

From: [Jonkel, James](#)
To: [Gustina, Gregory -FS](#); [Tomson, Scott -FS](#); [Shanley, Pat- FS](#); [Hampson, Eli](#); [Carver, Quinn- FS](#); [Hensiek, Jennifer - FS](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Michael](#); [Arnold, Randy](#); [Bell, Chad -FS](#); [Cooley, Hilary](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Lolo and Helena NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan Update and review of sites in outlying areas
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:32:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

I am not sure of the best process. What do you guys think? I know that Tim Manley and Amy Jacobs have worked together on the Flathead-Kootenai NF relocation protocol and updates. Perhaps for this first round of putting together site options for the commission and others to review, we could keep it in the form of a simple list with Google Map Pin Drops? I was thinking that we probably don't want to go to the level that Amy Jacobs went to on the Flathead and Kootenai maps and site descriptions until we have approval from the commission and others.

Eli Hampson and I put together the 2020 FWP "Nuisance" Grizzly Bear Relocation Protocol and Interim Decision-Making Process for Grizzly Occurrences in Outlying Areas last September and we do have a rough list of all the historically used sites (front country and backcountry) for the south end of the NCDE in both the recovery area and what is now called Zone 1.

Eli is in the process of tightening that list up and will get it out to you, Scott Tompson and Pat Shanley. I am sure we missed a few sites and some of the sites have really grown in or washed out. For example, the Lake Mountain Relocation Site, SW of the NF of the Blackfoot Trailhead, that accesses the backside of Ovando Mountain has sustained some road damage.

As for looking at other possible sites in the outlying areas of the Lolo I'm not sure what would work best. Eli Hampson and I have been looking at maps and making note of some possible places. If you would like we could keep doing that and provide you with a list of some "possible spots"? Or if, anyone is interested in taking this on we would be more than happy to assist. Or, if you guys had some thoughts on locations let Eli know and he can start putting them on the draft list.

FYI, here is Amy Jacobs email. She might have some thoughts: <amy.jacobs@usda.gov>

From: Gustina, Gregory -FS <gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>; Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS

<Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Hensiek, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>; Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>; Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <Hilary_Cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Lolo and Helena NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan Update and review of sites in outlying areas

Thanks for that update Jamie. What is the process/timing/staff needs: *to get together another list of potential remote sites with vehicle access, preferably behind closed gates, for areas outside of the grizzly bear recovery area on the Lolo and Helena NF-----that is areas described in the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategies as Zone 1, Zone 2, and outlying areas.* Will the FWP/FWS lead the effort or do you expect the forests to develop the plan using the Flathead/Kootenai documents as templates?

I've added Chad Bell to this conversation – he's the new Program Manager on the Lolo.



Greg Gustina
Planning Staff Officer

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest

office: 406-329-3809

cell: 406-239-9995

gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov

24 Fort Missoula Rd.

Missoula, MT 59804

www.fs.fed.us/fs.fed.us

 [\[usda.gov\]](http://usda.gov)  [\[twitter.com\]](https://twitter.com)  [\[facebook.com\]](https://facebook.com)

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:18 AM

To: Gustina, Gregory -FS <gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov>; Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Hensiek, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>; rarnold@mt.gov; Cooley, Hilary <Hilary_Cooley@fws.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>

Subject: Re: Lolo and Helena NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan Update and review of sites in outlying areas

Hello Greg and all, yes lots of moving parts since that time we met in 2019. We do have direction now from FWP HQ and USFWS on how NCDE partners should proceed. Of course,

most of this direction is based off the new legislation, but also advice from the Governor's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council.

The effective date of the new grizzly relocation bill that recently passed is March 2022. So, we have a little less than a year before it goes into effect. However, between now and next March, NCDE partners have been requested to identify all the historically used translocation sites (areas) within the NCDE designated recovery zone. But at the same time, we thought it would be wise to identify any potential new sites that were previously overlooked along the south end of the NCDE Grizzly Bear Recovery Area. This would include all the backcountry heliport sites in the Scapegoat, Bob Marshal and other roadless areas. Once this list has been put together and approved by USFS and other land agency heads and the NCDE Committee the sites will be presented to the Governor's newly appointed FWP Commissioners for approval to use those sites for conflict bears.

