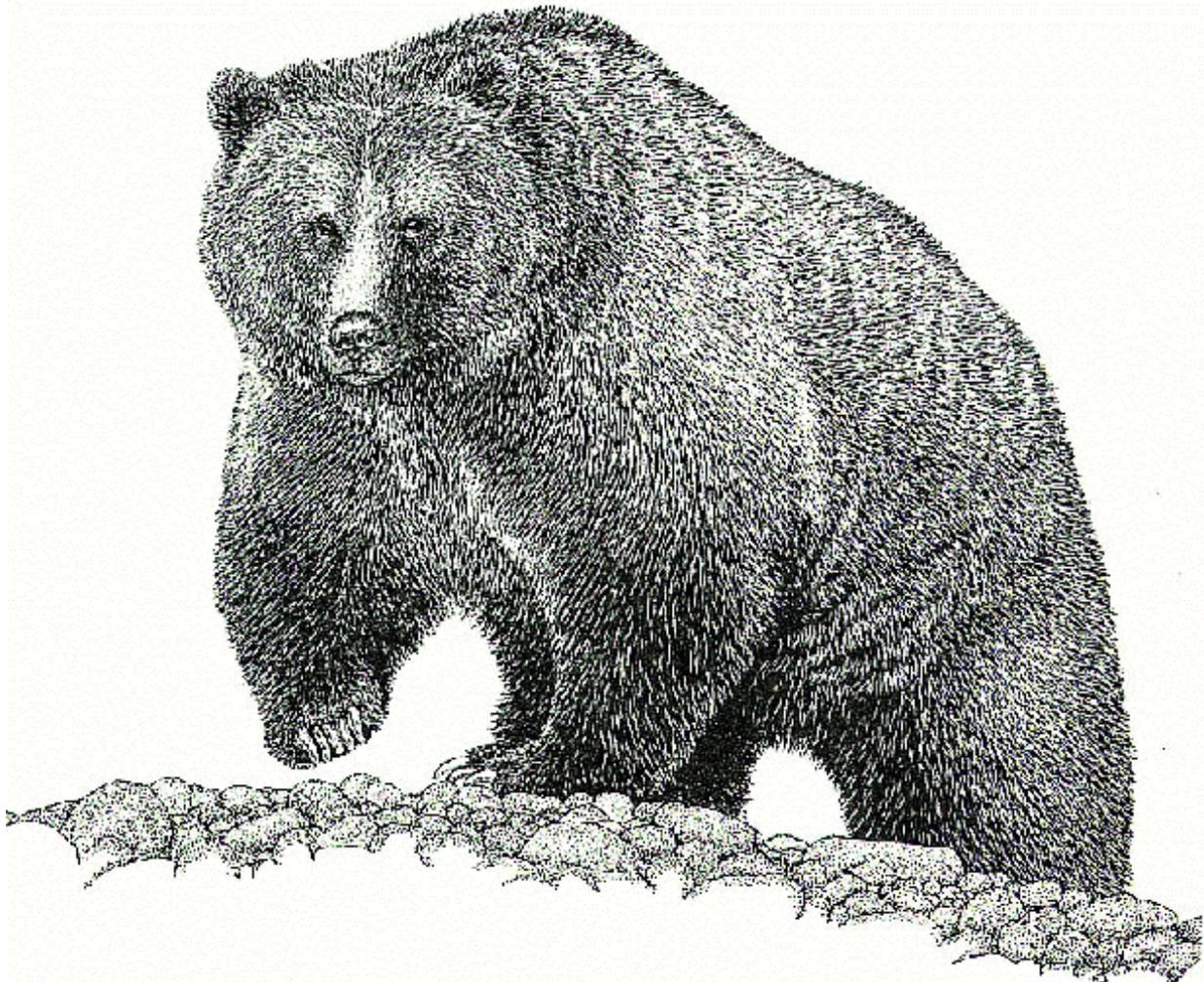


SELKIRK MOUNTAINS GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY AREA 2015 RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT



**PREPARED BY
WAYNE F. KASWORM, ALEX WELANDER, THOMAS G. RADANDT, JUSTIN E.
TEISBERG, WAYNE L. WAKKINEN, MICHAEL PROCTOR, AND CHRISTOPHER
SERVHEEN
2016**

**UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY COORDINATOR'S OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MAIN HALL ROOM 309
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59812
(406) 243-4903**

Abstract:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) captured and monitored a radio collared sample of grizzly bears in the SMGBRZ from 1983 until 2002 to determine distribution, home ranges, cause specific mortality, reproductive rates, and population trend. This effort was suspended in 2003 due to funding constraints and management decisions. In cooperation with IDFG and the Panhandle National Forest (USFS) this effort was reinitiated during 2012 with personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). During 2013 the program was expanded with funding from IDFG, USFS, several sources in British Columbia (BC), and USFWS. This cooperative research and monitoring effort was expanded to involve Idaho Department of Lands, the Kalispel Tribe, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2014

Numbers of females with cubs in the Selkirk Mountains grizzly bear recovery zone (SMGBRZ) varied from 0–4 per year and averaged 1.5 per year from 2010–15. Human caused mortality averaged 1.7 bears per year and 0.7 females per year. Ten human caused mortalities during 2010-15 include 4 females (all BC) and 6 males (one US and five BC). Human caused mortalities during 2010-15 were four adult females (one vehicle collision and three under investigation), one adult male (management), and four subadult males (two management, one mistaken identity, and one self-defense). Seven of 10 bear management units had sightings of females with young during 2010–15.

Remote cameras and corrals were deployed at 189 sites and were checked for pictures and hair collection 241 times during 2015. Females with cubs were detected at 2 corral sites (Kalispel-Granite and Blue-Grass Bear Management Units [BMUs]). Thirty-two bear rub locations have been identified and installed since 2013. Hair samples were also collected from all captured individuals.

Twenty individual bears were genotyped from corral sites, two from opportunistic samples, one from a rub site, and one from a captured bear during 2015. Genotypes from these individuals were added to the grizzly bear genetic database from the South Selkirk Mountains that now contains 149 individuals.

Seventy-three instances of known and probable grizzly bear mortality were detected inside or within 16 km of the U.S. SMGBRZ and the BC South Selkirk grizzly bear population unit during 1980–2015. Sixty-three were human caused, 7 were natural mortality, and 3 were unknown cause. Fifty-one occurred in BC, 14 in Idaho, and 8 in Washington.

Thirty-nine grizzly bears were trapped and radio collared 2007–2015. Nine of these occurred in the U.S. and 30 occurred in British Columbia. Home ranges were calculated and maps were displayed. Den entrance and exit dates were summarized.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Abstract	2
Table of Contents	3
Introduction	4
Objectives	5
Study Area	5
Methods	6
Grizzly Bear Observations	6
Capture and Marking	6
Hair Sampling for DNA Analysis	7
Radio Monitoring	7
Isotope Analysis	8
Berry Production Transects	8
Results and Discussion	8
Grizzly Bear Observations and Recovery Plan Criteria	8
Hair Collection, Remote Camera, and Genetics	15
Known Grizzly Bear Mortality	18
Capture and Marking	19
Grizzly Bear Monitoring and Home Ranges	22
Grizzly Bear Denning Chronology – Selkirk Ecosystem	23
Inter-ecosystem Isotope Analysis	24
Berry Production	25
Acknowledgments	25
Literature Cited	25
Appendix 1. Black bears captured by study personnel in the Selkirk Mountains, 2007–2014	26
Appendix 2 Grizzly Bear Home Ranges	27

INTRODUCTION

Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) populations south of Canada are currently listed as Threatened under the terms of the 1973 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). In 1993 a revised Recovery Plan for grizzly bears was adopted to aid the recovery of this species within ecosystems that they or their habitat occupy (USFWS 1993). Seven areas were identified in the Recovery Plan, one of which was the Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone (SMGBRZ) of northern Idaho, northeast Washington, and southeast British Columbia (BC) (Fig. 1). The recovery area includes the South Selkirks BC grizzly bear population unit and encompasses about 5,070 km².

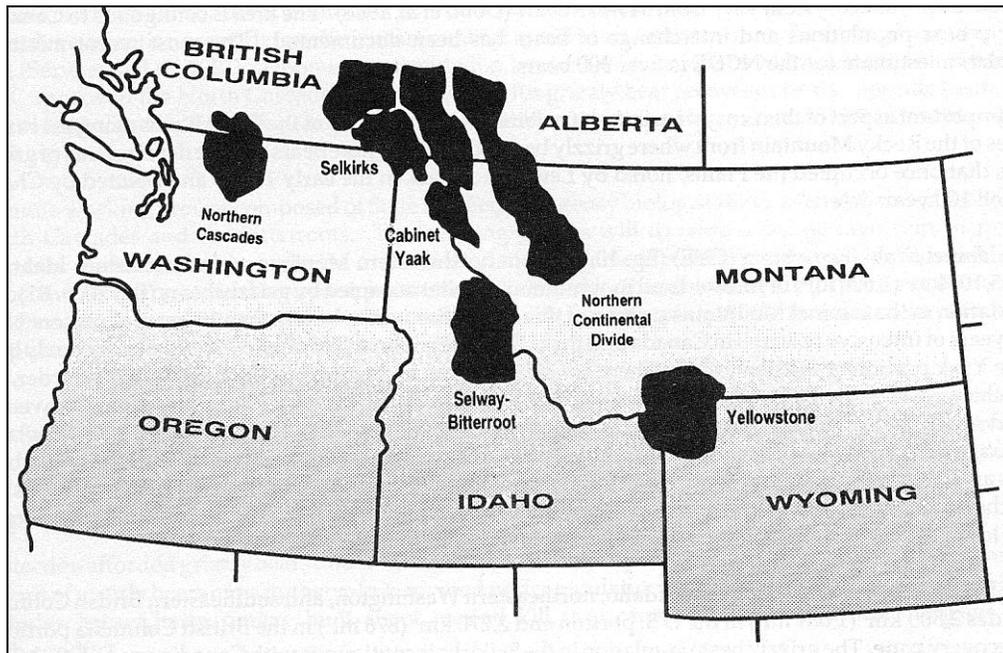


Figure 1. Grizzly bear recovery areas in the U.S., southern British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) captured and monitored a radio collared sample of grizzly bears in the SMGBRZ from 1983 until 2002 to determine distribution, home ranges, cause specific mortality, reproductive rates, and population trend (Almack 1985, Wakkinen and Johnson 2004, Wakkinen and Kasworm 2004). This effort was suspended in 2003 due to funding constraints and management decisions. In cooperation with IDFG and the Panhandle National Forest (USFS) this effort was reinitiated during 2012 with personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). During 2013 the program was expanded with funding from IDFG, USFS, several sources in BC, and USFWS. This cooperative research and monitoring effort was further expanded to involve Idaho Department of Lands, the Kalispel Tribe, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2014. We began a trapping and sampling effort to collect and update known-fate population vital rates of radio-collared grizzly bears within the SMGBRZ. In 2013-15, we also collected camera and hair samples at DNA hair corral, camera, and rub post locations, adding to similar efforts conducted by IDFG and USFS personnel.

OBJECTIVES

1. Document grizzly bear distribution in the SMGBRZ.
2. Describe and monitor the grizzly bear population in terms of reproductive success, age structure, mortality causes, population trend, and population estimates and report this information through the grizzly bear recovery plan monitoring process.
3. Determine habitat use and movement patterns of grizzly bears. Determine habitat preference by season and assess the relationship between habitats affected by man such as logged areas and grizzly bear habitat use. Evaluate permeability of the Kootenai River valley between the SMGBRZ and adjacent grizzly bear populations.
4. Determine the relationship between human activity and grizzly bear habitat use through the identification of areas used more or less than expected in relation to ongoing timber management activities, open and closed roads, and human residences.
5. Identify mortality sources and management techniques to limit human-caused mortality of grizzly bears.

STUDY AREA

The SMGBRZ encompasses 5,700 km² of the Selkirk Mountains of northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, and southern British Columbia (BC). (Figure. 2). Approximately 53% lies in the U.S. with the remainder in BC. Land ownership in BC is approximately 65% crown (public) land and 35% private. Land ownership in the U.S. portion is about 80% federal, 15% state, and 5% private.

Elevation on the study area ranges from 540 to 2,375 m. Weather patterns are characterized as Pacific maritime-continental climate, with long winters and short summers. Most of the precipitation falls during winter as snow, with a second peak in spring rainfall.

Selkirk Mountains area vegetation is dominated by various forested types. Dominant tree species include subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Englemann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*). Major shrub species include alder (*Alnus* spp.), fool's huckleberry (*Menziesia ferruginea*), mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*), and huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.).

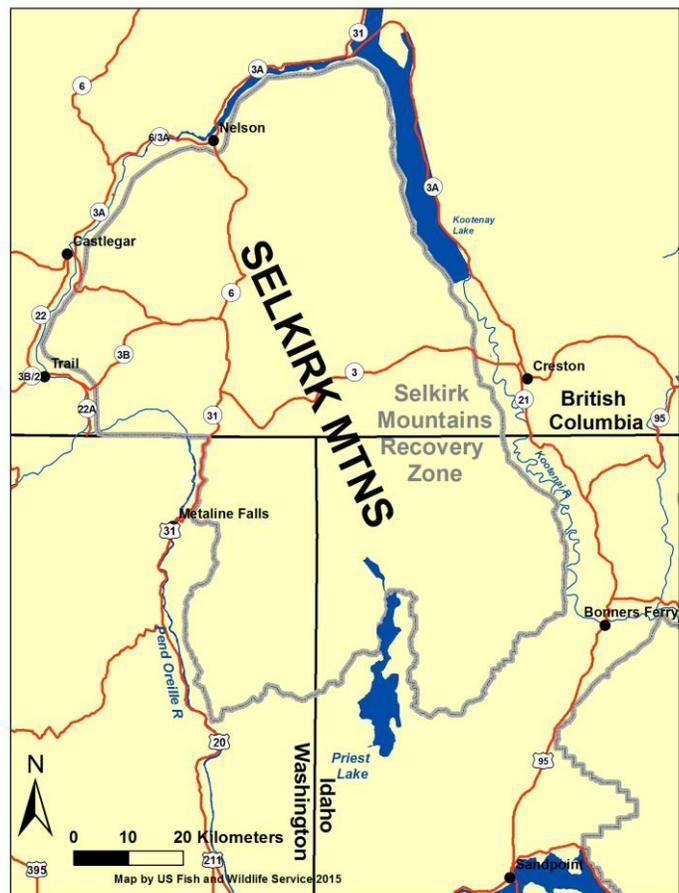


Figure 2. Selkirk Mountains grizzly bear recovery zone.

Historically, wildfire was the primary disturbance factor in the Selkirk Mountains. The 1967 Trapper Peak (6,000 ha) and Sundance (9,000 ha) fires produced large seral huckleberry shrubfields. Timber management and recreation are currently the principal land uses.

METHODS

Grizzly Bear Observations

All grizzly bear observations and reports of sign (tracks, digs, etc.) by study personnel and the public were recorded. Grizzly bear sighting forms were sent to a variety of field personnel from different agencies to maximize the number of reports received. Sightings of grizzly bears were rated 1–5 with 5 being the best quality and 1 being the poorest. General definitions of these categories are presented below, but it was difficult to describe all circumstances under which sightings were reported. Only sightings receiving ratings of 4 or 5 were judged credible and used in reports. Sightings that rate 1 or 2 may not always be recorded in the database.

5 - Highest quality reports typically from study personnel or highly qualified observers. Sightings not obtained by highly qualified observers must have physical evidence such as pictures, track measurements, hair, or sightings of marked bears where marks are accurately described.

4 - Good quality reports that provide credible, convincing descriptions of grizzly bears or their sign. Typically these reports include a physical description of the animal mentioning several characteristics. Observer had sufficient time and was close enough or had binoculars to aid identification. Observer demonstrates sufficient knowledge of characteristics to be regarded as a credible observer. Background or experience of observer may influence credibility.

3 - Moderate quality reports that do not provide convincing descriptions of grizzly bears. Reports may mention 1 or 2 characteristics, but the observer does not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of characteristics to make a reliable identification. Observer may have gotten a quick glimpse of the bear or been too far away for a good quality observation.

2 - Lower quality observations that provide little description of the bear other than the observer's judgment that it was a grizzly bear.

1 - Lowest quality observations of animals that may not have been grizzly bears. This category may also involve second hand reports from other than the observer.

Capture and Marking

Capture and handling of bears followed an approved Animal Use Protocol through the University of Montana, Missoula, MT (061-14CSCFC111714). Capture of black bears and grizzly bears was performed under Idaho and Washington state permits (ID 140226 and WA 14-082a) and a federal permit (TE704930-0). Bears were captured with leg-hold snares following the techniques described by Johnson and Pelton (1980) and Jonkel (1993). Snares were manufactured in house following the Aldrich Snare Co. (Clallam Bay, WA) design and consist of 6.5 mm braided steel aircraft cable. All bears were immobilized with either Telazol (tiletamine hydrochloride and zolazepam hydrochloride), a mixture of Ketaset (ketamine hydrochloride) and Rompun (xylazine hydrochloride), or a combination of Telazol and Rompun. Yohimbine and Atipamezole were the primary antagonists for Rompun. Drugs were administered

intramuscularly with a syringe mounted on a pole (jab-stick), homemade blowgun, modified air pistol, or cartridge powered dart gun. Immobilized bears were measured, weighed, and a first premolar tooth was extracted for age determination (Stoneberg and Jonkel 1966). Blood, tissue and/or hair samples were taken from most bears for genetic and food use studies. Immobilized bears were given oxygen at a rate of 2–3 liters per minute. Recovering bears were dosed with Atropine and Diazepam.

