

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Ed Schriever, Director

***Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Monitoring
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation***

Final Performance Report



Performance Period
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Compiled and edited by: Jeremy Nicholson

August 2020
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran's status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: WSFR, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, Telephone: (703) 358-2156.

Findings in this report are preliminary in nature and not for publication without permission of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Please note that IDFG databases containing this information are dynamic. Records are added, deleted, and/or edited on a frequent basis. This information was current as of [8-29-17]. Raw data do not have the benefit of interpretation or synthesis by IDFG.

IDFG requests that you direct any requests for this information to us rather than forwarding this information to third parties.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.

**ESA TRADITIONAL SECTION 6
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. State: Idaho

Grant number: F19AF00806

Grant name: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Monitoring

2. Report Period: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Report due date: September 28, 2020

3. Location of work: Clark, Fremont, and Teton counties in Idaho

4. Objectives

- 1) Estimating the number of female grizzly bears with cubs-of-the-year within respective Bear Management Units (BMUs)
- 2) Documenting the distribution of family groups of grizzly bears represented by female grizzly bears accompanied by cubs, yearlings, or 2-year olds within BMUs
- 3) Documenting known human-caused mortality

5. If the work in this grant was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) is a member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST). State and federal biologists worked together to monitor the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly population. The annual grizzly bear population estimate is derived from the number of unduplicated females with cubs of the year observed in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. Observation data come from a variety of sources, including aerial surveys conducted in fixed-wing aircraft. The Idaho Fish and Game will perform aerial surveys with a focus of locating females with young. Aerial surveys are conducted in 4 Flight Observation Units in June and repeated in July. Surveys take place in Clark and Fremont counties in SE Idaho.

6. Describe how the objectives were met.

- 1) Idaho is responsible for conducting fixed wing searches in June and July in sub units 12, 13A, 23 and 28. One grizzly bear was observed during the flights conducted in July 2019 and June 2020.
- 2) The observation units we fly in Idaho are dominated by thick evergreen stands, making it difficult to observe bears from a plane. To augment our observation flight efforts, I implemented a non-invasive method of observing bears using trail cameras. Cameras

were distributed across the Demographic Monitoring Area in 14km² cells, which is based on the average female grizzly bear home range in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Sampling sites were baited with a scent lure and checked frequently from June 2019 through August 2019. We documented 15-20 unique grizzly bears at the sites and observed multiple females with young.

3) During the performance period, no natural or human caused mortality was documented.

7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in grant proposal and grant agreement, and that actually carried out with Federal Aid grant funds.

None

8. List any publications or in-house reports resulting from this work.

The 2019 IGBST Annual Report Summary (attached). Full report to be available Fall 2020.
https://www.usgs.gov/science/interagency-grizzly-bear-study-team?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

The 2020 report will not be available until the spring of 2021.

The 2019 Grizzly Bear Recovery Program Annual Report, US Fish and Wildlife Service,
https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/species/mammals/grizzly/2019%20GB%20Annual%20Report_Final.pdf

Prepared by:

Jeremy Nicholson

Regional Wildlife Biologist

Jeremy.nicholson@idfg.idaho.gov

Submitted by:

David Smith

Grants/Contracts Specialist

David.smith@idfg.idaho.gov



Martha Wackenhut

Asst. Chief, Bureau of Wildlife

Federal Aid Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ B', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Toby Boudreau, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife