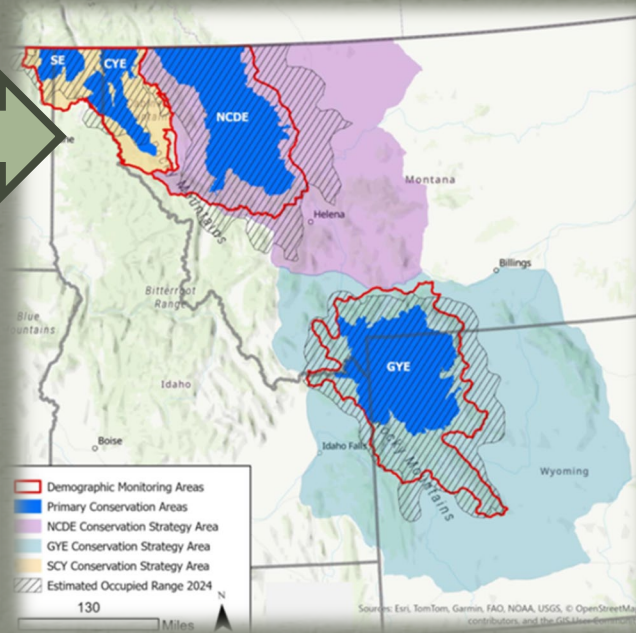
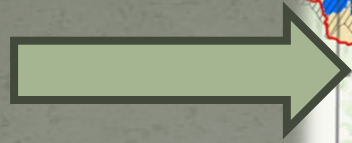


Selkirk-Cabinet Yaak

– 2026 draft



Selkirk Cabinet-Yaak CS

Members of the Conservation Strategy Development Team

Draft Conservation Strategy for Selkirk-Cabinet-Yaak

THEN (1975)

- no specific mention of grizzly bears in the SCY

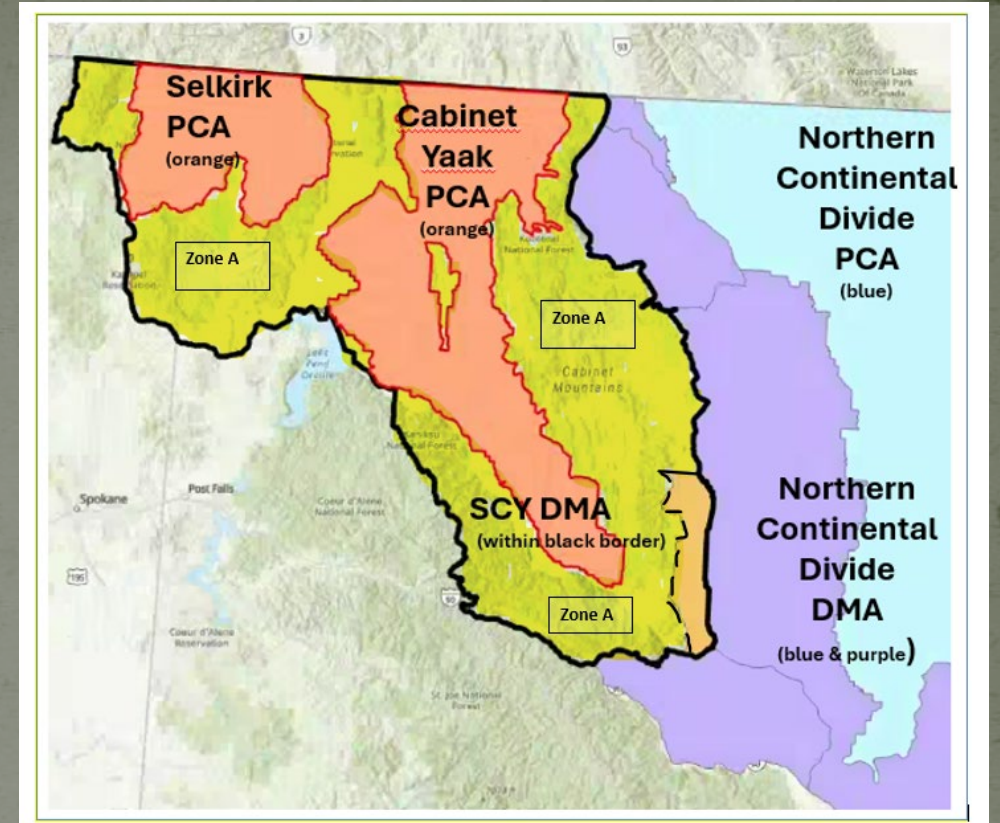
NOW:

- Estimated minimum of 120 grizzly bears
- Increased distribution of females with young in the PCAs
- Individual male bear home ranges including parts of both PCAs
- Expansion of occupied range to 96% of the combined PCAs, extending to areas outside the PCAs
- Increased habitat security in the PCAs (30 of 31 Bear Managements in the PCAs with national forest plan direction for motorized access management are meeting standards)
- Increased motorized access management on national forest lands in Secondary Habitat Area
- Gene flow among populations and increased genetic diversity (movement among the PCAs, NCDE, and adjacent areas in British Columbia)

