

# Grizzly Bear Recovery Office Update

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FSR2656C





# Petitions to Delist Grizzly Bears

- Three states filed delisting petitions for grizzly bears
- These and other actions resulted in a court settlement to reassess the lower 48 listed entity with a proposed rule and petition responses in the federal register by late January 2025
- A new Species Status Assessment would be released concurrently
- Public comment will be taken and evaluated prior to a final rule





# North Cascades Grizzly Bear Restoration

- April 2024 decision to actively restore grizzly bears to the ecosystem through translocation from other ecosystems
- Several bears per year for 5-10 years to reach initial population of 25 bears
- “10(j)” designation (experimental population), which provides additional tools for management
- Developing interagency MOUs and an implementation plan, but no timeline for start





# Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Restoration

- No Action Alternative - As required by NEPA
- Proposed Action - Natural recolonization with FWS actions to provide education and conflict reduction.
- Alternative A - Reintroduction with introduced grizzly bears managed as a 10j non-essential experimental population.
- Alternative B - Reintroduction with introduced grizzly bears managed as threatened.
- Publish Draft EIS in Federal Register in late Spring 2025 with a 60 day comment period





# Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Monitoring

Wayne Kasworm, Thomas Radandt, Justin Teisberg, USFWS

Michael Proctor, Birchdale Ecological

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- 2024 Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Field Season Efforts and Results
- Management captures and monitoring
- 2024 mortality
- 2023 genetics preliminary results
- Other projects



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RECONYX



# 2024 Research Captures

- Capture efforts with 4 teams, 2 Cabinet-Yaak and 2 Selkirk
- 3 Captures in Selkirks with an adult female, a subadult female, and a subadult male
- 5 captures in Cabinet-Yaak with a subadult female, an adult male in the Yaak and an adult male and 2 subadult males (probably siblings) in the Cabinets





# Management Capture in Washington

- Bear 1068 was captured by WDFW in mid September due to an injury issue
- Anesthetization and examination identified a wound on the bear's left front paw
- Wound examined, cleaned, and treated by WDFW veterinarian. Bear released in northeast WA inside the recovery zone
- Bear eventually moved into BC and then north Idaho where it got unsecured chickens and feed
- Electric fencing installed by IDFG
- Bear moved north into BC and is now in Boundary Creek and may be preparing to den





# Management Captures in Montana

- Bear 1190 was in a family group captured and relocated in a two management actions southeast of Kalispell, MT in 2022 and 2023
- Bear 1190 (2-year-old male) was collared by MFWP in late July in the Salish range by black bear research
- He moved west to the east side of the CYE and identified at several conflict sites often involving chickens or unsecured feed. He was captured and euthanized
- Bear 979 (4-year-old male) was captured in the upper Yaak River in late October after getting unsecured chickens and feed.
- He was released in northwest MT.
- MFWP installed several electric fences in the area of capture
- He has returned to the vicinity, but may have hit the fencing and has moved away





# 2024 Research Hair Collection

- Hair collection at rub trees and corrals with cameras
- Several teams working both recovery areas
- Not all data in yet



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2024-08-29 17:06:24 M 4/5 51°F



