

A Conservation Strategy

Ensuring a Bright Future for Grizzly Bears
in the Yellowstone Ecosystem



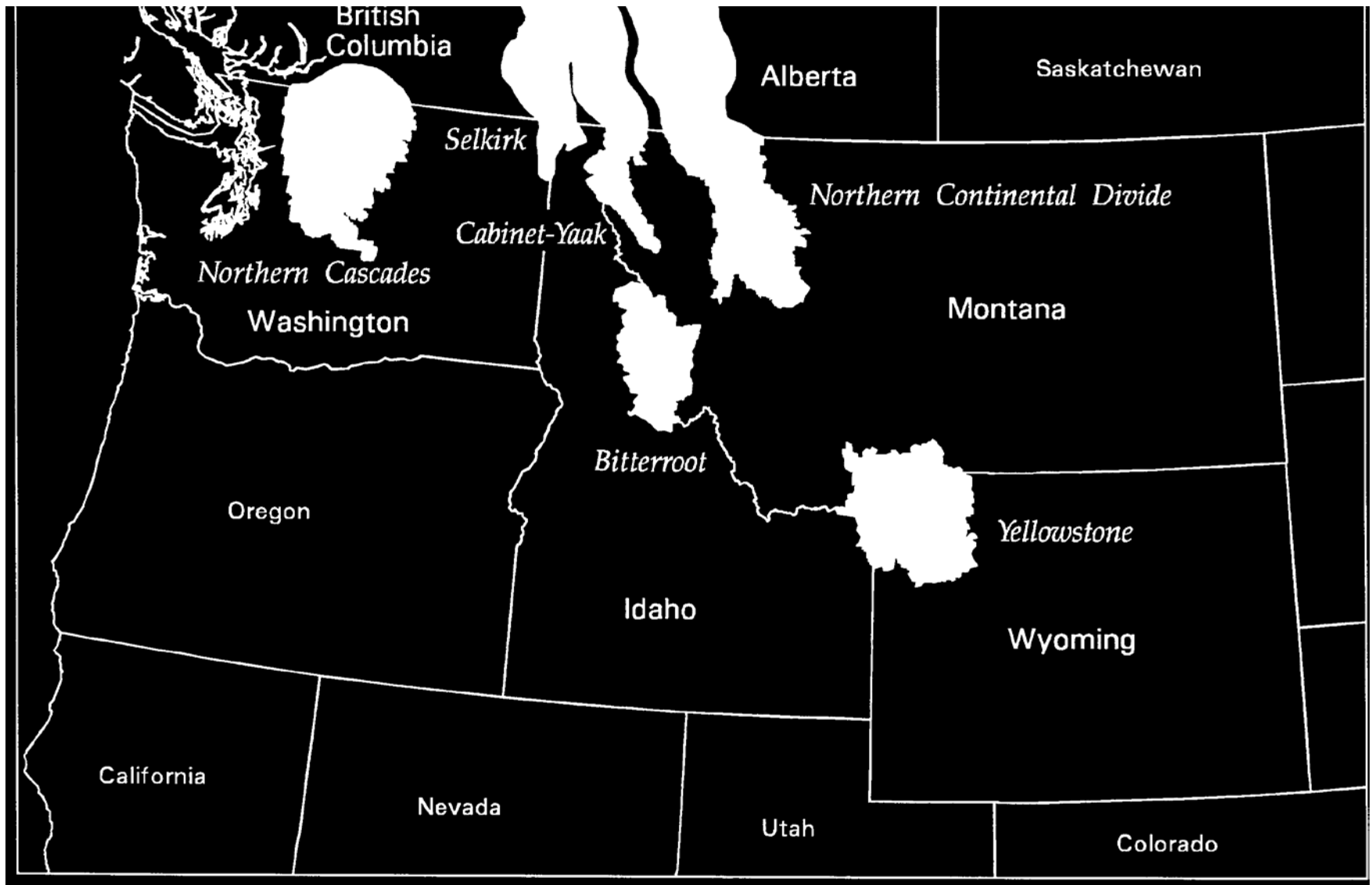
Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)



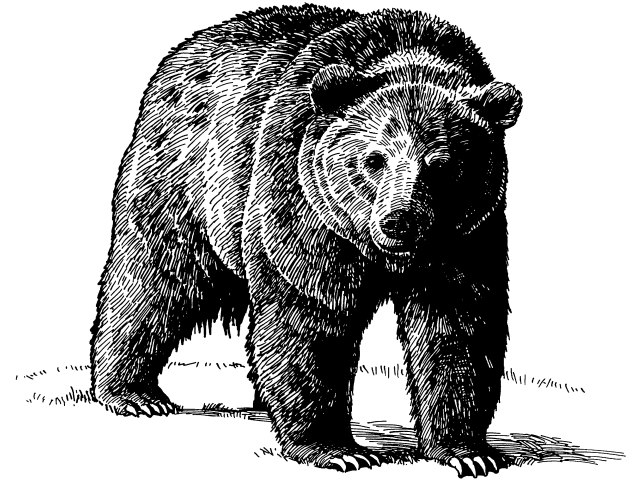
Designated in 1975 under Endangered Species Act as threatened in the continental United States

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee formed in 1983 to recover populations of grizzlies in the Lower 48.