Draft Conservation Strategy for Selkirk-Cabinet-Yaak

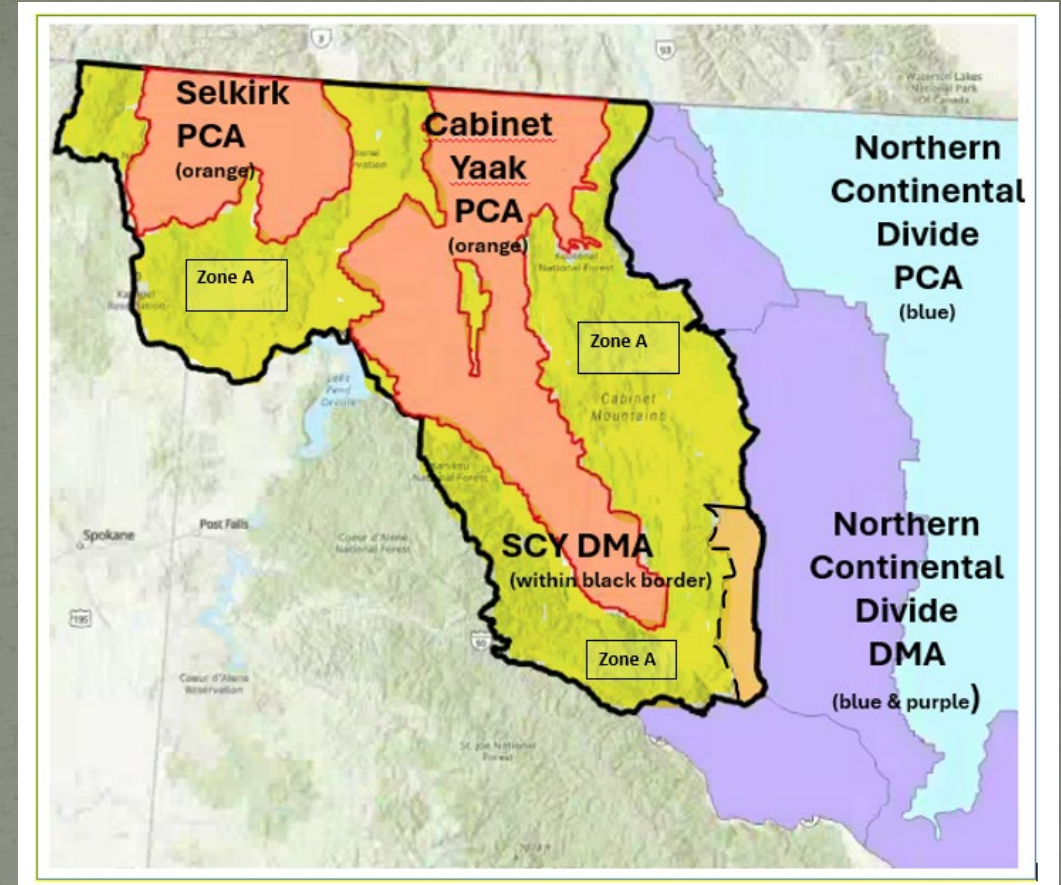
Intent of Strategy

- Continue to conserve grizzly bears as an integral part of the SCY Area in Montana, Idaho, and Washington.
- Continue SCY's contribution to the long-term resiliency of grizzly bears in the lower-48 United States as part of the larger occupied range of grizzly bears extending northward through western Canada to Alaska.
- Manage grizzly bears and their habitat through interagency cooperation.
- Respect the interests and values of those who live in, visit, and use the SCY Area, as well as the needs of local communities and the varied missions of land and wildlife management agencies.



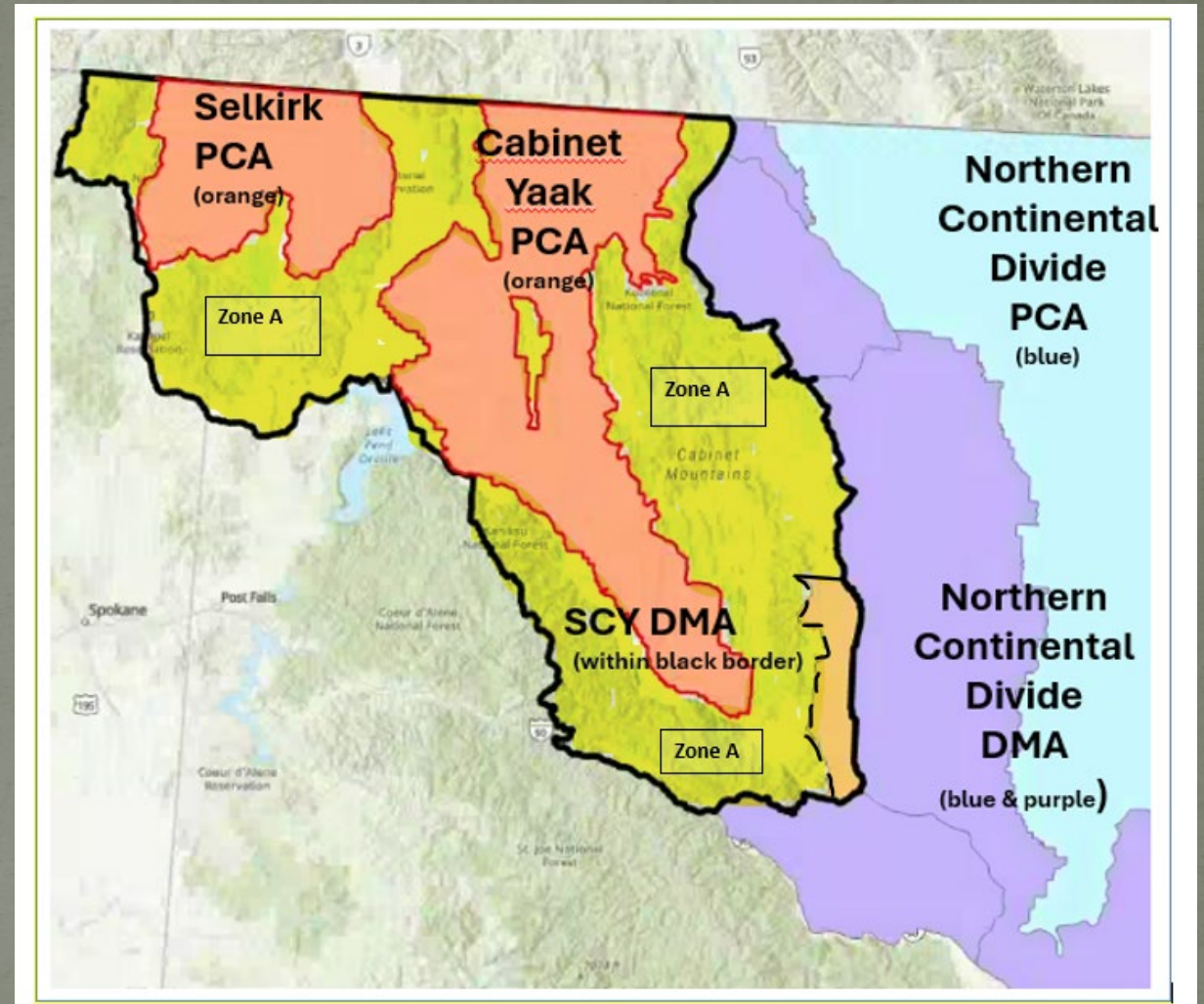
SCY – Overview

- Manage for sustainable mortality levels.
- Manage for distribution within PCAs.
- Monitor for population-level genetic health.
- Support habitat security in PCAs – protect secure core and manage public motorized access.
- Reduce human-bear conflict potential and promptly address conflicts.
- Support information, education, and outreach.
- Support connectivity and permeability outside of PCAs, with human-mediated connectivity if necessary for population-level genetic health.



