

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bear Monitoring and Population Trend

Marked Animals (Mark A. Haroldson and Chad A. Dickinson, Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team; and Dan D. Bjornlie, Wyoming Game and Fish Department)

During the 2014 field season, we captured 70 individual grizzly bears on 81 occasions (Table 1), including 16 females (8 adult), 51 males (36 adult), and 3 yearling grizzly bears of unknown sex that were released without handling. Forty individuals were bears not previously marked. The percent of previously unmarked individual grizzly bears captured annually during 1998–2014 has remained relatively constant, averaging 62% although the number of individuals captured has increased (Figure 1). This result supports the notion that grizzly bears continue to recruit into the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population at a relatively constant rate. The decline in the number of individual bears captured during 2013 and 2014 is likely related to fewer fall conflicts during the last 2 years, which results in fewer individuals captured in management actions.

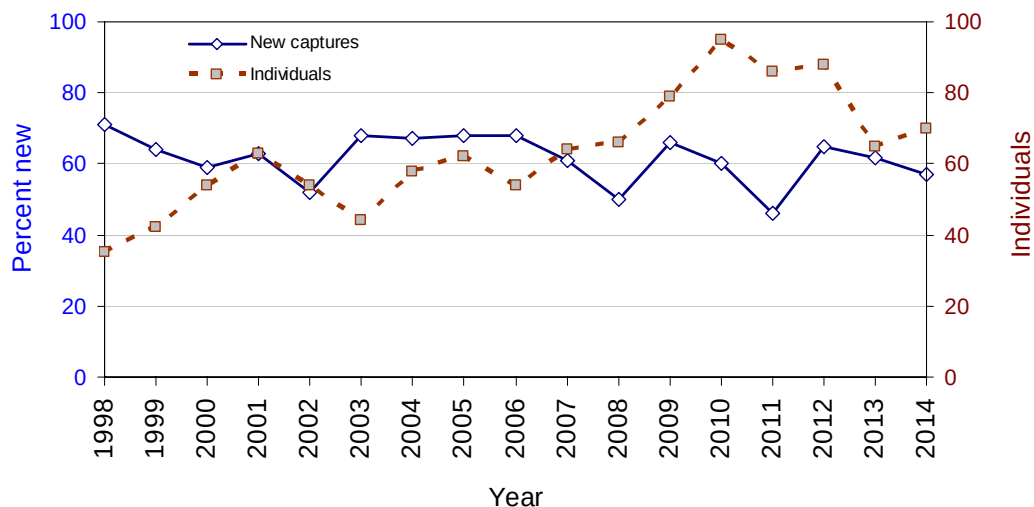


Figure 1. Percent of previously unmarked and total number of grizzly bears captured annually during 1998–2014 in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

We conducted research trapping efforts for 849 trap days (1 trap day = 1 trap set for 1 day) in the GYE. During research trapping operations we had 51 captures of 43 individual grizzly bears for a trapping success rate of 1 grizzly capture every 16.6 trap days.

There were 30 management captures of 29 individual bears in the GYE during 2014 (Tables 1 and 2), including 6 females (2 adults), and 23 males (15 adults). Twenty individual bears (4 females, 16 males), were relocated on 20 occasions because of conflict situations (Table 1). One yearling male was a non-target capture involved in cattle depredation and was released on site. Two bears, both subadult males, were captured at research trap sites and subsequently at conflict sites. One of these bears (#760) was captured again at a second conflict site and was removed from the population. In total there were 9 management captures that resulted in removals (2 females, 7 males) during 2014 (Table 1).

We radio-monitored 94 individual grizzly bears during the 2014 field season, including 33 adult females (Tables 2 and 3). Sixty grizzly bears entered their winter dens wearing active transmitters. Five additional bears not located during the fall are considered missing (Table 3). Since 1975, 793 individual grizzly bears have been radiomarked in the GYE.

Table 1. Grizzly bears captured in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during 2014.