All grizzly bears were fitted with radio collars or ear tag transmitters when captured. Some bears were collared with Global Positioning System (GPS) radio collars. Collars were manufactured by Telonics (Mesa, AZ). To prevent permanent attachment, a canvas spacer was placed in the collars so that they would drop off in 1–3 years (Hellgren et al. 1988).

Trapping efforts were typically conducted from May through August. Trap sites were usually located within 500 m of an open road to allow vehicle access. In a few instances trap sites were accessed behind restricted roads within the administrative motorized access provisions of the land management agency. Traps were checked daily or in some cases twice daily. Bait consisted primarily of road-killed ungulates and a liquid lure composed of fish and livestock blood.

Hair Sampling for DNA Analysis

This project seeks evidence of grizzly bears in the study area using DNA to identify individuals and understand the level of relatedness within this population and between this and adjacent populations. The program used genetic information from a hair-snagging with remote-camera photo verification to identify individuals and females with young. Project objectives include: observations of females with young, sex ratio of sampled bears, and relatedness as well as genetic diversity measures of captured bears.

Sampling occurred from May–September in the SMGBRZ following standard hair snagging techniques (Woods *et al.* 1999). Sampling sites were established based on location of previous sightings, sign, habitat quality, and radio telemetry from bears. Sites were baited with 2 liters of a blood and fish mixture to attract bears across a barbwire perimeter placed to snag hair. Sites were deployed for 2-3 weeks prior to hair collection. Hair was collected and labeled to indicate: number and color of hairs collected, site location, date, and barb number. These data aided sorting hair to minimize lab costs. Samples collected as a part of this effort and other hair samples collected opportunistically either from known grizzly bears or samples that outwardly appeared to be grizzly bear were sent to Wildlife Genetics International Laboratory in Nelson, British Columbia for DNA extraction and genotyping. Hairs visually identified as black bear hair by technicians at the Laboratory were not processed and hairs processed and determined to be black bear were not genotyped. Dr. Michael Proctor is a cooperator on this project and assisted with genetic interpretations.

Radio Monitoring

Attempts were made to obtain aerial radiolocations on all instrumented grizzly bears at least once each week during the 7–8 month period in which they were active. Collars attempted locations every 1–2 hours depending on configuration and data were stored within the collar and could be downloaded to a lap top computer in an aircraft. Collars were equipped with a release mechanism to allow them to be retrieved in October prior to denning. Weekly aircraft radio monitoring was conducted to check for mortality signals and approximate location. Life home ranges (minimum convex polygons; Hayne 1959) were calculated for grizzly bears during the study period. We generated home range polygons using XTools and ArcGIS.

Isotope analysis

Hair samples from known age, captured grizzly bears were collected and analyzed for stable isotopic ratios. Stable isotope signatures indicate source of assimilated (i.e., digested) diet of grizzly bears. Nitrogen stable isotope ratios (^{15}N) indicate trophic level of the animal; an increased amount of ingested animal matter yields higher nitrogen isotope ratios while lower values tie to more plant-based diets. In the Selkirk Mountains, carbon isotope signatures vary depending on the amount of native C3 vs. C4 plant matter ingested. Corn, a C4 plant, has elevated $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratios relative to native C3 plants. Because much of the human food stream is composed of corn, carbon stable isotope signatures allow for verification or identification of human food conditioned bears.

Hair samples were rinsed with a 2:1 chloroform:methanol solution to remove surface contaminants. Samples were then ground in a ball mill to homogenize the sample. Powdered hair was then weighed and sealed in tin boats. Isotope ratios of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ were assessed by continuous flow methods using an elemental analyzer (ECS 4010, Costech Analytical, Valencia, California) and a mass spectrometer (Delta PlusXP, Thermofinnigan, Bremen, Germany) (Brenna et al. 1997, Qi et al. 2003).

Berry Production

Quantitative comparisons of annual fluctuations and site-specific influences on fruit production of huckleberry were made using methods similar to those established in Glacier National Park (Kendall 1986). Transect line origins were marked by a painted tree or by surveyors' ribbon. A specific azimuth was followed from the origin through homogenous habitat. At 0.5 m intervals, a 0.04 m² frame (2 x 2 decimeter) was placed on the ground or held over shrubs and all fruits and pedicels within the perimeter of the frame were counted. If no portion of a plant was intercepted, the frame was advanced at 0.5 meter intervals and empty frames were counted. Fifty frames containing the desired species were counted on each transect. Timbered shrub fields and mixed shrub cutting units were the primary sampling areas to examine the influence of timber harvesting on berry production within a variety of aspects and elevations. Berry phenology, berry size, and plant condition were recorded. Monitoring goals identified annual trend of berry production and did not include documenting forest succession.

Temperature and relative humidity data recorders (LogTag) were placed at berry monitoring sites. These devices record conditions at 90 minute intervals and will be retrieved, downloaded, and replaced at annual intervals. We used a berries/plot calculation as an index of berry productivity. Transects were treated as the independent observation unit. For each year observed, mean numbers of berries/plant (berries/plot) were used as our transect productivity indices. For each year, we indicate whether berry productivity is above or below the study-wide mean production. We define a "berry failure" as an instance in which the annual 95% confidence interval of berries per plot is below and does not overlap the study-wide mean.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Grizzly Bear Observations and Recovery Plan Criteria

Grizzly bear observations and mortality from public and agency sightings or records were appended to databases. These databases include information from the U.S. and Canada and include credible sightings, tracks, scats, digs, genetically verified hair since 2012, and mortalities dating from 1982. Credible sightings were those rating 4 or 5 on the 5 point scale (see Methods).

Seventy-three instances of grizzly bear mortality were detected inside or within 16 km of the U.S. portion of the SMGBRZ and within the boundary of the BC South Selkirk grizzly bear population unit during 1982-2015 (Table 1, Fig. 3). One known mortality occurred during 2015. An adult male was killed in a vehicle collision on BC Highway 3 ten km west of Creston, BC.

Thirty-four reported sightings rated 4 or 5 (most credible) during 2015 (Table 2). Sightings occurred in all Bear Management Units (BMUs) except Lakeshore.

Cubs are offspring in the first 12 months of life and yearlings are offspring in their second 12 months. The recovery plan (USFWS 1993) indicates that female with cub sightings within 10 miles of the recovery zone count toward recovery goals. Eight credible sightings of a female with cubs occurred during 2015 in Blue-Grass, LeClerc, State Lands, and BC BMUs (Tables 2, 3, 4, 5 and Fig. 4). There appeared to be 4 unduplicated females with cubs in the recovery area during 2015. Five credible sightings of a female with yearlings or 2-year-olds occurred in Blue-Grass, Myrtle, Salmo-Priest, and south of the recovery area adjacent to Myrtle BMU. Unduplicated sightings of females with cubs (including Canada) varied from 0–4 per year and averaged 1.7 per year from 2010–15 (Tables 3, 4). Recovery plan criteria require a running 6 year average of 6.0 females with cubs per year. The unduplicated female with young count from 2014 was adjusted from 4 to 3 when genetic analysis indicated that two females thought to be separate were confirmed to be the same individual.

Seven of 10 BMUs in the U.S. portion of the recovery zone had sightings of females with young (cubs, yearlings, or 2-year-olds) during 2010–15 (Fig. 4 and Table 5). Occupied BMUs were: Blue-Grass, LeClerc, Long-Smith, Myrtle, Salmo-Priest, State Lands, and BC BMUs. Recovery plan criteria indicate the need for 7 of 10 U.S. BMUs to be occupied.

Ten known or probable human caused mortalities of grizzly bears have occurred in or within 10 miles of the SMGBRZ in the U.S. or in the South Selkirk GBPU during 2010–15 (Table 1). Ten human caused mortalities include 4 females (all BC) and 6 males (Ball-Trout and BC BMUs). Human caused mortalities during 2010-15 were four adult females (one vehicle collision and three under investigation), one adult male (management), and four subadult males (two management, one mistaken identity, and one self-defense). Population levels were calculated by dividing observed females with cubs (8) minus any human-caused adult female mortality (2) from 2013–15 by 0.6 (sightability) then dividing by 0.333 (adult female proportion of population) as specified in the recovery plan (Tables 3, 4) (USFWS 1993). This resulted in a minimum population of 30 individuals. The recovery plan states; “any attempt to use this parameter to indicate trends or precise population size would be an invalid use of these data”. Applying the 4% mortality limit to the minimum calculated population resulted in a total mortality limit of 1.2 bears per year. The female limit is 0.4 females per year (30% of 1.2). Average annual human caused mortality for 2010–15 was 1.7 bears/year and 0.7 females/year. These mortality levels for total bears and female mortality were greater than the calculated limit during 2010-15. The recovery plan established a goal of zero human-caused mortality for this recovery zone due to the initial low number of bears, however it also stated “In reality, this goal may not be realized because human bear conflicts are likely to occur at some level within the ecosystem.” All tables and calculations are updated when new information becomes available.

Table 1. Known and probable grizzly bear mortality in the Selkirk Mountains recovery area, 1980–2015.

Mortality Date	Tag Number	Sex	Age	Mortality Cause	Location	<500m from open road	Owner ¹
11-May-80	None	F	5.0	Human, Hunting	Barrett Creek, BC	Unk	BC
2-May-82	None	M	AD	Human, Poaching	Priest River, ID	Yes	USFS
Sept 1982	None	U	Unk	Human, Undetermined	LeClerc Creek, WA	Yes	USFS
1-Jul-85	949	M	4.5	Human, Undetermined	BC	Unk	BC
Autumn, 1985	867-85a	U	Cub	Natural	BC	Unk	BC
1-Sep-86	898	F	1.5	Human, Undetermined	Grass Creek, ID	Unk	USFS
10-Sep-86	None	M	7.0	Human, Management	Curtis Lake, BC	Yes	BC
June 1987	1005	M	10.5	Human, Poaching	Wall Mtn, BC	Unk	BC
8-Sep-87	962	M	7.5	Human, Poaching	Trapper Creek, ID	No	IDL
30-May-88	None	M	5.0	Human, Hunting	Monk Creek, BC	Unk	BC
Sept 1988	1050	M	1.5	Natural	Porcupine Creek, BC	No	BC
Sept 1988	1085	F	3.5	Human, Mistaken Identity	Cow Creek, ID	No	USFS
14-Aug-89	1044	F	20+	Natural	Laib Creek, BC	No	Private
22-Sep-89	None	M	2.0	Human, Management	49 Mile Creek, BC	Yes	Private
22-Sep-89	None	U	Unk	Human, Management	49 Mile Creek, BC	Yes	Private
6-Aug-90	None	M	Unk	Human, Management	Ymir Area, BC	Yes	Private
16-Sep-90	1042	F	3.5	Human, poaching	Maryland Creek, BC	Yes	BC
1-Aug-91	1076	F	20+	Natural	Next Creek, BC	No	BC
1991	876-92a	U	1.5	Natural	BC	Unk	BC
11-Apr-92	None	M	Unk	Unknown	Atbara, BC	Yes	BC
22-May-92	None	M	4.0	Human, Hunting	Cottonwood, BC	Unk	BC
July 1992	None	M	Unk	Human, Management	Lost Creek, BC	Yes	BC
7-Sep-92	1090	M	5.5	Unknown	Laib Creek, BC	Yes	BC
25-Sep-92	1015	F	12.5	Human, Self Defense	Monk Creek, BC	No	BC
2-Jun-93	None	M	4.0	Human, Management	Lost Creek, BC	Yes	BC
5-Jun-93	None	M	4.0	Human, Hunting	Elmo Creek, BC	Unk	BC
2-Nov-93	867	F	15.5	Human, Poaching	Willow Creek, WA	No	USFS
2-Nov-93	867-93a	U	0.5	Human, Poaching	Willow Creek, WA	No	USFS
2-Nov-93	867-93b	U	0.5	Human, Poaching	Willow Creek, WA	No	USFS
23-May-94	None	M	12.0	Human, Hunting	Wall Mountain, BC	Unk	BC
10-May-95	None	F	1.5	Human, Undetermined	Boundary Creek, ID	Yes	USFS
31-Oct-95	1100	M	2.5	Human, Mistaken Identity	Granite Pass, WA	Yes	USFS
Autumn, 1995	None	M	AD	Human, Mistaken Identity	Mill Creek, WA ²	Yes	USFS
Autumn, 1996	1027-96b	U	Cub	Natural	BC	Unk	BC
Sept 1997	None	M	1.5	Human, Management	Salmo, BC	Yes	Private
Aug 1998	None	M	3.5	Human, Undetermined	Usk, WA	Yes	Private
Oct 1999	1032	M	18.0	Human, Management	Procter, BC	Yes	Private
Oct 1999	9810	M	10.0	Human, Undetermined	Smith Creek, ID	Unk	USFS
Autumn 2000	None	U	Unk	Unknown	Hughes Meadows, ID	Yes	USFS
29-Aug-01	7	F	13.0	Natural	Porcupine Creek, BC	Yes	BC
25-Oct-01	None	F	2.0	Human, Management	49 Mile Creek, BC	Yes	Private
Oct 2001	None	M	Unk	Human, Management	Cottonwood Creek, BC	Yes	Private
12-May-02	17	M	6.0	Human, Management	Nelway, BC	Yes	Private
15-Sep-02	None	F	10+	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
15-Sep-02	None	U	0.5	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
15-Sep-02	None	U	0.5	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
15-Sep-02	None	U	0.5	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
4-Oct-02	19	M	3.5	Human, Undetermined	Lamb Creek, ID	Yes	USFS
May 2003	None	U	1.5	Human, Mistaken Identity	Smith Creek, ID	Yes	Private
2-Sep-03	None	F	AD	Human, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
23-Sep-03	None	F	5.0	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
23-Sep-03	None	F	0.5	Human, PD, Management	Blewett, BC	Yes	Private
3-Oct-03	30	F	2.5	Human, Management	Erie Creek	Yes	Private
May 2004	None	M	AD	Human, Undetermined	Hughes Meadows, ID	Yes	USFS

Mortality Date	Tag Number	Sex	Age	Mortality Cause	Location	<500m from open road	Owner ¹
Autumn 2004	32	M	7.0	Human, Undetermined	Bismark Meadows, ID	Unk	Private
Spring 2005	None	U	Unk	Human, Undetermined	E F Priest River, ID	Unk	IDL
May 2006	None	M	AD	Human, Management	Procter, BC	Yes	Private
23-Oct-06	None	F	1.0	Human, PD, Management	Blewett Ski Hill, BC	Yes	Private
23-Oct-06	None	M	1.0	Human, PD, Management	Blewett Ski Hill, BC	Yes	Private
1-Aug-07	29	F	AD	Vehicle Collision	Kootenay Pass, BC	Yes	BC
1-Oct-07	1000	F	AD	Human, Mistaken Identity	Pass Creek Pass, WA	Yes	USFS
4-Oct-07	5393	M	SA	Human, Management	Priest River, ID	Yes	Private
29-Sep-08	119	M	13.0	Human, PD, Management	Salmo, BC	Yes	Private
18-Aug-10	8005	F	5	Vehicle Collision	Summit Creek, BC	Yes	BC
5-May-11	None	M	2.5	Human, PD, Management	Porthill, ID	Yes	Private
25-May-11	0012	M	2.5	Human, Management	Nelson, BC	Yes	Private
25-May-11	None	M	2.5	Human, Management	Nelson, BC	Yes	Private
28-Aug-2011	002	M	20	Human, Management	Kootenay River, BC	Yes	Private
7-Oct-12	None	M	3.0	Human, Mistaken Identity	Beaverdale Creek, BC	Yes	BC
16-Oct-12	170	F	6.0	Human, Under investigation	Salmo River, BC	Yes	Private
6-Jun-14	12006	F	5.0	Human, Under investigation	Boundary Creek, BC	Yes	BC
27-Sep-14	None	F	AD?	Human, Under investigation	Ootishenia Creek, BC	Unk	BC
7-May-15	None	M	AD	Vehicle Collision	Summit Creek, BC	Yes	BC

¹BC – British Columbia Crown Lands, IDL – Idaho Department of Lands, and USFS – U.S. Forest Service.

²More than 10 miles outside recovery zone in the U.S.

Table 2. Credible grizzly bear sightings, credible female with young sightings, and known human caused mortality by Selkirk Mountain bear management unit (BMU) or area, 2015.