2024-06-29 3:41:53 PM M 3/5 69°F

JOHNSON-SITE2



2024-07-21 7:26:13 PM M 1/3 77°F

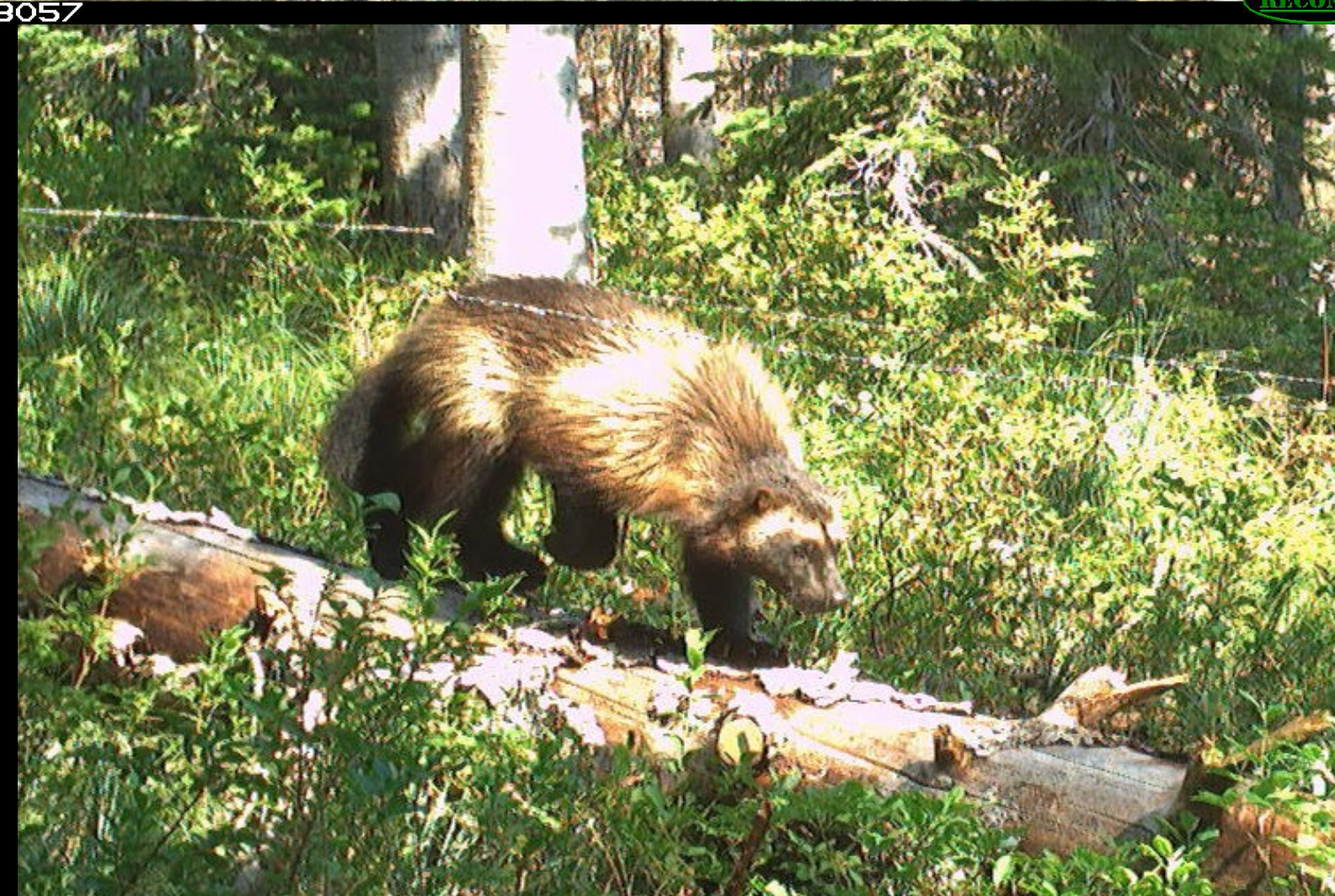


555116  
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2024-07-03 6:11:14 PM M 2/3 71°F

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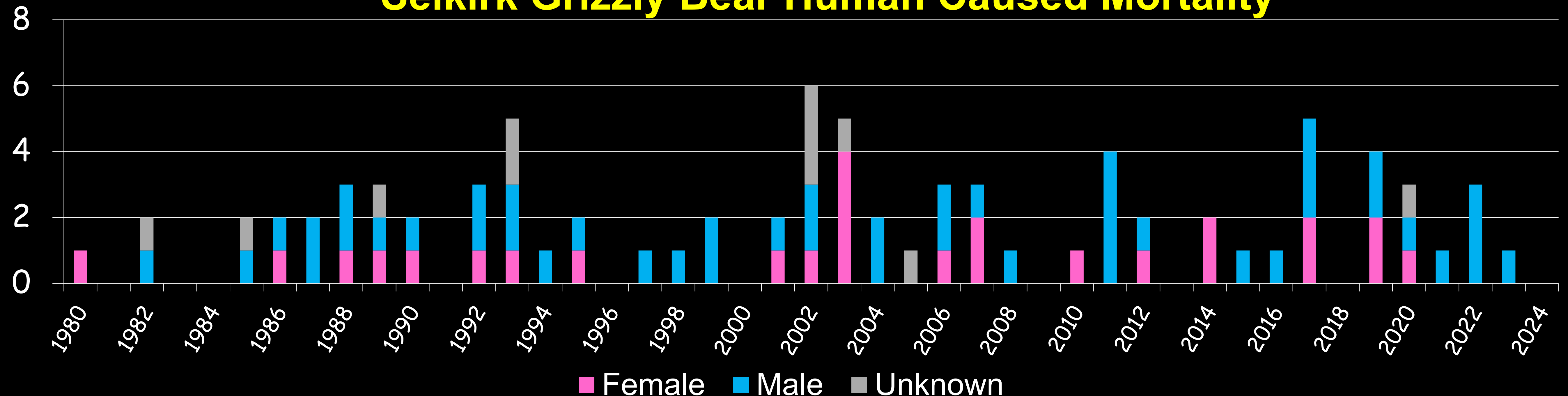


# Selkirk Grizzly Bear Mortality

One known mortality thus far in 2024 – Adult female in Blue Joe Creek. Radio collared bear apparently killed by another bear and fed upon. Bear did not have young. IDFG did a necropsy and X-ray carcass (no bullet)



