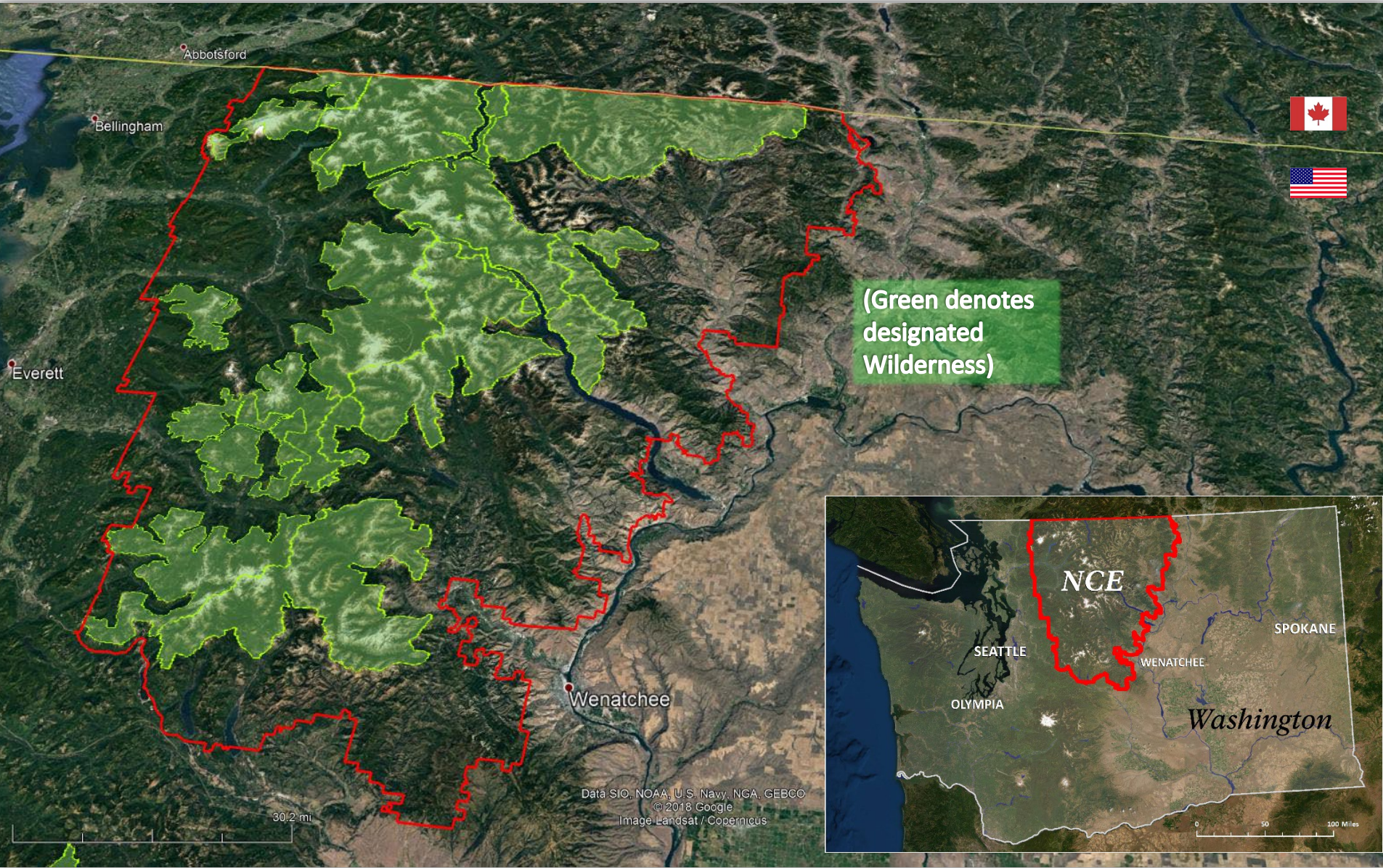


# North Cascades Ecosystem 2023







U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service



# Draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM



## Goal #1: ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT CLEAR DIRECTION FOR RECOVERY

**Objective 1:** Complete the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and the 10(j) rulemaking for experimental population designation. Issue a Record of Decision.



September 2023



U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service



# Draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM



September 2023

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 1:

- The Notice of Intent (NOI) was published on Nov 14 2022.
- FWS and NPS, in consultation with cooperating agencies held four virtual public meetings in November/December 2022.
- The Draft EIS and proposed 10(j) rule were released for a 45 day public comment period on Sept 29 2023.