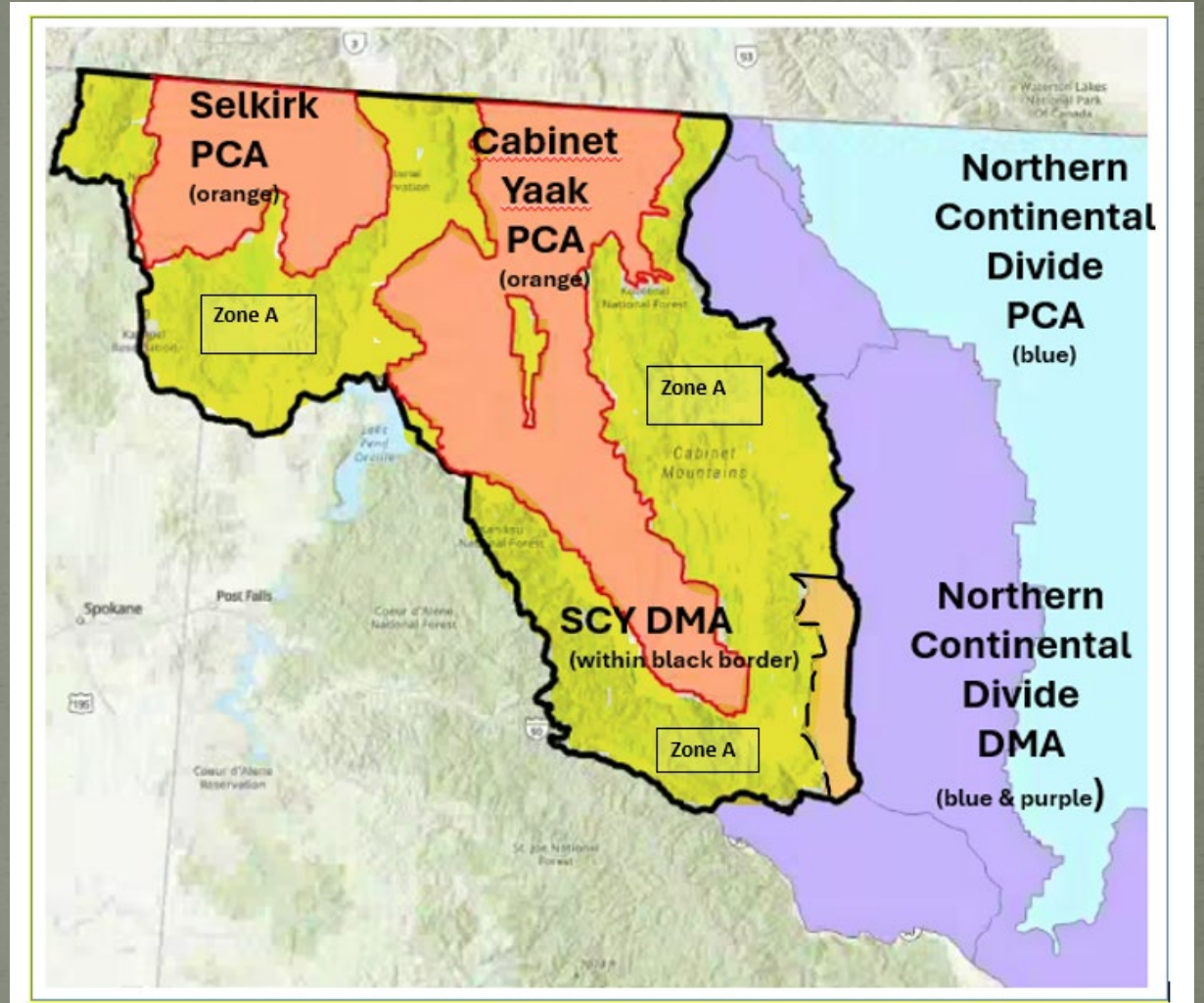
SCY - Geography

- Single Demographic Monitoring Area
- Two Primary Conservation Areas
- Zone A
 - Includes Secondary Habitat area on National Forest Lands



SCY - Demographics

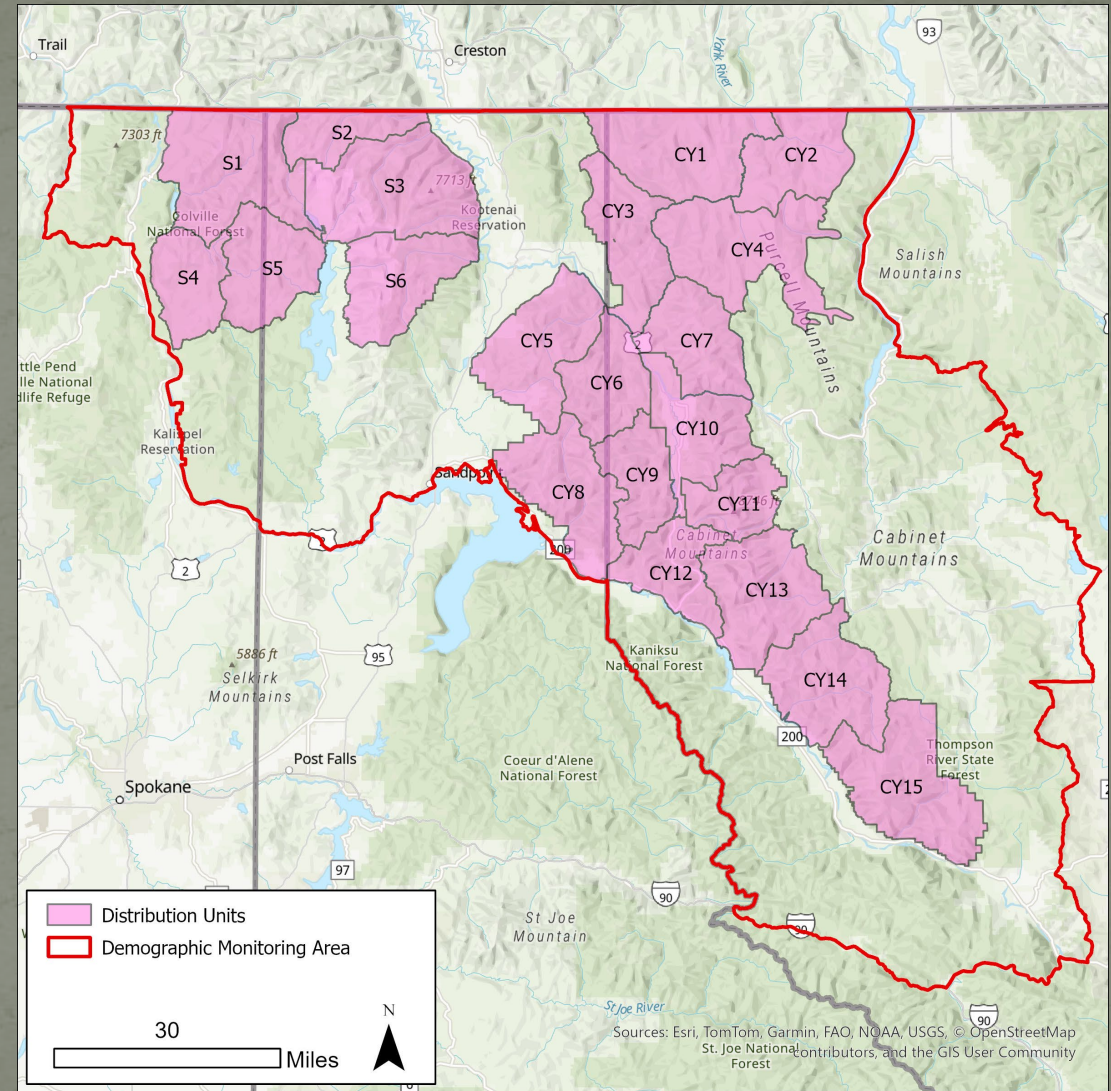
1. Maintain distribution within PCAs.
2. Manage for sustainable mortality levels in the DMA.
3. Maintain long term, population-level genetic health.



