

From: [Jonkel, James](#)
To: [Tomson, Scott -FS](#); [Carver, Quinn- FS](#); [Shanley, Pat- FS](#); [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K](#)
Cc: [Bell, Chad -FS](#); [Hampson, Eli](#); [Trimbo, Rory](#); [Gatlin, Jennifer L -FS](#); [Herrmann, Elizabeth - FS](#); [Pengeroth, Denise - FS](#); [Mayn, Cole -FS](#); [Orlando, Anne M](#); [lydia.allen](#); [Baty, Ross](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: NCDE/FWP R2 Recovery Zone, Relocation Sites and suggested Relocation Sites for outlying areas within occupied grizzly bear habitat.
Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 4:26:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[9-2-21 FWP R2 and outlying grizzly relocation sites for Ken McDonald-Commision.docx](#)

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Hello Everyone: Again, thank you so much for all your help on this effort. We finally pulled all the proposed sites together into the attached document. Please take a quick look and back to me ASAP if you see any errors. FYI, I need to send it to HQ at 5pm.

From: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer K <jennifer_fortin-noreus@fws.gov>
Cc: Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>; Hampson, Eli <Eli.Hampson@mt.gov>; Trimbo, Rory <Rory.Trimbo@mt.gov>; Gatlin, Jennifer -FS <jennifer.gatlin@usda.gov>; Herrmann, Elizabeth - FS <elizabeth.herrmann@usda.gov>; Pengeroth, Denise -FS <denise.pengeroth@usda.gov>; Mayn, Cole -FS <cole.mayn@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: NCDE/FWP R2 Recovery Zone, Relocation Sites and suggested Relocation Sites for outlying areas within occupied grizzly bear habitat.

Thanks guys. Hectic morning and afternoon with bear calls. We had a gob of bear stuff in town yesterday and today. Wardens had to relocate a black bear to Bellmont Creek this am. Let's see, I had a good visit with Scott Tompson this morning and Pat Shanley on Friday. Both Scott and Pat sent comments on the various relocation sites within the recovery area. I also received a handful of sites, supplied by Chad Bell and other Lolo personnel, that were deemed appropriate should the need to relocate a locally captured grizzly arise. (That is a bear outside of the recovery zone on the western portion of the Lolo within occupied grizzly bear habitat.) We are waiting for comments on additional sites, within occupied grizzly bear habitat, from the Helena National Forest and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, DNRC and BLM. We will add those to the final draft as well. As many of you aware, we are only looking for suggested sites within occupied grizzly habitat, so we are no longer needing sites from the Bitterroot National Forest. But as the occupied line expands over time, we may need to repeat

this process.

There were a few recovery zone sites with issues that Eli and I will pull out of the mix before we send it over to Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, who is assisting us with the mapping, for our final draft. For example, the backcountry helicopter sites. Although used in the past, these backcountry heliport sites are too much of a "hot-button" topic at this time, so we will leave those out. When we get a few sites from the other forests we will add them to the spreadsheet.

Also, Scott suggested that we incorporate some qualifying language in the headings of the spreadsheet for relocation sites in both the Recovery Zone and outlying area sections. Something to the effect that:

These relocations sites represent a broad range of terrains and site specifications, that will vary with each unique grizzly bear management situation and the corresponding time of year. All relocation site choices, both behind gates or on dispersed roads, will follow a strict protocol that involves careful consultation and extensive coordination between agencies and any decisions will address all agency concerns and all aspects of public safety (signing, site closures, timing).

When we have the final draft pulled together, we will send it your way for a quick look over before submitting it to Ken McDonald.

Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>

Mon 8/30/2021 10:23 AM

To: Jonkel, James; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>
Cc: Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>

8-23-21 Recovery Zone-Zone 1 Suggested Relocation Sites (002).docx

724 KB

Hello Jamie, I went through all the location sites on the Helena which includes only the Lincoln district, PCA as well as zone 1 lands. I used track changes to provide comments and make some spelling corrections. There were some sites that did not have a specific location marker but I understood the general location. There are some roads identified that access may be limiting to due to the lack of maintenance and abundance of dead trees. There are also some sites for which the road has already been decommissioned per travel plan implementation with others still pending. For some of those sites adjusting to use the junction or general area is an option. There are at least a couple sites I suggest be dropped due to travel implementation and the close proximity to the newly constructed mtn bike trail. So hope that helps and let me know if anything else

needed. Thanks, Pat

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

Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 11:31 AM

To: Jonkel, James <JaJonkel@mt.gov>; Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>

