number of Sites increased by 1. There was 1 host campground site that has been existing and was not counted in previous monitoring reports. This is a correction in the baseline for Number of Sites. The baseline value for Number of Sites should have been and is 26.

Murphy Lake BMU (Fortine RD, Kootenai NF).

- For tracking purposes only. For Number of Other Sites with Overnight Use, on cabin burned in 2017, and could be rebuilt within the BMU. ***The baseline value remains at 5 with Type of Capacity at 5 cabins for this BMU, and allows this decision space.***

Northeast Glacier BMU (Glacier NP and Blackfeet IR).

- Number of Other Day-Use Sites increased from 18 to 22. Glacier NP missed counting 2 boat storages facilities, 1 day-use shelter for hikers, and 1 point of interest. The updated value is now 22.

Rattlesnake BMU (Missoula & Seeley Lake RDs, Lolo NF).

- Number of Administrative Sites decreased from 1 to 0. One fire lookout was burned in 2013, and not reported until the 2020 monitoring. The updated value is now 0.

Southeast Glacier BMU (Glacier NP and Blackfeet IR).

- Number of Other Day-Use Sites remains the same. However, Glacier NP had 1 day-use hiker shelter incorrectly labeled as a patrol cabin, and the Cut Bank entrance did not exist. Overall, the net change is zero. The value remains at 9.
- Number of Administrative sites increased from 8 to 9. Glacier NP did not include the Saint Mary waste water and boneyard sites, adding 2 sites. Additionally, Glacier NP had 1 day-use hiker shelter incorrectly labeled as a patrol cabin. This decreased the number of administrative sites, and increased the day-use sites. The updated value is now 9.

Sullivan BMU (Flathead NF).

- Number of Campgrounds did not change; however, the Number of Sites increased by 2. There were 2 host campground sites that have been existing and were not counted in previous monitoring reports. This is a correction in the baseline for Number of Sites. The baseline value for Number of Sites should have been and is 116.
- Number of Day-Use Trailheads increased by 1 from 32 to 33. A seasonal trailhead was missed. While the main trailhead was listed, the trailhead is closer to the beginning of the road when the road is seasonally closed. The updated value is now 33.
- Number of Administrative Sites decreased by 1 from 10 to 9. The historical Quintonkon administrative site was incorrectly counted. Nothing remains at this site and it should not have been included. The updated value is now 9.

Upper North Fork Flathead BMU (Glacier View RD, Flathead NF and Glacier NP).

- Number of Day-Use Trailheads decreased by 1 from 39 to 38. Flathead NF decommissioned one trail, thus the trailhead was also removed. Updated value is now 38.

- Number of Administrative Sites remains the same at 19. However, Glacier NP had 1 patrol cabin burn in 2020, and one patrol cabin built in 2020. Overall the net change is zero. The updated value remains at 19

Upper South Fork Flathead BMU (Spotted Bear RD, Flathead NF and Seeley Lake RD, Lolo NF).

- For tracking purposes only. For Number of Other Sites with Overnight Use, there is 1 cabin available as decision space for the agency to increase Other Sites with Overnight Use in the BMU. ***The baseline value for Number of Other Sites with Overnight Use remains at 1, and allows this decision space.***

Monitoring report completed by:

Kathy Ake
GIS Specialist
Flathead NF & NCDE
kathy.ake@usda.gov
406-758-5358

Figure 1. Map of Bear Management Units (BMU) for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem.