SCY - PCAs

Maintain distribution of females with young in each PCA

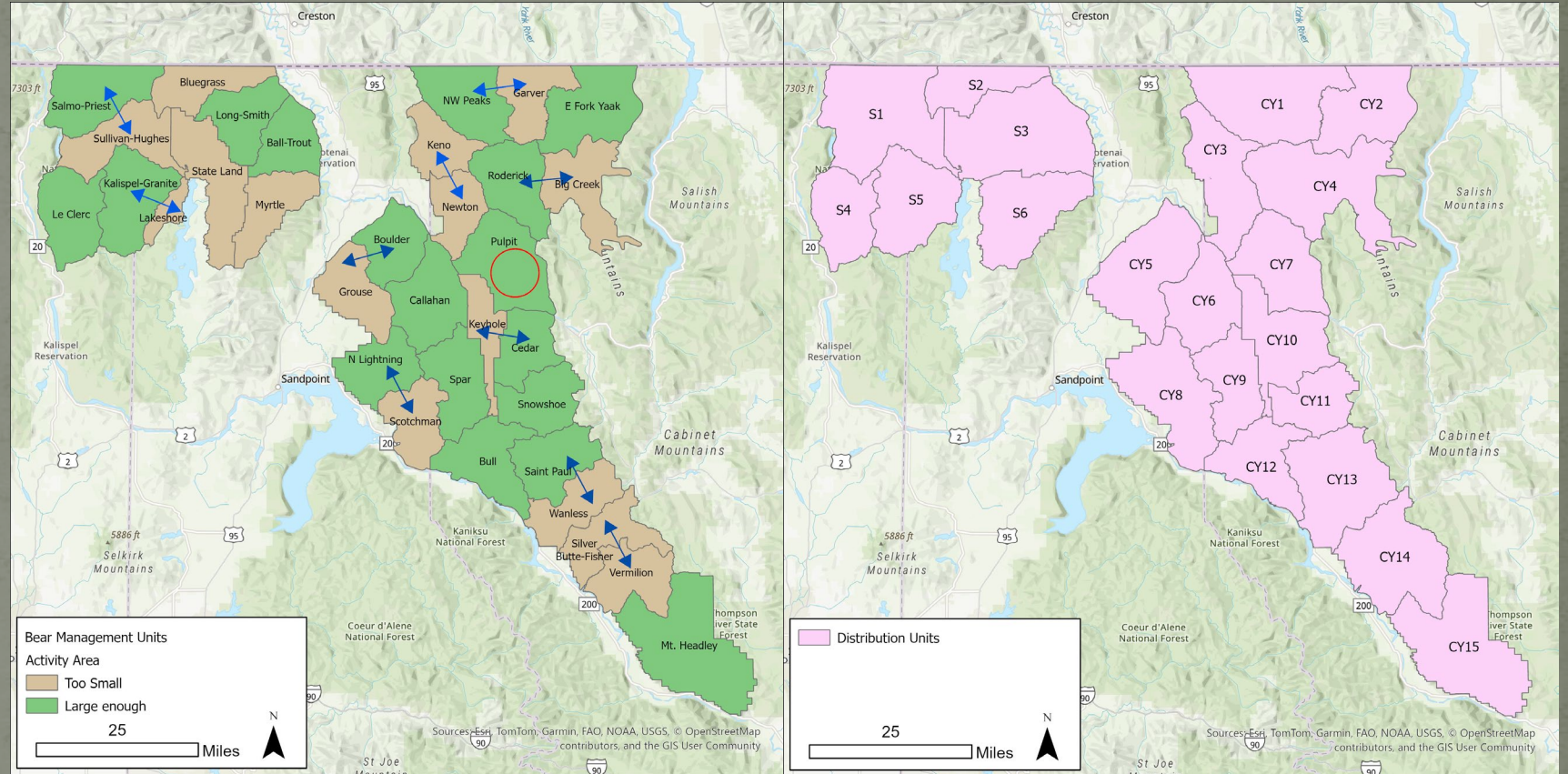
- Occupancy in at least 5 of 6 DUs in the Selkirk PCA
- Occupancy in at least 11 of 15 DUs in the Cabinet-Yaak PCA
- Use 6-year rolling window



SCY - PCAs

Distribution Units

- Combined some smaller BMUs (could not contain approximate female range)
- Split State Land BMU in Selkirk