And for those bears, not considered to be conflict bears, we need to get together another list of potential remote sites with vehicle access, preferably behind closed gates, for areas outside of the grizzly bear recovery area on the Lolo and Helena NF-----that is areas described in the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategies as Zone 1, Zone 2, and outlying areas. We can also look at any remote front country sites and back country heliport sites that might be appropriate. Again, these are just suggested release sites/areas, for non-conflict bears, outside of recovery zone, that land managers feel comfortable with. Once this list is put together it will have to be presented to the Governor's appointed FWP Commission for approval.

We will be reaching out to the Bitterroot and Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF and other land agencies as well for possible sites in other outlying areas. For reference in the earlier email, I attached the updated Flathead and Kootenai NF Grizzly Bear Relocation Plan and the September 2020 FWP "Nuisance" Grizzly Bear Relocation Protocol and Interim Decision-Making Process for Grizzly Occurrences in Outlying Areas. Eli and I will be in contact and if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns feel free to respond to the email.

Take care, James Jonkel, FWP Bear Management Region 2.

From: Gustina, Gregory -FS <gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:23 PM

To: Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Hensiek, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>; Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Flathead & Kootenai NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan

I can't review right now, but I recall that the FWS, FWP and FS met on this issue, perhaps in 2019. As I recall, MT needed to take some action in order for reloc sites to be considered on the Lolo. I can check my notes from that meeting next week.



Greg Gustina
Planning Staff Officer

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest

office: 406-329-3809

cell: 406-239-9995

gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov

24 Fort Missoula Rd.

Missoula, MT 59804

www.fs.fed.us [fs.fed.us] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

[usda.gov] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [twitter.com]

[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [facebook.com]

[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:57 PM

To: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>; Gustina, Gregory -FS <gregory.w.gustina@usda.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Hensiek, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov>

Cc: Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>; rarnold@mt.gov

Subject: RE: Flathead & Kootenai NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan

Hi Jamie and All –

Thanks for sharing Jamie and for the heads up. I am including Jen, Quinn and Greg on this as this is probably something we need discussion on with a larger group on the Lolo. Esp given that we are being asked to consider new sites. I am sure I could cause all kinds of unforeseen problems if I just take this on solo☺

Anyway, not sure what best approach is – Lolo does this independently and then gets back to you? Other suggestions?




Thanks!



Scott Tomson
East Zone Wildlife Biologist
Seeley Lake RD
Lolo Nat'l Forest
US Forest Service

p: 406-677-3925
stomson@fs.fed.us

3583 Hwy 83
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

www.fs.fed.us [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]
 [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] 
[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] 
[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

Caring for the land and serving people

From: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>;
Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>
Cc: Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>;
rarnold@mt.gov
Subject: Fw: Flathead & Kootenai NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan

Hello Scott and Pat: As we have discussed in the past, Eli Hampson and I have been requested to put together a document, like the attached Flathead-Kootenai NF documents, for all the official grizzly bear relocation sites that have been used/discussed historically along the south end of the ecosystem. I have attached the R2 9-19-19 Working Final Draft that you reviewed a few years back. Eli and I will put together a new version of this draft with a list of relocation sites that have been used in the past. I know that access has changed at some of these sites and that there may be more appropriate sites to use. We would appreciate any suggestions of appropriate sites overlooked----especially along the edges and just inside of the Grizzly Bear Recovery area. In addition, we are looking for relocation sites in outlying areas on the Lolo-Helena NF----any suggestions would be much appreciated.

The effective date of the new grizzly relocation bill that recently passed is March 2022. So, we have a little less than a year before it goes into effect. However, between now and next March, we will need to identify all the historically used and potential new translocation sites (areas) within the designated recovery zone and get approval from the FWP Commission to use those sites for conflict bears. And for those bears, not considered to be conflict bears, we need to get sites approved for areas outside of the grizzly bear recovery area-----that is areas described in the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategies as Zone 1, Zone 2 and outlying areas. These designated areas, for non-conflict bears, outside of recovery zone, will also need commission approval.