## Selkirk Grizzly Bear Human Caused Mortality

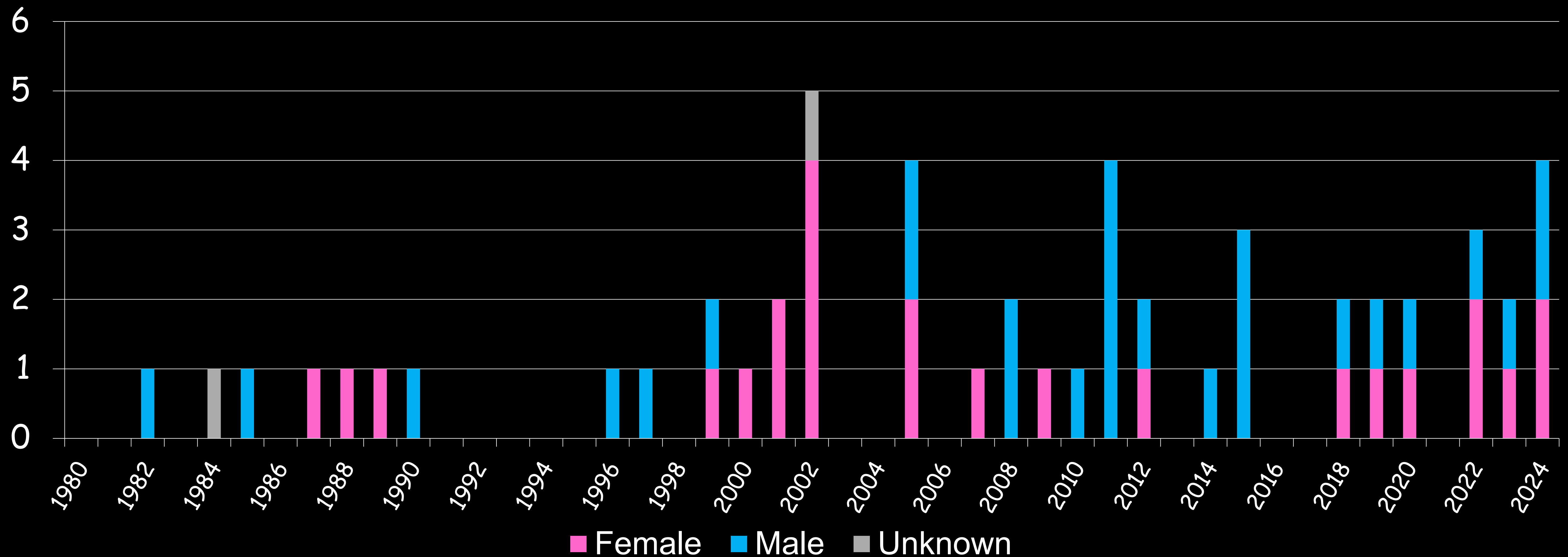




# Cabinet-Yaak Human Caused Grizzly Bear Mortality



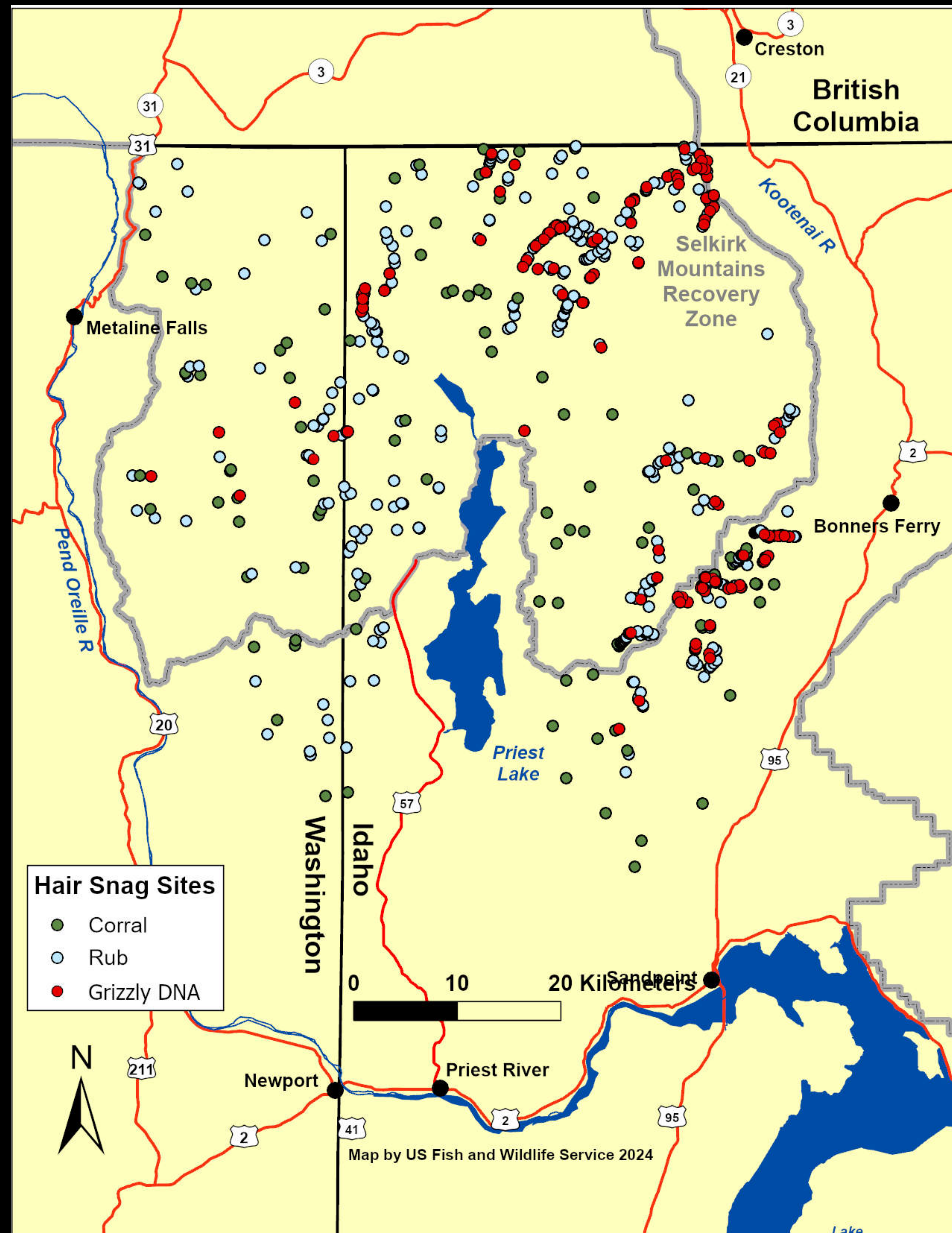
- Adult male from 2023 mortality site investigated for sign of human involvement with none found
- Adult female from 2023 Yaak River probable mortality
- Adult female with 2 cubs in 2024 Keno Mtn cubs listed as probable mortality (black bear hunter shot bear in self defense)
- Subadult male Fisher River Conflict capture was euthanized.





