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This Conservation Strategy was developed to be the document guiding management and monitoring of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population and its habitat upon recovery and delisting. This approach will remain in place beyond recovery and delisting. Ongoing review and evaluation of the effectiveness of this Conservation Strategy is the responsibility of the state, tribal, and federal managers in the GYE. This Conservation Strategy will be evaluated by the management agencies every five years, allowing public comment in the updating process.

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**Secure habitat** is defined as any contiguous area  $\geq 10$  acres in size and more than 500 m from an open or gated motorized access route (road or trail) or recurring low level helicopter line during the non-denning period (March 1 – November 30). Gated routes that are closed year-round to public motorized use but remain accessible to administrative personnel are still considered motorized access routes, and hence, detract from secure grizzly bear habitat. [There are activities allowed in secure habitat \(see below\) that do not violate standards or count as motorized access routes.](#) Decommissioned routes that are permanently and effectively closed to the public and administrative staff do not count against this standard. Lakes larger than 1.6 sq km (1 sq mi) in spatial extent are excluded from secure habitat calculations.

[For the purposes of this chapter, secure habitat is correlated with key habitat components such as foods, cover, space, arrangement of habitat types and the ability of grizzly bears to move between them. For the purposes of describing habitat management and conservation in this chapter, secure habitat has no link to discretionary mortality. Any potential population and conflict management activities are distinctly separate components of this strategy and addressed in other chapters.](#)

The responsibilities of the IGBST are to:

- Conduct both short- and long-term research projects addressing information needs for bear management.
- Monitor the bear population, including status and trend, numbers, reproduction, and mortality.
- Monitor grizzly bear habitats, foods, and the impacts of humans.
- Provide technical support to agencies and other groups responsible for the immediate and long-term management of grizzly bears in the GYE.
- Take the lead in preparing a Biology and Monitoring Review with staff support from the YGCC in response to deviations from required population or habitat standards.
- Complete Biology and Monitoring Review and present findings to YGCC within 6 months.
- Coordinate annual updates of the motorized access database.
- Coordinate annual evaluation of motorized access route density and secure habitat.
- Document annually any changes in developed sites, livestock allotments, or permitted sheep numbers and maintain associated databases.
- Ensure all units have the tools and the training to evaluate motorized access route density and secure habitat for projects.
- Evaluate the need for changes in ways to evaluate motorized access route density, secure habitat, and habitat effectiveness, and make recommendations to the YGCC on such changes, as necessary.
- Set and maintain standards, definitions, values, formats and processes for collecting and updating data and assessment models, and maintaining data consistency between units.
- Produce annual reports on population and habitat monitoring items.