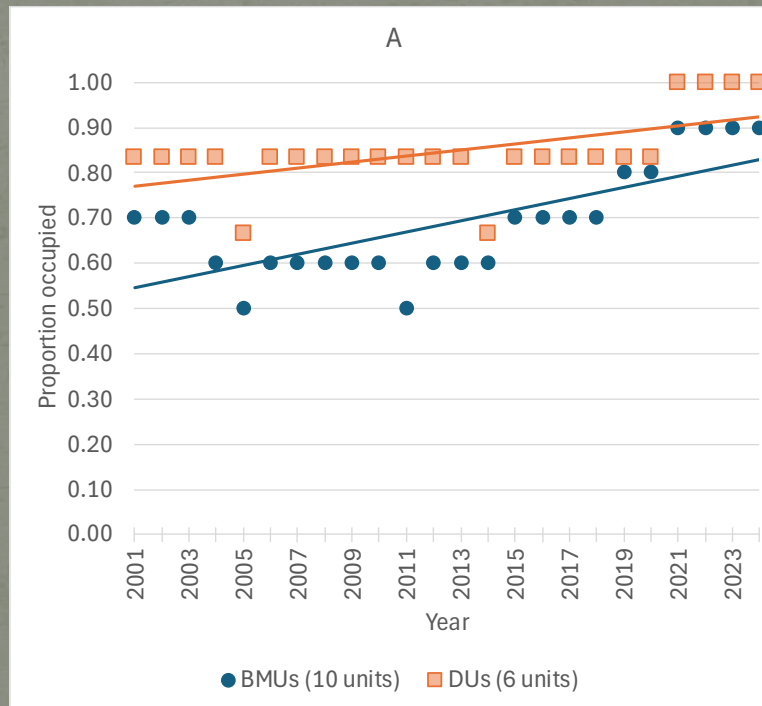


SCY - PCAs

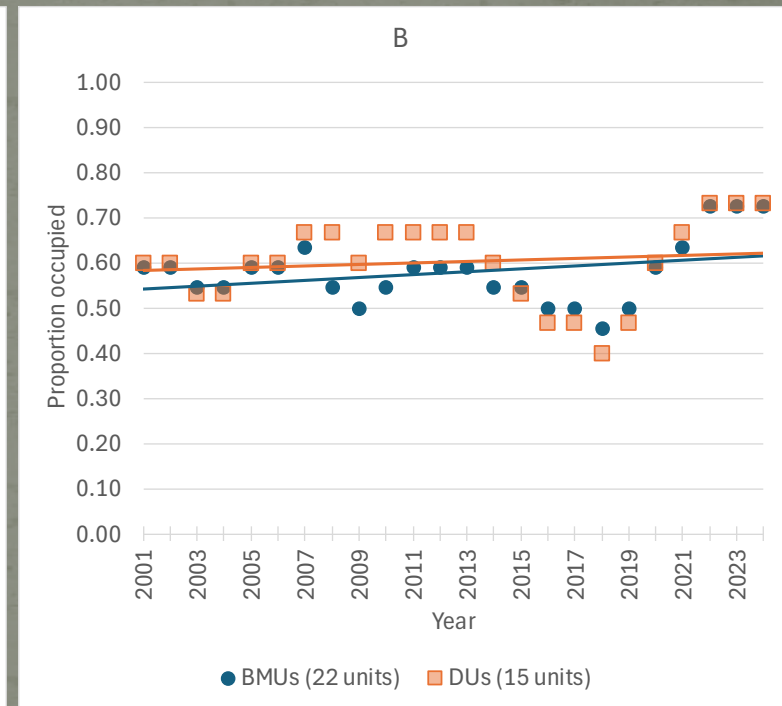
Distribution Units

- Combined units maintained observed trend in occupancy

Selkirk



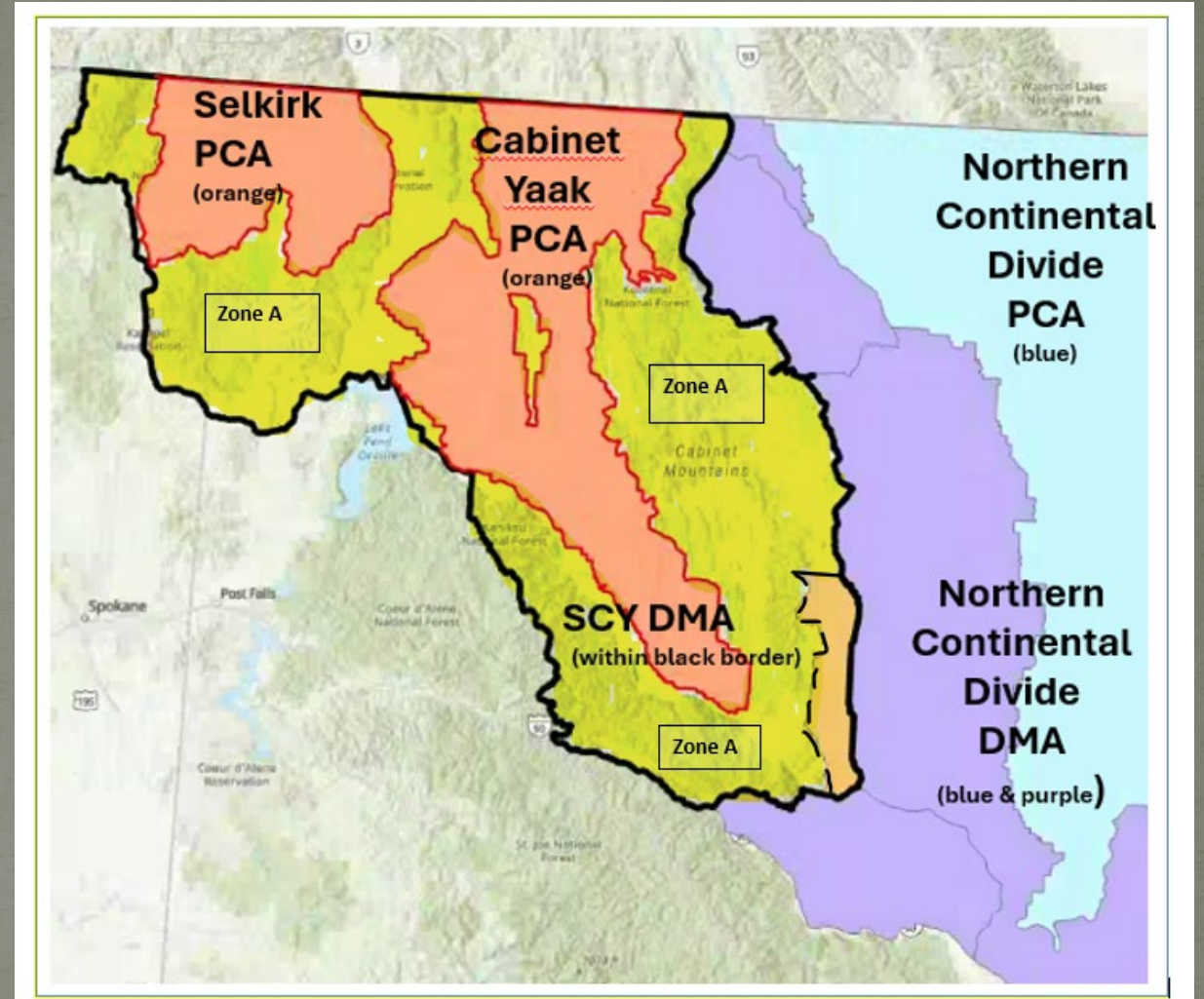
Cabinet-Yaak



SCY - DMA

Objective: Manage mortality within SCY Area DMA at sustainable levels.

- Mortality thresholds for independent-aged females
- Mortality thresholds for independent-aged males
- Use rolling 6-year window
- Estimate sustainable rates using population modeling and observed vital rates
- Apply to minimum estimated population size obtained from population reconstruction



SCY - DMA

Reconstructed minimum population size

- Independent bears (female, male)
- Detections include captures, mortalities, DNA detections, sightings, and photo captures
- Reconstruction: bears counted in years detected and backdated to previous years based on age
- Conservative approach to avoid double-counting same individual
- Count includes bears detected within DMA (US only)

Example for 2024 estimate

Age class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5-year average (2018–2022)
Independent females	39	41	40	37	44	40	40.2
Independent males	54	60	57	53	57	47	56.2
Dependent	39	27	36	31	17	28	30.0
Total Bears	132	128	133	121	118	115	126.4

SCY - DMA

Sustainable level of mortality

- Based on population modeling
- Observed rates for natality and dependent (<2 years old) survival
- With current observed rates, a stable to growing trend ($\lambda \geq 1$) was estimated if:
 - Independent female survival = 0.91
 - Independent male survival = 0.88

Example for 2024 thresholds

Sex	Average Estimated minimum (2018–2022)	Sustainable mortality rate	Annual calculation	6-year calculation	6-year threshold
Female	40.2	9%	3.62	21.71	21
Male	56.2	12%	6.74	40.46	40

SCY - DMA

Application of thresholds

- Applied to independent bears
- Reported and estimated unreported mortalities will be summed by sex

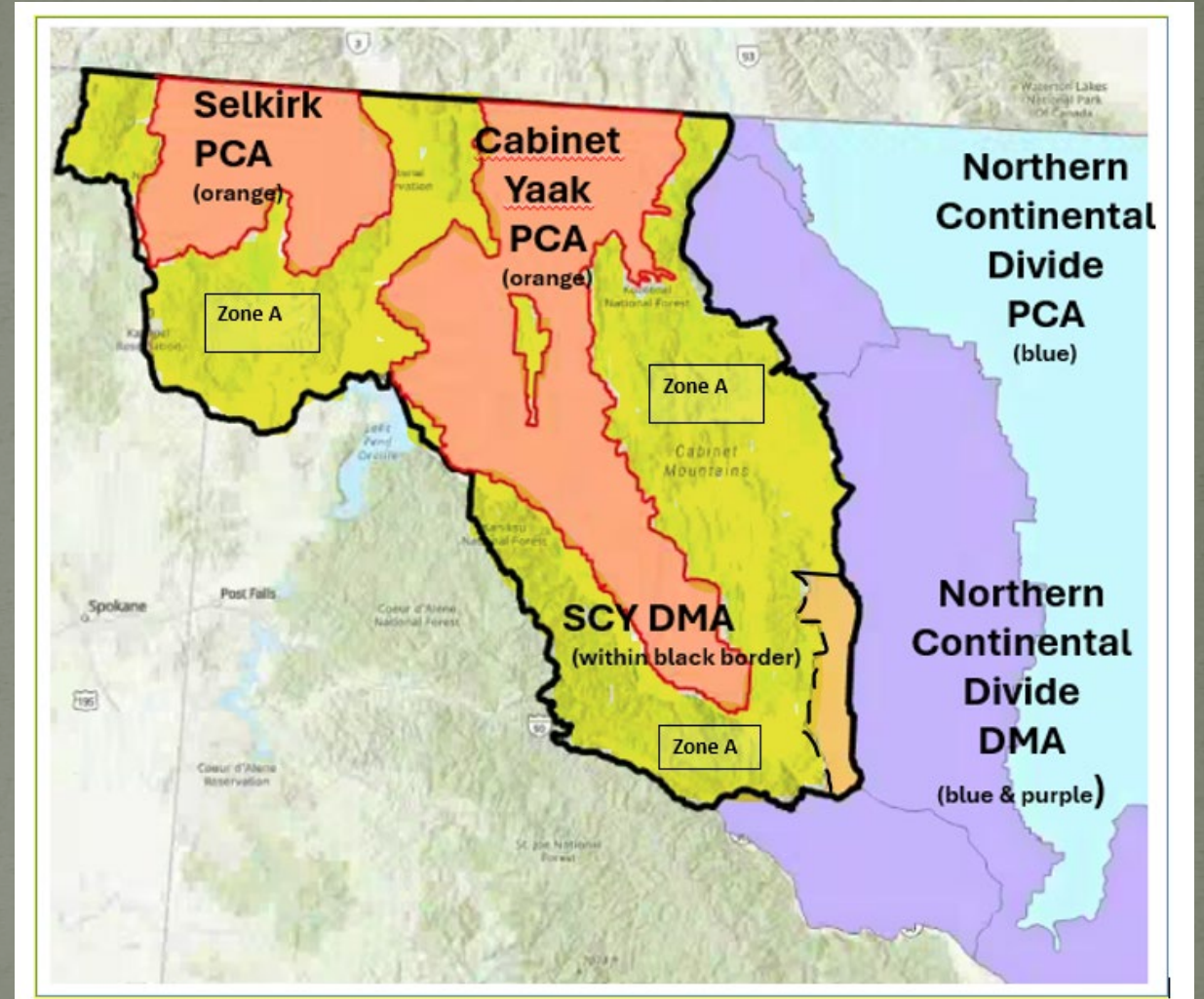
Example for 2024 thresholds applied to 2023, 2024, 2025

