

2022 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 individually 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 2020 and 2022 values. Table 4 displays the day-use sites, trailheads, and administrative sites, comparing 2020 and 2022.

After the tables is a specific description by BMU of any changes since 2020, 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 an update as allowed by the NCDE Conservation Strategy as it was 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 do alter the baseline value, the table cells have been bolded and highlighted in a darker blue.

There is no baseline for day-use recreation 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 2022 followed these application rules. A paraphrased list of acceptable changes 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 of 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	YES. Two campsites within one campground.	----
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 2022. 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	1
Big Salmon	32	5	69	3	8 cabins; 9 rooms	7	5	11
Birch Teton	7	3	28	2	7 cabins; 1 room	11	1	0
Bunker	-	8	63	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	34	-	-	16	7	12
Lower North Fork Flathead	3	17	544	10	51 cabins; 185 rooms; 2 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 362 employee beds	62	36	20
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	17
North Fork Sun River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Rattlesnake	-	1	3	1	1 cabin	3	-	-
Southeast Glacier	-	11	146	2	5 emp. beds	14	9	9
Sullivan	20	15	129	2	9 cabins; 1 room; 1 bunkhouse	33	12	9
Stillwater River	-	2	3	-	-	1	-	1
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	74	7	72	4	18 cabins; 2 rooms; 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites	17	3	8
Teton Sun River	17	2	31	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	9	18
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 2020 and 2022 Overnight Sites (Recreational Residences, Campgrounds, and Other Sites with Overnight Use)¹.

BMU Name	Recreational Residences		Campgrounds				Other Sites with Overnight Use			
	2020	2022	# of Cmpgnds		# of Sites		# of Sites		Capacity	
			2020	2022	2020	2022	2020	2022	2020	2022
Badger Two Medicine	---	---	1	1	17	17	---	---	---	---
Big Salmon	32	32	5	5	69	69	3	3	8 cabins; 9 rooms	8 cabins; 9 rooms
Birch Teton	7	7	3	3	27	28	2	2	7 cabins; 1 room	7 cabins; 1 room
Bunker	---	---	8	59	59	63	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	34	---	---	---	---
Lower North Fork Flathead	3	3	17	17	545	544	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	26	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	116	129	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	4	17 cabins; 2 rooms 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites	18 cabins; 2 rooms 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; 10 RV sites
Teton Sun River	17	17	3	2	36	31	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 2020 and 2022 Day-Use Sites and Administrative Sites¹.

BMU Name	Day-Use Trailheads		Other Day-Use Sites		Administrative Sites	
	2020	2022	2020	2022	2020	2022
Badger Two Medicine	12	12	1	1	2	1
Big Salmon	7	7	5	5	11	11
Birch Teton	11	11	1	1	---	---
Bunker	26	26	5	5	4	4
Continental Divide	---	---	---	---	4	4
Dearborn Elk	4	4	1	1	2	2
Hungry Horse	40	40	23	23	4	4
Lower Middle Fork Flathead	16	16	7	7	12	12
Lower North Fork Flathead	62	62	36	36	23	20
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	22	22	15	17
North Fork Sun River	---	---	---	---	5	5
Rattlesnake	3	3	---	---	---	---
Southeast Glacier	14	14	9	9	9	9
Sullivan	33	33	12	12	9	9
Stillwater River	1	1	---	---	1	1
South Fork Sun Beaver Willow	16	17	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	38	38	8	9	19	18
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 if 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.

Badger Two Medicine BMU (Rocky Mountain Front RD, HLC NF).

- Number of Administrative Sites decreased by one as a facility was removed in 2018 and USFS no longer has access to the site. The updated value is 1.

Birch Teton BMU (Rocky Mountain Front RD, HLC NF).

