

IGBC Bitterroot Ecosystem Subcommittee

Food Storage Working Group

April 23, 2025



Food Storage Working Group

Bitterroot Subcommittee

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- Sandi Fisher USFWS Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
- Jennifer Fortin-Noreus/
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- Jesse Irwin USFS Bitterroot NF
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Food Storage and Sanitation

- Effective
- First line of defense
- Minimize potential for conflict
- Improves human safety
- Reduces bear mortality risk
- Relevant for many wildlife conflicts, not just bears



Goals

- Integrate I/E/O
- Cooperative approach
- Be consistent
- Be proactive
- Public acceptance
- Develop implementation framework



Central Ideas

- Proactive approaches to safety in bear country can help reduce future conflicts.
- Properly storing food, garbage, and other attractants is a good way to avoid conflicts with wildlife, across all land ownerships.
- Public managers can set positive examples and establish guidance to help reduce conflicts with wildlife and to protect public safety.

Framework Components

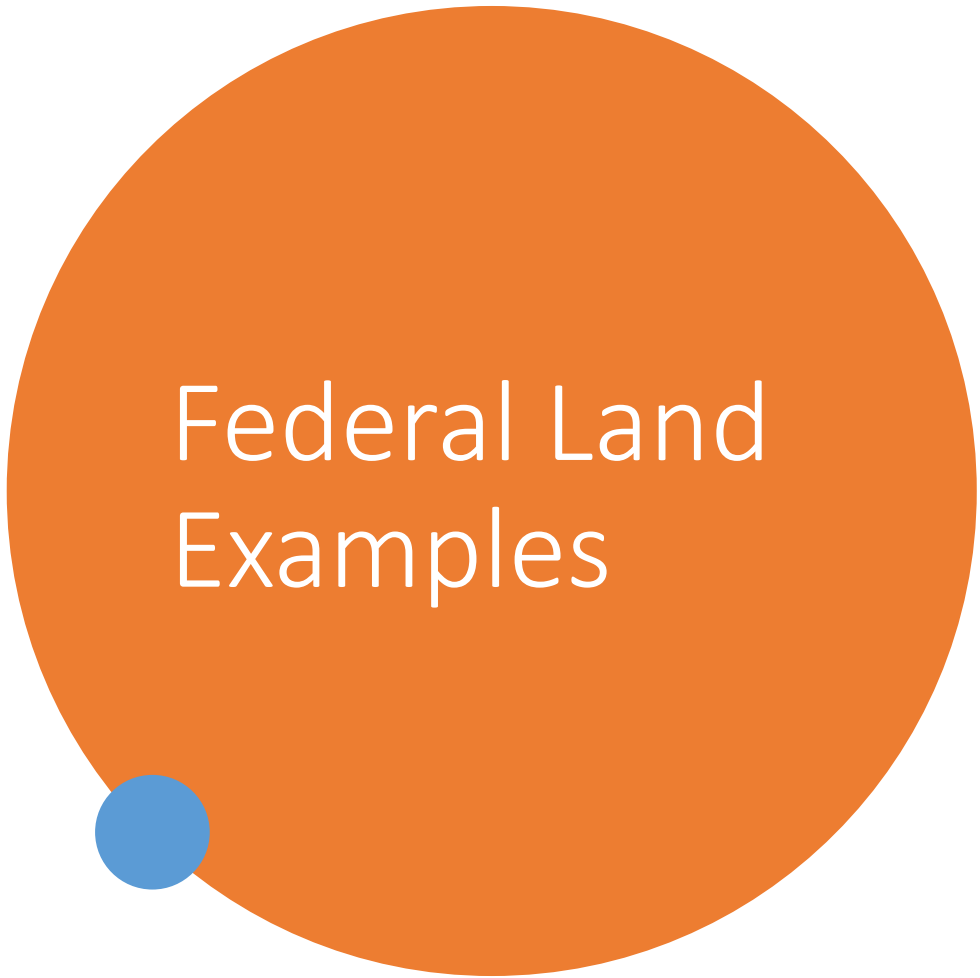
Grizzly bear status triggers management considerations