# 2023 Selkirk Hair Snagging for Genetic Monitoring

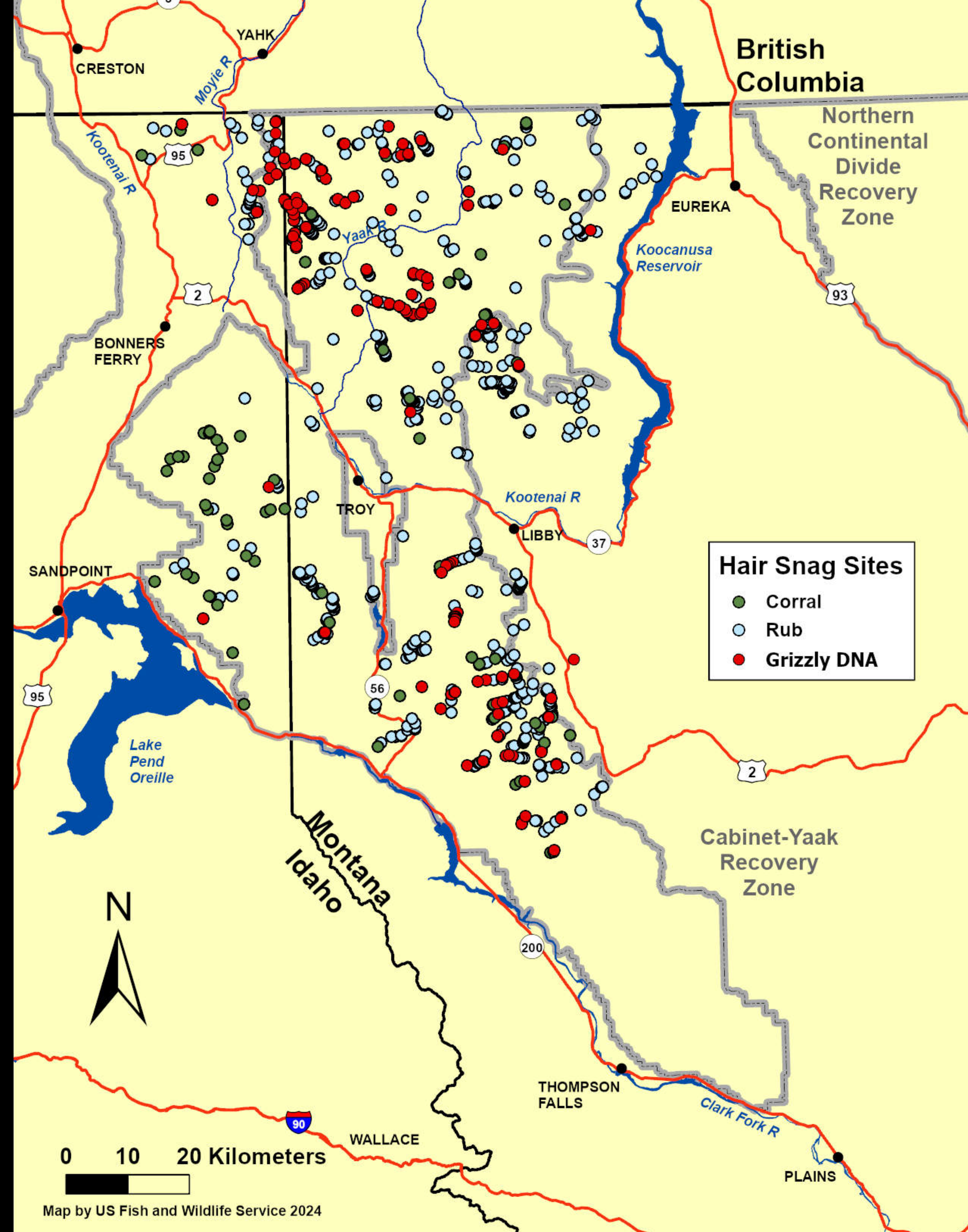
- 491 Rub sites visited 3-4 times
- 132 Corrals sampled
- Opportunistic samples
- 32 individuals identified via genetics (12F, 20M) 3M 1F new
- Photos being evaluated to determine if some bears did not leave hair but were photographed. Often the case with cubs or yearlings.
- Similar effort in 2024