The Six Grizzly Recovery Zones



Current Populations in the Six Grizzly Ecosystems



Yellowstone

- 400-600

Northern Continental Divide

- 300-400

Selkirk

- 45-50

Cabinet-Yaak

- 30-40

North Cascades

- 5-30

Bitterroot

- none

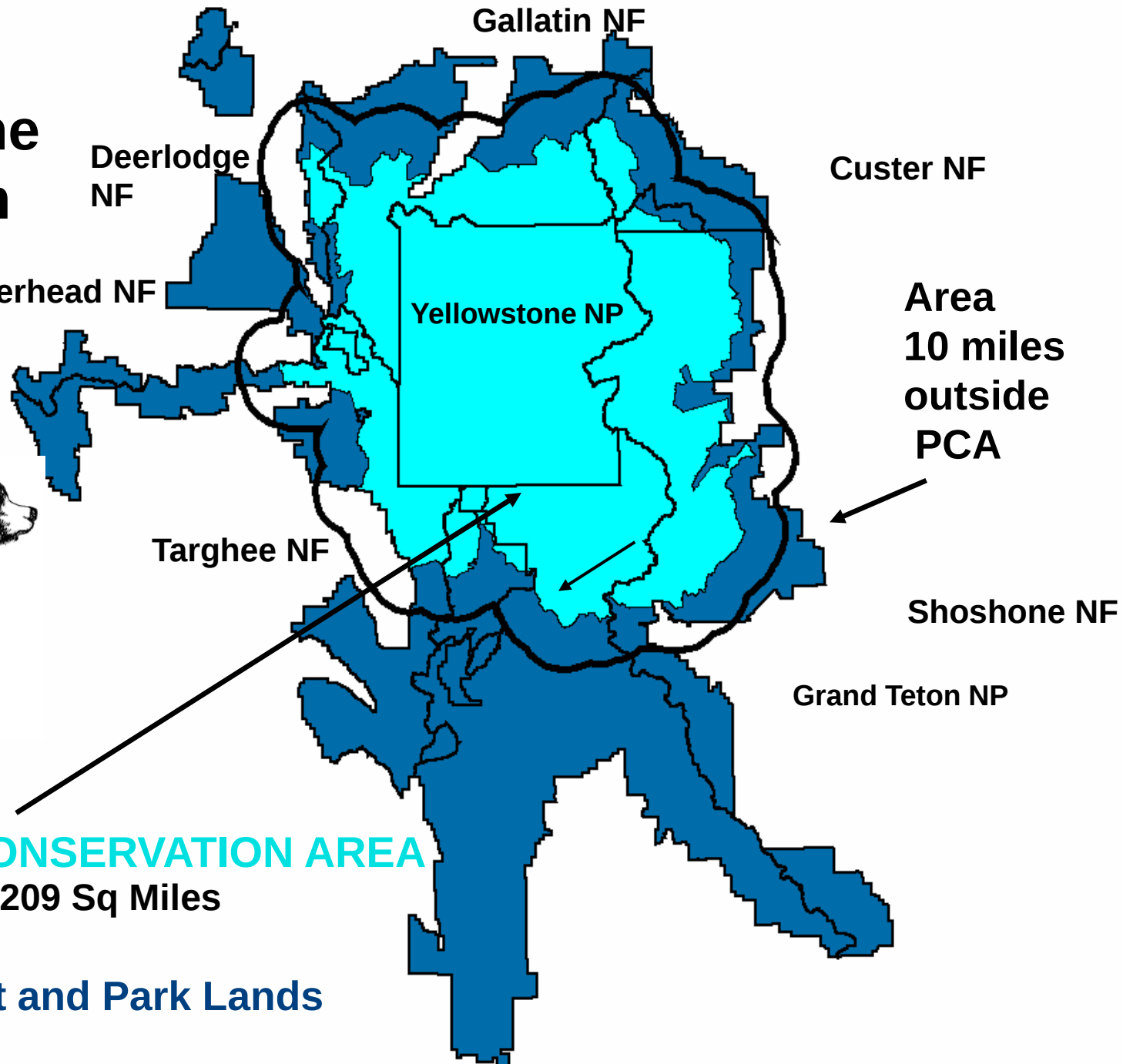
Draft Conservation Strategy for Grizzlies Bears in the Yellowstone Area

To manage and monitor bears after “delisting”

- Released for public comment March 1, 2000
- Public comment period:
March 1-May 30
- Final Strategy
around December 2000



Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



Gallatin NF

Deerlodge
NF

Custer NF

Beaverhead NF

Yellowstone NP

Area
10 miles
outside
PCA

Targhee NF

Shoshone NF

Grand Teton NP

PRIMARY CONSERVATION AREA

9209 Sq Miles

Forest and Park Lands

Grizzly Recovery Goals for each Ecosystem

- Population-based criteria
(already met for Yellowstone)
- Habitat-based criteria
- Adequate regulatory mechanisms
to ensure self-sustaining
population



Current Recovery Tasks for Yellowstone

Habitat-Based Criteria

- Public comments have been analyzed
- Revised criteria to be appended to Recovery Plan by end of 2000

Conservation Strategy

- Developed by IGBC
- Draft released for public comment March 1, 2000
- Final Strategy may call for changes to Forest Plans, State law

Provisions of Conservation Strategy

- Secure habitat will be maintained in PCA
 - No increase in road access March 1-Nov. 30
 - No helicopter use for resource extraction, March 1-Nov. 30
 - No new livestock allotments; existing sheep allotments will be phased out as possible
- Genetic diversity will be monitored and maintained through augmentation, if needed

Monitoring of Four Major Food Sources

- Cutthroat Trout
- Army Cutworm Moths
- Ungulate Carcasses
- Whitebark Pine Cones



Bear-Livestock Depredations



- Will be monitored in and around PCA
- Nuisance-bear mitigation measures will be directed to areas of conflict

Elk Hunting in and around PCA



- Number of elk hunters and hunter-related bear deaths will be monitored
- Management actions and education will help minimize bear deaths and hunter impacts

What if the Yellowstone population starts to decline after delisting?

- Management committee member can call for a review and further action
- USFWS can initiate a formal status review and propose relisting if found warranted
- Any citizen can petition for status review/relisting
- “Emergency Listing” is available if necessary