- “May Be Present”
 - Make a plan and start getting things in place
- “Occupied Range”
 - Planned actions should be implemented or nearing completion

Recommendations for Federal lands

- Education
- Sanitation
- Regulation

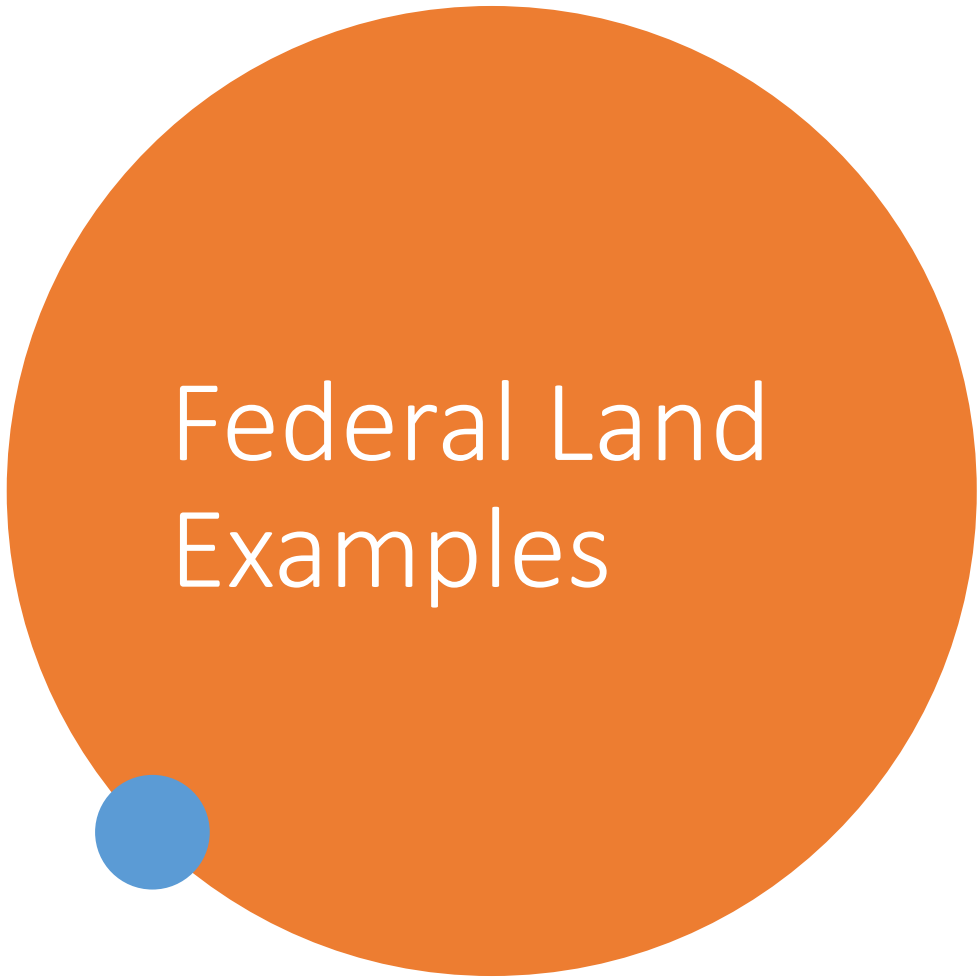
Also includes suggestions for State, Tribal and private lands