Bear	Sex	Age	Date	General location ^a	Capture type	Release site ^a	Trapper/Handler ^b
369	Male	Adult	05/07/14	Cougar Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
369	Male	Adult	05/18/14	Elk Fork, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
772	Male	Adult	05/11/14	Elk Fork, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
773	Female	Adult	05/11/14	Cougar Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
683	Male	Adult	05/14/14	Tom Miner, PR-MT	Management	Removed	MTFWP
644	Male	Adult	05/15/14	North Fork Shoshone River, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
774	Male	Adult	05/17/14	North Fork Shoshone River, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
775	Male	Adult	05/19/14	Owl Crk, PR-WY	Management	Boone Crk, CTNF	WGFD
G194	Male	Adult	05/22/14	North Fork Shoshone River, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
G195	Male	Adult	05/23/14	North Fork Shoshone River, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
776	Male	Adult	06/05/14	Papoose Crk, PR-MT	Research	On site	IGBST
777	Male	Subadult	06/05/14	Papoose Crk, PR-MT	Research	On site	IGBST
778	Male	Adult	06/07/14	Sunlight Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
Unm1	Female	Subadult	06/08/14	Spread Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
G196	Male	Subadult	06/09/14	Deadman Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
G196	Male	Subadult	06/11/14	Reef Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
761	Male	Adult	06/11/14	Papoose Crk, PR-MT	Research	On site	IGBST
779	Female	Subadult	06/12/14	Reef Crk, SNF	Research	On site	WGFD
760	Male	Subadult	06/25/14	Pacific Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
760	Male	Subadult	10/10/14	Lake Crk, PR-WY	Management	North Fork Shoshone, SNF	WGFD
760	Male	Subadult	10/27/14	Clarks Fork River, ST-WY	Management	Removed	WGFD
Unm2	Unk	Subadult	06/29/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
Unm3	Unk	Subadult	06/30/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
713	Male	Adult	07/01/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
Unm4	Female	Subadult	07/01/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
780	Male	Adult	07/02/14	Crow Crk, BTNF	Management	Mormon Crk, SNF	WGFD
479	Male	Adult	07/08/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
227	Male	Adult	07/09/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
227	Male	Adult	07/13/14	Henry's Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
227	Male	Adult	07/15/14	Warm River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
729	Male	Adult	07/12/14	Tepee Crk, BTNF	Management	North Fork Shoshone, SNF	WGFD
781	Male	Adult	07/15/14	Grove Crk, PR-MT	Management	Lodgepole Crk, ST-MT	MTFWP
782	Male	Subadult	07/16/14	Henrys Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
783	Male	Subadult	07/17/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
Unm5	Unk	Subadult	07/18/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
Unm5	Unk	Subadult	07/20/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
Unm5	Unk	Subadult	07/23/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
Unm5	Unk	Subadult	09/24/14	Pacific Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
784	Female	Adult	07/22/14	Antelope Crk, YNP	Research	On site	IGBST
679	Male	Adult	07/22/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
679	Male	Adult	09/21/14	Lizard Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
756	Male	Adult	07/23/14	Kinky Crk, BTNF	Management	Removed	WGFD
Unm8	Male	Subadult	07/24/14	Pilgrim Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
711	Male	Adult	07/24/14	Henrys Fork River, CTNF	Research	On site	IDFG
676	Female	Adult	07/26/14	Whiskey Crk, BTNF	Management	Fox Crk, SNF	WGFD
G197	Male	Subadult	07/27/14	Whiskey Crk, BTNF	Management	Fox Crk, SNF	WGFD
785	Male	Adult	07/28/14	Strawberry Crk, BTNF	Research	On site	WGFD
785	Male	Adult	09/08/14	Strawberry Crk, BTNF	Management	Fox Crk, SNF	WGFD
506	Male	Adult	08/02/14	Pacific Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
G112	Male	Adult	08/02/14	South Fork Owl Crk, PR-WY	Management	Removed	WGFD
655	Male	Adult	08/03/14	Standard Crk, BDNF	Research	On site	IGBST
786	Female	Subadult	08/05/14	Papoose Crk, PR-MT	Research	On site	IGBST

Table 1. Continued.