Cc: Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: FWP R2 Recovery Zone and Zone 1 Suggested Relocation Sites ready for USFS and FWP R2 Review

Hi again guys –

I just skimmed thru the document. Here are a couple of things I saw -

1. Please add me to 9 Mile contact bio for now
2. Please change Forest Bio from Brandon to Chad. Chad's ph is 814-282-7891. Email is chad.bell @usda.gov
3. The number of sites on Seeley is pretty extensive Jamie. It isn't easy for me to go thru them all using the associated map. I guess one thought I have is to limit the sites to roads behind a closed gate. Esp with heightened awareness/concern after what happened in Ovando. Seems that in the event we ever needed to deviate from this we could given the communication protocol. I know being on call with Jen Hensiek, Missoula Ranger, there were same concerns there. I think for Missoula the Rattlesnake road may be the exception. That district did have concerns about the lowest point in the Snake.
4. The yellow highlighted regarding outlying areas is interesting to me. Guess we are not looking at those sites not but may be soon?
5. As discussed in your note below, the wilderness heli spots raise some concern and we just need to be real clear that these were historically identified/used. Use of these would require higher level (RF) coordination.

Ultimately, I want to help and don't want to be a pain. I know there is a tight timeline – like Wednesday. So one way I could see dealing with this – if there is reason to try and keep sites not behind gates - is to address in the narrative that any cites not behind gates closed to the public would be given approval only under very unique circumstances – and that increased signage or temporary road closures would be used as mitigations.

Hope this helps and that Quinn and Chad are comfortable with what I am saying here. I think this is ultimately up to the ranger – at minimum – to approve. I am just making recommendations.

Thanks!



Scott Tomson
East Zone Wildlife Biologist

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Caring for the land and serving people

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

Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 4:15 PM

To: Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>;
Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>

Cc: Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>

Subject: FW: FWP R2 Recovery Zone and Zone 1 Suggested Relocation Sites ready for USFS and FWP
R2 Review

Hello Quinn. Here is that map and spreadsheet I was talking about. Scott and Pat, if you could look these over it would be great. The Recovery Zone sites on the Seeley Lake District and Lincoln District are the most important relocation sites to get before the commission for approval. Please look through all these locations and if any of them don't sit right with you we can take them out. In fact Quinn already asked me to remove the backcountry sites. The sites on the map and spreadsheet I have provided have all been historically used for either trapping or relocating. Chad was thinking that a nod of approval along with a statement that these are sights that have been routinely used for the last thirty years would be sufficient.

From: Jonkel, James

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:34 PM

To: Carver, Quinn- FS <Charles.Carver@usda.gov>; Tomson, Scott -FS <scott.tomson@usda.gov>;
Shanley, Pat- FS <Patrick.Shanley@usda.gov>; Bell, Chad -FS <chad.bell@usda.gov>

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

Subject: FWP R2 Recovery Zone and Zone 1 Suggested Relocation Sites ready for USFS and FWP R2
Review

Hello Quinn, Scott, Pat, and Chad: Here is a map, along with a spreadsheet, of suggested grizzly bear relocation sites. These sites, if appropriate, will be going before the FWP

Commission for approval this fall. The attached map and spreadsheet only pertain to the NCDE Recovery Zone (Primary Conservation Area) and Zone 1 for the Blackfoot Watershed.

Note--most of the relocation sites within the Recovery Zone sites are historically used/approved locations for either relocating or research trapping of grizzly bears. These Recovery Zone sites will be used for the relocation of grizzly bears that have been involved in some sort of management conflict and occasionally for non-conflict grizzly bears.

Included on this spreadsheet is a list of relocation sites found within the Zone 1 portions of the Blackfoot Drainage. Note--these sites will only be used as release sites for non-conflict bears, that is for bears inadvertently captured or pre-emptively captured that need to be released somewhere in the vicinity of their home range.

Vehicle access is a necessity, and two types of front-country release sites are required -----late winter/early spring relocation sites (March, April, May, and early June) and early summer/fall relocation sites that become accessible as snows recede (late June, July, August, September, October, and November. On rare occasions grizzlies have been relocated into the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness. There are six back-country release sites on this spreadsheet---each of which have been used for the release of grizzly bears in years past.

Within the spreadsheet you will find sites on USFS, FWP, DNRC, BLM and TNC lands. We are requesting that each agency review these suggested site locations as soon as possible as we are under a strict deadline (September 1). We have also attached the 9/19/19 Region 2 Draft Grizzly Bear Relocation Protocol for your review.

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