Federal Land Examples

Education

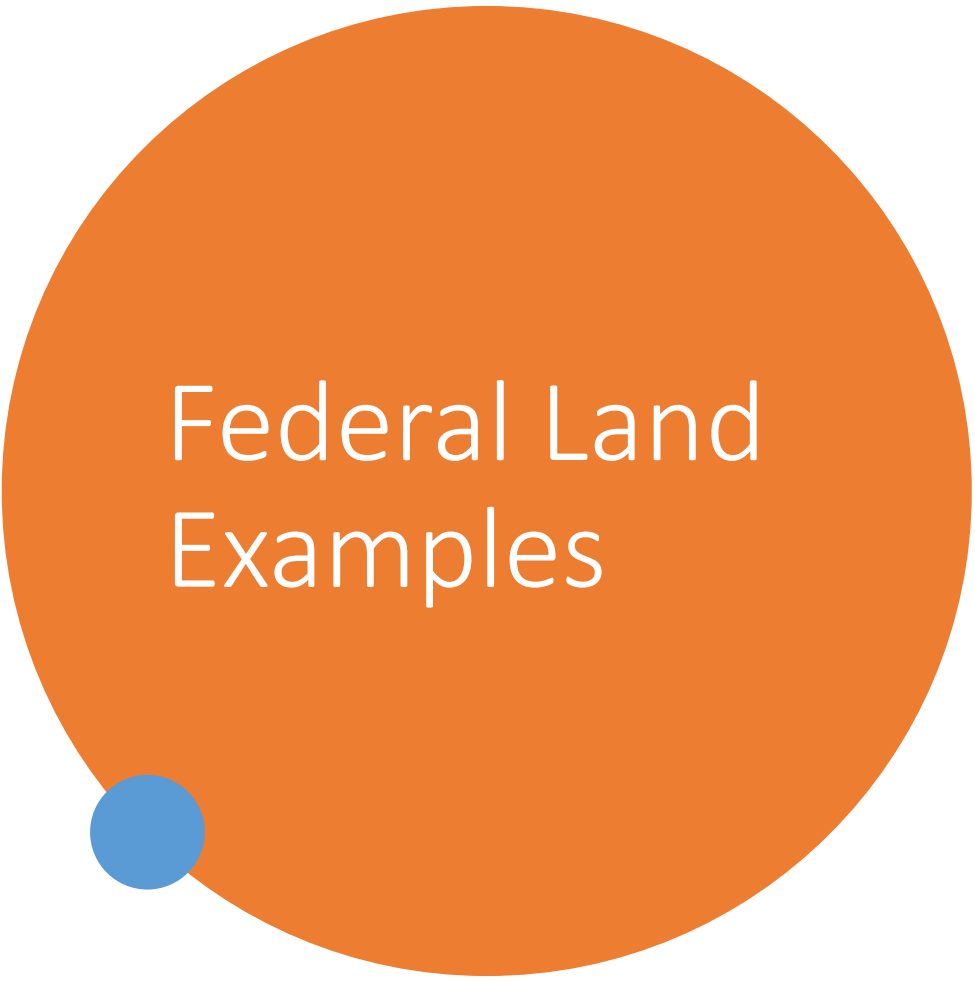
- Signage at recreation sites
- Educate field personnel on proper food storage
- Plan and manage employee bear spray training and availability



Federal Land Examples

Sanitation

- Reduce non-bear-resistant garbage containers at developed recreation sites
- Ensure garbage at administrative sites is secure
- Train field crews to follow proper food storage
- Train appropriate staff to provide proper attractant storage education to public
- Assess/provide food storage options at recreation sites
- Develop language to include in appropriate contracts and/or permits



Federal Land Examples



Regulation

- Considerations
 - Consistency with adjacent jurisdictions
 - Need for exemptions (e.g., baiting)
 - Scale of implementation

State and Tribal Examples

- Signage at developed recreation sites
- Language in appropriate contracts/permits



Private Land Examples

- Local governments
 - Garbage at city/county transfer sites; dumpsters at admin buildings
 - Information about issues and options
 - Consider ordinances
- Private landowners
 - Information about issues and options
- Non-Gov't Organizations
 - Working relationships with communities
 - Identify areas of concern
 - Collaborate on solutions