Eli and I will be in contact and if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns feel free to

respond to the email.

Take care, James Jonkel, FWP Bear Management Region 2.

From: Jacobs, Amy -FS <amy.jacobs@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:12 AM

To: Anderson, Neil <NAnderson@mt.gov>; Davies, Robert -FS <robert.davies@usda.gov>; Dowling, Chris- FS <Christopher.Dowling@usda.gov>; Mulholland, Bill- FS <William.Mulholland@usda.gov>; scott.snelson <scott.snelson@usda.gov>; Strong, Laura - FS <laura.strong@usda.gov>; Ruby, Mark - FS <mark.ruby@usda.gov>; Waters, Cas - FS <Cas.Waters@usda.gov>; Donner, Bryan - FS <bryan.donner@usda.gov>; Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>; Johnson, Lynn -FS <lynn.m.johnson@usda.gov>; Ake, Kathy- FS <Katherine.Ake@usda.gov>; Borgen, Darren -FS <darren.borgen@usda.gov>; Anderson, Jeremy -FS <jeremy.l.anderson@usda.gov>; Tomson, Scott - FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Eaton, Katie - FS <katie.a.eaton@usda.gov>; Swanson, Jessica - FS <jessica.swanson@usda.gov>; Young, Will -FS <will.young@usda.gov>; gcobell@blackfeetnation.com <gcobell@blackfeetnation.com>; White, Charles <Charles.White@mt.gov>; Frisbee, C - FS <C.Christine.Frisbee@usda.gov>; Jacobs, Amy -FS <amy.jacobs@usda.gov>; Loren Monroe Jr. <lmonroe@blackfeetnation.com>; Manley, Timothy <Tim.Manley@mt.gov>; Annis, Kim <KAnnis@mt.gov>; Wenum, Erik <Erik.Wenum@mt.gov>; Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>; Kari Eneas (Kari.Eneas@cskt.org) <Kari.Eneas@cskt.org>; Loecker, Cory <cloecker@mt.gov>; Sarmiento, Wesley <Wesley.Sarmiento@mt.gov>; John Waller (john_waller@nps.gov) <john_waller@nps.gov>; Cooley, Hilary <Hilary_Cooley@fws.gov>; John Waller (john_waller@nps.gov) <john_waller@nps.gov>; Forristal, Chris <CForristal@mt.gov>; Breidinger, Leah <lbreidinger@mt.gov>; Dale Becker <Dale.Becker@cskt.org>; Steele, Kurtis - FS <Kurtis.Steele@usda.gov>; Benson, Chad- FS <Chadwick.Benson@usda.gov>; Gassmann, Nathan -FS <nathan.gassmann@usda.gov>; Morgan, Edward - FS <edward.morgan@usda.gov>; Draggoo, Michele -FS <michele.draggoo@usda.gov>; Carlson, John -FS <john.carlson@usda.gov>; Allen, Lydia -FS <lydia.allen@usda.gov>; Jackson, Scott -FS <scott.jackson@usda.gov>; YOUNG, CHRISTOPHER A <CHRISTOPHER.A.YOUNG@CBP.DHS.GOV>; Ray-delmas, Shawn - FS <shawn.ray-delmas@usda.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flathead & Kootenai NFs (NCDE part) 2021 Grizzly Relocation Plan

Four new sites were added on the Kootenai National Forest at Montana FWP's request. Another site was added on the Glacier View Ranger District on Flathead NF (Lower Whale Gravel Pit) to reduce the need to release bears near the Border Patrol station in the very early spring and the Whale Creek site was reactivated. For several sites, info was edited for a variety of safety and logistical considerations and communication needs. The distribution list and contacts also got several updates.

If you notice needs for additional changes, send them my way throughout the year.

Amy Hetrick Jacobs



Wildlife Program Manager
Flathead National Forest

Forest Service
Flathead National Forest

Phone: 406-758-3544

Fax: 406-758-3579

amy.jacobs@usda.gov

650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT 59901

www.fs.fed.us [fs.fed.us] [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

[gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.