

GYE Conservation Strategy: Potential Revisions:

Habitat-based Revisions

1. **Drop the Cumulative Effects Model (CEM)** as a means for measuring habitat quality and habitat effectiveness.
2. **Drop seasonal designations for monitoring Open Motorized Access Route Density (OMARD)**. Currently OMARD is monitored for 2 distinct grizzly bear seasons, S1 (March 1 – July 15) and S2 (July 16 – November 30). However, agency administered roads are not managed according to these time periods. Consequently, we propose monitoring only year-round OMARD for entire non-denning portion of the year (March 1 – November 31). *(note: only roads open to the public for one or more days during the non-denning portion of the year count toward OMARD. Total Motorized Access Route Density (TMARD) includes roads open to the public as well as gated routes closed to the public but open to administrative personnel. TMARD will continue to be monitored.)*
3. Clarification in Habitat Standards (**bold** text indicates new language recommended for the sake of clarification):
 - a. **Clarification of Secure Habitat application rule:** Permanent changes in secure habitat can occur provided that any loss in secure habitat **below the 1998 level** is replaced by restoring secure habitat of equivalent habitat quality ~~as measured by the CEM Model or equivalent technology~~ within the same subunit. . **Habitat quality will be assessed based on our best collective scientific understanding of grizzly bear habitat value and corresponding management practices.**
 - b. **New application rule for Developed Sites:** Conversion of dispersed campsites to a day-use-only area is allowed if there is a net benefit to both human and bear safety. This modification of site-use would not contribute to an increase in baseline developed sites but would be fully documented and tracked.
 - c. **Clarification of Developed Sites application rule:** Developments on private land are not counted against the baseline standard; **however, developed sites acquired through land exchanges that cause an increase above 1998 levels are subject to mitigation as per application rule.**
 - d. **Clarification of text pertaining to Mining claims:** Activities based in statutory rights, such as mining ~~claims~~ **plans of operation** under the 1872 General Mining Law are also tracked as part of the developed site monitoring effort.
 - e. **Clarification of Livestock Grazing Standard:** Inside the PCA there must be no net increase in the number **or acreage** of **active commercial** livestock grazing allotments above that which existed in 1998. (note: this standard does not apply to Forest Service administrative grazing units).

Population-based Revisions

1. Incorporate recent revisions in population/demographic criteria.
2. Drop the CS Management boundary layer since it is being replaced by the new Demographic Monitoring Area (DMA) based on suitable habitat.
3. Revise genetics monitoring language (already went through public review) and revisit 2020 deadline for documented genetic connectivity.
4. Recommend no translocation of bears for genetic augmentation of the population until it is demonstrated that levels of genetic diversity are a threat or deleterious.
5. Seek, commitment from MFWP to no hunting in portion of bear harvest Unit 317 to promote and facilitate connectivity (area of interest is north of Montana Hwys 41 and 287 in the Tobacco Root and Highland Mountains).