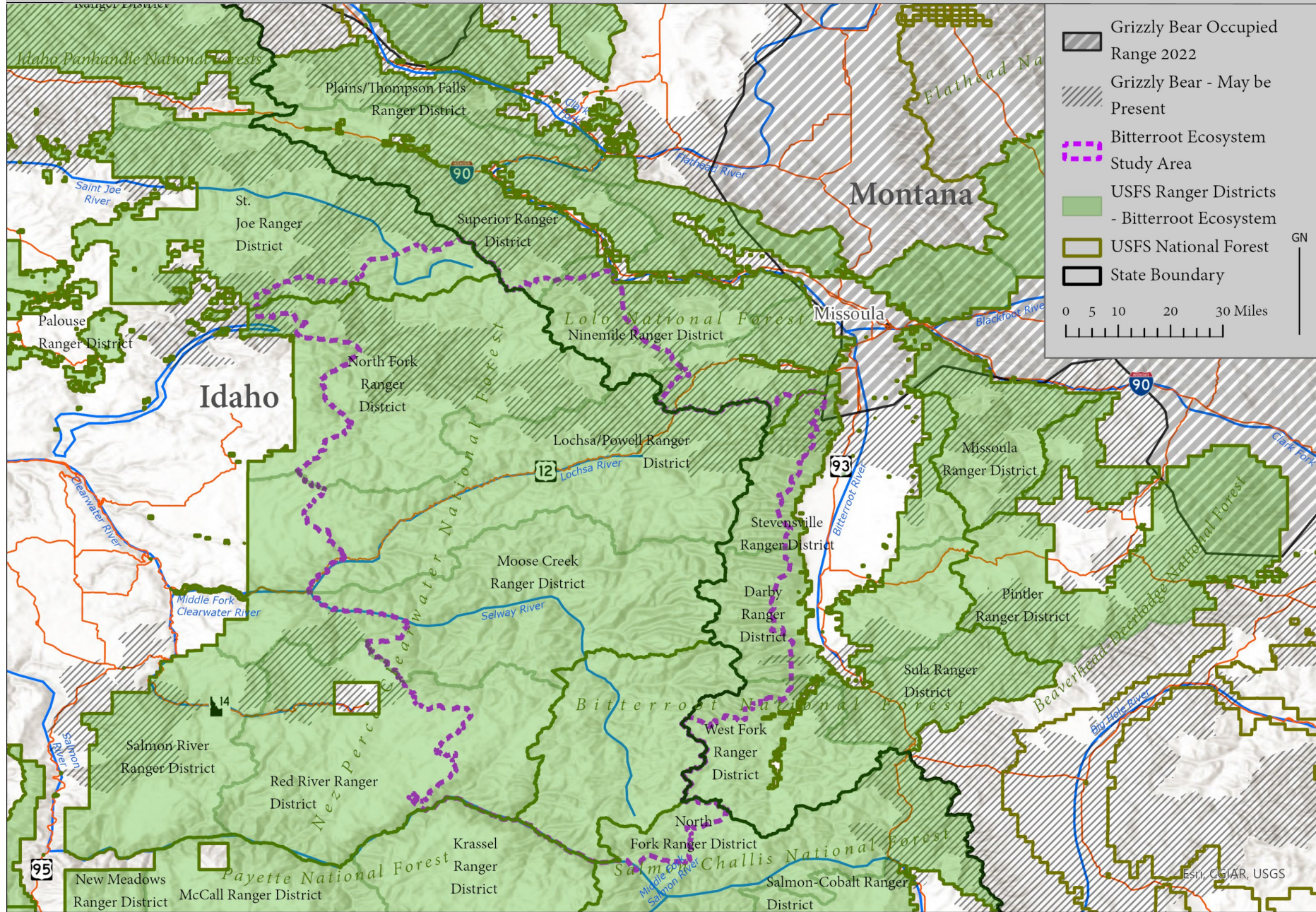


Key Points

- This collaborative food storage and sanitation framework is intended to benefit both people and bears by reducing conflicts and improving human safety in areas where people and bears share the landscape.
- Actions in this Implementation Framework are **recommendations** and do not bind managers to specific actions. Managers retain discretion and authority to make decisions they deem appropriate.
- For Federal managers, addressing attractant storage in areas where grizzly bears “May Be Present” can streamline ESA S.7 consultations.

