

Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee

May 23, 2023
Libby, Montana

IGBC MISSION

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) supports recovery and delisting, and ongoing conservation of grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency coordination of policy, planning, management, research and communication.

Subcommittee Roles and Responsibilities

- Develop an annual work plan, consistent with the IGBC 5-year plan
- Coordinate implementation of the approved annual work plan
- Establish necessary teams to implement approved actions
- Report to the Executive Committee at each winter meeting on the progress of action items;
- Recommend revisions to the 5-year plan based on the best available science and management action necessary to achieve recovery;
- Identify funding or other resource needs
- If directed by the Executive Committee, develop a proposed conservation strategy to be implemented upon delisting.
- Identify issues that cannot be resolved at the Subcommittee level and elevate them to the Executive Committee for resolution.

5 YEAR PLAN

Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak
Ecosystems Subcommittee

Contents: Conservation Strategy

Chapters

- Executive Summary
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Introduction and Background
- **Population/Demographic Objectives and Monitoring**
- **Habitat Objectives and Monitoring**
- **Conflict Prevention and Management**
- **Information and Education**
- Implementation and Evaluation
- Existing Laws, Regulations, and Agreements
- Appendices

Goals/Objectives

Cabinet/Yaak

- **Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution**
 - Augment the population
 - Limit human-caused mortality
 - Document pop. growth rate and distribution
- **Maintain or enhance connectivity within the recovery zone to achieve recovery criteria occupancy standards**
- **Apply results of research to habitat management**
- **Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee**

Selkirk

- **Increase population size and distribution in the US portion of the ecosystem**
 - Limit human-caused mortality
 - Document pop. growth rate and distribution
- **Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery**

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 1: Augment the population

- No bears moved to Cabinet Mountains in 2022.
- To review:
 - 22 bears added since 1990 (14 F and 8 M).
 - 5 of those (3 F : 2 M) are known to have produced offspring - resulting in: 15 first gen., 23 second gen., and 4 third gen. offspring to the Cabinet mountains.

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- Extensive I&E resumed.
- Securing waste transfer sites.
- Hunter safety and bear ID.
- Securing attractants on public and private land.

See SCYE report spreadsheet for details.

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- **3 human-caused mortalities in 2022**
 - 1 subadult female (mgmt. removal)
 - 1 adult female (highway collision)
 - 1 adult male (defense of property)
- **1 natural mortality, adult female**

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 3: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- 2021* rub trees and hair corral results: 37 individuals, 18 F: 19 M.
- Captured and collared 7 bears in Cabinet-Yaak.
- 1.9% growth rate for Cabinet-Yaak (1983-2021).
- 14 of 22 BMUs occupied by females with young (2016-2021).

Goal 2: Connectivity to achieve occupancy standards and linkage

- SCYE subcommittee letter of support for 24,865 ac. Upper Thompson Connectivity Project (a CE between MFWP, Green Diamond, Trust for Public Lands).
- Compliments extensive easements.
- USFWS monitoring bear movement and DNA data.

Goal 3: Apply results of research to habitat management

- Lolo NF achieved motorized access standards for BMU 22.
- Kootenai NF began NEPA for BMU 4 access standards.

Goal 4: Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee

- No explicit 2022 accomplishments.
- Both subcommittees acknowledge and intend to meet in 2023.

Selkirk Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- Extensive I&E resumed.
- Securing waste transfer sites.
- Hunter safety and bear ID.
- Securing attractants on public and private land.

See SCYE report spreadsheet for details.

Selkirk Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- 3 human-caused mortalities in 2022
 - 1 subadult male (self defense)
 - 2 adult males (mgmt. removals)
 - No British Columbia reports yet

Selkirk Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 2: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- Rub trees, hair corrals, and camera traps continued in 2022.
- 2021* results: 39 individuals, 13 F: 26 M.
- Captured and collared 6 bears in the Selkirks
- Selkirk pop. rate of increase for 1983-2021 was 3.1%.
- 9 of 10 US Selkirk BMUs occupied by females with young.

Goal 2: Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery

With assistance from SCYE partners...

- British Columbia (Proctor) preparing report from 2020-2021 genetic monitoring.
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho working with sister tribes in Canada (conservation and trans-boundary issues).

CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak
Ecosystems Subcommittee

SCYE CS Report 12/22

Delivered by Ben Conard to the IGBC Executives

- IGBC tasked subcommittee to proceed with a Conservation Strategy, summer 2022.
- SCYE Subcommittee's Fall agenda included an overview of Conservation Strategies.
- SCYE Subcommittee approved developing one Conservation Strategy, with consideration for ecosystem and jurisdictional differences.
- Most members offered technical participants, others to reply soon.
- David Diamond agreed to help facilitate the effort.
- Notes and direction are in development (e.g., recap of task, proposed teams).
- Confirm commitments & convene teams winter 2023.