# 2023 Cabinet-Yaak Hair Snagging for Genetic Monitoring

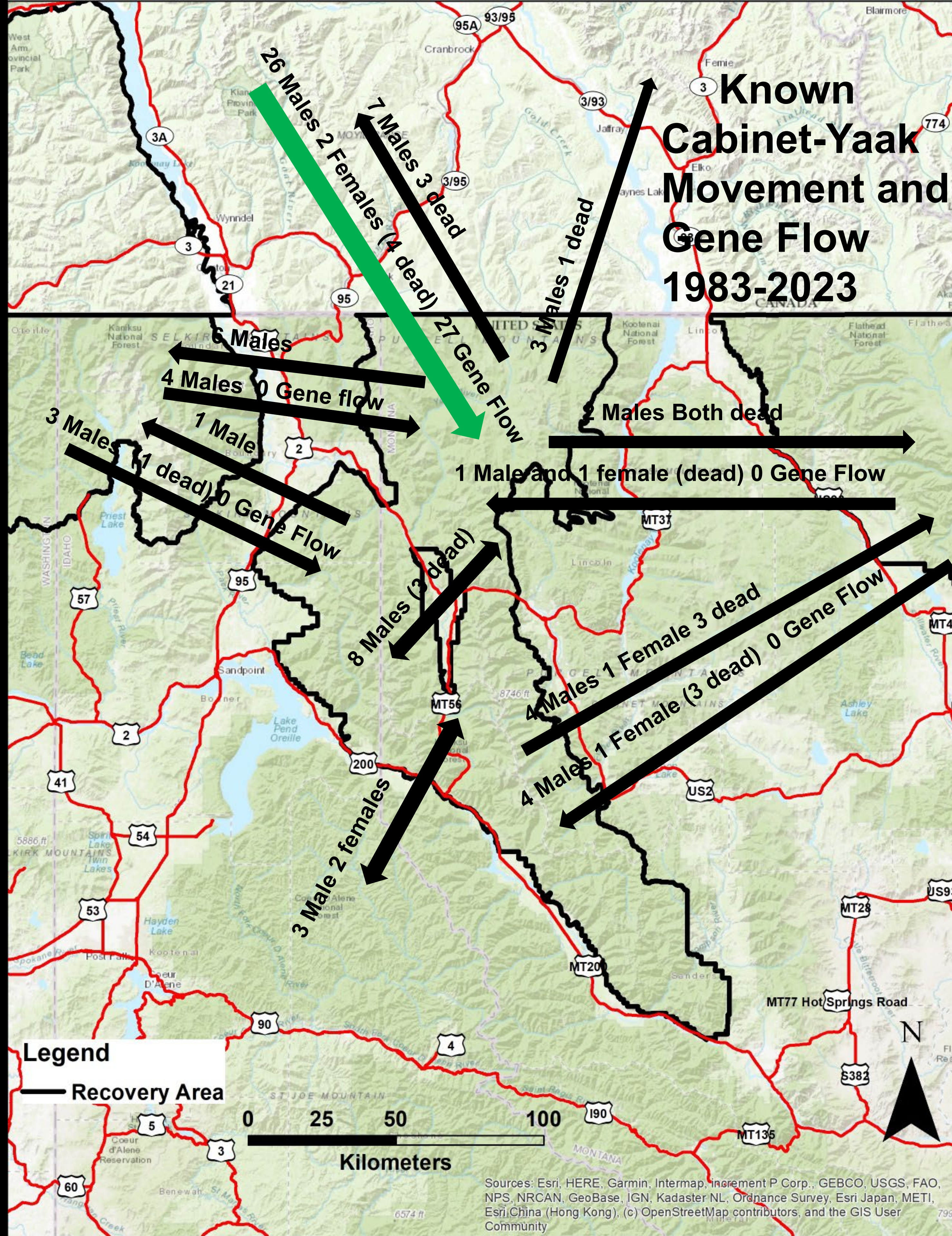
- 814 Rub sites visited 3-4 times
- 171 Corrals sampled
- Opportunistic samples
- 42 individuals identified via genetics
- 15 in Cabinets (4 F, 11 M), 3M new
- 28 in Yaak (12 F, 16 M), 5M 3F new
- 1 male detected in Cabinets and Yaak
- Photos being evaluated to determine if some bears did not leave hair but were photographed. Often the case with cubs or yearlings.
- Similar effort in 2024





