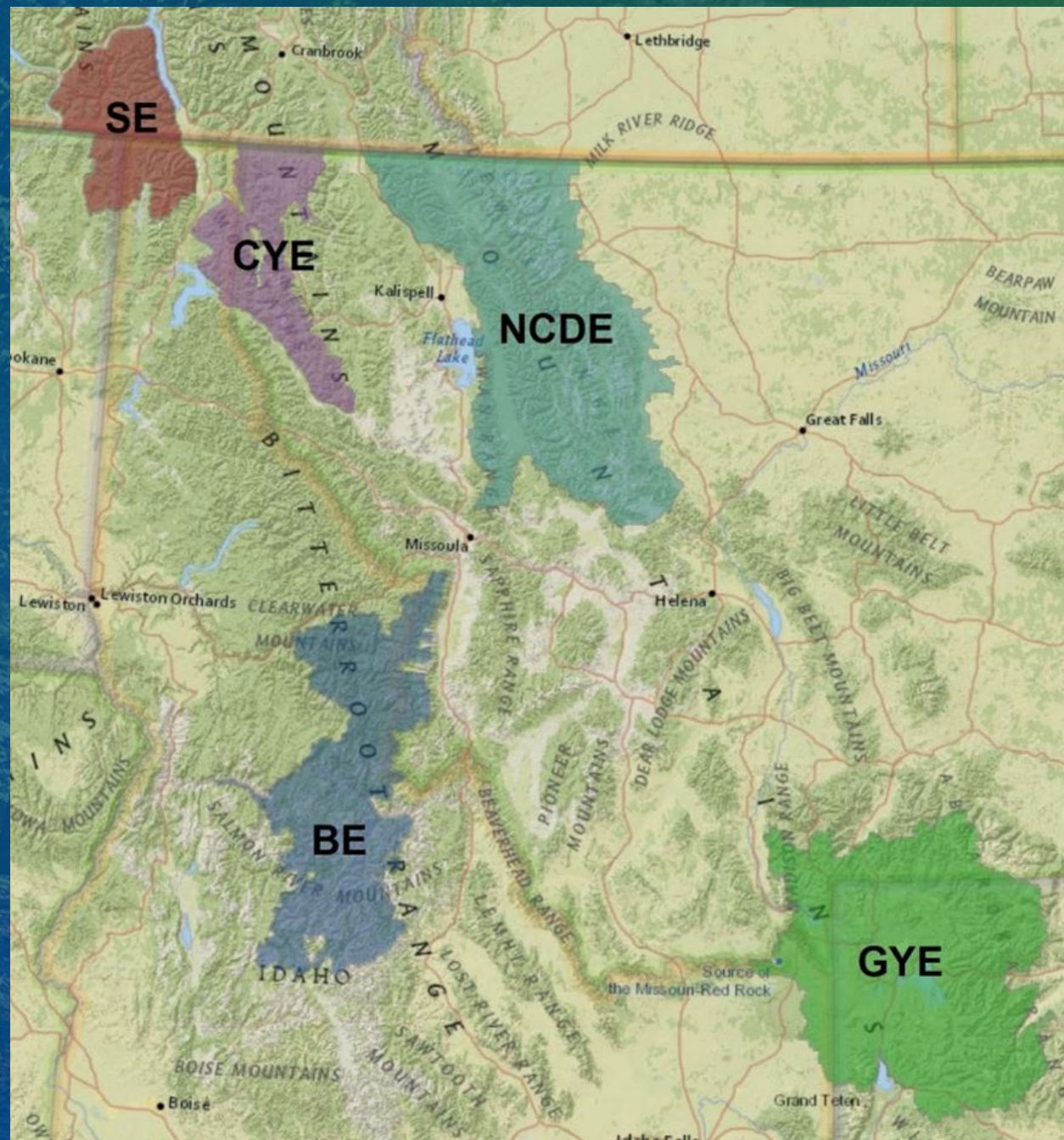


BITTERROOT ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE

Winter Executive Committee Report - 2023





BITTERROOT SUBCOMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Salmon-Challis NF