BMU OR AREA	2015 Credible ¹ Grizzly Bear Sightings	2015 Sightings of Females with Cubs (Total)	2015 Sightings of Females with Cubs (Unduplicated ²)	2015 Sightings of Females with Yearlings or 2-year-olds (Total)	2015 Sightings of Females with Yearlings or 2-year-olds (Unduplicated ²)	2015 Human Caused Mortality
Ball-Trout	1	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Grass	9	5	2	2	0	0
Kalsipel-Granite	4	0	0	0	0	0
Lakeshore	0	0	0	0	0	0
LeClerc	3	1	1	0	0	0
Long-Smith	2	1	0	0	1	0
Myrtle	4	0	0	1	1	0
Salmo-Priest	2	0	0	1	1	0
State Idaho	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sullivan-Hughes	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pack River	1	1	0	0	0	0
BC	6	0	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	34	9	4	5	3	1

¹Credible sightings are those rated 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale (see methods).

²Sightings may duplicate the same animal in different locations. Only the first sighting of a duplicated female with cubs is counted toward total females (Table 3), however subsequent sighting contribute toward occupancy (Table 8).

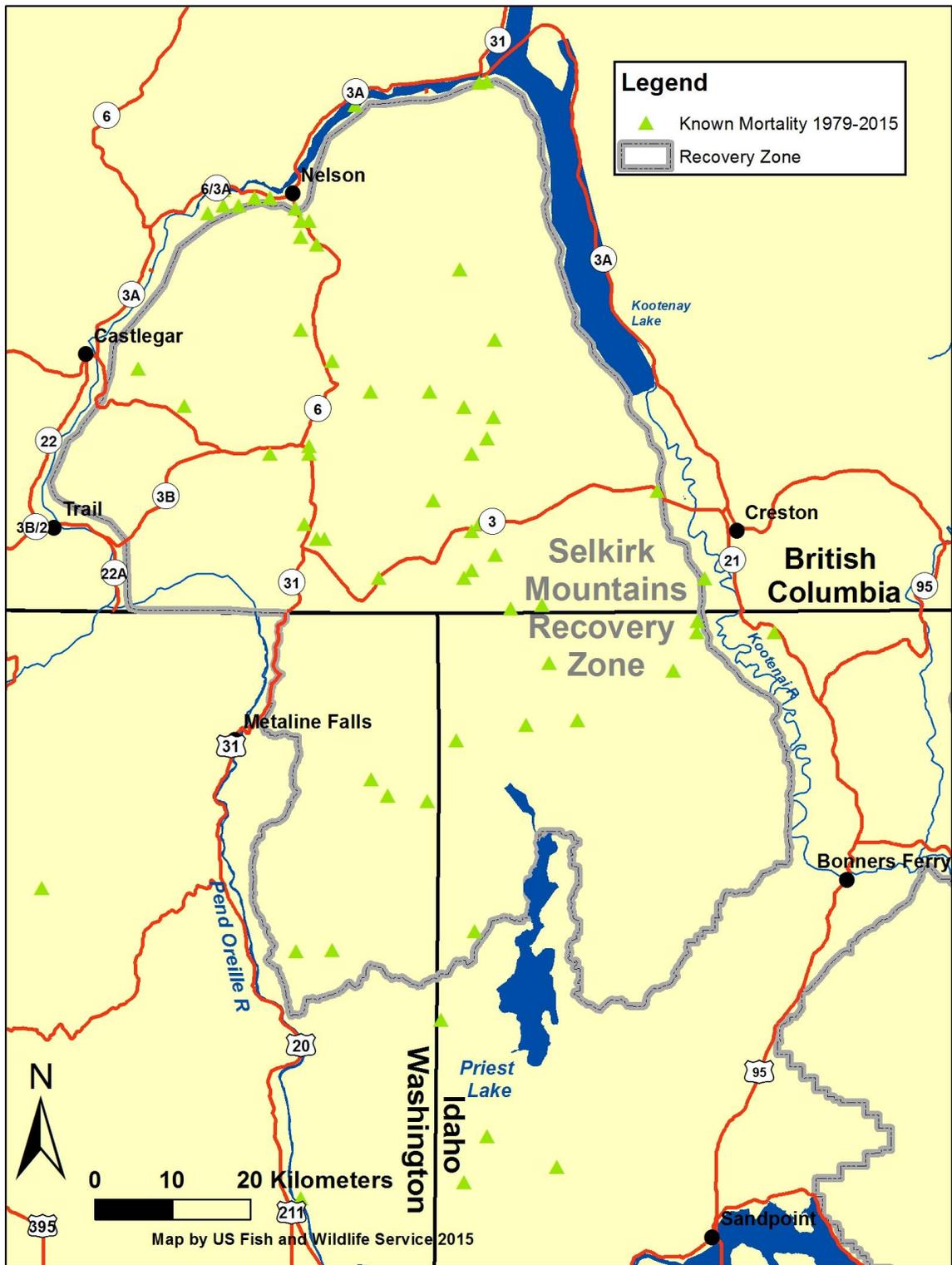


Figure 3. Grizzly bear known or probable mortalities from all causes (1980–2015) in the Selkirk Mountains recovery area.

Table 3. Status of the Selkirk Mountains recovery zone during 2010–2015 in relation to the demographic recovery targets from the grizzly bear recovery plan (USFWS 1993).

Recovery Criteria	Target	2015
Females w/cubs (6-yr avg)	6	1.5 (9/6)
Human Caused Mortality limit ¹ (4% of minimum population estimate)	1.2	1.7 (6 yr avg)
Female Human Caused mortality limit ¹ (30% of total mortality)	0.4	0.7 (6 yr avg)
Distribution of females w/young ²	7 of 10 BMUs	7 of 10 BMUs

¹ Includes both U.S. and B.C. mortalities.

² Includes only U.S. BMUs. B.C. BMUs are not yet drawn..

Table 4. Annual Selkirk Mountains recovery zone grizzly bear unduplicated counts of females with cubs (FWC's) and known human-caused mortality, 1988–2015.

YEAR	ANNUAL FWC'S	ANNUAL HUMAN CAUSED ADULT FEMALE MORTALITY	ANNUAL HUMAN CAUSED ALL FEMALE MORTALITY	ANNUAL HUMAN CAUSED TOTAL MORTALITY	4% TOTAL HUMAN CAUSED MORTALITY LIMIT ¹	30% ALL FEMALE HUMAN CAUSED MORTALITY LIMIT ¹	TOTAL HUMAN CAUSED MORTALITY 6 YEAR AVERAGE	FEMALE HUMAN CAUSED MORTALITY 6 YEAR AVERAGE
1988	0	0	1	2				
1989	4	1	0	2				
1990	1	0	1	2				
1991	1	0	0	0				
1992	1	1	1	3				
1993	1	1	2	5	0.2	0.1	2.3	0.8
1994	1	0	0	1	0.2	0.1	2.2	0.7
1995	1	0	1	3	0.4	0.1	2.3	0.8
1996	1	0	0	0	0.6	0.2	2.0	0.7
1997	1	0	0	1	0.6	0.2	2.2	0.7
1998	1	0	0	1	0.6	0.2	1.8	0.5
1999	1	0	0	2	0.6	0.2	1.3	0.2
2000	2	0	0	0	0.8	0.2	1.2	0.2
2001	2	0	1	2	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.2
2002	0	1	3	6	0.6	0.2	2.0	0.7
2003	1	2	4	5	0.0	0.0	2.7	1.3
2004	1	0	0	2	-0.2	-0.1	2.8	1.3
2005	1	0	0	1	0.2	0.1	2.7	1.3
2006	0	0	1	3	0.4	0.1	3.2	1.5
2007	0	2	2	3	-0.2	-0.1	3.3	1.7
2008	0	0	0	1	-0.4	-0.1	2.5	1.2
2009	0	0	0	0	-0.4	-0.1	1.7	0.5
2010	0	1	1	1	-0.2	-0.1	1.5	0.7
2011	0	0	0	4	-0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.7
2012	1	1	1	2	-0.2	-0.1	1.8	0.7
2013	1	0	0	0	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.3
2014	3	2	2	2	0.4	0.1	1.5	0.7
2015	4	0	0	1	1.2	0.4	1.7	0.7

¹ Presently grizzly bear numbers are so small in this ecosystem that the mortality goal shall be zero known human-caused mortality.

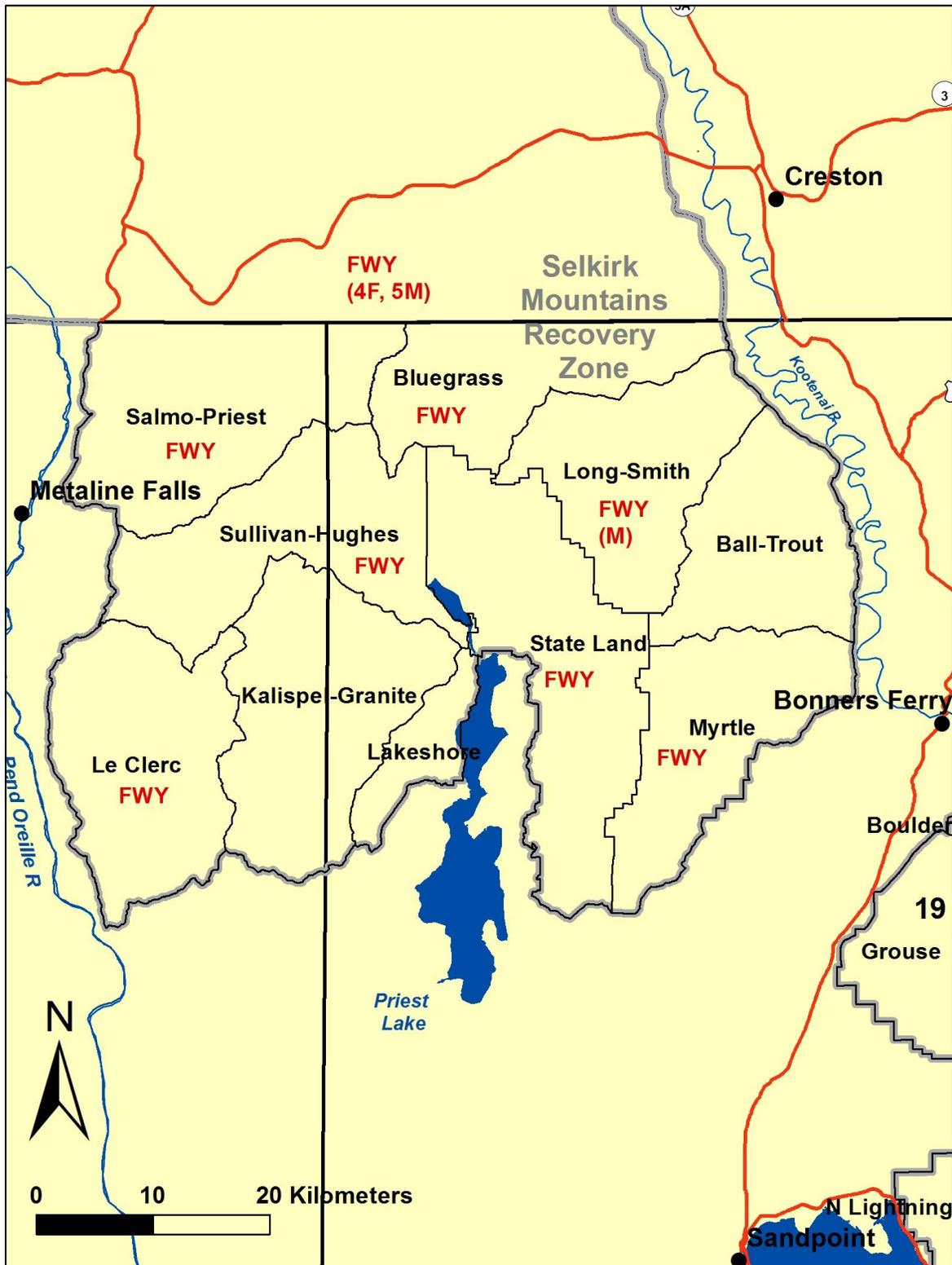


Figure 4. Female with young occupancy and known or probable mortality within Bear Management Units (BMUs) in the Selkirk Mountains recovery zone 2010–2015. (FWY indicates occupancy of a female with young and sex of any mortality is indicated in parentheses).

Table 5. Occupancy of bear management units by grizzly bear females with young in the Selkirk Mountains recovery zone 1996–2015.

YEAR	Ball-Trout	Blue Grass	Kalispell-Granite	Lakeshore	LeClerc	Long-Smith	Myrtle	Salmo-Priest	State Idaho	Sullivan-Hughes	BC
1996	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
1997	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
1998	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
1999	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
2000	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2001	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
2002	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
2003	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
2004	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
2005	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
2006	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
2007	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
2008	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
2009	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2010	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
2011	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
2012	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
2013	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
2014	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2015	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Hair Collection, Remote Camera, and Genetics

USFWS, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Idaho Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kalispel Tribe, and Colville National Forest personnel placed remote cameras and DNA hair corrals throughout the Selkirk ecosystem in 2015 in an attempt to document grizzly bear recovery criteria. Remote cameras and corrals were deployed at 189 sites and were checked for pictures and hair collection 241 times during 2015 (Table 6 and Fig 5). Grizzly bears were detected by cameras at 31 sites and 24 of those sites produced hair for genetic analysis. Females with cubs were detected at 2 corral sites (Kalispell-Granite and Blue-Grass Bear Management Units [BMUs]). In addition, we set up cameras opportunistically along roadways and trails presumed to be on grizzly bear travel routes. This extended effort documented presence of one female grizzly bear with cub in Grass Creek, one female with two yearlings (Long-Smith BMU), and several other single individuals. Hair samples were collected from sign posts, bridges, and rub trees, as observed opportunistically by study personnel. Thirty-two bear rub locations have been identified and installed since 2013. These 32 rub sites were checked a total of 130 times during 2015. Hair samples were also collected from all captured individuals.

All hair samples were visually examined by study personnel to screen out hair that appeared to be black bear and the remaining 330 samples collected in 2015 were sent to Wildlife Genetics International for analysis. Twenty individual bears were genotyped from corral sites, two from opportunistic samples, one from a rub site, and one from a captured bear. Genotypes from these individuals were added to the grizzly bear genetic database from the South Selkirk Mountains that now contains 149 individuals.

Table 6. Grizzly bear hair snagging corrals and success in the Selkirk Mountains study area, 2013–2015.

Year	Number of sites	Sites with grizzly bear pictures	Sites with grizzly bear hair	Individual grizzly bear genotypes	Locations with grizzly bear pictures or hair	Comments
2013	29	4	0	0	Apache Ridge, Italian Peak, Sema Meadows, Plowboy Ridge	
2014	47	12	11	4	Apache Ridge, Italian Peak, Joe Lake, Cow Creek, Boundary Creek, Trapper Creek, Grass Creek, Burton Ridge, Soldier Creek, Saddle Pass, Caribou Pass	Female with cubs at Burton Ridge, Boundary Creek, and Italian Peak
2015	189	31	24	20	Ruby Ridge, Joe Creek, Hellroaring Creek, Joe Lake, Boundary Creek, Hughes Meadows, Malcom Creek, Jungle Creek, Bog Creek, Grass Creek, Horton Creek, Burton Ridge, Italian Creek, Smith Creek	Female with cubs at Jungle Creek, Boundary Creek, and Grass Creek.
Total	265	47	25	20 ¹		

¹Some individuals captured multiple times among years.