# Previous Knowledge of Movement and Gene Flow

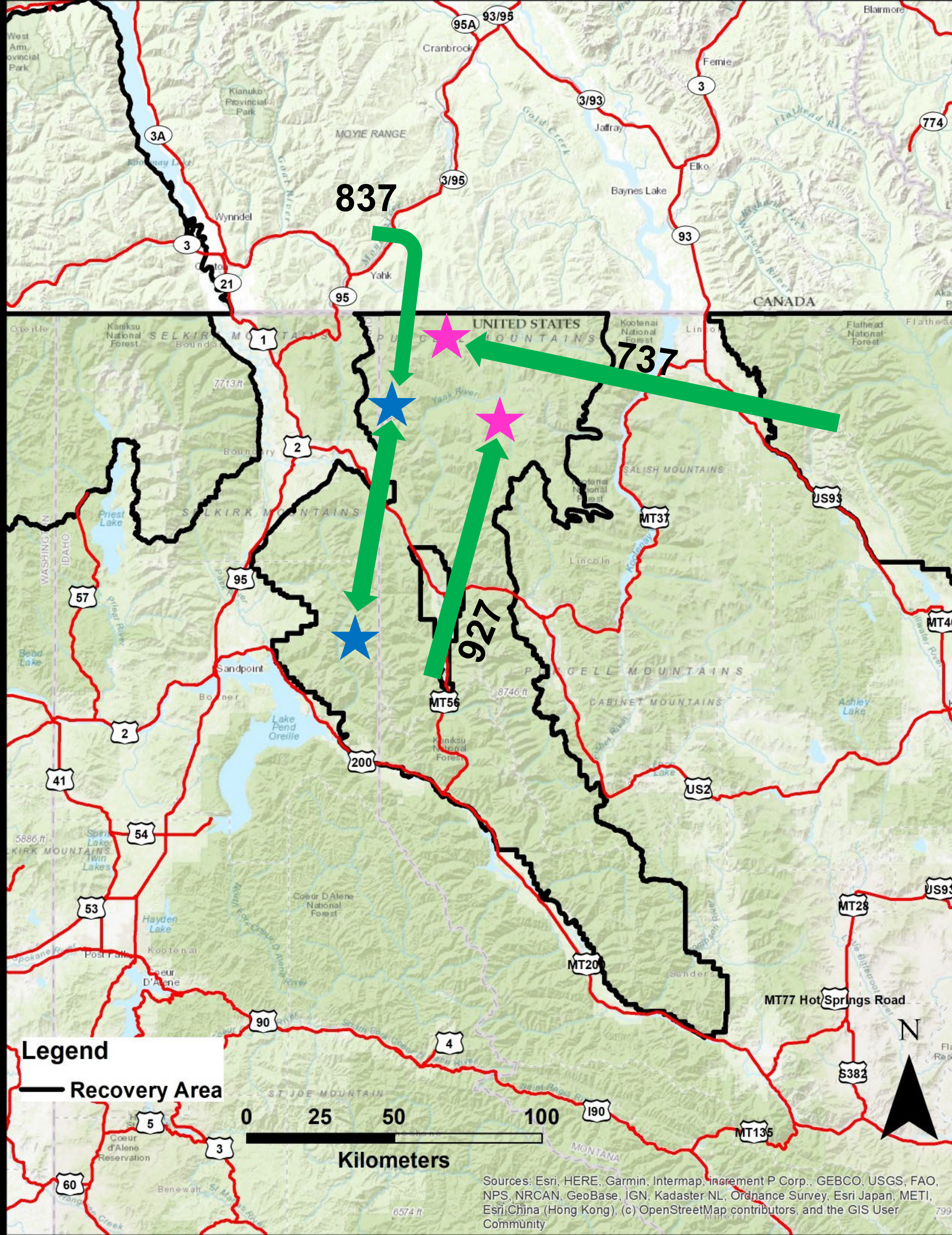
Only known gene flow from Purcell Mountains north of Highway 3 into the Yaak (Green Arrow)





# 2023 Genetics Results

- Bear 837 was born in the Purcell Mountains north of Highway 3 in 2008. Captured in 2014 in the Yaak and wore a radio collar until 2016. His home range was north of the Kootenai River during that time. Detected via DNA in the Yaak in 2017-23, and 2019-20 and 2022 in the Cabinets. Produced a male offspring★ in the Cabinets in either 2020 or 2021 and a male offspring★ in the Yaak in 2022.