SCYE CS Since 12/22

SCYE Actions

- 03/13/23 CS Launch Meeting
 - USFWS - Conard, Johnson-Hughes, Krupka, Kasworm, Lewis, Cooley, Whitcomb, Teisberg, Sarensen
 - USFS - Petrick, Benson, Feiger, Smolden, Bell, Probasco, Fuller, Anderson, Cloud
 - BLM – Pindel, Weston
 - IDFG - Watkins, Moore
 - IDL – Svancara, Finch, Brown
 - MTFWP – Anderson, Annis, Costello
 - WDFW – Pozzanghera, Prince, Thompson
 - Counties – Bertling
 - Kootenai Tribe – Aitken Jr, Soultz, Therrian
 - Kalispel Tribe – Turnock
 - IGBC - Diamond
- 05/01/23 MS Team Folder
- 05/23/23 SCYE Subcommittee Meeting, Libby, MT

Developments Elsewhere Since 12/22

- 02/6/23 USFWS 90-day findings on delisting petitions
 - Lower-48 (not warranted)
 - 05/10/23 Idaho NOI
 - NCDE and GYE (may be warranted)
 - Comprehensive status review
 - 12-month findings
- 03/15/23 Bitterroot Malloy order; 04/14/23 Federal response
 - USFWS to initiate a new NEPA process, including draft and final EIS and a new ROD
 - 43 months = time to completion

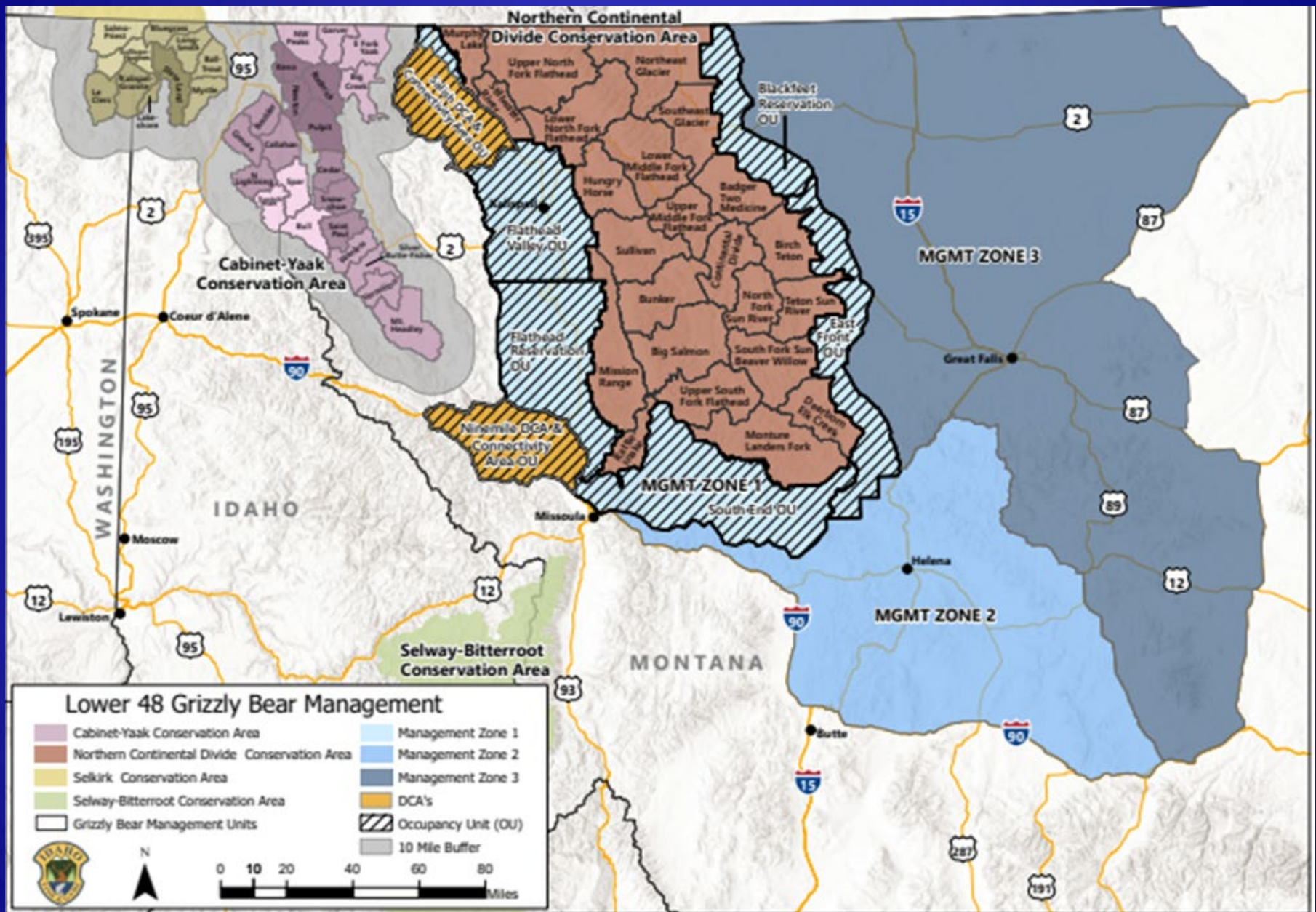
Discussion

- What is a CS relative to the recovery plan?
- What was the CS timeline in GYE and NCDE?
- Forthcoming 12 month petition findings? Coordination with NCDE?
- Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak RZs, areas between/beyond?
- Technical Details
 - Demographic goals, post delisting monitoring
 - Habitat
 - Conflict management
 - IEO
- SCYE 5 Year Plan?

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Map of Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems Relative to NCDE