



Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee
Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee
2015 Work Plan Accomplishments and Draft 2016 Work Plan

| Task | Responsible | Status |
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| <p>1. Attractant storage order expansion- B-T and Shoshone NFs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to an increase in bear grizzly bear numbers and distribution. • Concept that attractant storage is central to wildlife management (not just grizzly bear management). • Focus is the southern end of the GYE • Minimum goal is the remainder of the Demographic Monitoring Area, which this will accomplish. • After implementation, most of the GYE will have a “storage order”. <p>Accomplishments-2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure additions to facilitate public compliance • Public information meetings <p>Work plan- 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement for the remainder of the Shoshone, graduated implementation on the B-T. • Enhanced public education • Additional infrastructure installation. | <p>USFS Region 2 and 4, B-T and Shoshone NF</p> | <p>On track</p> |
| <p>2. GYE campground assessment and infrastructure refit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012-2013 the Forest Service conducted an assessment of 164 GYE developed campgrounds, which included an inventory of infrastructure related to bear management. • Project is in response to the increase in bear numbers and distribution and campground related bear-human conflicts. • Workshops at each Forest identified deficiencies in site boxes, dumpsters, gates, and information kiosks (about \$900,000 in needs). • Workshops also identified administrative tasks- temporal and spatial use restrictions, tent vs hard-sided camper restrictions, cover removal, and increased staffing and patrols. <p>Accomplishments- 2015:</p> | <p>FS- 5 Forests and 3 Regions</p> | <p>On-track</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership match with Greater Yellowstone Coalition (minimum of \$125,000 each, 2014-2016). R4 RF “partnership award” As of 2015, the FS contribution is about \$300,000 and the GYC contribution is \$250,000. <p>Work Plan- 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third year of a 3-year partnership project- minimum investment of \$125,000 each for the FS and GYC. This will bring the total contribution to \$425,000 for the FS and \$375,000 (total- \$800,000) The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has advocated extending this partnership into a 4th and final year (2017) and has offered an additional \$125,000, which the 5 GYE Forests will match. Intent is to ensure that all identified priority needs are accomplished GYE-wide (finish-up project “loose ends”). This will bring the project investment total to about \$1 million. In 2016, remaining infrastructure needs will be determined along with 2017 project planning. <p>3. Conservation Strategy Chapter 3 Revisions- Habitat Standards and Monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YES voted to recommend to the USFWS delisting the Yellowstone population. Subsequently, the Service has been preparing a draft delisting rule, with an associated revised Conservation Strategy. Consequently, Federal Land Managers have been preparing a draft revised Chapter 3 of the Conservation Strategy. <p>Accomplishments- 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft revised CS Chapter 3 has been prepared and was provided to the FWS (November, 2015). Revisions included changes to the monitoring elements but not standards. Revisions were summarized and provided to the YES Executive Committee. Specific revisions were communicated to select staff among the 5 NFs, 2 NPs and the BLM. <p>Work-plan- 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In concert with the FWS, include Chapter 3 revisions in a draft delisting rule. Respond to public comment. <p>4. Database and Tools for Habitat Monitoring and Project</p> | <p>GYE FS Grizzly Bear Habitat and Database managers, in concert with the FWS and Federal Land Managers.</p> | <p>On track</p> |
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| <p>Effects Analysis- “1998 Baseline”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GYE managers are required to maintain habitat standards as prescribed in the Conservation Strategy. This involves adhering to a 1998 habitat baseline (no net increase), and managing the associated data base (roads, developed sites, grazing allotments). <p>Accomplishments- 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grizzly bear habitat condition updates were compiled for 2014, which means that the annual monitoring reports are on schedule (Annual Report as required in the Conservation Strategy). • Work is on-going to synchronize the out-of-date grizzly bear motorized access database with current agency corporate transportation databases, which will enable more accurate calculations for grizzly bear secure habitat. This has been completed for the Beaverhead Deer Lodge, Custer Gallatin, and Grand Teton National Park. Significant progress was also made on the other GYE Forests, especially the Shoshone and Bridger Teton. • Constructed user-friendly geo-processing tools to assist agency staff in project-level access/secure habitat analysis. This means that project-level effects analysis can now be done at the Forest Service district level, rather than relying on these data to be generated by the GYE database manager. Unit-level training has been provided. • A new one-stop electronic data distribution site was constructed that is accessible for all agency staff. On it will be stored information and data pertaining to all GB monitoring and analysis issues & requirements. Transferring relevant data to this site has occurred. <p>Work-plan- 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete synchronizing and updating the “roads layer” for the GYE grizzly bear habitat data base. This will include the Shoshone, Caribou-Targhee, Bridger-Teton, and Yellowstone Park. • Produce the 2015 Annual Report (Habitat Standards). • Continue training new agency staff on use of the Conservation Strategy, habitat monitoring and reporting requirements, and use of the “access model” for project effects analysis. <p>5. Review Information and Education needs, particularly in context of recent human mortalities, population recovery, and delisting. In response, build I and E partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for public out-reach continues. Messages should | <p>FS Habitat and Database Managers in concert with Federal Land Managers</p> | <p>On track</p> |
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| <p>incorporate: information gained from various studies addressing public response to the “bear message” in the GYE, the context of potential delisting, data on increased bear numbers and distribution, and findings from recent Board of Review reports associated with grizzly-caused human fatalities.</p> <p>Accomplishments-2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an active “bear aware” program in the GYE with many local efforts. • Initiated partnerships with NGOs and States. <p>Work Plan- 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through IGBC, GYCC, and YES to standardize the bear aware message. • Assess program needs across the GYE • Develop partnerships with GYC, WMI, and States to address GYE program shortfalls. <p>6. Review and employ methods used to track grizzly bear demography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team has continued to develop and employ methods and models for monitoring the GYE grizzly bear population. | <p>YES and GYCC wildlife subcommittee</p> | <p>On track</p> |
| <p>Accomplishments-2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and close coordination with USFWS and States, in the context of potential delisting. <p>Work-plan-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and coordination with the USFWS and States, in the context of delisting. <p>7. Conservation Strategy awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES has experienced a high degree of turnover in committee membership, agency staff, and partner organizations since the 2007 Conservation Strategy was completed. • Knowledge of this complex document and how it affects overall and individual unit management is important, especially in the context of managing a delisted population. | <p>IGBST</p> | <p>On track</p> |
| <p>Accomplishments- 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing the FS grizzly bear habitat and database management positions, a presentation has been produced to provide an introduction to the GYE Conservation Strategy. | <p>YES</p> | <p>On track</p> |

