



Interagency
GRIZZLY BEAR
Committee

Board of Review

Fatality of Amie Adamson

Buttermilk Trail, Custer Gallatin National Forest

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

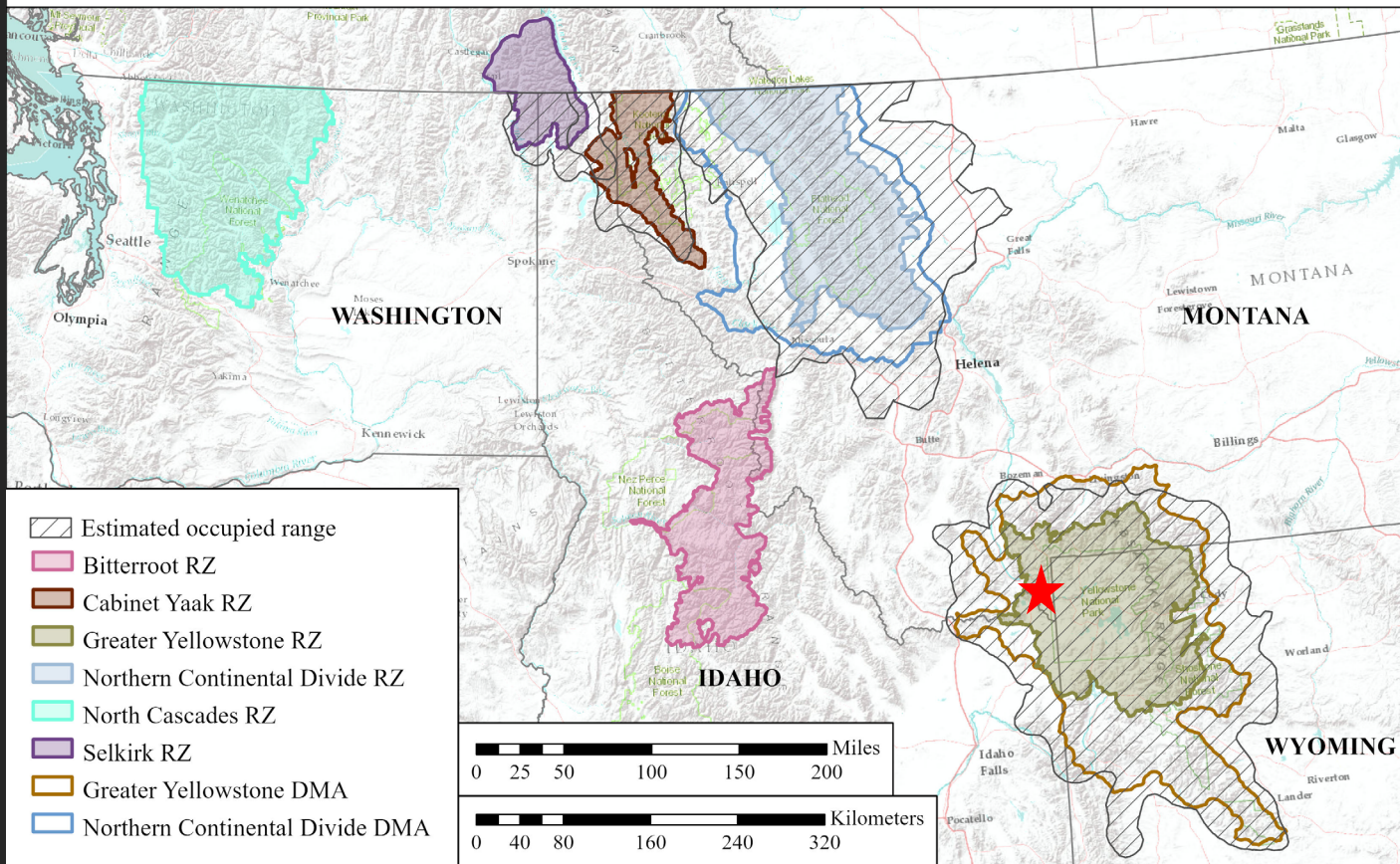
July 22, 2023

BOR Interagency Team

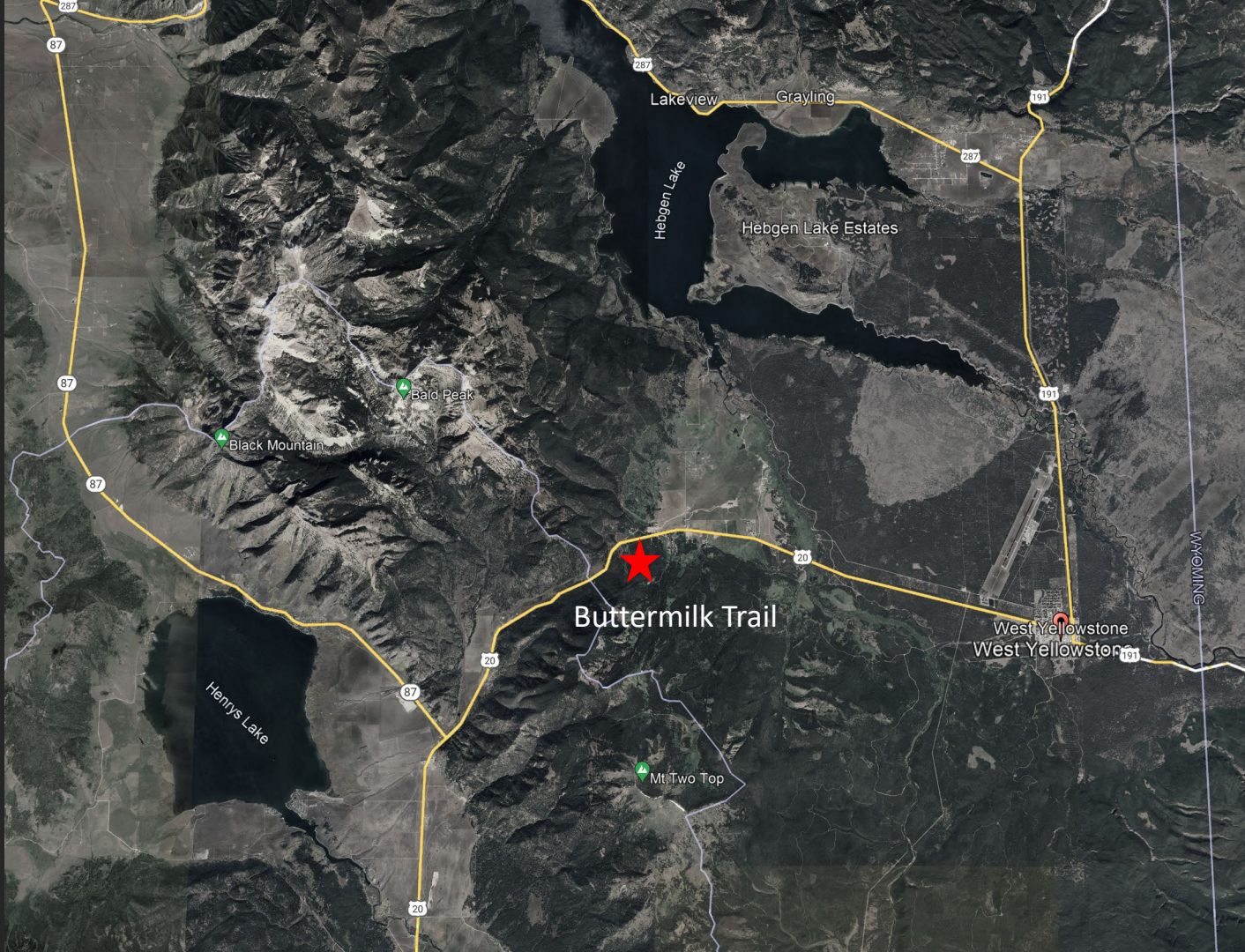


- **Response & Investigation:**
 - Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, West Yellowstone PD, Gallatin County SAR, Hebgen Basin Fire, MTFWP, IDFG, USFS, YNP
- **Interagency Team:**
 - MTFWP: Jeremiah Smith, Lori Roberts
 - USFWS: Hilary Cooley, Ben Jimenez
 - NPS: John Waller (Glacier NP), Kerry Gunther (YNP)
 - WGF: Brian Debolt
 - IDFG: Cade Bowlin
 - USFS: Dan Tyers
- **Location :** Buttermilk Trail, Gallatin County, MT
- **20th Human Fatality in GYE since 1892.**

Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones and Estimated Occupied Range