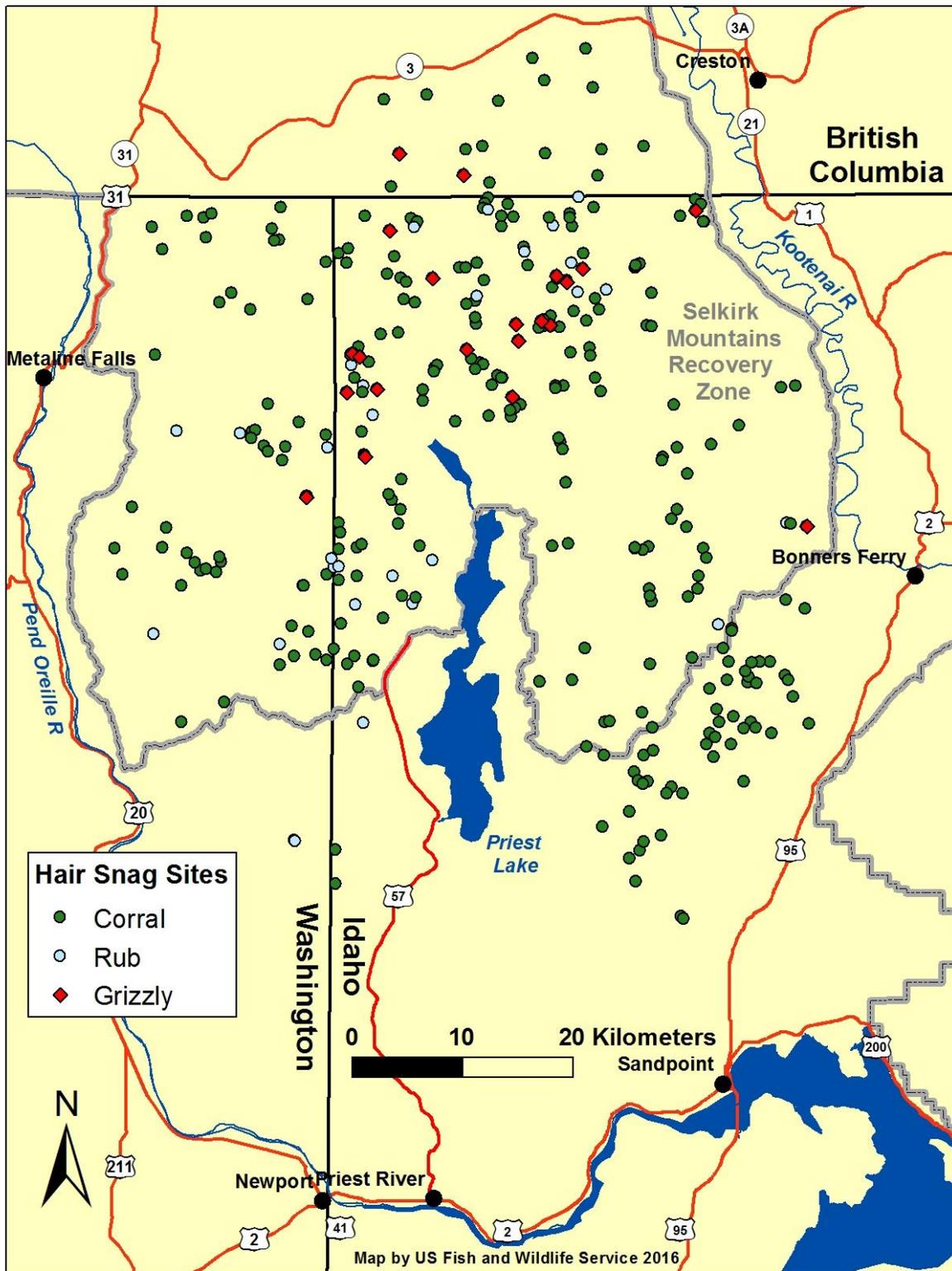


Figure 5. Location of hair snag corral sample sites in the Selkirk Mountains, 2007–15.

Known Grizzly Bear Mortality

Seventy-three instances of known and probable grizzly bear mortality were detected inside or within 16 km of the U.S. SMGBRZ and the BC South Selkirk grizzly bear population unit during 1980–2015 (Tables 1 and 7, Fig. 6). Sixty-three were human caused, 7 were natural mortality, and 3 were unknown cause. Fifty-one occurred in BC, 14 in Idaho, and 8 in Washington. Seasons were: April 1 to May 31 (spring), June 1 to August 31 (summer), and September 1 to November 30 (autumn).

Sixty-four individuals were of known sex and age (Table 7). Twelve were adult females, 16 adult males, 7 subadult females, 13 subadult males, 8 yearlings, and 8 cubs. Mortality causes (frequency) were management removal (28), unknown but human-caused (11), natural (7), poaching (7), mistaken identity (6), BC legal hunting (5), unknown (3), vehicle collision (3), and defense of life (3). Sixteen mortalities occurred in spring, 14 in summer, 37 in autumn, and 6 unknown. Four management removals occurred in spring, 4 in summer, and 20 in autumn. Two unknown but human-caused mortalities occurred in spring, 3 in summer, 4 in autumn, and 2 unknown. Three natural mortalities occurred in summer, one in autumn, and three unknown. One poaching mortality occurred in spring, one in summer, and 5 during autumn. One mistaken identity mortality occurred in spring and 4 in autumn. Four legal hunting mortalities in BC occurred in spring and one in summer. One vehicle collision occurred in spring and two in summer. Two defense of life mortalities occurred in spring and one in autumn.

Table 7. Cause, timing, and location of known or probable grizzly bear mortality in or within 16 km of the Selkirk Mountains recovery zone (with South Selkirk Population Unit), 1982–2015.

Age / sex / season / ownership	Mortality cause									Total
	Defense of life	Legal Hunt	Management removal	Mistaken identity	Natural	Poaching	Vehicle Collision	Unknown, human	Unknown	
BC Adult female	1	1	3		3		1	1		10
US Adult female				1		1				2
BC Subadult female			2			1	1	1		5
US Subadult female	1			1						2
BC Adult male		2	6				1			10
US Adult male				1		2		3		6
BC Subadult male		2	4	1				1	1	9
US Subadult male	1		1	1				1		4
BC Yearling			3		2					5
US Yearling				1				2		3
BC Cub			4		2					6
US Cub						2				2
BC Unknown			5						1	6
US Unknown								2	1	3
Total	3	5	28	6	7	7	3	11	3	73
Season¹										
Spring	2	4	4	1		1	1	2	1	16
Summer		1	4		3	1	2	3		14
Autumn	1		20	5	1	5		4	1	37
Unknown					3			2	1	6
Ownership										
BC Private			24		1			1		26
BC Public	1	5	3	1	6	2	3	2	2	25
US Private	2		1	1				2		6
US Public				4		5		6	1	16

¹Spring = April 1 – May 31, Summer = June 1 – August 31, Autumn = September 1 – November 30

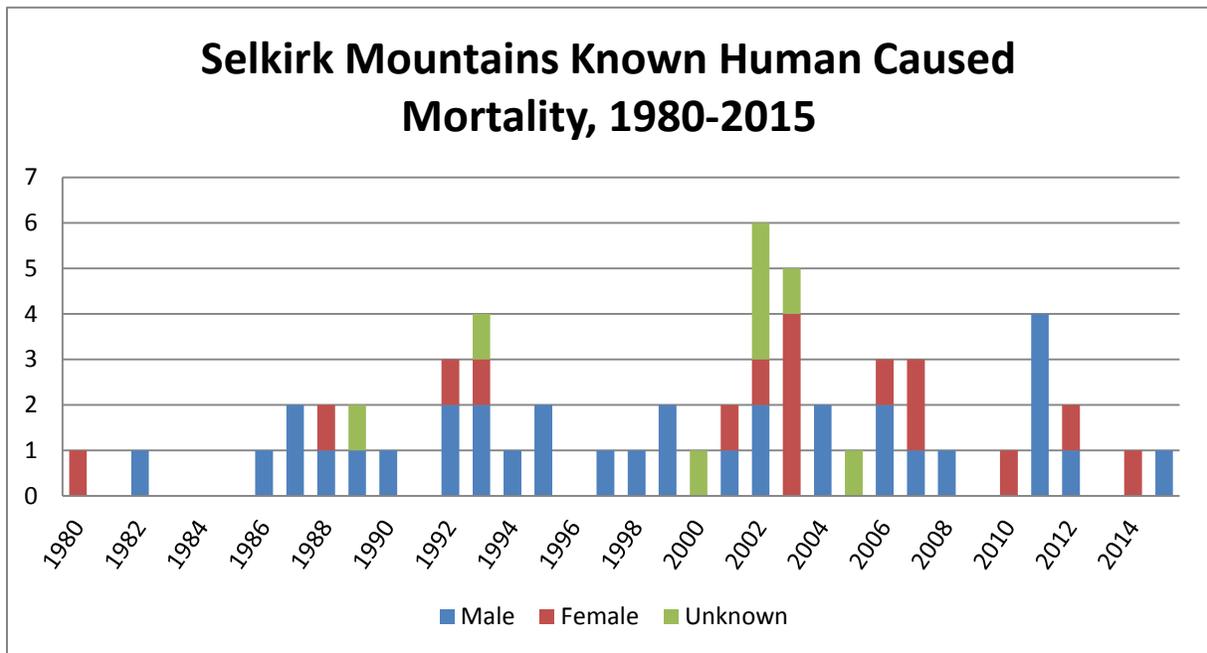


Figure 6. Known grizzly bear annual mortality from all causes in Selkirk Mountains recovery zone (including Canada), 1980–2015.

Capture and Marking

Bears were caught in Aldrich foothold snares or culvert traps. Remote cameras were used to record activity at trap sites. Trapping typically occurred during some or all the months of May-August during 2012-2015. Three grizzly bears (2 females and 1 male) were captured during research trapping in 2015 (one in the U.S. and two in BC). Thirty-nine grizzly bears were captured during 1025 trap-nights in BC and the U.S. during 2007-15 (Table 8, 9 and Fig. 7). Forty-seven individual black bears have been captured during these efforts (Appendix Table 1).

Rates of grizzly bear capture were higher in BC than the U.S. Thirty individual grizzly bears have been captured in BC at a rate of 1 new individual every 15 trap-nights. Rates of capture of grizzly bears in the U.S. were 1 new individual every 58 trap-nights. Rates of capture for black bears were similar in BC and the U.S. at 1 new individual every 22 to 28 trap-nights.

Table 8. Capture effort and success for grizzly bears and black bears within the Selkirk Mountains study areas, 2007–2015.

Area / Year(s)	Trap-nights	Grizzly Bear Captures	Black Bear Captures	Trap-nights / Grizzly Bear	Trap-nights / Black Bear
Selkirks, US, 2012–15					
ID Total Captures	395	9	14	44	28
WA Total Captures	131	0	5	0	26
US Individuals ¹	526	9	19	58	28
Selkirks, BC, 2007-15					
Total Captures	499	34	28	15	18
Individuals ¹	499	30	23	17	22

¹Only captures of individual bears included. Recaptures are not included in summary.

Table 9. Grizzly bear capture information from the Selkirk Mountain study area, 2007–2015. Multiple captures of a single bear during a given year are not included.

Bear	Capture Date	Sex	Age (Est.)	Mass kg (Est.)	Location	Capture Type
119	4/21/07	M	19	205	Duck Lake, BC	Research
138	5/20/08	F	2	100	Corn Cr., BC	Research
144	6/16/08	M	12	(205)	Next Cr., BC	Research
150	6/21/08	F	7	71	Elmo Cr., BC	Research
151	6/23/08	F	20	82	Cultus Cr., BC	Research
155	6/27/08	M	11	(170)	Next Cr., BC	Research
149	6/12/09	M	10	216	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
161	6/15/09	F	18	82	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
163	6/16/09	F	7	(102)	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
8005	6/16/09	F	4	(90)	Salmo River, BC	Management, pig feed
165	6/19/09	F	14	(80)	Apex Cr., BC	Research
169	6/23/09	F	20	(80)	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
171	6/25/09	F	14	91	Seaman Cr., BC	Research
177	6/22/10	F	9	84	Hidden Cr., BC	Research
183	6/29/10	F	11	102	Sheep Cr., BC	Research
17	9/17/10	M	3	100	Nelson Golf Course, BC	Management, non-target capture
154	9/18/10	M	(4)	(91)	Summit Cr., BC	Research
7	9/25/10	F	13	132	Nelson Golf Course, BC	Management, grease bin
152	5/26/11	M	10	148	Cottonwood Cr., BC	Research
149	5/31/11	M	12	(205)	Cottonwood Cr., BC	Research
2	8/19/11	M	26	178	Creston Valley, BC	Research
174	5/25/12	M	6	84	Cottonwood Cr., BC	Research
166	5/30/12	M	3	56	Cottonwood Cr., BC	Research
170	6/5/12	M	6	130	Salmo River, BC	Management, cat food
183	6/8/12	F	11	--	Lost Cr., BC	Research
156	8/17/12	M	2	125	Creston Valley, BC	Management, fruit trees
12003	8/15/12	F	8	111	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
12008	8/26/12	F	15	114	Trapper Cr. ID	Research
12006	8/29/12	F	2	60	Trapper Cr. ID	Research
221	8/29/12	M	6	149	Creston Valley, BC	Research
226	6/6/13	F	6	115	Creston Valley, BC	Management, frequenting dump
13017	7/22/13	F	2	58	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
13021	7/30/13	F	3	76	Bugle Cr., ID	Research
13023	7/30/13	F	9	94	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
12016	8/23/13	F	10	104	Grass Cr., ID	Research
232	5/17/14	M	5	130	Apex Cr., BC	Research
174	5/22/14	M	8	116	Apex Cr., BC	Research
234	5/23/14	M	7	75	Ymir Cr., BC	Research
240	5/26/14	M	22	>245	Cottonwood Cr., BC	Research
150	6/14/14	F	14	70	Hidden Cr., BC	Research
248	6/19/14	M	4	93	Apex Cr., BC	Research
250	6/21/14	M	7	123	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
14327	6/21/14	M	7	195	Jackson Cr., ID	Research
227	6/24/14	M	8	112	Hidden Cr., BC	Research
229	6/26/14	F	4	72	Apex Cr., BC	Research
4250	10/6/14	F	(6)	(145)	Creston Valley, BC	Research
1019	5/30/15	F	3	221	Creston Valley, BC	Research
1020	6/7/15	F	6	144	Cultus Cr., BC	Research
150	6/13/15	F	14	182	Next Cr., BC	Research
1001	6/20/15	M	6	215	Trapper Cr., ID	Research

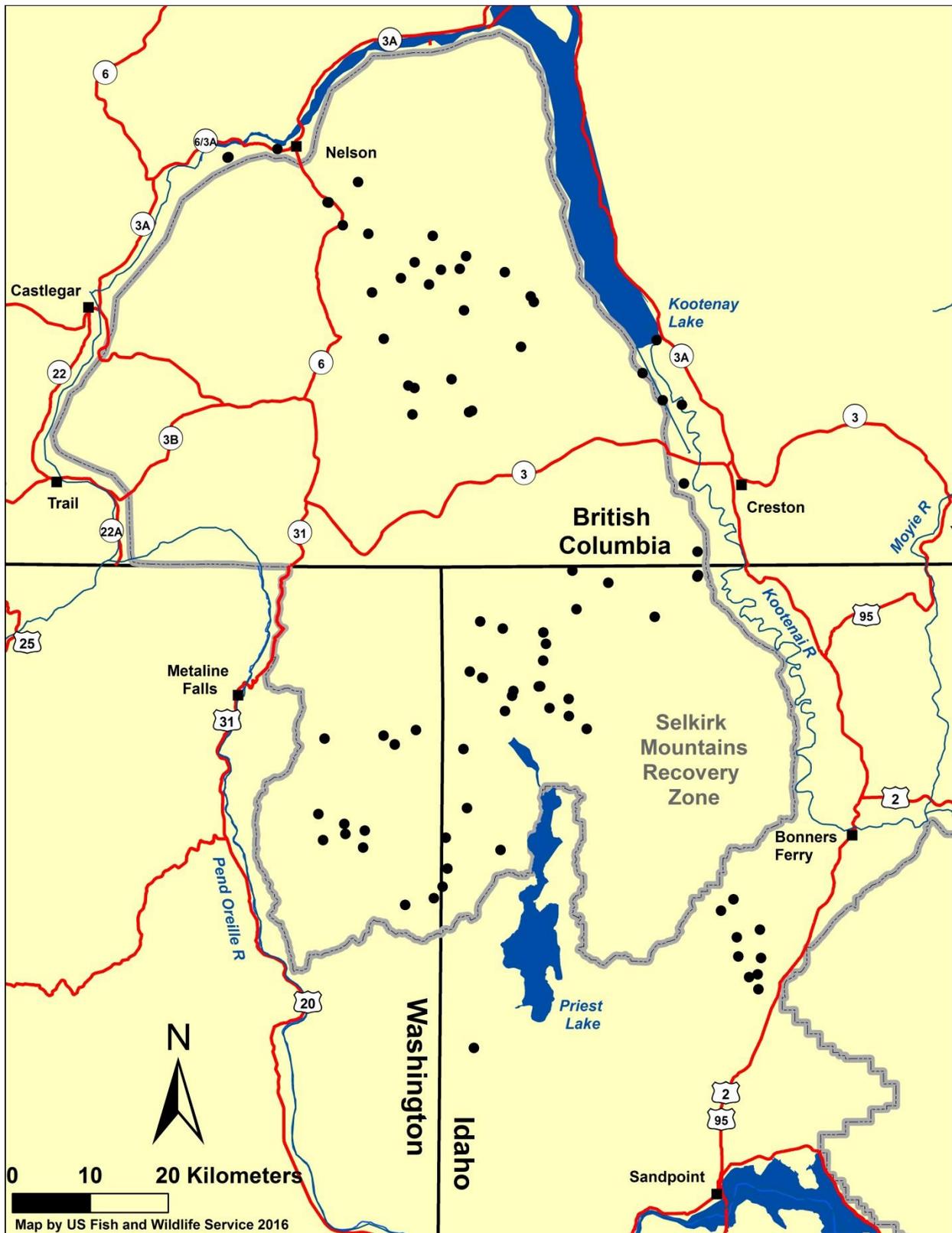


Figure 7. Trap site locations in the Selkirk Mountains study area 2007–2015.

Grizzly Bear Monitoring and Home Ranges

Fourteen grizzly bears were monitored by GPS radio collars during portions of 2015 in the Selkirk Mountains study area. Monitoring included eight females (4 adults and 4 subadults) and six males (5 adults and 1 subadult).