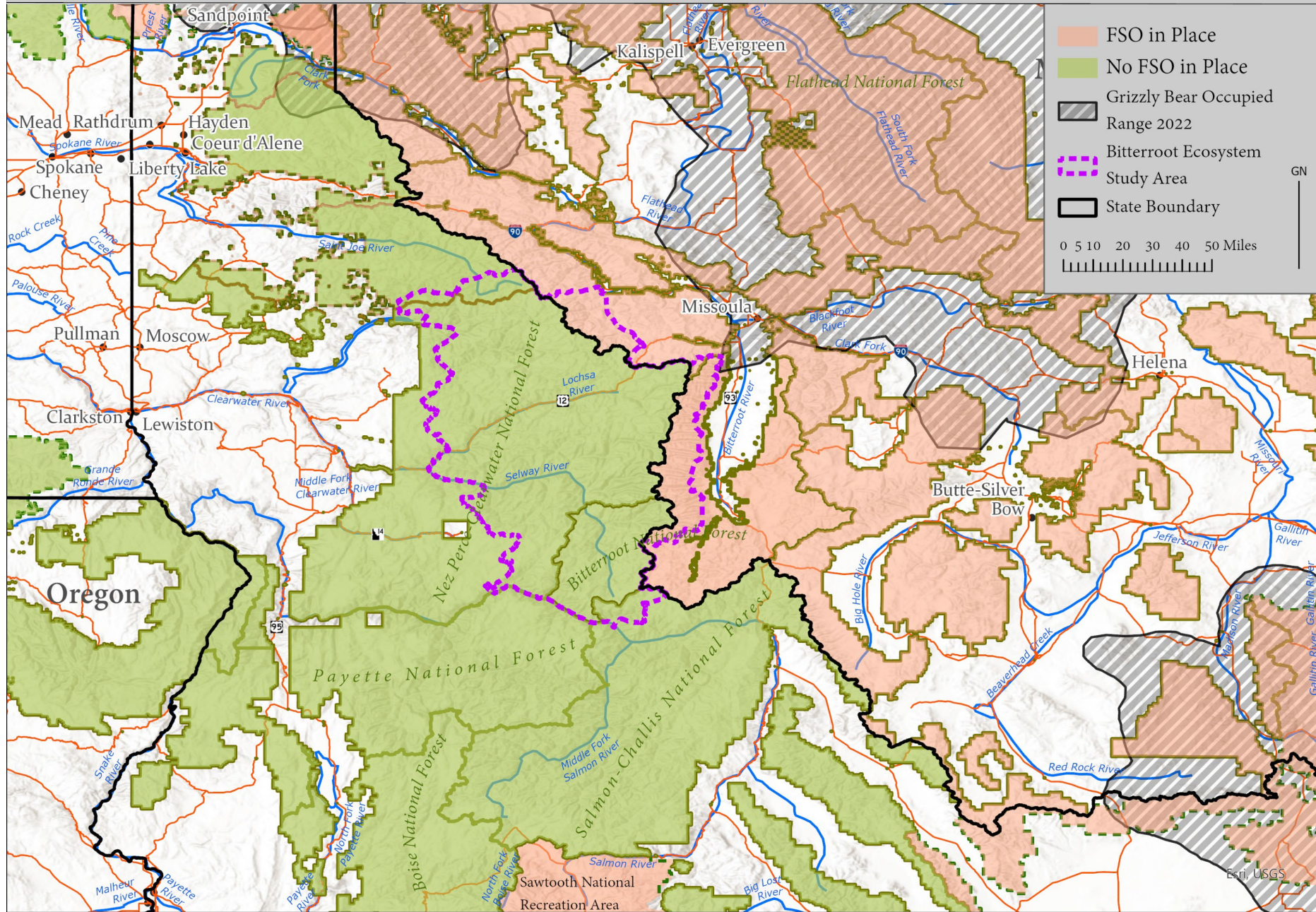
Attractant Storage Implementation Framework

Bitterroot Subcommittee - Food Storage Working Group 2025



National Forests with Food Storage Orders

Bitterroot Subcommittee - Food Storage Working Group 2025



Working Group is offering this Framework to the Subcommittee



Subcommittee Decision

Does the Subcommittee accept this Implementation Framework as a final product from the Working Group?

Yes – Framework posted on IGBC website as a resource for future management decisions

No – Request the Working Group make modifications