Estimated occupied range is current as of 2022 for the Greater Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, Cabinet-Yaak, and Selkirk Ecosystems. There are currently no known populations in the North Cascades and Bitterroot Ecosystems. Current estimated occupied range does not include low-density peripheral locations and represent a minimum known area of occupancy, not extent of occurrence. DMA = Demographic Monitoring Area; RZ = Recovery Zone



Lakeview

Grayling

Hebgen Lake

Hebgen Lake Estates

Bald Peak

Black Mountain

Buttermilk Trail

Mt. Two Top

Henrys Lake

West Yellowstone
West Yellowstone

WYOMING

KOA Campground

Buttermilk Trailhead

Lazy Acres Subdivision

Attack Site

Idaho Border

Google Earth



BUTTERMILK TRAILHEAD

ATTENTION PERMITS REQUIRED

Trail Pass **PERMANENT** PERMIT

Montana Resident Permits

Non-Resident Only **Purchase Permits Online**

Non-Resident Use Permit(s)

Resident Trail Pass Permits and Non-Resident Permits Available at:

Resident	Non-Resident
1-Day Permits: \$10.00	1-Day Permits: \$20.00
3-Day Permits: \$25.00	3-Day Permits: \$50.00
7-Day Permits: \$45.00	7-Day Permits: \$90.00
14-Day Permits: \$80.00	14-Day Permits: \$160.00
30-Day Permits: \$150.00	30-Day Permits: \$300.00
60-Day Permits: \$280.00	60-Day Permits: \$560.00
90-Day Permits: \$400.00	90-Day Permits: \$800.00
12-Month Permits: \$750.00	12-Month Permits: \$1500.00

 fwp.mt.gov 



FOOD & ODORS ATTRACT BEARS

BE ALERT & CARRY BEAR SPRAY

BEAR SAFETY: BE AWARE OF BEAR ACTIVITY

BEAR SAFETY: TRAVEL IN GROUPS

BEAR SAFETY: IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

BEAR SAFETY: DO NOT FEED BEARS

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This is BEAR COUNTRY!

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BEAR SAFETY: DO NOT FEED BEARS



• CUSTER GALLATIN National Forest •

Initial Response & Investigation



- July 22, 2023: 2 hikers report potential bear attack with human fatality.
- Investigation initial findings:
 - Victim was on foot, alone.
 - Attack site on the road.
 - Tracks of one adult grizzly and one cub next to victim.
 - No evidence of consumption, dragging, caching.
 - No animal carcasses in vicinity.
 - No bear spray, firearms, or noise making devices on the victim.
 - 2 aerial survey flights of attack site and surrounding area. No bears observed or detected from radio telemetry.



Management Response



- Area closed to all use.
- Traps set due to high recreational use & proximity to subdivision residences and campground. Traps open July 22-29.
- July 22: Female and 2 cubs return to site but did not enter trap; cameras indicated marked female (GB #909, research capture).
- July 25: Cub hit by vehicle on Highway 20, 2.3 miles from attack site.
- July 27: Female with cub visit site. Grizzly bear tracks on dumpster nearby, trash cans knocked over.
- Aug 1: Onsite management response ends; USFS reopens trail.

Grizzly Bear Activity After Attack



- Aug 18: Grizzly bear breaks into garage NW of Henry's Lake, ID. Traps set. Female with red ear tags and cub on camera. Female did not enter trap.
- Sept 3: Grizzly bear opens window and drags out dog food 0.5 miles from attack site. Video footage match GB#909 and cub.
- Interagency decision to lethally remove GB#909 and live removal (zoo placement) of cub due to immediate human safety concerns.

Conclusion



- Amie Adamson's death was the result of a defensive attack by grizzly bear #909 and her 2 cubs.
- Cause of attack was likely a result of a surprise encounter or defense of young, or a combination of the two.
- Factors:
 - Traveling alone
 - Did not have bear deterrent
 - No evidence of consumption

Recommendations



- 1) Carry bear deterrent (carry more than one)
- 2) Do not recreate alone (larger groups are more intimidating)
- 3) Make noise (reduce chance of surprise encounters)
- 4) Be vigilant (look for bear activity -tracks, scat, carcasses)
- 5) Report all bear conflicts
- 6) Avoid being Fast, Silent, or Distracted (running, biking, head phones)
- 7) Secure all attractants
- 8) Employers in occupied bear habitat provide bear safety training for staff

* New strategies needed to change human behavior.