Specific and general locations were obtained on collared bears, but only aerial, specific locations and GPS collar locations were used to calculate home ranges. Convex polygon life ranges were computed for bears monitored during 2007–2015 (Table 10, Appendix 2, Figs. 9–42). Bears with multiannual home range estimates and sample sizes in excess of 50 locations were used to calculate basic statistics. Adult male life range averaged 1,088 km² (95% CI ± 425, $n = 11$) using the minimum convex polygon. Adult female life range averaged 655 km² (95% CI ± 563, $n = 15$) using the minimum convex polygon estimator.

Home ranges of collared grizzly bears overlap extensively on a yearly and lifetime basis. However, bears typically utilize the same space at different times. Male home ranges overlap several females to increase breeding potential, but males and females consort only during the brief period of courtship and breeding. Adult male bears, whose home ranges overlap, seldom use the same habitat at the same time to avoid conflict.

Table 10. Home range sizes of grizzly bears in the Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho and southern British Columbia, 2006–2015.

Bear	Sex	Age (Est)	Years	Collar Type	Number of fixes	100% Convex polygon (km ²)	Area of use
103	M	3-4	2006-07	GPS	4,872	6,545	Kootenai, & Pend Oreille River, BC, ID, & WA
119	M	19-20	2008-09	GPS	2,115	1,830	Selkirk Mts., BC
138	F	2-3	2008-09	GPS	3,232	750	Kootenay River, BC
144	M	9	2008	GPS	1,648	883	Selkirk Mts., BC
7005	M	4	2008	GPS	229	1,144	Selkirk Mts., BC
150	F	6-13	2008-09, 2014-15	GPS	5,515	1,354	Selkirk Mts., BC
155	M	11-13	2008-10	GPS	2,175	1,479	Selkirk Mts., BC
161	F	6-7	2009-10	GPS	2,008	126	Selkirk Mts., BC
163	F	6-7	2009-10	GPS	4,144	271	Selkirk Mts., BC
165	F	15-16	2009-10	GPS	416	169	Selkirk Mts., BC
171	F	15-16	2009-10	GPS	2,740	227	Selkirk Mts., BC
8005	F	4-5	2009-10	GPS	1,649	4,511	Selkirk Mts., BC
177	F	9	2010	GPS	486	72	Selkirk Mts., BC
154	M	4	2010	GPS	396	178	Selkirk Mts., BC
183	F	9-12	2010, 12-13	GPS	616	362	Selkirk Mts., BC
7	F	9	2010	GPS	35	75	Selkirk Mts., BC
17	M	3	2010	GPS	255	106	Selkirk Mts., BC
152	M	6-7	2011-12	GPS	1,189	340	Selkirk Mts., BC
149	M	11	2011	GPS	737	2,114	Selkirk Mts., BC
12003	F	5-7	2012-13	GPS	698	418	Selkirk Mts, ID
12006	F	2-4	2012-14	GPS	626	532	Selkirk Mts, ID
12008	F	15-17	2012-14	GPS	1,004	696	Selkirk Mts, ID
221	M	6-7	2012-13	GPS	47	140	Selkirk Mts., BC
174	M	4-6	2012-14	GPS	972	621	Selkirk Mts., BC
12016	F	10-12	2013-15	GPS	715	199	Selkirk Mts, ID
13017	F	2-4	2013-15	GPS	1,635	643	Selkirk Mts, ID

Bear	Sex	Age (Est)	Years	Collar Type	Number of fixes	100% Convex polygon (km ²)	Area of use
13021	F	3-5	2013-15	GPS	1,187	1,801	Selkirk Mts, ID
13023	F	9-11	2013-15	GPS	1,109	472	Selkirk Mts, ID
226	F	6-8	2013-15	GPS	2,362	477	Selkirk Mts, BC
229	F	3-4	2014-15	GPS	474	71	Selkirk Mts, BC
232	M	5	2014	GPS	1,354	353	Selkirk Mts, BC
234	M	7-8	2014-15	GPS	3,134	444	Selkirk Mts, BC
248	M	4-5	2014-15	GPS	2,947	2,299	Selkirk Mts, BC
250	M	7-8	2014-15	GPS	3,224	829	Selkirk Mts, BC
4250	F	(6-7)	2014	GPS	1,722	395	Selkirk Mts, BC
227	M	8-9	2014-15	GPS	2,227	771	Selkirk Mts, BC
1001	M	(4)	2015	GPS	1,352	1,357	Selkirk Mts, BC
1019	F	(3)	2015	GPS	893	187	Selkirk Mts, BC
1020	F	5	2015	GPS	1,223	81	Selkirk Mts, BC

Grizzly Bear Denning Chronology

We used VHF and GPS location data from radio-collared grizzly bears during 1998-2015 to summarize den entry and exit dates by month and week. Den entry dates ($n = 62$) ranged from the first week of October to the first week of December. Fifty-seven (92%) entries occurred between the 2nd week of October and the 3rd week of November (Fig. 8). Selkirk Mountains grizzly bears (median entry during 4th week of October) entered dens 2 and 4 weeks earlier than bears in the Cabinet Mountains and Yaak river drainage (Kasworm et al. 2015), respectively (median entry during 2nd week of November for Cabinet bears and 4th week of November for Yaak bears). Males enter dens one week later than females (Fig. 8). By December 1, 98% of monitored Selkirk grizzly bears had entered winter dens. By this same date, only 66% of Cabinet and Yaak grizzly bears had entered dens.

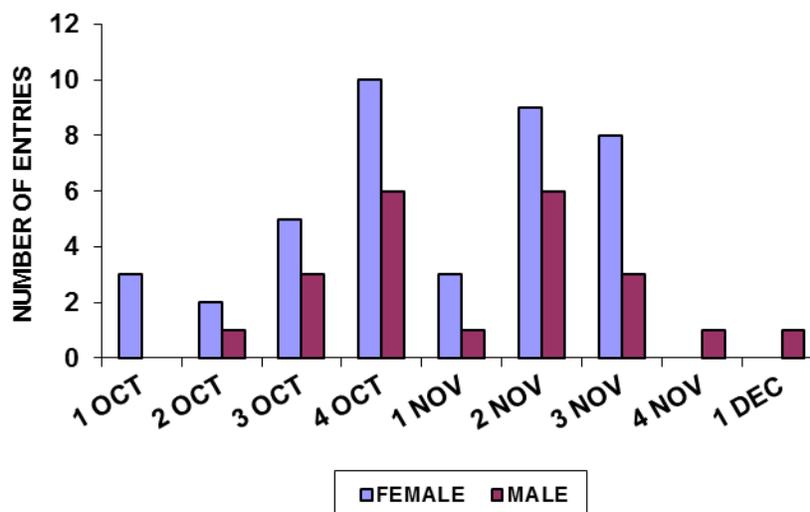


Figure 8. Month and week of den entry for male and female radio-collared grizzly bears in the Selkirk Mountains, 1998–2015.

We have far less den exit dates ($n = 13$) for Selkirk radio-collared grizzly bears, and all emergence data is from female grizzly bears. Exit dates for female Selkirk grizzly bears ranged from the second week of April to the first week of May (median of 4th week in April). Exit dates for females are similar to those of females in the Cabinet Mountains and Yaak drainage (Kasworm et al. 2015). In general, Cabinet and Yaak female grizzly bears exit dens only one week earlier than female bears in the Selkirks.

Inter-ecosystem Isotope Analysis

We are using isotope analysis to compare grizzly bear food use (plant vs. animal matter) between ecosystems, among sex-age classes, and across management status. Samples analyzed are only from grizzly bears of known sex and age, the majority coming from capture events; future analysis will include samples from known grizzly bears at hair rub and hair corral sites. To date, we have obtained carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and nitrogen ($\delta^{15}\text{N}$) isotope ratios from 237 grizzly bear hair and blood samples between 1984 and 2015 across the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems. Across the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems, adult males consume slightly more animal matter (22%) than adult females (14%) and subadults (13%). Adult females in the Yaak River consume higher proportions of animal matter (22%) than do adult females in the Cabinets (10%) and the Selkirks (6%).

We estimate that 14 percent of the annual diet of Cabinet Mountain grizzly bears ($n = 19$ hair samples from non-management bears) is derived from animal matter. Adult males had slightly higher $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ stable isotope signatures (4.2‰) than adult females (3.1‰), indicating greater use of available animal matter (24% vs. 10% animal matter, respectively).

Yaak grizzly bear diets contain nearly 22% animal matter ($n = 84$ hair samples). Adult female use of animal matter varies widely; $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ and diet values ranged as low as 2.3‰ (~6% animal matter) to as high as 7.2‰ (~80% animal matter).

Sampled grizzly bears in the Selkirk ecosystem consumed less animal matter than Cabinet and Yaak bears (12%; $n = 36$ hair samples). Diets of non-management, adult female bears include only 7% animal matter. However, one adult female captured in a management incident in the Creston Valley fed on animal matter at a rate of 82%. We suspect bears such as her likely gain meat from bone piles or dead livestock at nearby dairy operations.

Across ecosystems, conflict and management bears had slightly higher proportions of meat (26%) in assimilated diets than research bears (17%). Management bears did not necessarily have higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures as would indicate a more corn-based or anthropogenic food source (-23‰ for both research and management bears). In fact, highest $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in our dataset came from a research female caught in Corn Creek of the Creston Valley, BC in 2008. By all indication, she likely fed extensively on corn from nearby fields without human conflict.

By analyzing different hair types that initiate growth at different times of the year, we have observed increases in proportion of animal matter in bear diets as they transition from summer months (diet estimated from guard hairs) to fall months (diet from underfur). We currently have 23 bears with paired guard hair and underfur samples from a single capture event. In all cases, grizzly bears have either 1) the same dietary meat proportion in summer vs. fall or 2) have higher amounts of meat in their fall diet. On average, grizzly bears increased their meat consumption by 67% from summer to fall. Fall shifts toward meat use were not isolated to a specific sex-age class. Larger shifts include: an adult male (#4327) shifting from 31% meat in summer to 82% meat in fall, an adult female (mortality on 5/18/2012) consuming 14% in spring time, then 38% in the fall, and a subadult female grizzly (#675) with a summer diet consisting of 6% meat and fall diet of 16% meat. We suspect that wounding loss and gut piles from hunted ungulates contribute to observed increases in meat use by grizzly bears in fall months.

Berry Production

In an effort to index year-to-year production of huckleberries, an important summer and early-fall food for Selkirk Mountain grizzly bears, we established and evaluated one huckleberry transect in the Selkirk Mountains in 2014 (Cow Creek; 2.2 berries per plot frame). In 2015, we established and evaluated four additional transects in the Selkirks; transects averaged 1.7 berries per frame in 2015 (range = 1.0–2.2; SE = 0.23). In comparison, we estimated huckleberry indices in the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem at 1.3 berries per plot in 2015 (n = 15 transects; range = 0.5–2.5; SE = 0.17).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Numerous individuals and agencies have contributed to bear research in the Selkirk Mountains area since 2012. We are indebted to all of the following that have assisted this study. This study has been aided with administrative assistance from K. Smith, and K. Marks. We thank field biologists J. Adams, T. Allen-Johnson, J. Durbin, T. Garwood, D. Gay, D. Gatchell, M. Gray, B. George, M. Grode, K. Hayes, K. Hennings, C. Kristovich, T. Larkowski, M. McKay, D. Misciagna, W. Parker, A. Prince, S. Sater, and T. Vent for bear capture and hair collection efforts. C. Harris, L. Harris, D. Paetkau, M. Proctor, and S. Waterhouse provided genetic analysis and interpretation.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel W. Wakkinen provided funding, administrative support, field equipment, and previously collected data. Kalispel Tribe Wildlife personnel B. George and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho Wildlife personnel N. Merz provided funding and field support. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel D. Base and A. Prince provided field and administrative support. Numerous individuals from the U.S. Forest Service have provided agency support and contributed their assistance to this project. These include: L. Allen, L. Bernhardt, M. Borysewicz, J. Durbin, K. Hennings and B. Lyndaker. N. Cheshire, and D. Parker provided exceptional services as aircraft pilots.

The BC Fish Wildlife Compensation Program, BC Habitat Trust Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, Colville National Forest, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Nature Conservancy Canada, Wilburforce Foundation, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funding and support for this project.

LITERATURE CITED

- Almack, J. A. 1985. An evaluation of grizzly bear habitat in the Selkirk Mountains of north Idaho. M.S. Thesis University of Idaho, Moscow. 87 pp.
- Brenna, J. T., T.N. Corso, H.J. Tobias and R.J. Caimi. 1997. High-precision continuous-flow isotope ratio mass spectrometry. *Mass Spectrometry Reviews*. 16:227–258.
- Hayne, D. W. 1959. Calculation of size of home range. *Journal of Mammalogy* 30:1-18.
- Hellgren, E. C., D. W. Carney, N. P. Garner, and M. R. Vaughn. 1988. Use of breakaway cotton spacers on radio collars. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 16:216-218.

- Johnson, K. G. and M. R. Pelton. 1980. Prebaiting and snaring techniques for black bears. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 8:46-54.
- Jonkel, J. J. 1993. A manual for handling bears for managers and researchers. Edited by T.J. Thier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, Montana.
- Kasworm, W. F., T. G. Radandt, J.E. Teisberg, A. Welander, M. Proctor, and C. Servheen. 2015. Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear recovery area 2014 research and monitoring progress report. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, Montana. 109 pp.
- Kendall, K. C. 1986. Grizzly and black bear feeding ecology in Glacier National Park, Montana. *National Park Service Progress Report*. 42 pp.
- Qi, H., Coplen, T.B., Geilmann, H., Brand, W.A. and Böhlke, J.K. 2003. Two new organic reference materials for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ measurements and a new value for the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of NBS 22 oil. *Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry*. 17:2483–2487.
- Stoneberg, R. and C. Jonkel. 1966. Age determination in black bears by cementum layers. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 30:411-414.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Grizzly bear recovery plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, Montana.
- Wakkinen, W. L. and B. K. Johnson. 2004. Selkirk ecosystem project January 2003-December 2003. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise. 24 pp.
- Wakkinen, W. L. and W. F. Kasworm. 2004. Demographics and population trends of grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems of British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. *Ursus* 15 65-75.
- Woods, J.G., D. Paetkau, D. Lewis, B.N. McLellan, M. Proctor, and C. Strobeck. 1999. Genetic tagging of free-ranging black and brown bears. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 27:616-627.

Appendix 1. Black bears captured by study personnel in the Selkirk Mountains, 2007–2015.

Bear	Tag Color	Capture Date	Sex	Age (Est.)	Mass kg (Est)	Location	Capture Type
116	BLACK	4/24/2007	M	13	(125)	Corn Cr., BC	Research
118	BLACK	4/26/2007	M	3	(57)	Corn Cr., BC	Research
120	BLACK	4/28/2007	M	UNK	163	Corn Cr., BC	Research
120	BLACK	4/30/2008	M	UNK	(136)	Corn Cr., BC	Research
118	BLACK	4/30/2008	M	(4)	(73)	Duck Lake, BC	Research
136	BLACK	5/17/2008	M	(6)	(79)	Leach Cr., BC	Research
146	BLACK	6/17/2008	M	UNK	(59)	Cultus Cr., BC	Research
148	BLACK	6/20/2008	M	UNK	76	Laib Cr., BC	Research
142	BLACK	6/21/2008	M	UNK	(68)	Cultus Cr., BC	Research

153	BLACK	6/24/2008	M	UNK	67	Elmo Cr., BC	Research
143	BLACK	5/17/2009	M	20	(109)	Corn Cr., BC	Research
145	BLACK	5/24/2009	UNK	UNK	(79)	Corn Cr., BC	Research
143	BLACK	5/27/2009	M	20	(109)	Dodge Cr., ID	Research
401	GREEN	6/22/2011	F	5	56	Fall Cr., ID	Research
403	GREEN	6/26/2011	F	9	79	Fall Cr., ID	Research
405	GREEN	6/29/2011	M	4	58	Fall Cr., ID	Research
407	GREEN	7/13/2011	M	2	47	Dodge Cr., ID	Research
409	GREEN	7/15/2011	M	3	54	Trail Cr., ID	Research
411	GREEN	7/18/2011	M	2	52	Fall Cr., ID	Research
417	GREEN	7/21/2011	M	UNK	37	Fall Cr., ID	Research
8006	GREEN	8/18/2011	F	2	41	Roman Nose Cr., ID	Research
155	GREEN	9/19/2011	F	8	(73)	Dodge Cr., ID	Research
165	GREEN	9/25/2011	M	11	139	SF Dodge Cr., ID	Research
160	BLACK	5/26/2012	M	4	(68)	Blewett Cr., BC	Research
2001	GREEN	5/29/2012	M	11	95	Fedar Cr., ID	Research
162	BLACK	5/29/2012	M	3	60	Blewett Cr., BC	Research
2005	GREEN	8/23/2012	M	3	61	Abandon Cr., ID	Research
3016	GREEN	7/21/2013	M	10	74	Hughes Meadows, ID	Research
3019	GREEN	7/22/2013	M	4	49	Upper Priest Rv., ID	Research
3020	GREEN	7/29/2013	M	3	49	Bugle Cr., ID	Research
3013	GREEN	8/20/2013	F	16	75	Silver Cr., ID	Research
238	BLACK	5/25/2014	M	9	58	Porcupine Cr., BC	Research
236	BLACK	5/25/2014	M	8	90	Clearwater Cr., BC	Research
236	BLACK	6/12/2014	M	6	93	Apex Cr., BC	Research
4326	GREEN	6/13/2014	M	6	61	Jackson Cr., ID	Research
246	BLACK	6/17/2014	M	8	102	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
244	BLACK	6/17/2014	M	15	76	Wildhorse Cr., BC	Research
392	RED	6/28/2014	M	(4)	72	Hemlock Cr., WA	Research
388	RED	7/19/2014	M	(6)	96	LeClerc Cr., WA	Research
389	RED	7/25/2014	F	(9)	57	Le Clerc Cr., WA	Research
391	RED	7/26/2014	M	(5)	63	Jungle Cr., WA	Research
390	RED	7/26/2014	F	(4)	61	Sema Meadows, WA	Research
4330	GREEN	8/22/2014	M	(6)	103	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
4331	GREEN	8/24/2014	F	(8)	(79)	Bugle Cr., ID	Research
4332	GREEN	8/26/2014	M	(12)	105	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
4333	GREEN	8/28/2014	M	(3)	53	Trapper Cr., ID	Research
4305	GREEN	6/24/2015	F	6	47	Lime Cr., ID	Research
4306	GREEN	7/18/2015	M	(12)	113	Bugle Cr., ID	Research
4307	GREEN	8/23/2015	M	(7)	(125)	Grass Cr., ID	Research

