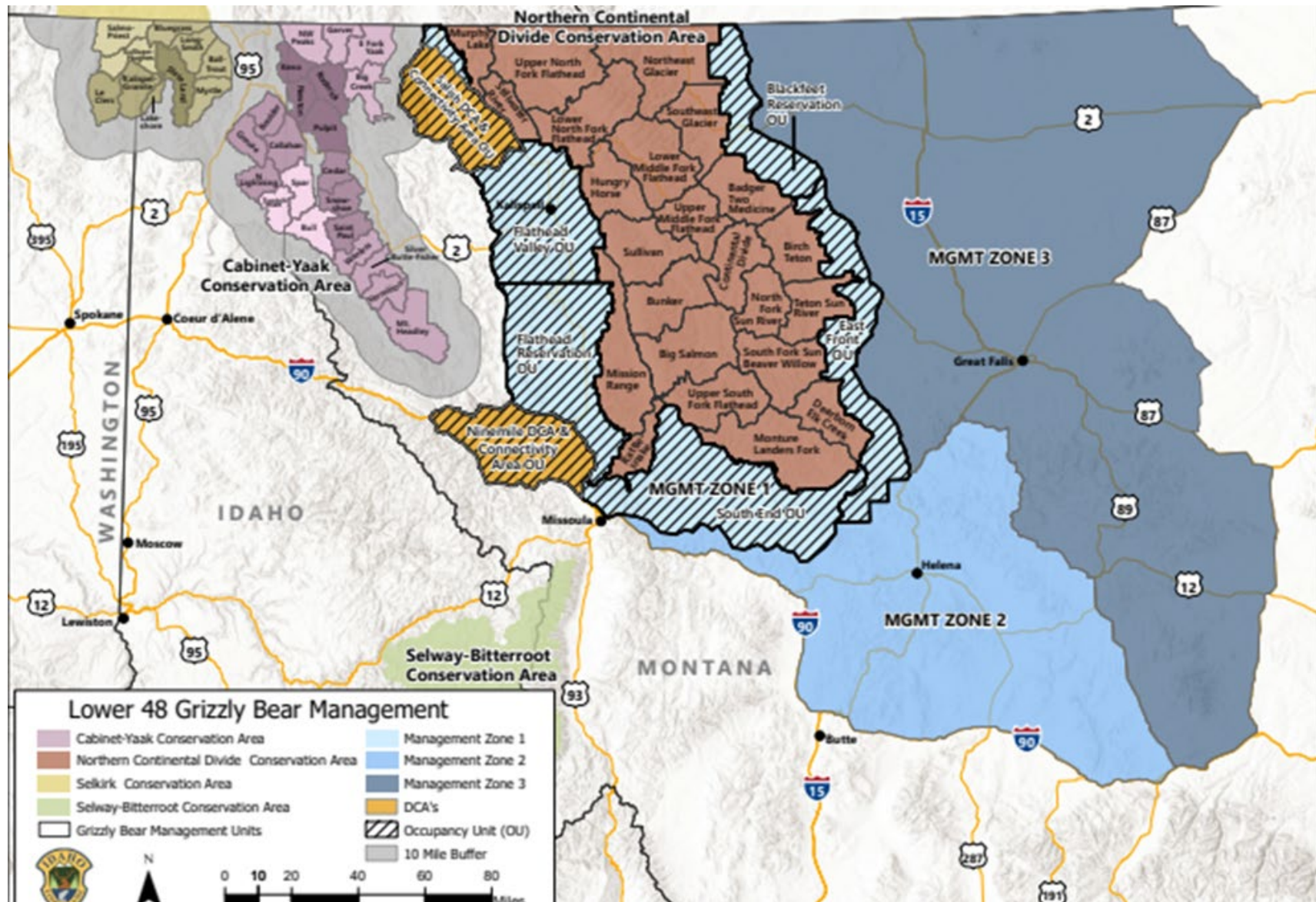


Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee Report of 2023 Accomplishments to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

**December 13, 2023
Bozeman, Montana**

**Mike Kuttel Jr., Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Chair for 2023-'24
USFS Lolo National Forest, 2023-'24 Vice-Chair**

Photo courtesy of Ben Turnock, WDFW



Map of Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems Relative to NCDE

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Objective 1: Augment the population

- 2023 – No current augmentation bears with radio collars
- 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

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- Extensive I&E e.g., “Bear Aware” efforts
- 1st Annual Bear Fair – Bonners Ferry, ID
- Securing waste transfer sites
- Hunter safety and bear ID
- Securing attractants on public and private land

See SCYE report spreadsheet for details.

1st Annual Bear Fair



Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak
Ecosystems Subcommittee

Photos courtesy of Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- **2023:**
 - 7 year-old collared male – under investigation
 - Found skull of 10 year-old male – 2022 or 2023 – unknown cause
 - No BC reports yet

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Objective 3: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- 2022 genetics results still at lab
- 2023:
 - Monitored >700 rub trees and >70 hair snag corrals
 - Expanded DNA monitoring in West Cabinets
 - Captured and collared 9 bears in Cabinet-Yaak (5 males, 4 females)
 - 1.6% growth rate for Cabinet-Yaak (1983-2022)
 - 16 of 22 BMUs occupied by females with young (2017-2022)

Goal 2: Connectivity to achieve occupancy standards and linkage

USFWS monitoring bear movement
and DNA data.

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Goal 3: Apply results of research to habitat management

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Objective 1: Improve project planning to maintain or promote grizzly bear habitat

- Kootenai National Forest achieved motorized access standards for Bull and St. Paul BMUs.
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest achieved motorized access standards for Blue Grass, Longsmith, and Grouse BMUs.

Goal 4: Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee

- No explicit 2023 accomplishments.
- Both subcommittees acknowledge and coordinating to schedule a joint meeting in May 2024.

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Selkirk Ecosystem

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 lands

See SCYE report spreadsheet for details.

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- 1 human-caused mortality in 2023:
 - Subadult unmarked male (mistaken identity)
 - No BC reports yet

Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Selkirk Ecosystem

Objective 2: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- Monitored >400 rub trees, >100 hair snag corrals, and camera traps in 2023
- Results: Not all data available. Hair samples to lab in winter 2023-24
- Captured and collared 2 bears (1 male, 1 female) in the Selkirks
- Selkirk pop. rate of increase for 1983-2022 was 2.6%
- 9 of 10 US Selkirk BMUs occupied by females with young (2017-2022)

Goal 2: Enhance transboundary cooperation and coordination of recovery

Selkirk Ecosystem

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).



SCYE Conservation Strategy

IGBC tasked subcommittee to proceed with a Conservation Strategy, summer 2022.

SCYE Subcommittee's fall 2022 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.

SCYE Subcommittee spring 2023 agreed to starting development of Habitat and Demographics chapters.

Technical Team met October 2023 to work on Habitat and Demographics.