Bear 737 moved from NCDE to Yaak before 2010. Captured as a 4-year-old and radio collared 2010-13. Produced a female offspring in approx 2016.★ 737 detected via DNA every year since 2012, but no other offspring detected thus far.

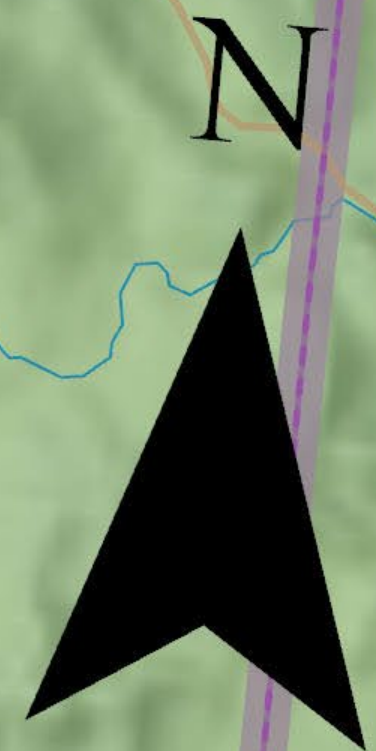
- Augmentation Bear 927 was released in the Cabinets in 2018 as a 2-year-old. Went to the Bitterroot and returned. Denuded two years in the Cabinets. Lost collar in 2020. Bred with bear 731 in Yaak and produced a female offspring in 2023.★ Not detected via DNA 2021-23.



# Bog Creek Monitoring

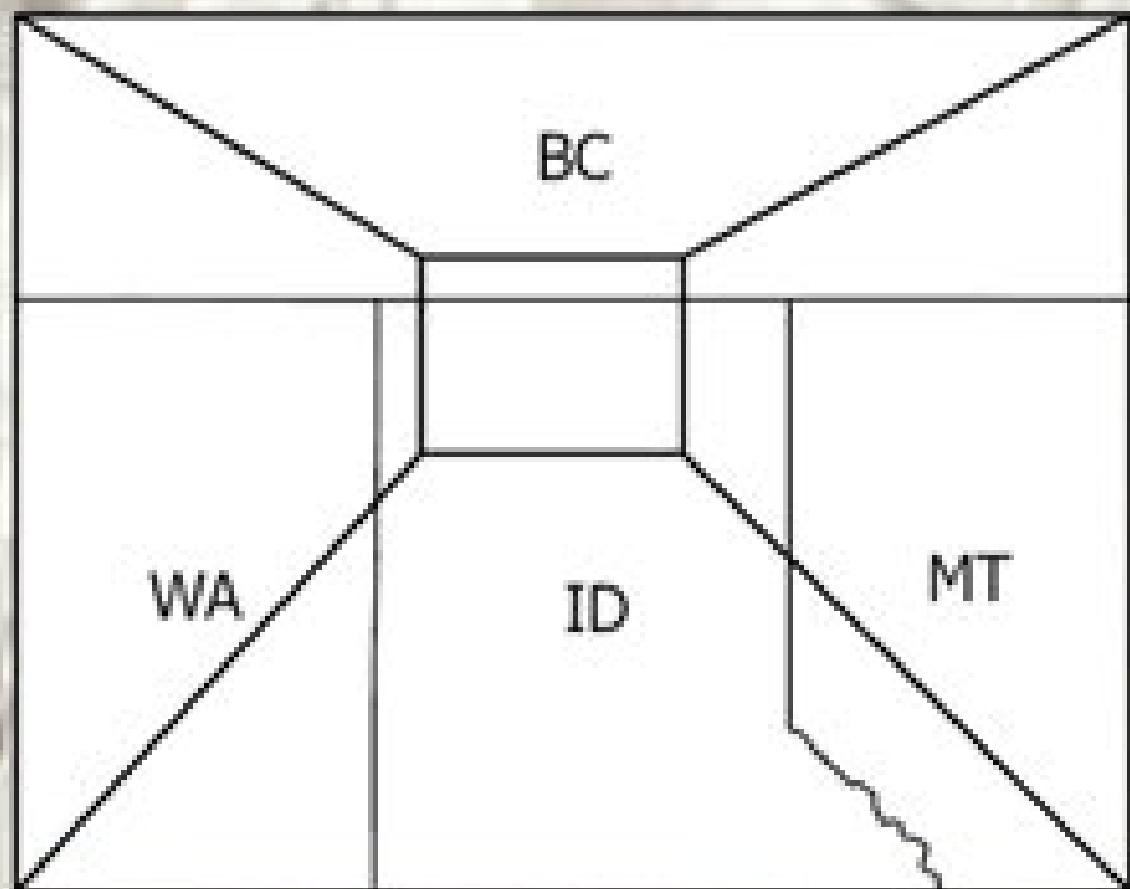
**Blue-Grass BMU**

**Border Patrol rebuilt  
5.5 miles of closed  
road in Bog Creek to  
allow access to the  
Priest Lake Basin from  
Boundary Creek**