Sex	Calculated 6-year threshold	Observed mortalities 2018–2023	Observed mortalities 2019–2024	Observed mortalities 2020–2025
Female	21	13	15	14
Male	40	17	16	14

SCY - DMA

Objective: Maintain the long-term, population level genetic health of grizzly bears in the SCY Area.

- Document movements and gene flow (as reported in previous annual reports)
- Estimate metrics of genetic health (such as reported by Turnock et al. 2024)



SCY Habitat Management:

- Interagency Commitment: This strategy aims to sustain the SCY Area's current contribution to grizzly bears in the lower-48 states through continued commitment to habitat-based conservation outcomes reflective of the current condition.
- Two key habitat management conservation principles:
 - Managing motorized access
 - Securing attractants

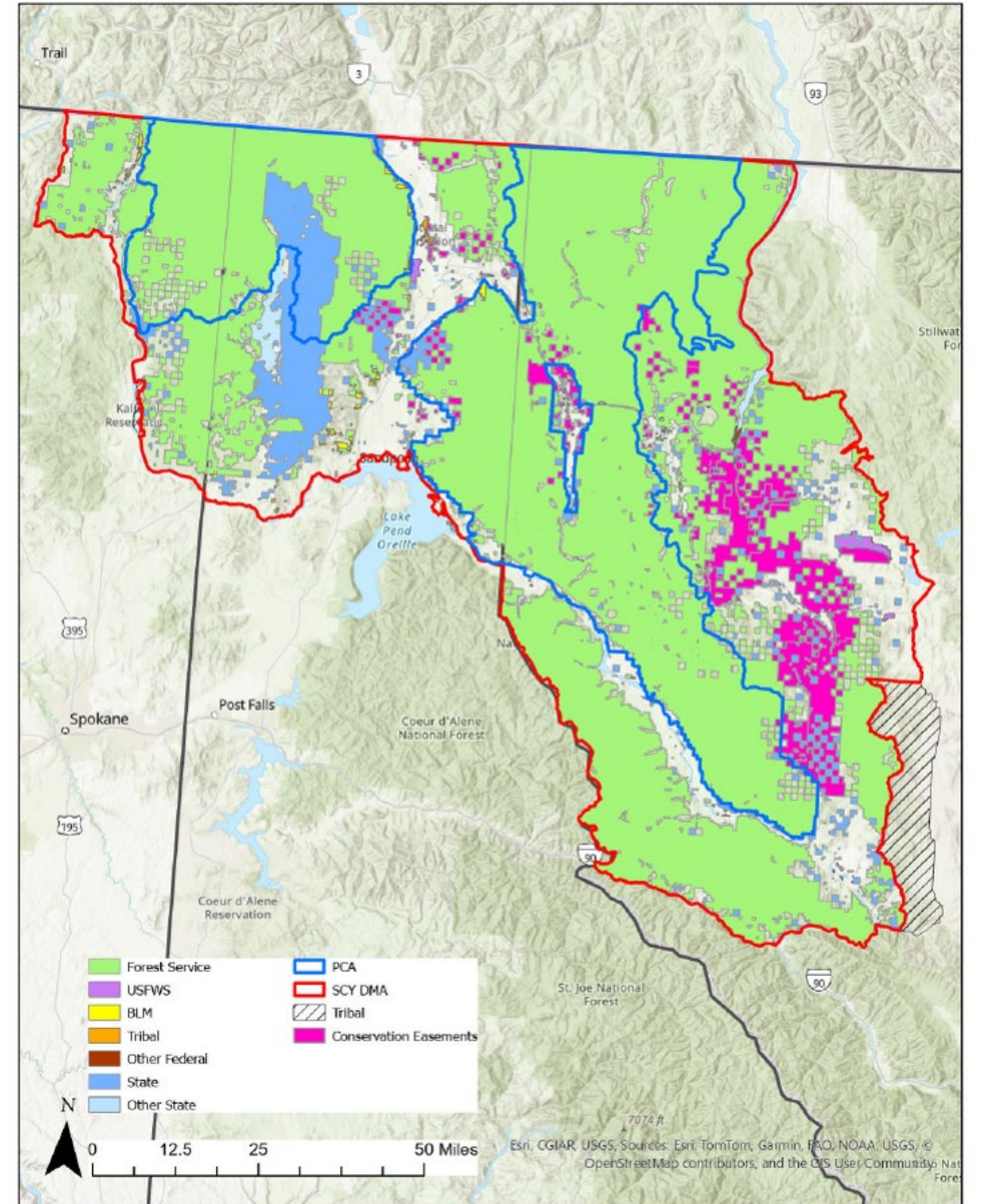


SCY Habitat Management:

- Key partners in habitat management:
 - 88% of the PCA is National Forest
 - State Lands – one Bear Management Unit in PCA is primarily Idaho state endowment land
 - Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Kalispel Tribe of Indians
 - Conservation Easements (e.g., private timberlands)



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SCY Habitat Management: Primary Conservation Area

Accomplishments

- Since the late 1990s secure core in the Selkirks has increased by approximately 390,000 acres and in the Cabinet-Yaak by 316,000 acres.
- Road densities have decreased.
- During this time, the grizzly bear population has increased.
- Attractant storage rules are in place on NFS lands and most state lands.