Appendix 2. Grizzly Bear Home Ranges

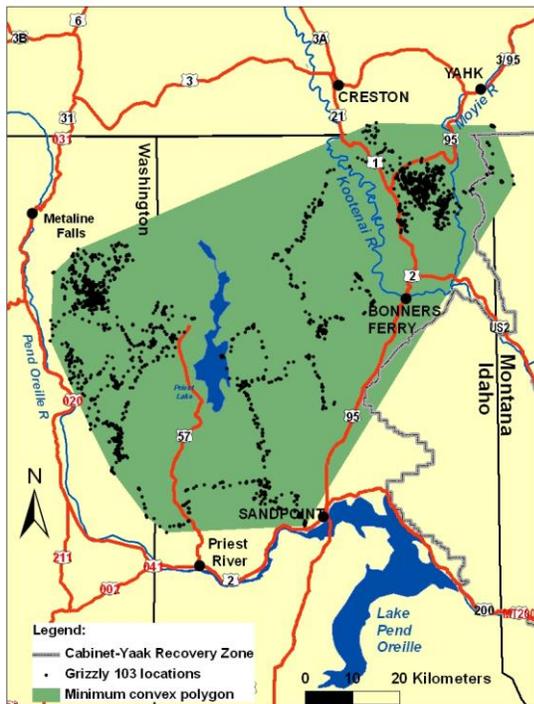


Figure 9. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 103 in the Yaak River and Selkirk Mountains, 2006-07.

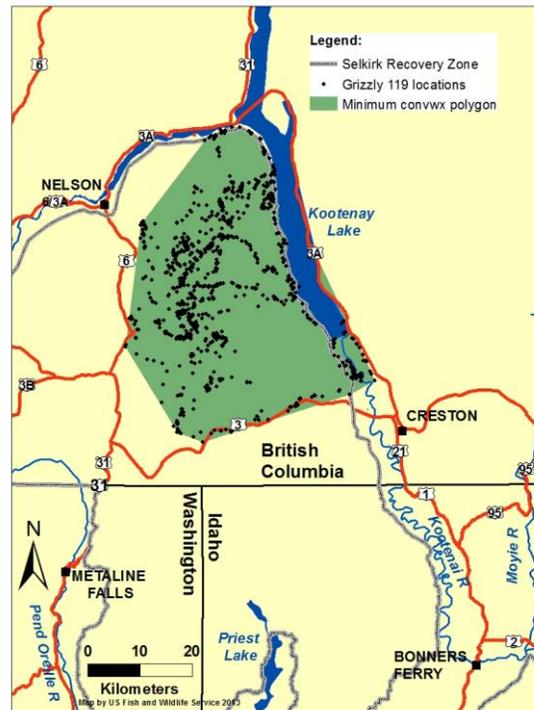


Figure 10. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 119 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008-09.

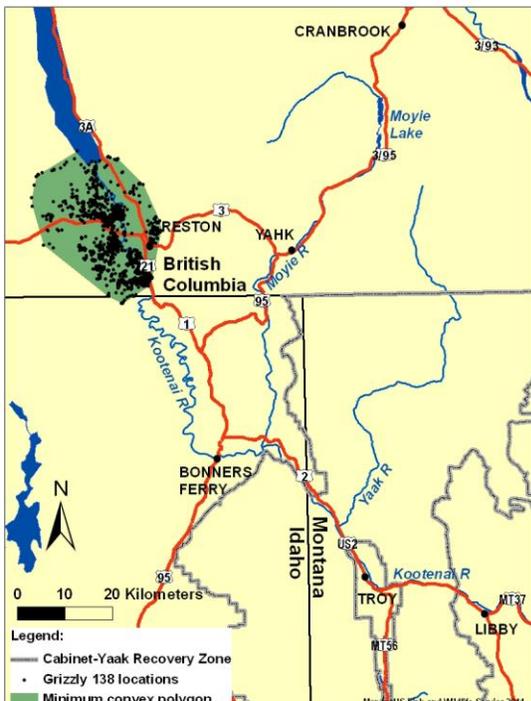


Figure 11. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 138 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008-09.

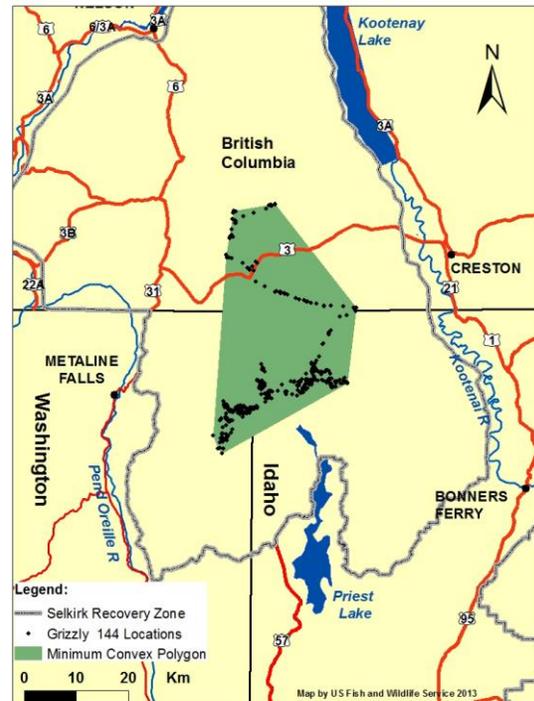


Figure 12. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 144 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008.

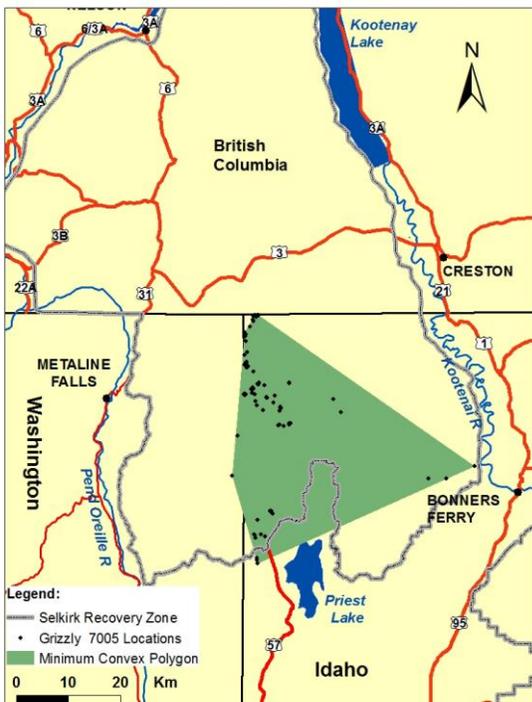


Figure 13. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of management male grizzly bear 7005 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008.

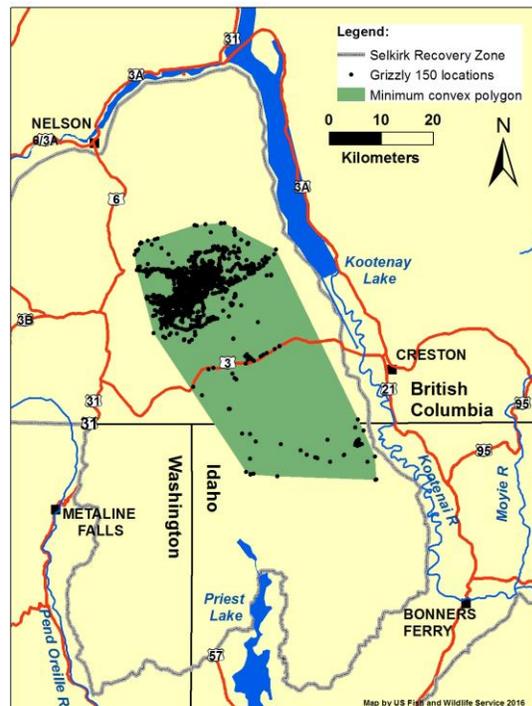


Figure 14. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 150 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008-09, 2014-15.

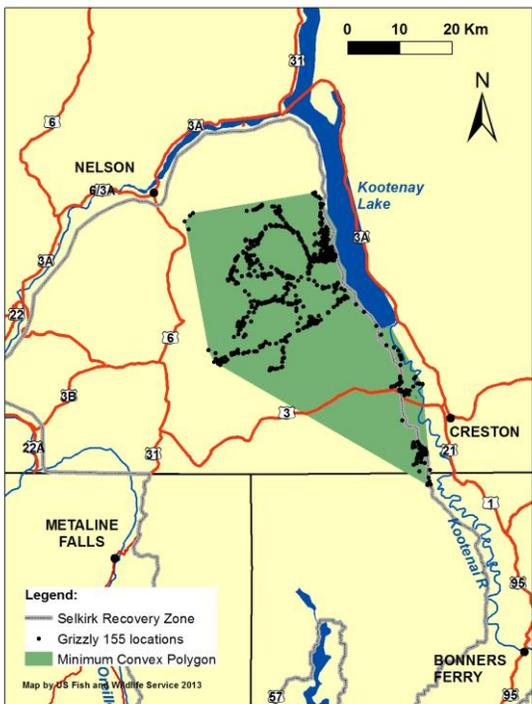


Figure 15. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 155 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2008-10.

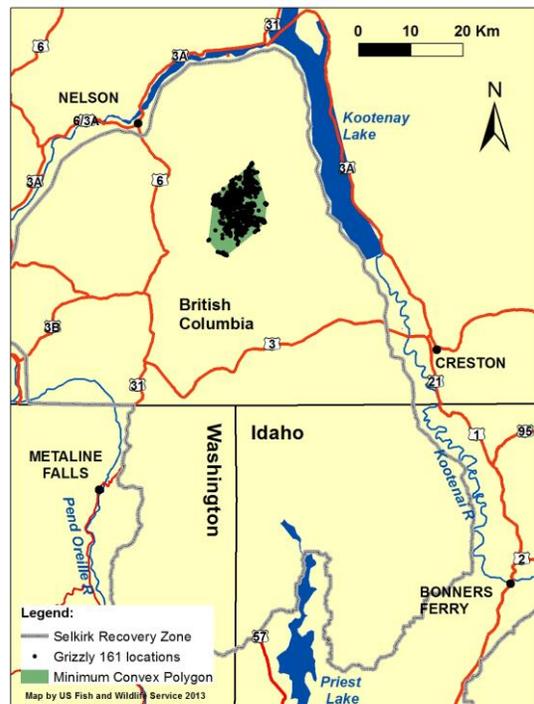


Figure 16. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 161 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2009-10.

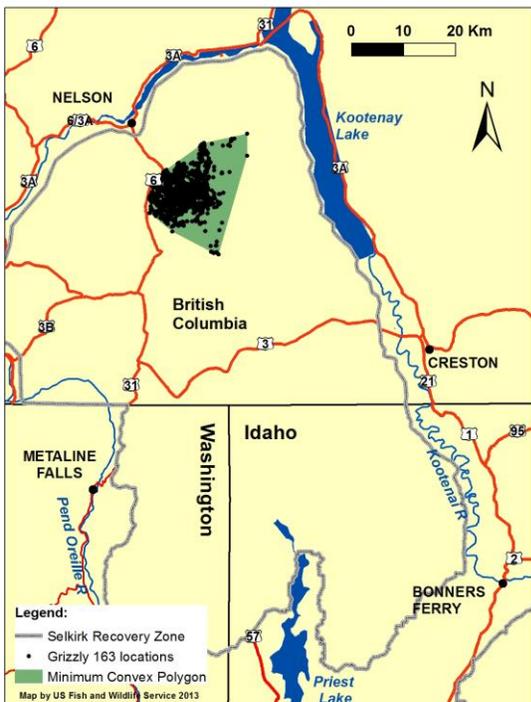


Figure 17. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 163 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2009-10.

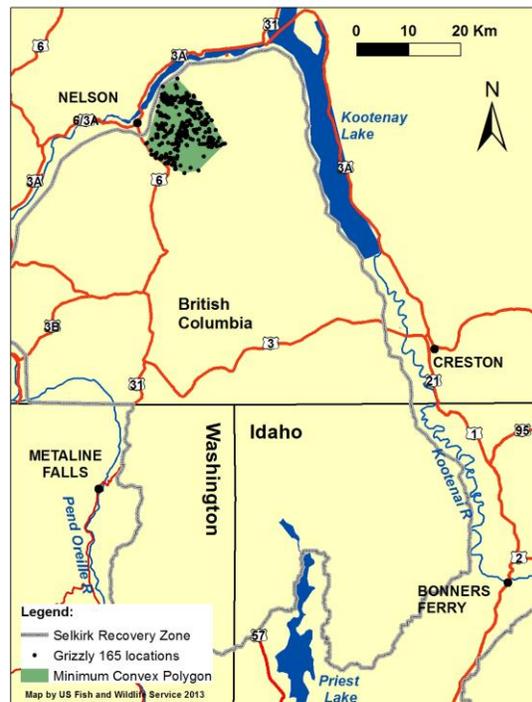


Figure 18. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 165 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2009-10.

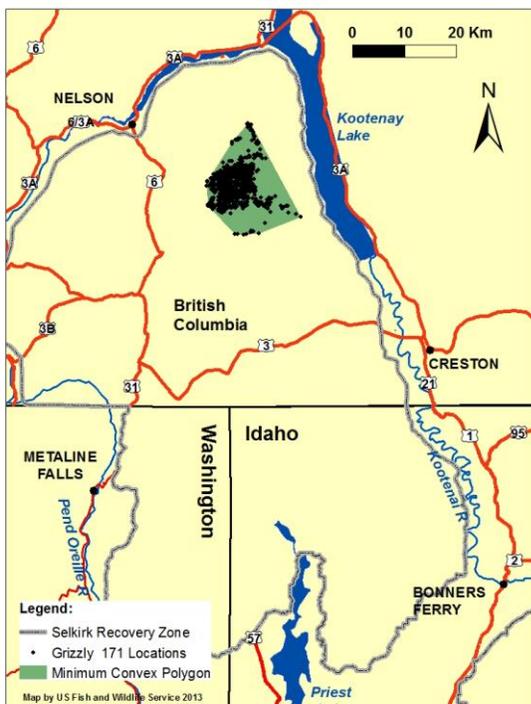


Figure 19. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 171 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2009-10.

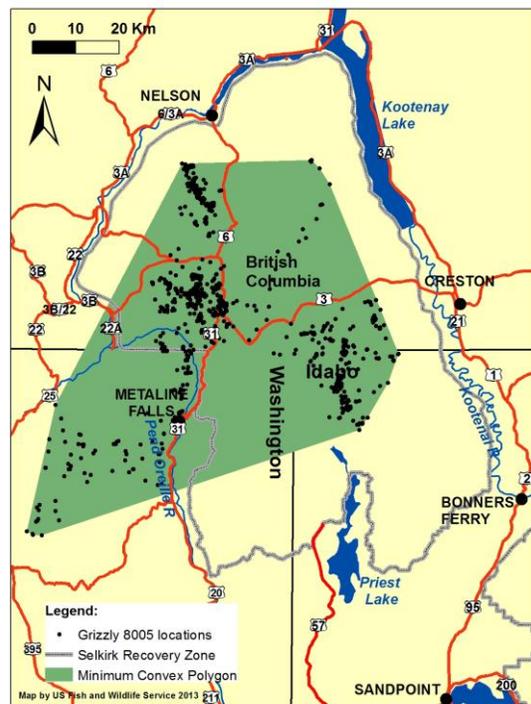


Figure 20. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 8005 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2009-10.