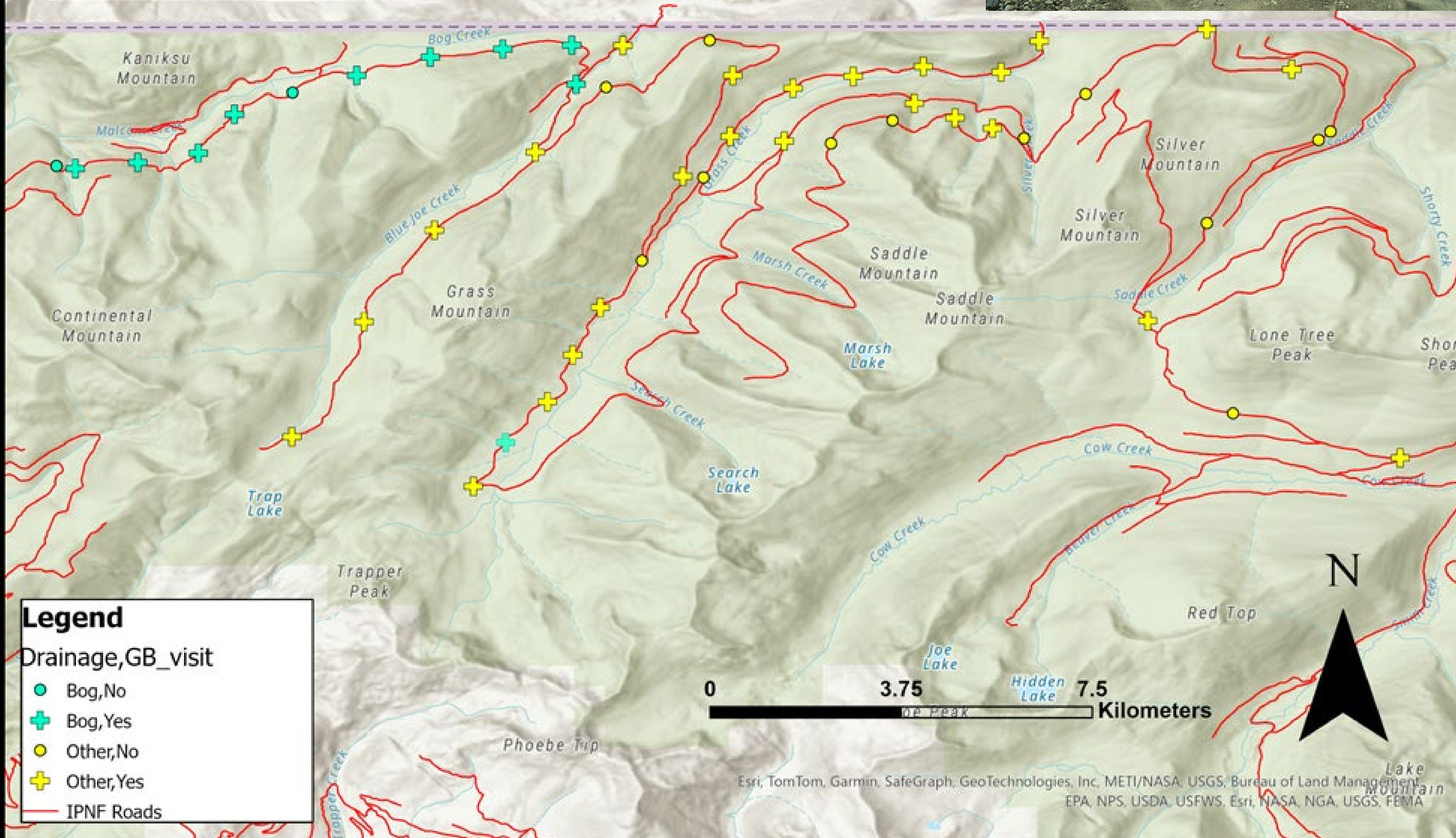
Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, USGS





# 2023 Bog Creek Trail Camera Sites

50 cameras Approx 75,000 photos/year





# Other Projects

- Huckleberry mapping and production paper presented at IBA this past September and will be submitted to a peer reviewed journal in 2025
- Bear Genetics U. Of Idaho Graduate Student Megan Turnock submitted first paper to a peer reviewed journal in 2024
- Habitat mapping U. Of Idaho Graduate Student Nate Rice starting year 2
- Selkirk Transboundary population estimate with Michael Proctor. Contractor to start in January, with expected peer reviewed results in 2026



2014-10-18 6:12:01 PM M 3/3 0 49°F





# Funding for 2025?

- Previous years funding provided by USFS, Border Patrol, and FWS during 2025 with in kind efforts by IDFG, Kalispel Tribe, KTOI, USFS, and WDFW.
- Less funding is expected from USFS and FWS during 2025
- If less, then data collection will be reduced with fewer hair collection teams for genetics and/or fewer trap teams to maintain a collared sample.



# Thank you. Questions???

2018-10-13 8:54:37 AM

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