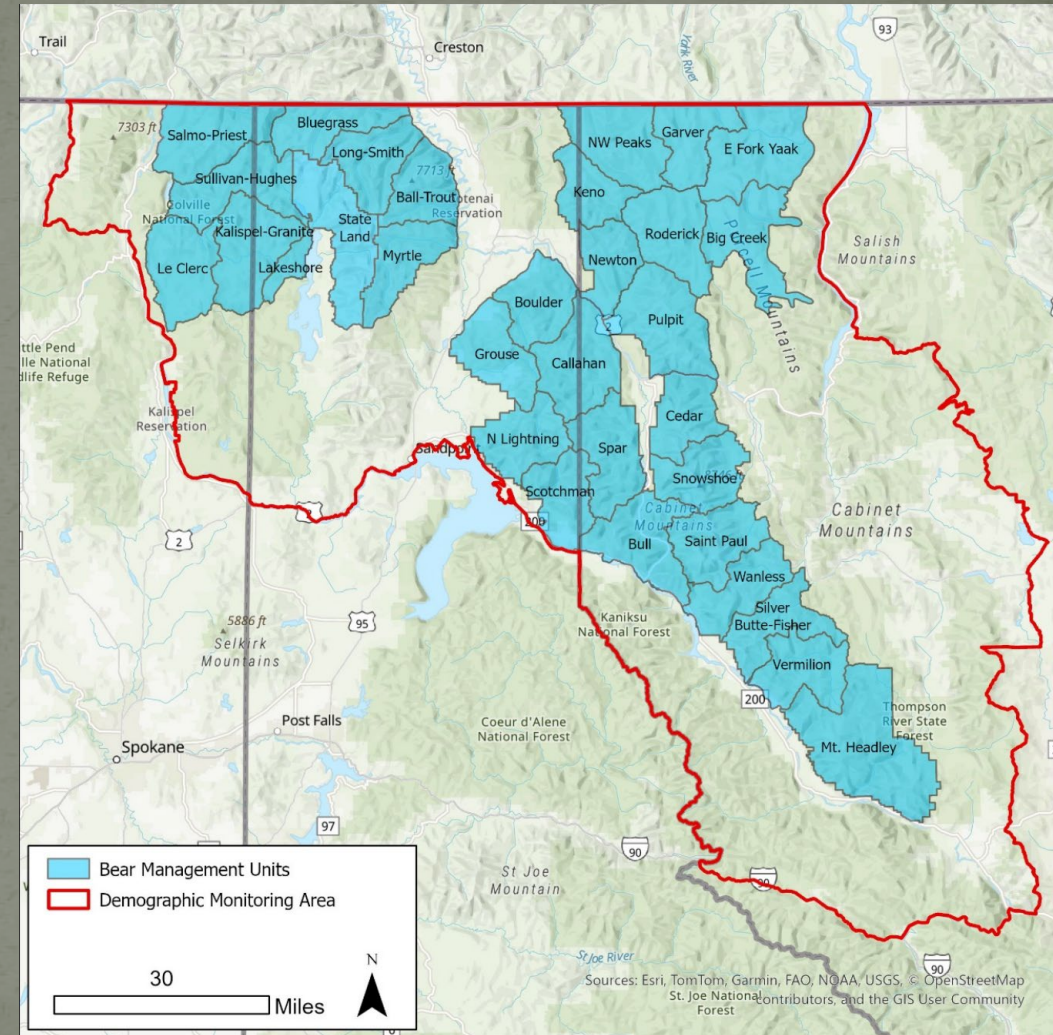
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SCY Habitat Management: Primary Conservation Area

Conservation Strategy

- No permanent net decrease in the amount of secure core on NFS lands within any BMU.
- Manage publicly accessible open motorized route densities on NFS lands such that grizzly bear population growth or stability would be expected to occur.
- Maintain attractant storage rules.



SCY Habitat Management: **Zone A and Secondary Habitat Areas**

Accomplishments

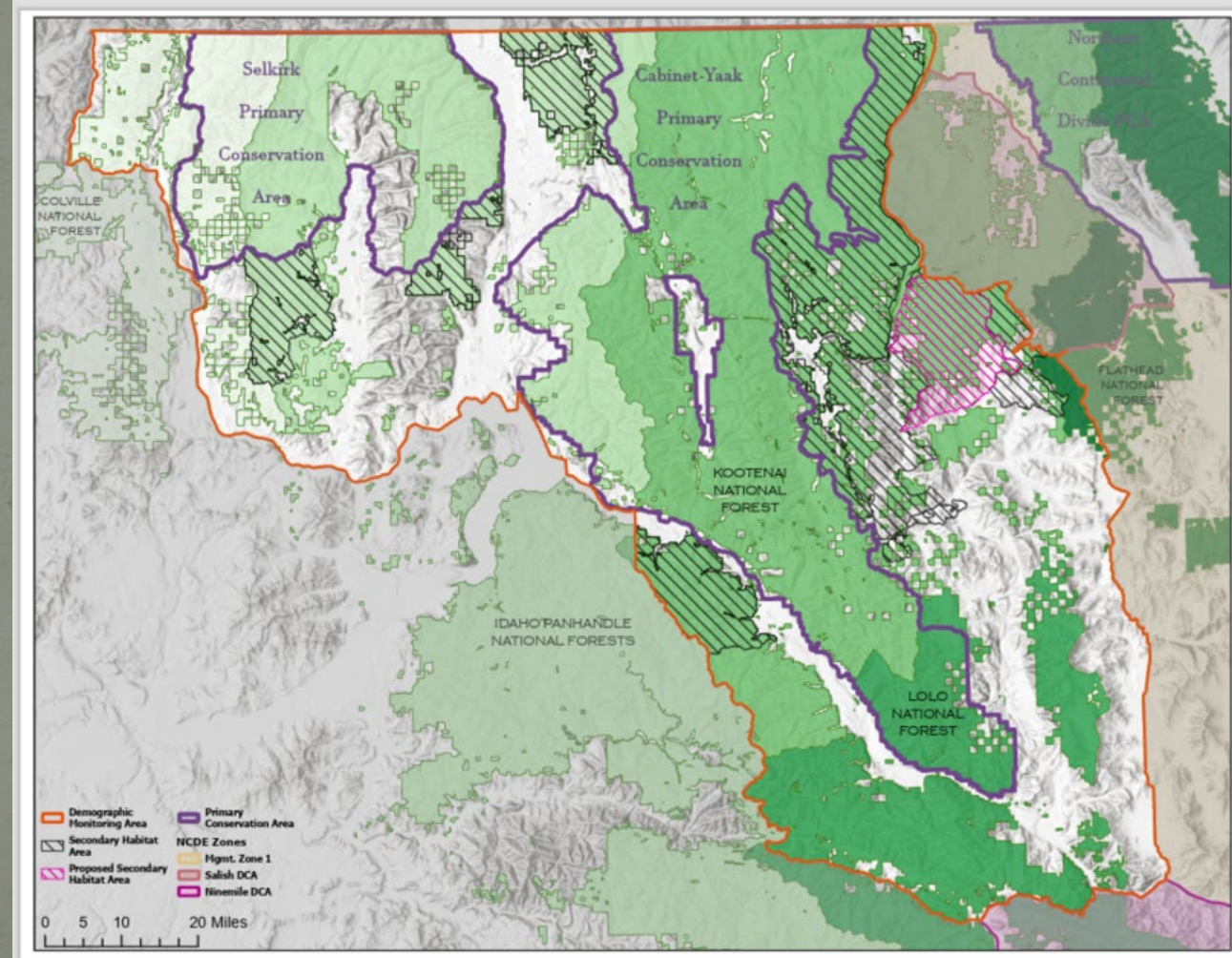
- Bear Outside Recovery Zone (BORZ) areas where recurring use has been documented. Motorized access management direction on 946,500 acres outside of the PCA.
- Attractant storage rules are in place on NFS lands, Tribal lands, and some state lands.



SCY Habitat Management: **Zone A** and **Secondary Habitat Areas**

Conservation Strategy

- Zone A: Prevent and respond to human-grizzly bear conflicts and continue supporting population expansion where suitable. Maintain attractant storage rules.
- Secondary Habitat Areas (Forest Service): **no permanent net decrease** in secure core within what is currently BORZ and an additional 79,306 ac on the Kootenai NF.