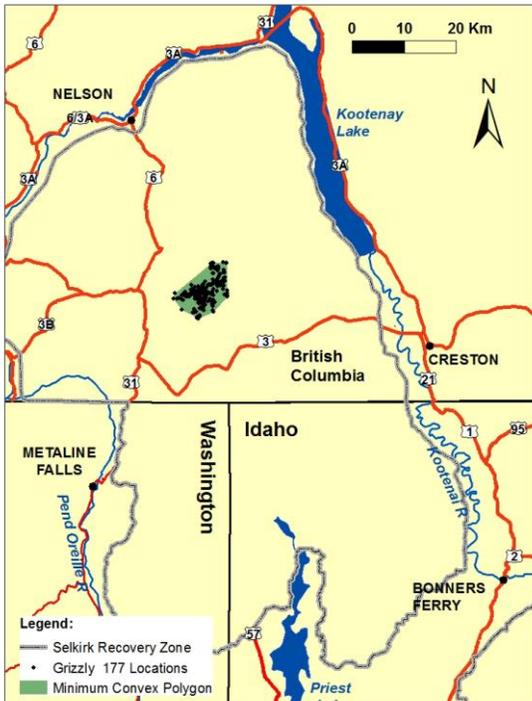


Figure 21. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 177 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2010.

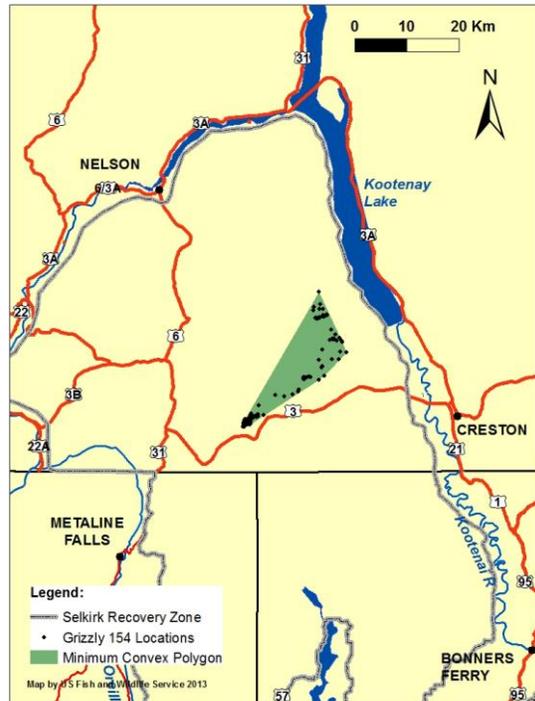


Figure 22. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 154 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2010.

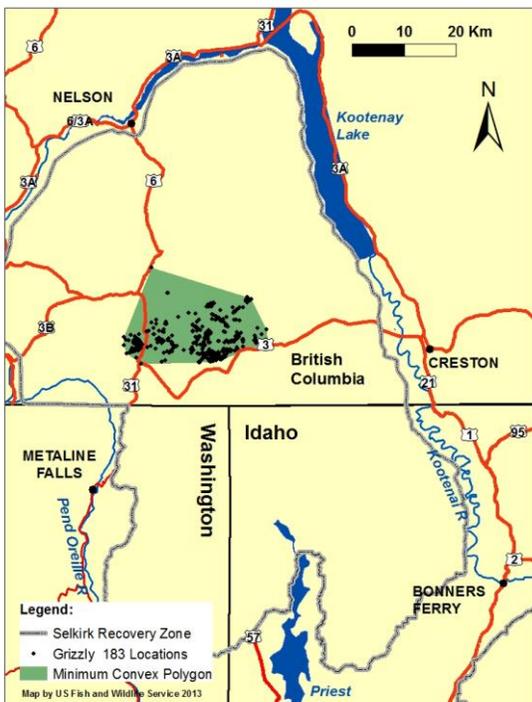


Figure 23. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 183 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2010 and 2012-13.

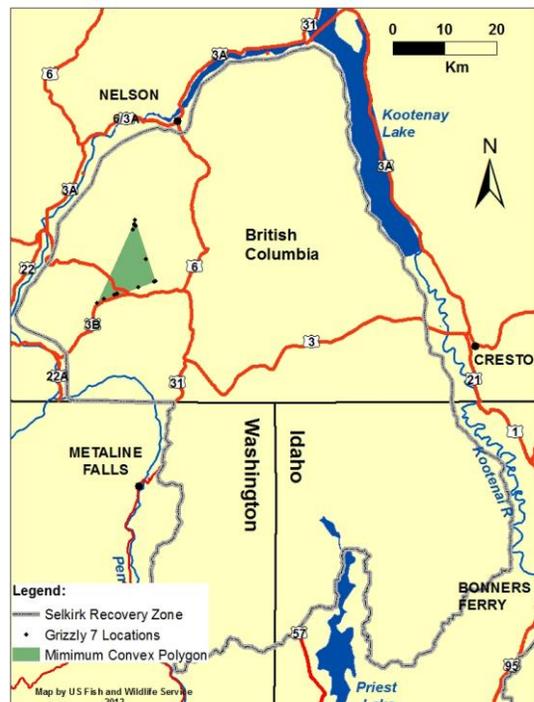


Figure 24. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of management female grizzly bear 7 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2010.

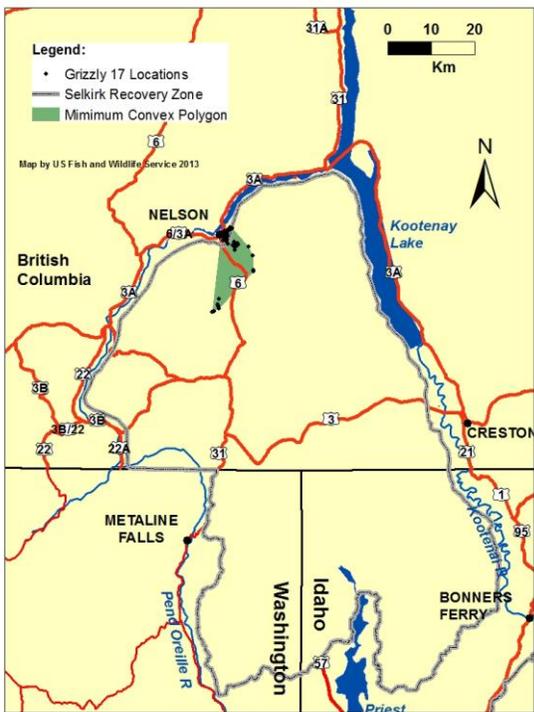


Figure 25. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of management male grizzly bear 17 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2010.

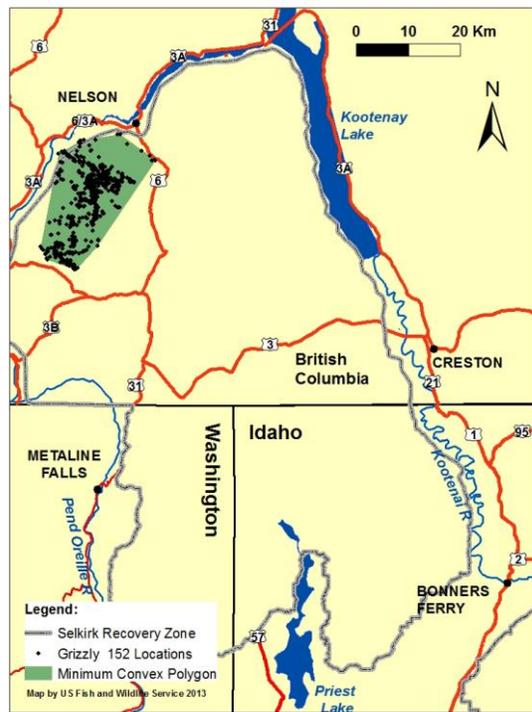


Figure 26. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 152 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2011-12.

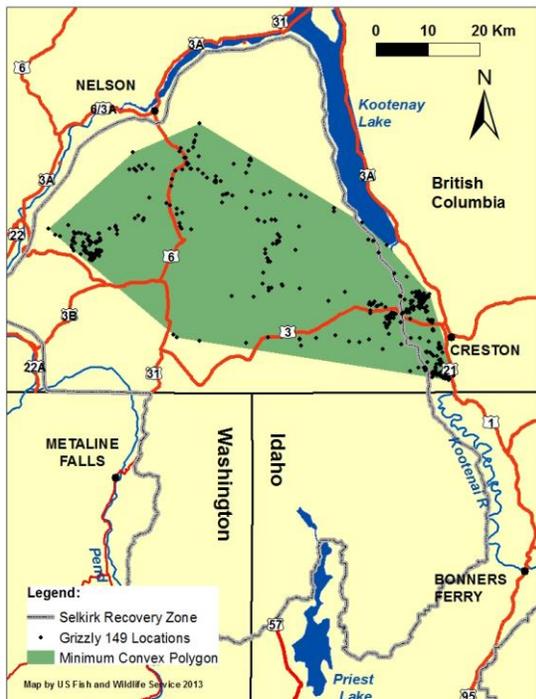


Figure 27. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 149 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2011.

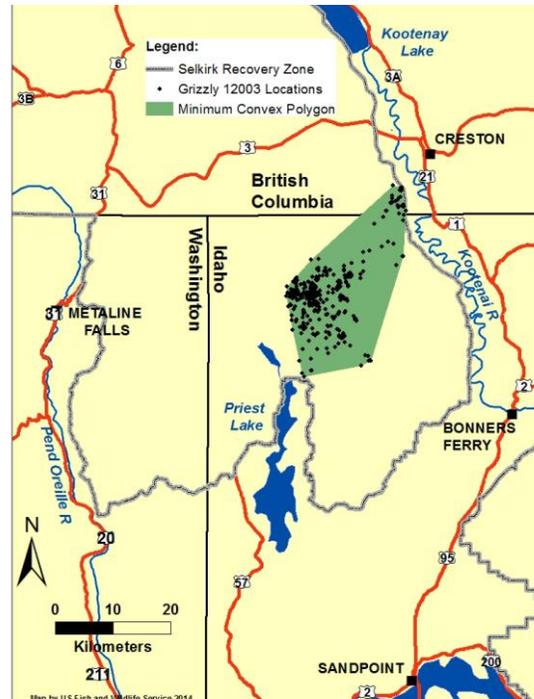


Figure 28. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 12003 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2012-14.

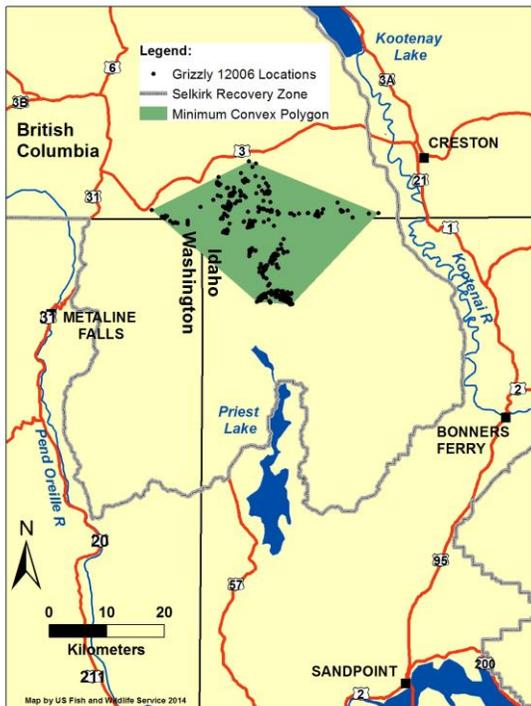


Figure 29. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 12006 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2012-14.

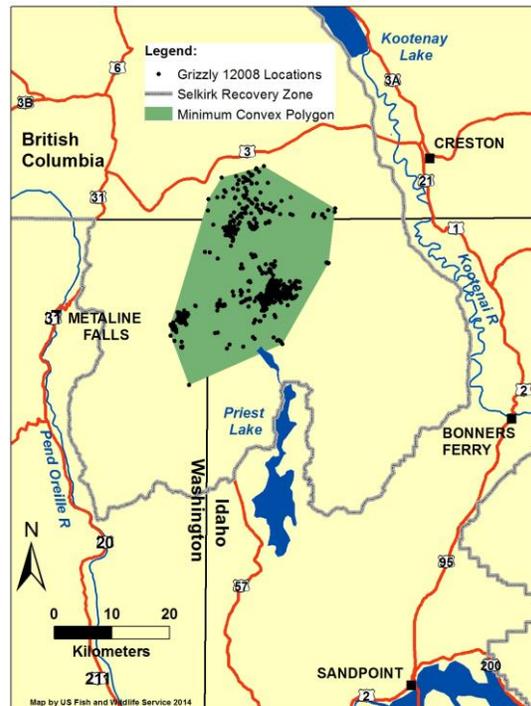


Figure 30. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 12008 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2012-14.

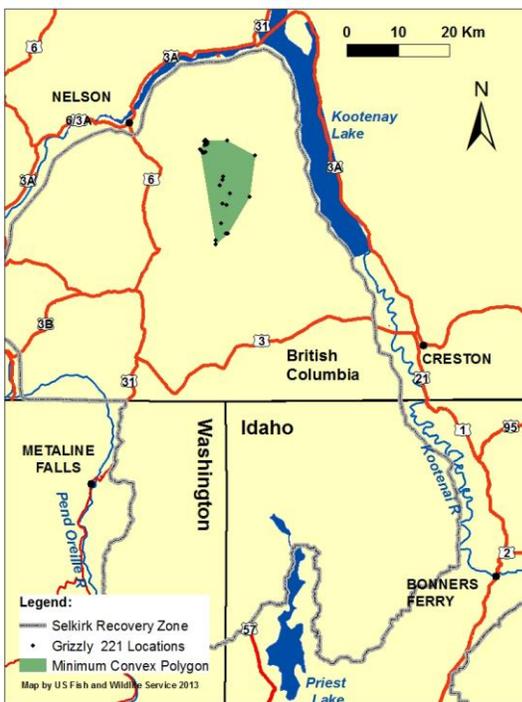


Figure 31. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 221 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2012-13.

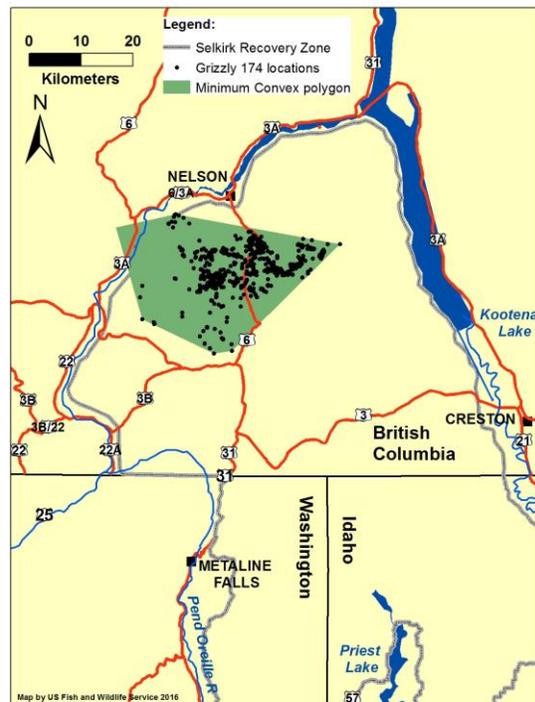


Figure 32. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 174 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2012-13, 2015.

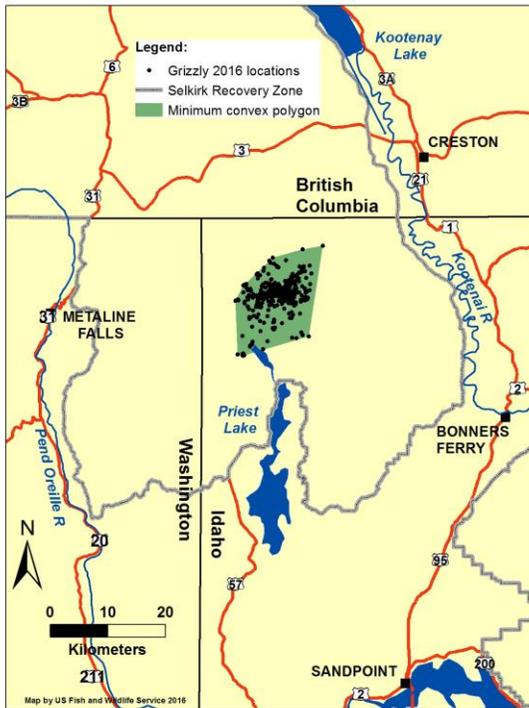


Figure 33. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 12016 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2013-15.