Bear	Sex	Age	Date	General location ^a	Capture type	Release site ^a	Trapper/Handler ^b
610	Female	Adult	08/06/14	Pacific Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
787	Male	Subadult	08/08/14	South Fork Fish Crk, BTNF	Management	On site	WGFD
594	Male	Adult	08/10/14	Island Park Reservoir, State-ID	Management	Removed	WS/IDFG
788	Male	Subadult	08/13/14	Bull Lake Crk, WRIR	Research	On site	WGFD
589	Male	Adult	08/14/14	Wagon Crk, BTNF	Management	Sunlight Crk, SNF	WGFD
193	Female	Adult	08/21/14	Gibbon River, YNP	Research	On site	IGBST
790	Male	Adult	08/27/14	Gypsum Crk, BTNF	Management	Mormon Crk, SNF	WGFD
731	Male	Subadult	08/27/14	Gypsum Crk, BTNF	Management	Removed	WGFD
228	Male	Adult	08/28/14	Stephens Crk, YNP	Research	On site	YNP/IGBST
791	Male	Adult	09/07/14	Green River, BTNF	Management	North Fork Shoshone, SNF	WGFD
394	Male	Adult	09/11/14	Cascade Crk, YNP	Research	On site	IGBST
592	Male	Adult	09/11/14	Sheridan Crk, SNF	Management	Mormon Crk, SNF	WGFD
792	Male	Adult	09/18/14	Cub Crk, BTNF	Research	On site	WGFD
793	Female	Adult	09/19/14	Bailey Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
Unm9	Female	Subadult	09/22/14	Grinnell Crk, SNF	Management	Removed	WGFD
794	Male	Adult	09/23/14	Lizard Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
795	Male	Subadult	09/24/14	Bear Crk, PR-MT	Management	East Fork Bear Crk, GNF	WS/MTFWP
796	Male	Adult	09/28/14	Lizard Crk, GTNP	Research	On site	IGBST
G198	Male	Subadult	09/30/14	Bennett Crk, SNF	Management	North Fork Shoshone, SNF	WGFD
G199	Female	Subadult	09/30/14	Bennett Crk, SNF	Management	North Fork Shoshone, SNF	WGFD
797	Male	Adult	10/04/14	Crow Crk, BTNF	Management	Boone Crk, CTNF	WGFD
155	Male	Adult	10/06/14	North Fork Bear Crk, PR-MT	Management	Removed	MTFWP
798	Male	Subadult	10/08/14	Eaglenest Crk, PR-WY	Management	Bailey Crk, BTNF	WYFG
688	Male	Subadult	10/08/14	Cascade Crk, YNP	Research	On site	IGBST
799	Female	Adult	10/15/14	Trout Crk, YNP	Research	On site	IGBST
800	Female	Subadult	10/23/14	Yellowstone River, PR-MT	Management	Teepee Crk, ST-MT	MTFWP
801	Female	Subadult	10/26/14	Yellowstone River, PR-MT	Management	Teepee Crk, ST-MT	MTFWP
724	Female	Adult	10/28/14	Clarks Fork River, PR-WY	Management	Removed	WGFD
G200	Male	Subadult	11/03/14	Clarks Fork River, PR-WY	Management	Blackrock Crk, BTNF	WGFD

^a BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BTNF = Bridger-Teton National Forest, CTNF = Caribou-Targhee National Forest, GNF = Gallatin National Forest, SNF = Shoshone National Forest, YNP = Yellowstone National Park, WRIR = Wind River Reservation, PR = private.

^b IDFG = Idaho Fish and Game; IGBST = Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, USGS; MTFWP = Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park; WS = Wildlife Services; WGFD = Wyoming Game and Fish Department; YNP = Yellowstone National Park.

Table 2. Annual number of grizzly bears monitored, captured, and transported in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1980–2014.