U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Park Service



# Draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM



September 2023

## PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 1:

- FWS and NPS will hold public meetings for draft EIS and 10(j) and conduct outreach to stakeholders.
- FWS and NPS will publish final EIS and 10(j) rule and issue Record of Decision. Expected completion in Spring 2024.





## GOAL #2: MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE HABITAT CONDITIONS FOR GRIZZLY BEARS

**Objective 1:** Update the No Net Loss of Core Area agreement in an MOU and on track for Forest Plan update/amendments.

**Objective 2:** Continue to standardize signage/language on signs throughout forests and park.

**Objective 3:** Expand food storage orders to all National Forests as soon as practicable.

**Objective 4:** Increase availability of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles annually and update and maintain ecosystem wide database.





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 1:

- Technical Team developed new recommendations on high use non-motorized trails, core banking, BMU lines, private land, seasonal habitat and minimum core size.
- Recommendation included analysis of updated core area on several sample BMUs based on recommended changes.





## PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 1:

- Following adoption of recommendations, Tech Team will analyze baseline of core habitat for implementation under new MOU. Expected completion Winter 23/24.
- USFS and FWS will sign MOUs to update the No Net Loss agreement with recommended changes.





## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 2:

- Signs in place at many NPS and USFS campgrounds and trailheads, but not yet standardized.





## PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 2:

- Coordinate standardized signage/ language to be used throughout the ecosystem, with that used in other ecosystems





## FOOD STORAGE

Protect your family and wildlife. Store all foods and attractants properly. Make them unavailable to wildlife at night and when unattended during the day.

### ATTRACTANTS ARE:

Food, beverages, toiletries, game meat, carcass parts, processed livestock food, pet food and garbage.

### UNAVAILABLE MEANS:



Hung at least 10 feet high and 4 feet from any vehicle support.



Stored inside a bear-resistant container or hard sided vehicle.



Game meat, if properly stored, at least 100 yards from sleeping area, recreation site, or Forest Service Trail System.



Game meat, if left on the ground, at least one-half mile from any sleeping area or recreation site, and 200 yards from a Forest Service System Trail.

### Coolers ARE NOT Bear-Resistant!



READ SAFETY FOOD STORAGE PRECAUTIONS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**PLEASE KEEP A CLEAN CAMP!**

[www.IGBCOnline.org](http://www.IGBCOnline.org)



For more information  
[www.BearSafeSystem.org](http://www.BearSafeSystem.org)  
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FOR A CLEAN CAMP

**FOOD  
STORAGE**

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 3:

- MBS issued new FSO in April 2023.





## FOOD STORAGE

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GO TO [WWW.FORESTSERVICE.GOV](http://WWW.FORESTSERVICE.GOV) FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**FOOD  
STORAGE**

## PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 3:

- OWNF Food storage order is on the Program of Work for Fiscal Year 2024, implementation date to be determined based on need and priority.





#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 4:

- MBS & Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests placed new animal resistant dumpsters and trash receptacles in campgrounds; North Cascades National Park installed additional dumpsters and food storage lockers in front- and backcountry campgrounds
- NPS: Stockpile of storage lockers waiting to be installed. Bear Rangers and USFWS intern education on sanitation at major campgrounds
- OKW: Lockers purchased in Cle Elum District awaiting installation. Assessment of needs.





#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 4 (CONTINUED):

- MBS purchased more bear lockers and working on installation.
- WDFW continued its work to reduce the availability of anthropogenic food sources/attractants throughout the ecosystem as part of daily operations.
- Methow Bear Aware continued work and coordination with waster hauler.





#### PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 4:

- Continue to increase availability of bear-resistant food storage and waste receptacles
- NPS and USFS will maintain databases of bear resistant facilities (food storage lockers, dumpsters, other solid waste receptacles) and continue to add to inventories
- Home Range Wildlife Research will complete a bear hazard assessment for the Upper Methow Valley and continue bear sanitation outreach in the Watershed.





### GOAL #3 DOCUMENT PRESENCE OF GRIZZLY BEARS

- **Objective 1:** Verify reports of grizzly bear sightings as soon as practical.





### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OBJECTIVE 1:

- Reports of grizzly bears received and investigated. No verified sightings.
- Tech Team recommends adopting the revised Sighting Classification Criteria system.





## **PLANNED ACTIONS OBJECTIVE 1:**

### Report follow-up

Evaluate reports of grizzly bear sightings