- Number of Campgrounds has not changed but the actual Number of Sites has changed. For one campground, there are 4 sites that were there since before 2011 but originally only 3 sites were listed. The baseline value for Number of Sites is 28, which is an update to the baseline value. In 2022, two sites at this same campground were removed, allowing for a decision space of 2 sites. ***The baseline value for number of Campground Sites is 28, and allows for a decision space of 2 sites.***

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

- Number of Campgrounds has not changed, but the actual Number of Sites was corrected to 60 with a decision space for 3 sites. One campground was previously listed as “unlimited” for its number of sites, which is counted as 1 site for monitoring reports. The actual number of sites for this campground was determined to be 5. For calculations in the monitoring report, this is reported as an increase of 4 sites (5 sites minus the 1 site always counted for “unlimited”). This is not a change to number of sites nor capacity on the ground. This will be a correction to the baseline value. ***The baseline value is 63 for the Number of Sites for this BMU, and continues to allow a decision space of 3 sites.***

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.***

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.***

Lower Middle Fork Flathead BMU (Flathead NF and Glacier NP).

- Number of Campgrounds did not change but the Number of Sites increased by 2. Glacier NP corrected the number of sites at two back-country campgrounds. This is a correction in the baseline for Number of Sites. The updated baseline value for Number of Sites is 34.

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 Campgrounds did not change but the Number of Sites decreased by 1 from 545 to 544. Glacier NP corrected the number of sites at one back-country campground. This is a correction in the baseline for Number of Sites. The updated baseline value for Number of Sites is 544.
- Number of Administrative Sites decreased from 20 to 23. Glacier NP removed three administrative sites: two were physically removed and one never existed. The updated value is now 20.

Murphy Lake BMU (Fortine RD, Kootenai NF).

- For tracking purposes only. For Number of Other Sites with Overnight Use, one 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 Administrative Sites increased by 2 from 15 to 17. Glacier NP added two administrative cabins for employee housing. The updated value is now 17.

Sullivan BMU (Spotted Bear RD, Flathead NF).

- Number of Campgrounds did not change but the Number of Sites was corrected by 13 from 116 to 129. Three (3) campgrounds were previously listed as “unlimited” for their numbers of sites, which is counted as 1 site for each of these campgrounds in monitoring reports. The actual number of sites for these campgrounds was determined to be 4 sites, 6 sites, and 6 sites for a total of 16. For calculations in the monitoring report, this is reported as an increase of 13 sites (16 sites minus 3, one for each of the 1 site always counted for “unlimited”). This not a change to number of sites nor capacity on the ground. This is a correction to the baseline value. The baseline value is 129 for the Number of Sites for this BMU.

South Fork Sun Beaver Willow BMU (Rocky Mountain Front RD, HLC NF).

- Number of Other Sites with Overnight Use was decreased by 1 from 5 to 4. One cabin is actually a special use permitted cabin to the state, and should not have been included. This is a correction to the baseline. The baseline value is 4.
- Type of Capacity for Other Sites with Overnight Use had a correction. In addition to the one cabin that should not have been included (previous bullet), there was an error in counting the number of cabins. The number of cabins for the 4 sites should have been and still is 18. The baseline value for Type of Capacity is: 18 cabins; 2 rooms; 3 bunkhouses; 1 residence; and 10 RV sites.

Teton Sun River BMU (Rocky Mountain Front RD, HLC NF).

- Number of Campgrounds decreased by 1 from 3 to 2. One campground is a dispersed camping area as there are zero amenities or man-made features provided. This is a correction to the baseline. The baseline value is 2 campgrounds.
- Number of Sites had a net decrease of 5 from 36 to 31. In addition to the 4 sites incorrectly included from the dispersed camping area on the previous bullet, one campground has 4 instead of 5 sites. One site was removed in 1996. This is a correction to the baseline. The baseline value is 31 sites.

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

- Number of Day-Use sites increased by 1 from 8 to 9, and as a result, the Number of Administrative Sites decreased by 1 from 19 to 18. The 2020 monitoring report listed an acquired cabin as a patrol cabin (administrative site). The cabin is actually used as a day-use only educational building. This is a correction to the baseline. The updated value is 9 for day-use sites and the updated value is 18 for administrative sites.

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.***

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