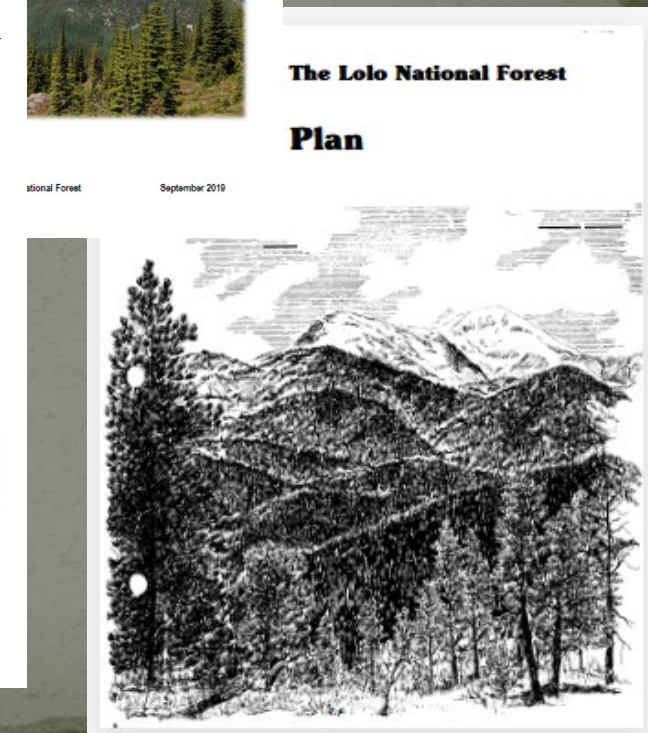
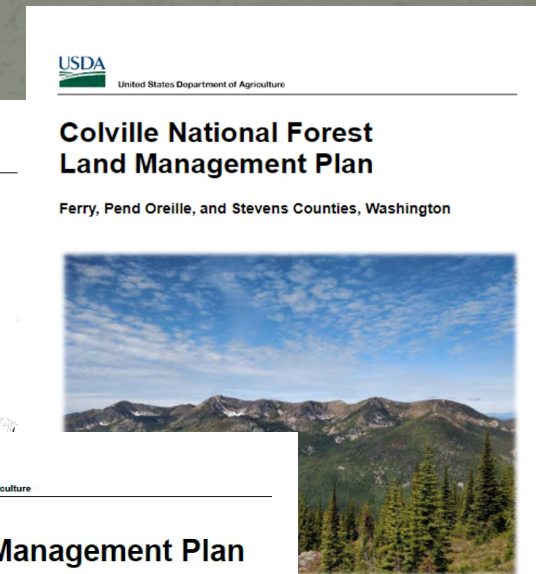
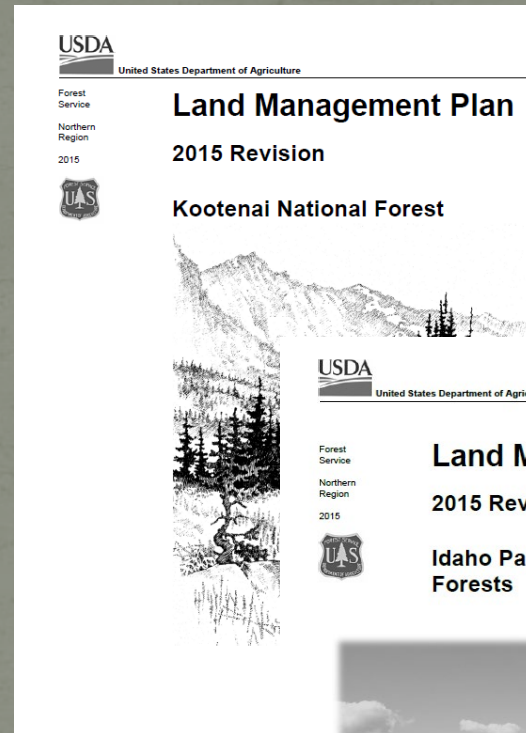
SCY Conservation Strategy & Forest Service Land Management Plans

- SCY Conservation Strategy:
 - Biennial monitoring reports: changes in secure core and open motorized route density.
 - Monitoring and adaptive management to respond to habitat, conflict, and population changes as they arise.



SCY Conservation Strategy & Forest Service Land Management Plans

- The Forest Service LMPs are the regulatory mechanisms that have been in place during the time the SCY grizzly bear populations have increased and expanded.
- The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that LMPs maintain viable populations and ecological integrity, which includes supporting connectivity.
- LMPs are revised periodically and may be amended at any time. Must be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires public involvement.
- The commitments described in this Strategy will continue to be met if and when LMPs are amended or revised.



Conflict Prevention, Response and Management

- Strategies for Prevention, Management, and Response to Human-Bear Conflicts
- Conflict Management and Response
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management

Information, Education, and Outreach

Goal is to enhance human safety and livelihoods while supporting the demographic and habitat objectives outlined in chapters 2 and 3 by:

- Preventing and reducing human–bear conflict potential
- Supporting effective conflict response
- Enhancing permeability between PCAs
- Maintaining and improving habitat conditions
- Encouraging stewardship

Implementation and Evaluation

- Ongoing interagency coordination
- SCY Area-focused monitoring team
- Other Interagency Teams/Committees
- Evaluation and Reporting
- Biology and Monitoring Review
- Conservation Strategy Review

Regulatory and Conservation Framework

- This chapter documents existing regulatory mechanisms and other elements of the conservation framework that will be effective in sustaining grizzly bears in the SCY Area in the absence of ESA protections.
- This conservation strategy is not a standalone regulatory document. Rather, it summarizes the relevant content of the signatory agencies' plans, statutes, regulations, and orders that provide the legally binding regulatory mechanisms for conservation of grizzly bears and their habitat in the SCY Area. Approval, adoption, or revision of those mechanisms is subject to each agency's specific legal and regulatory obligations and processes.
- The signatories of this Strategy have reviewed their existing management plans and have or will incorporate the population and habitat conservation measures described in this Strategy into their respective management plans as applicable and needed.

Feedback – Thank you!

During the public comment period the IGBC received 132 individual comments, 121 of which were via the comment portal. Eleven additional longer letters were received from the following organizations and individuals:

- Boundary County, ID
- Conservation Northwest
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Flathead Lolo Bitterroot Citizen Task Force
- Humane World for Animals
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Farm Bureau
- Inland Empire Task Force and Alliance for the Wild Rockies
- Randy Rannow
- Steve Nadeau
- The Cougar Fund

Feedback topics

- Conservation Strategy Framework and the Distinction from Individual Agency Administrative Actions
- Relationship of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Regulations, 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan, and Recovery Criteria
- Relationship of USDA Forest Service Regulatory Changes and Federal Land Management Plans
- Coverage Area
- Relationship with the Tri-State MOA
- Demographics
- Connectivity and Range Expansion
- Agency Budgets
- Idaho State Lands Bear Management Unit (Selkirk PCA)
- Food Storage
- Incidental Trapping and Hunting of Other Species
- State Attitudes toward Grizzly Bear Conservation
- Climate Change
- Miscellaneous Topics

2026 CS Development Team

- USFWS: Hilary Cooley*, Wayne Kasworm, Justin Teisberg, Ben Jimenez, Craig Hansen
- USDA Forest Service: Timory Peele*, Sarah Sawyer, Jeremy Anderson
- ID: Kathleen Trever*, Morgan Pfander, Toby Boudreau
- MT: Quentin Kujala*, Cecily Costello, Lori Roberts, Ken McDonald
- WA: Subhadeep Bhattacharjee*, Julia Smith, Annemarie Prince, Mike Kuttel Jr
- WY: Dan Thompson*
- Facilitator: David Diamond