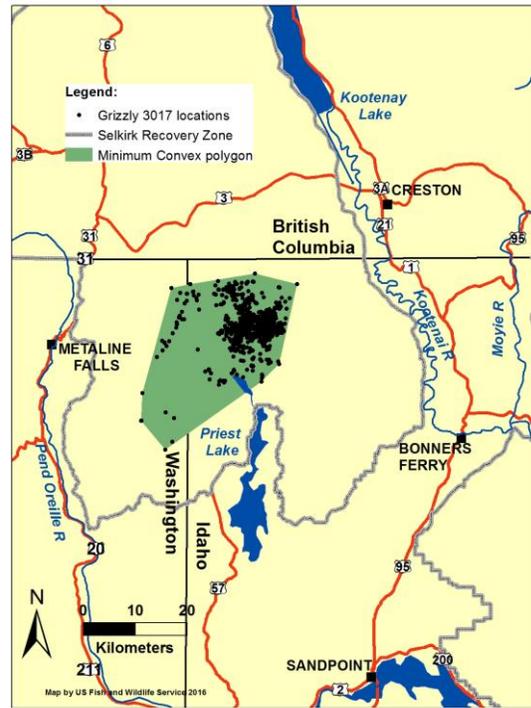


Figure 34. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 13017 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2013-15.

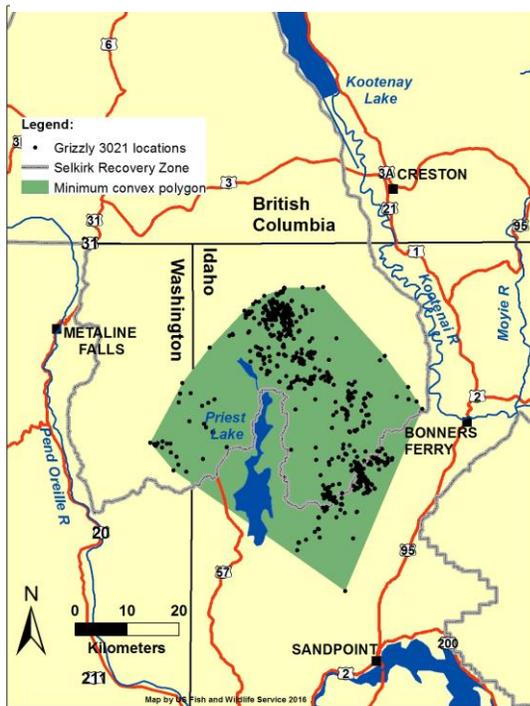


Figure 35. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 13021 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2013-15.

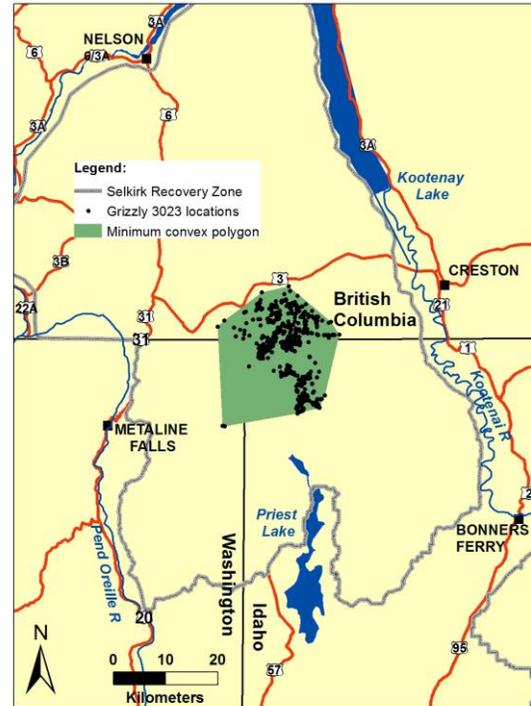


Figure 36. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 13023 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2013-15.

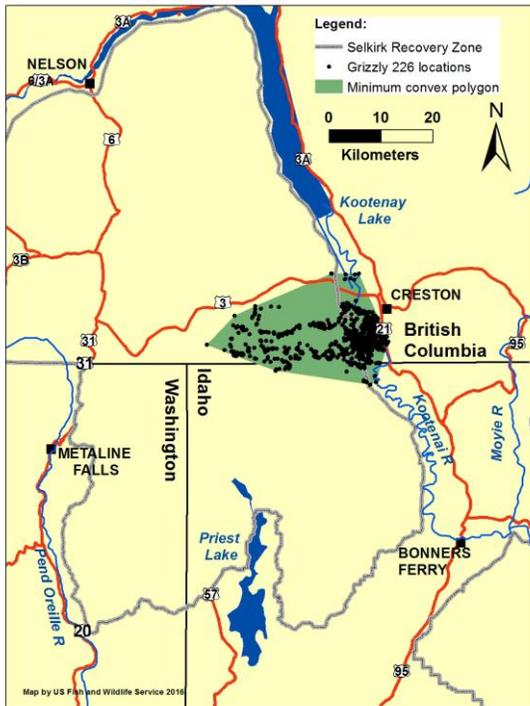


Figure 37. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 226 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2013-15.

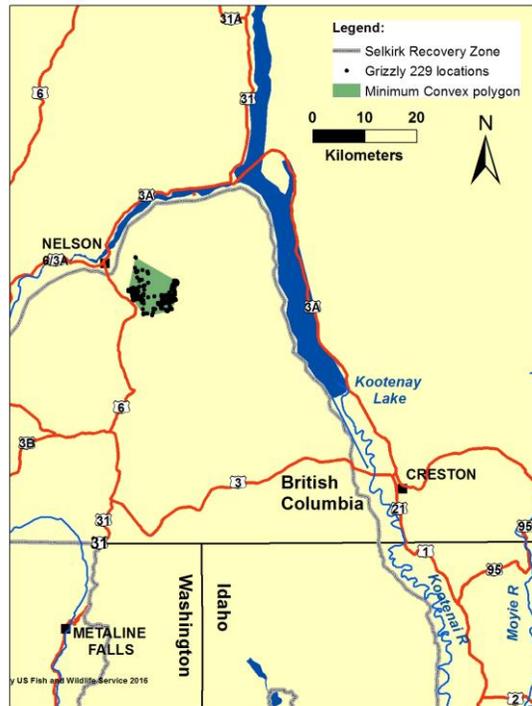


Figure 38. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 229 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

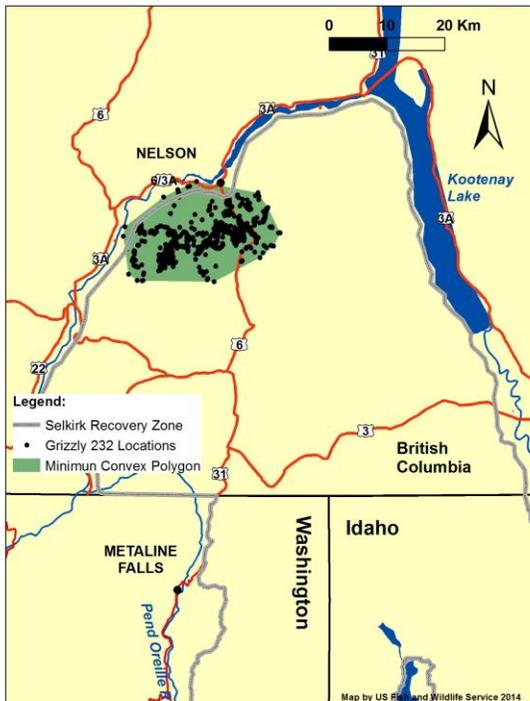


Figure 39. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 232 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014.

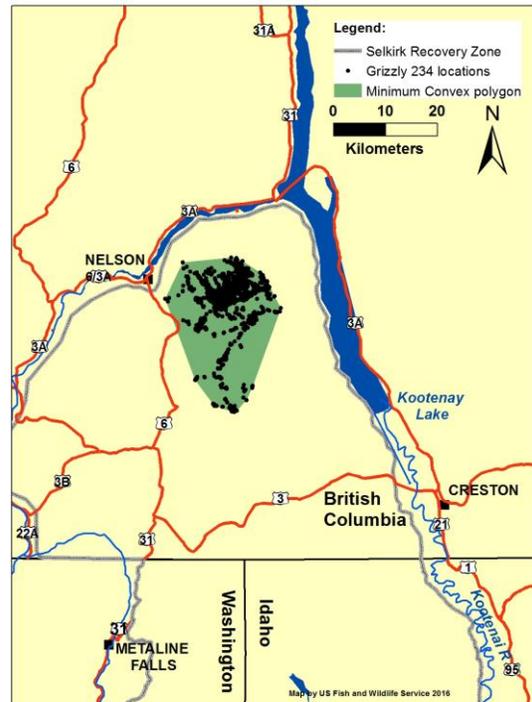


Figure 40. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 234 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

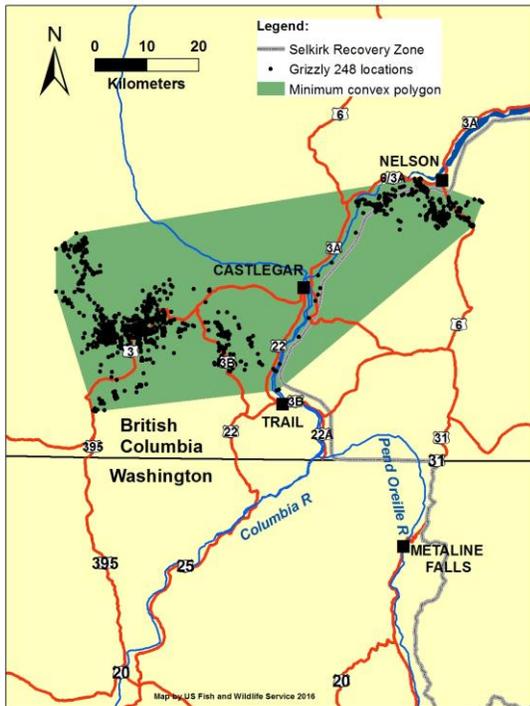


Figure 41. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 248 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

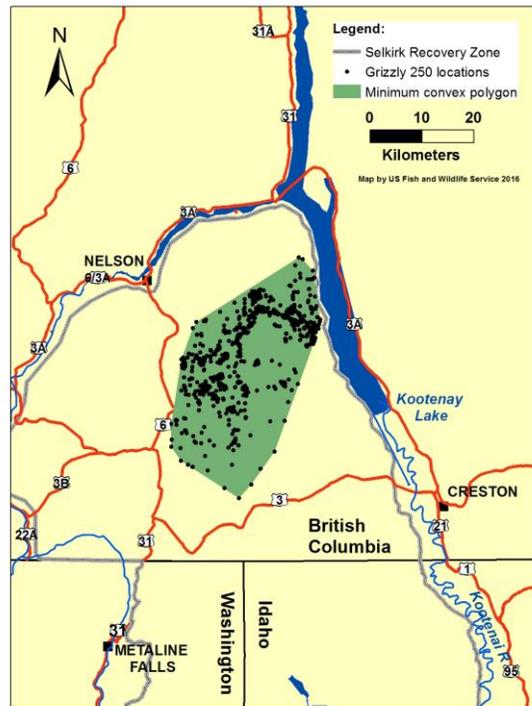


Figure 42. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 250 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

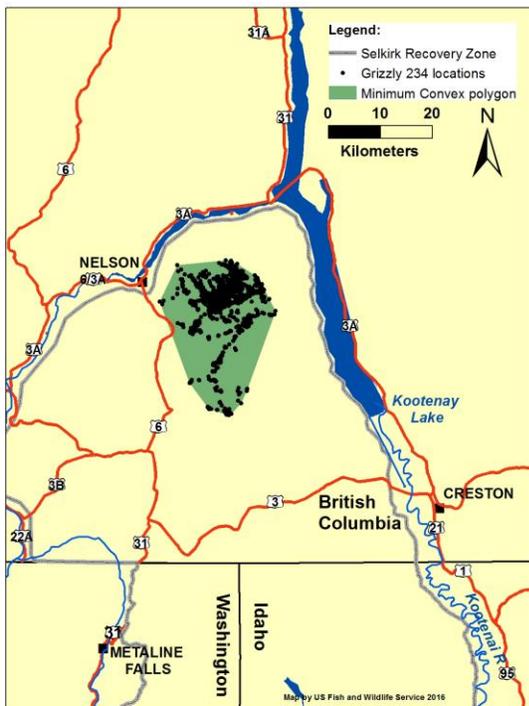


Figure 43. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 4250 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

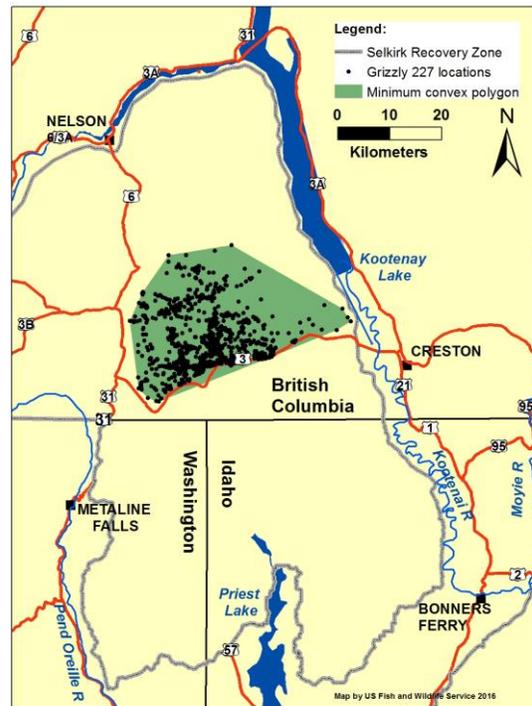


Figure 44. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 227 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2014-15.

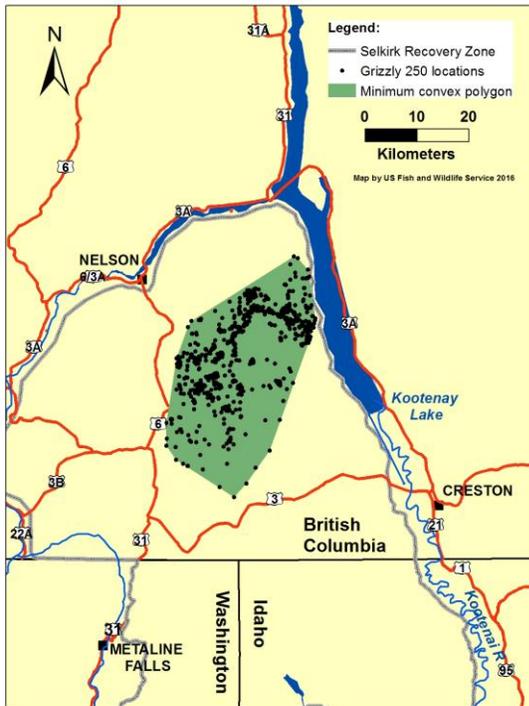


Figure 45. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of male grizzly bear 1001 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2015.

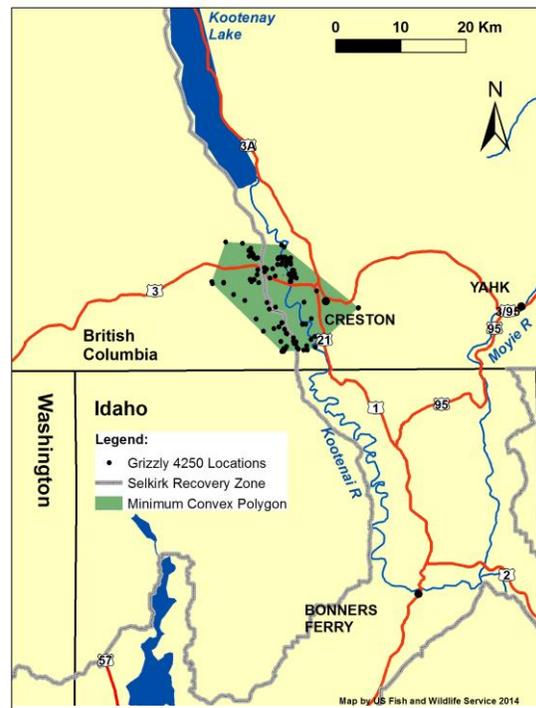


Figure 46. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 1019 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2015.

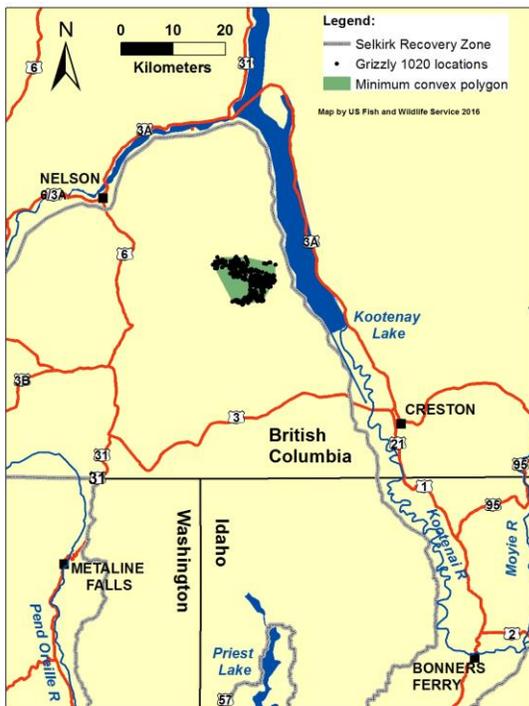


Figure 47. Radio locations and minimum convex (shaded) life range of female grizzly bear 1020 in the Selkirk Mountains, 2015.