

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Ed Schriever, Director**

**Project F19AF00808  
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation**

**Selkirk-Cabinet Yaak Ecosystem Grizzly Bears**

**Interim Performance Report**



Performance Period  
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021

Compiled and edited by: Barb Moore

August 2020  
Boise, Idaho

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## **ESA TRADITIONAL SECTION 6 INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**1. State:** Idaho

**Grant number:** F19AF00808

**Grant name:** Selkirk-Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem Grizzly Bears

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

**Report due date:** September 28, 2020

**3. Location of work:** Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem within Idaho, Boundary and Bonner Counties, Game Management Unit 1.

**4. Objectives** (list project objectives from grant proposal or grant agreement)

**1)** Establish camera and DNA sites to document Recovery Plan criteria (S12, USFWS 1993)

**2)** Provide public outreach, sanitation education, and enforcement presence (S131, S2112, S2113, S62, USFWS 1993).

**3)** Provide technical assistance as needed to federal, state, and private entities. This activity is primarily intended to reduce threats to listed species and to provide scientific information as needed.

**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**

This work is part of a larger effort to recover grizzly bears in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been involved in all aspects of grizzly bear recovery. Significant work and funding is also provided by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and the B.C. Columbia Basin Compensation Program. There is a B.C. representative as a member of the U.S. grizzly bear recovery team. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are involved in grizzly bear recovery efforts in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem, part of which is in Idaho. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are involved in grizzly bear recovery efforts in the Selkirk ecosystem. U.S. Forest Service districts are also involved in grizzly bear recovery efforts in these ecosystems of Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Recently the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Kalispel Tribe have been more involved in grizzly bear recovery efforts.

## 6. Describe how the objectives were met

*Objective 1:* Remote cameras, in conjunction with DNA hair snare sites (corrals), were deployed in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem. Once established, cameras and snare sites were visited every 2 weeks to change memory cards and replace batteries in the cameras. Hairs were collected and barbs were cleaned on the hair snare sites and fresh lure, if used, was placed inside the hair snare site. Additionally, rub trees were identified and barbed wire was placed on these trees in an attempt to obtain grizzly bear hair.

In 2019, 2,331 samples were collected from 410 rub sites and 122 corral sites in the Selkirk ecosystem and 2,360 samples were collected from 830 rub sites and 29 corral sites in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem. Twenty-eight corral sites produced photos of grizzly bears in the Selkirk Ecosystem and 8 corral sites produced photos of grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem. Hair samples were submitted to Wildlife Genetics lab in British Columbia for DNA analysis.

While field efforts are currently underway in 2020, to date crews have visited approximately 380 rub sites and 35 corral sites in the Selkirk ecosystem and 110 rub sites and 12 corral sites in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, field efforts have been reduced in 2020 compared to previous years. Hair samples will be submitted to Wildlife Genetics lab in British Columbia for DNA analysis.

*Objective 2:* In June 2019, grizzly 865 returned from his winter den in the Yaak and killed five lambs at 2 different farms near Porthill, Idaho. After the second depredation, the bear was trapped and euthanized. Near Copeland, a grizzly sow with cubs of the year raided a chicken coop twice getting unsecured chicken feed. The coop was secured with electric fencing and the home owners provided with bear proof trash cans for feed storage. In addition, an unmarked adult male entered a barn near Mt. Hall and tore into a large bag of unsecured barley. A total of 20 bear proof trash cans were distributed to home owners in areas of high potential for grizzly bear conflicts in 2019. A permanent electric fence was also built for a landowner in Crossport to protect their orchard against future bear depredations, as they experienced severe damage to their orchard in 2018 from grizzly 865.

In 2020, to date, there have been 8 grizzly bear depredations on fruit trees, pig pens, and chicken coops. All of these conflicts occurred on the North Bench area of Boundary County. In addition, numerous reports of grizzly bear sightings occurred in the same area. Bear resistant garbage cans are being distributed to residents living in areas with high potential for grizzly bear conflicts.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, numerous grizzly bear educational presentations were conducted in the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint area. In addition, spring enforcement patrols were conducted focusing effort on locations that receive high grizzly bear use and black bear hunting pressure. Three separate grizzly bear poaching investigations are currently ongoing.

*Objective 3:* Technical assistance was provided to federal, state and private land management agencies through comments on timber sales, timing of activities related to logging, including active cutting and hauling activities on an as-needed basis. Technical assistance included participation in forest collaboratives and through comments during the NEPA process. Assistance with private land owners was accomplished primarily through meetings set up by the private companies/individuals themselves.

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

The objectives identified in the grant proposal and agreement were achieved.

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

Past and present grizzly bear related project reports are available at:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBear.php>

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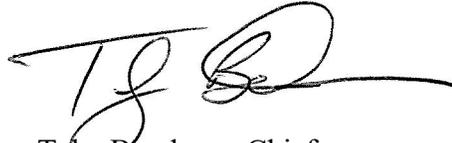
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