



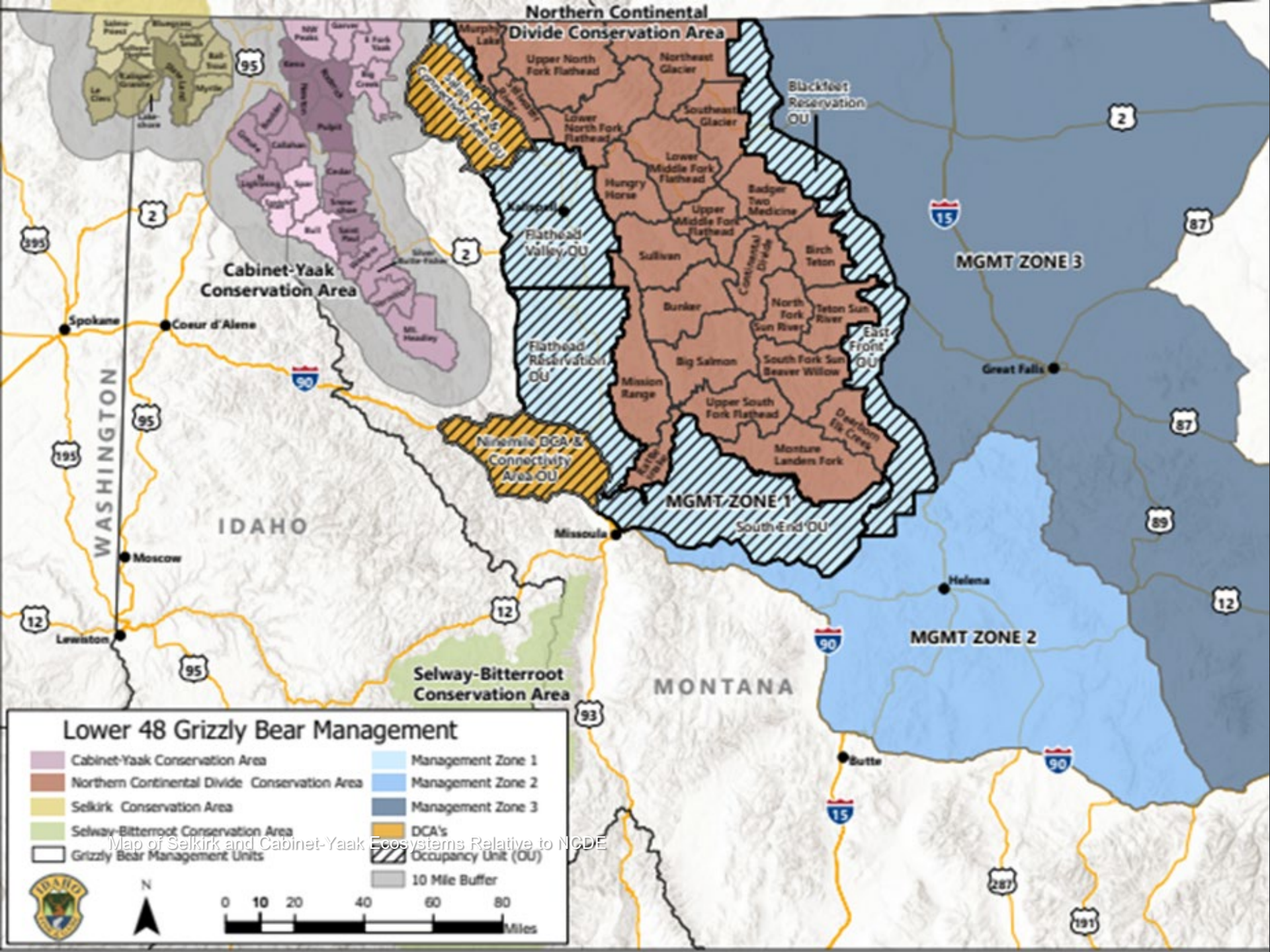
# Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee 2024 Accomplishments/2025 Planned Work to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee

December 18, 2024  
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 Mike Kuttel, Jr., WDFW





### Lower 48 Grizzly Bear Management

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Cabinet-Yaak Conservation Area                | Management Zone 1         |
| Northern Continental Divide Conservation Area | Management Zone 2         |
| Selkirk Conservation Area                     | Management Zone 3         |
| Selway-Bitterroot Conservation Area           | DCA's Occupancy Unit (OU) |
| Grizzly Bear Management Units                 | 10 Mile Buffer            |

Map of Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems Relative to NCDE

# Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

## Objective 1: Augment the population

- 2024: Attempted to capture an augmentation bear but unsuccessful – needed two bears for GYE and challenging weather conditions
- 2025: Will continue augmentation capture efforts

# 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
  - Bear spray training
  - Free bear spray
- 2nd Annual North Idaho Bear Fair – Bonners Ferry, ID
- Securing waste transfer sites
- Hunter safety and bear ID
- Securing attractants on public and private lands
  - Food storage
  - Fruit gleaning
  - Electric fencing
  - Collected and disposed of dead livestock
- 2025: will continue these efforts

See SCYE report for details.



# Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

## Objective 2: Limit human-caused mortality

- **2024:**
  - Subadult male conflict bear captured and euthanized
  - Adult female with 2 cubs probable mortality – black bear hunter shot in self defense
  - 2023 adult female disappeared – probable mortality
  - 2023 mortality of adult male investigated for human involvement – none found

# Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

## Objective 3: Document pop. growth rate and distribution

- 2024 – still gathering data
- 2023 efforts and results:
  - Monitored >800 rub trees and >170 hair snag corrals
  - Expanded DNA monitoring in West Cabinets
- 42 individuals identified via genetics
  - Cabinets: 15 (4F, 11M), 3 new males
  - Yaak: 28 (12F, 16M), new: 5 males and 3 females
  - \*Note 1 male was detected in both ecosystems = total of 42 individuals
- Captured and collared 5 bears in Cabinet-Yaak (4 males, 1 female)
- 2.7% growth rate for Cabinet-Yaak (1983-2023)
- 16 of 22 BMUs occupied by females with young (2018-2023) – goal = 22
- 2025: will continue these efforts

# Goal 2: Connectivity to achieve occupancy standards and linkage

- USFWS monitoring bear movement and DNA data.
- Grad student completed thesis examining gene flow, genetic diversity, and effective population size in SCYE, journal article anticipated in 2025
- MFWP working with landowners and partners on conservation easements on 150,000 acres between NCDE and CYE
- 2025: continue captures for telemetry and hair snagging for genetics and finalize a portion of the MFWP conservation easements

# Goal 3: Apply results of research to habitat management

Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem

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

- 2024: presented a talk on huckleberry habitat modeling and mapping in SCYE at international conference on bear management and research
- 2025:
  - Updated SCYE habitat analysis and mapping by a grad student
  - Submit manuscript on huckleberry habitat in SCYE – plan to publish in a journal



# Goal 4: Increase coordination with NCDE Subcommittee

- Held joint meeting between SCYE and NCDE subcommittees in May 2024
- 2025:
  - Tapping into NCDE expertise to assist developing SCYE conservation strategy
  - Will provide updates on SCYE conservation strategy progress to NCDE Subcommittee

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Selkirk Ecosystem

See SCYE report for details.



# Goal 1: Increase the grizzly bear population size and distribution

## Objective 1: Limit human-caused mortality

- No documented human-caused mortalities in 2024
- One known mortality in 2024, adult radio collared female apparently killed by another bear and fed upon
- 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 >490 rub trees, >130 hair snag corrals, and camera traps in 2023
- 32 individuals identified via genetics: (12F, 20M), 3M and 1F new
- Captured and collared 3 bears (1M, 2F) in the Selkirks
- Selkirk pop. rate of increase for 1983-2023 was 2.6%
- 9 of 10 US Selkirk BMUs occupied by females with young (2018-2023) – goal = 7
- 2025: will continue these efforts



Goal 2:  
Enhance  
transboundary  
cooperation  
and  
coordination of  
recovery

- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho working with sister tribes in Canada (conservation and trans-boundary issues).
- USFWS co-authorship on paper “Quantifying recovery of British Columbia’s South Selkirk grizzly bear population.”
- 2025:
  - KTOI - continue trans-boundary coordination
  - USFSW - begin analysis of the South Selkirk transboundary population and obtain cross-border population estimate

# SCYE Conservation Strategy Process 2024