Year	Number monitored	Individuals trapped	Total captures		Transports
			Research	Management	
1980	34	28	32	0	0
1981	43	36	30	35	31
1982	46	30	27	25	17
1983	26	14	0	18	13
1984	35	33	20	22	16
1985	21	4	0	5	2
1986	29	36	19	31	19
1987	30	21	15	10	8
1988	46	36	23	21	15
1989	40	15	14	3	3
1990	35	15	4	13	9
1991	42	27	28	3	4
1992	41	16	15	1	0
1993	43	21	13	8	6
1994	60	43	23	31	28
1995	71	39	26	28	22
1996	76	36	25	15	10
1997	70	24	20	8	6
1998	58	35	32	8	5
1999	65	42	31	16	13
2000	84	54	38	27	12
2001	82	63	41	32	15
2002	81	54	50	22	15
2003	80	44	40	14	11
2004	78	58	38	29	20
2005	91	63	47	27	20
2006	92	54	36	25	23
2007	86	65	54	19	8
2008	87	66	39	40	30
2009	97	79	63	34	25
2010	85	95	36	75	52
2011	92	86	61	46	24
2012	112	88	47	56	35
2013	88	65	58	30	20
2014	94	70	51	30	20

Table 3. Grizzly bears radiomonitored in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during 2014.

Bear	Sex	Age	Offspring ^a	Monitored		Current status
				Out of den	Into den	
155	M	Adult	None	Yes	No	Cast
193	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
211	M	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
227	M	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
228	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
281	M	Adult	3 yearlings	Yes	No	Dead
369	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
379	M	Adult		No	No	Missing
394	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
407	M	Adult		No	No	Missing
423	F	Adult	3 COY	Yes	Yes	Active
479	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
499	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
506	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
541	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
592	M	Adult	2 yearlings	No	Yes	Active
610	F	Adult		No	Yes	Active
627	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
644	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
653	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
655	M	Adult	2 yearlings (1 possible adoption)	No	Yes	Active
672	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
674	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
676	F	Adult		No	Yes	Active
688	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
703	F	Adult	Not seen	Yes	No	Cast
706	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
711	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
713	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
715	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
718	F	Adult	1 yearling	Yes	No	Cast
720	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
724	F	Adult		Yes	No	Removed
725	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
728	F	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
729	M	Adult	Not seen	No	No	Cast
730	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
732	F	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
733	M	Adult		No	No	Missing

Table 3. Continued

Bear	Sex	Age	Offspring ^a	Monitored		Current status
				Out of den	Into den	
734	F	Adult	Not seen	No	No	Cast
741	F	Adult	1 COY	No	Yes	Active
742	M	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
743	F	Adult	2 2-year-olds	Yes	Yes	Active
744	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
745	M	Subadult		Yes	No	Dead
746	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
750	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
752	M	Subadult		Yes	No	Cast
754	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
758	M	Adult		Yes	No	Cast
759	F	Adult	2 yearlings	Yes	Yes	Active
760	M	Subadult		No	No	Removed
761	M	Adult		Yes	Yes	Active
762	F	Adult	1 COY, lost	Yes	Yes	Active
763	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
766	M	Adult		Yes	Unknown	Missing
767	F	Subadult		Yes	No	Dead
768	F	Adult	Not seen	Yes	No	Cast
769	M	Subadult		Yes	No	Cast
770	F	Adult	1 COY, lost	Yes	Yes	Active
771	F	Adult	Not seen	No	No	Cast
772	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
773	F	Adult	None	No	Yes	Active
774	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
775	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
776	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
777	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
778	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
779	F	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
780	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
781	M	Adult		No	No	Cast
782	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
783	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
784	F	Adult	1 yearling	No	Yes	Active
785	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
786	F	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
787	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
788	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
789	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active

Table 3. Continued.

Bear	Sex	Age	Offspring ^a	Monitored		Current status
				Out of den	Into den	
790	M	Subadult	3 COY	No	Yes	Active
791	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
792	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
793	F	Adult		No	Yes	Active
794	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
795	M	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
796	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
797	M	Adult	2 yearlings	No	Yes	Active
798	M	Adult		No	Yes	Active
799	F	Adult		No	Yes	Active
800	F	Subadult		No	Yes	Active
801	F	Subadult		No	Yes	Active