Bitterroot NF

Lolo NF

Nez Perce-Clearwater NF

Payette NF

Sawtooth NF

Idaho Panhandle NF

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Bureau of Land Management – Idaho

Fish and Wildlife Service – Idaho and Montana

Nez Perce Tribe

County Commissioners (Ravalli)



2023 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Committee – Information, Education, and Outreach Committee – Science Committee

Executive

Sandi Fisher, FWVS – Chair

Liz Bradley, MTFWP – Vice-Chair

- April 19th – Spring Meeting (Virtual)
- October 18th – Fall Meeting (Virtual)

IEO

Allyson Turner, FWVS - Chair

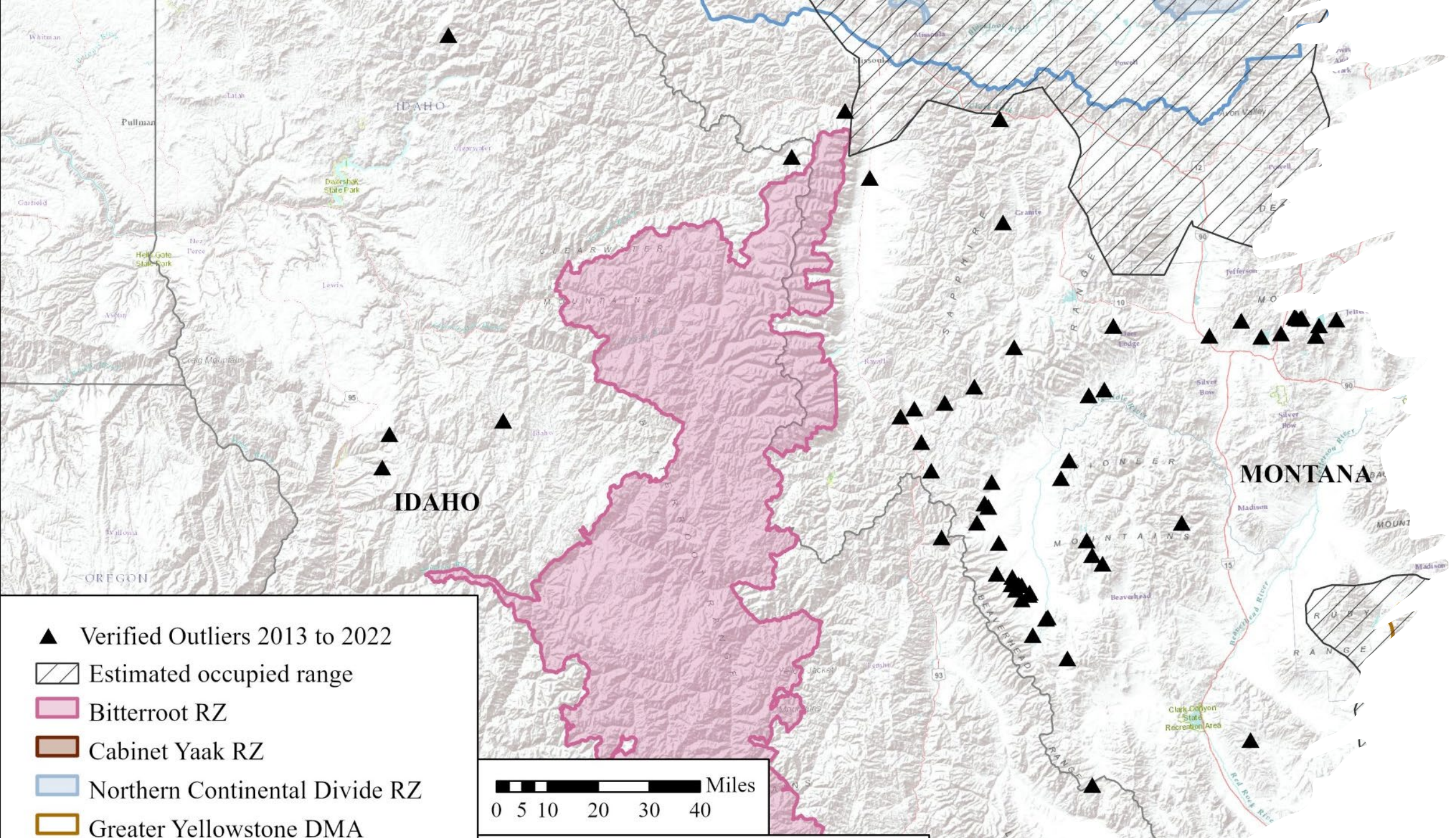
- April 12th – Spring Meeting (Virtual)
- July 19th – Summer Meeting (Virtual)
- October 17th – Fall Meeting (Virtual)

Science

Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, FWVS – Chair

Katie Oelrich, IDFG – Co-Chair

- April 7th – Spring Meeting (Virtual)
- October 16th – Fall Meeting (Virtual)



SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Document Presence/Absence of Grizzly Bears in the Ecosystem

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Document Presence/Absence of Grizzly Bears in the Ecosystem

- Objective #1: Systematically monitor areas most likely to be colonized first or where credible sightings occur
- Objective #2: Opportunistically monitor in other areas each year

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Document Presence/Absence of Grizzly Bears in the Ecosystem

- Objective #1: Systematically monitor areas most likely to be colonized first or where credible sightings occur
- Objective #2: Opportunistically monitor in other areas each year

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #1: Increase human-bear safety annually in areas newly occupied by grizzly bears
- Objective #2: Limit human-caused mortality, including management removals
- Objective #3: Implement measures to improve connectivity in >50% of linkage areas by 2020
- Objective #4: Increase landowner and community tolerance for grizzly bears in linkage zones and the recovery zone by 2022
- Objective #5: Prevent human-cause mortality throughout the Plan period

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #1: Document Presence/Absence of Grizzly Bears in the Ecosystem

- Objective #1: Systematically monitor areas most likely to be colonized first or where credible sightings occur

2023 Accomplishments

- SW DNA Project – N. Sapphires and S. Big Holes
- IDFG Wolf Camera Monitoring
- U of I Student Research – Modeling Bear Use Occupancy

2024 Planned Actions

- SW DNA Project – mid-Sapphires and N. Big Holes
- IDFG Wolf (& Fisher/Lynx) Camera Monitoring

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #1: Document Presence/Absence of Grizzly Bears in the Ecosystem

- Objective #2: Opportunistically monitor in other areas each year

2023 Accomplishments

- NTR, but...
 - Sarah Sells et al – Predicted Grizzly Bear Habitat in the Bitterroot and North Cascades Ecosystem

2024 Planned Actions

- NTR, but...
 - Sarah Sells et al – Survival and Home Range Modeling

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS



Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #1: Increase human-bear safety annually in areas newly occupied by grizzly bears

Food Storage Working Group

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #2: Limit human-caused mortality, including management removals

2023 Accomplishments

- FWS-FS Communication Plans
- FWS-IDFG 'Tabletop' Scenarios
- Carcass Pick-up Program
- Fencing Installation and Sanitation/Food Storage Infrastructure
- Food Storage Orders
- IEO Efforts
- Conflict Reduction Personnel
- Bear Aware and Bear Smart Programs

2024 Planned Actions

- Yes, and....
- FWS Recovery Funding
- Communication Plans, Cont'd
- IDFG Clearwater Region Wildlife Human Attack Response Team

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #3: Implement measures to improve connectivity in >50% of linkage areas by 2020

2023 Accomplishments

- NTR

2024 Planned Actions

- SCNF Forest Plan Revision

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #4: Increase landowner and community tolerance for grizzly bears in linkage zones and the recovery zone by 2022

2023 Accomplishments

- Bitterroot Bear Resource Committee

2024 Planned Actions

- U of M (maybe)
Collaborative
Conservation Position

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2024 PLANNED ACTIONS

Goal #2: Promote Natural Recovery of the Population Through Immigration

- Objective #5: Prevent human-cause mortality throughout the Plan period

2023 Accomplishments

- IDFG & MTWFP Hunter Outreach
- Elimination of Anthropogenic Attractants
- Promote Use of Bear Spray
- IEO Grants Awarded

2024 Planned Actions

- IEO Funding
- IEO Summit
(Jan 2024 – CdA)

QUESTIONS?

