

TO: Cabinet-Yaak / Selkirk Interagency Grizzly Bear Subcommittee

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SUBJECT: Research and Management Update

DATE: 29 October 2003

Trapping and Monitoring

The grizzly bear trapping and marking program in the Cabinet-Yaak recovery zone for 2003 ended during September. Four grizzly bears are currently being monitored as a result of those efforts. The four animals include a subadult male, 2 adult males, and an adult female. The subadult male was captured in Idaho on May 17 at dumpsters in Deer Creek after getting garbage on at least one occasion. The agencies decided to collar and relocate the bear to Big Creek. The bear was released and monitored mostly in the Big Creek or adjacent drainages since that time.

An adult male was captured in late May in Burnt Creek. The bear was originally captured in 1996 as a 4 year-old and was monitored until 1999. Another adult male was captured in late September in Hellroaring Creek. This animal was originally captured in 1992 as a 6 year-old and was monitored until 1994. The bear lost the radio collar at that time and was not recaptured until this year. Both adult males have large home ranges that include areas on both sides of the Yaak River. An adult female was captured in August on the east side of Koochanusa Reservoir in McGuire Creek. The bear appears to be about 5 years old. Since capture, she has been monitored as far east as Fortine Creek.

During late August 2 culvert traps were lifted by helicopter to a huckleberry shrubfield in the East Fork of Rock Creek in an area where grizzly bears were observed during the last 3 years. The traps were set and monitored for 2 weeks. Three black bears were captured and released. One grizzly bear was observed near the site, but did not enter the traps.

Hair Snagging for Genetic Analysis

Two hair snagging efforts were undertaken within or adjacent to the Recovery zone this past summer. The first effort was a continuation of work started last year east of Koochanusa Reservoir. The effort was centered around McGuire and Huckleberry Mountains to obtain determine if bears were in the area and obtain genetic samples for comparison to Yaak bears and Whitefish Range bears. That sampling obtained hair that outwardly appeared to be grizzly at several sites and found recent digging activity by bears. We decided to place a trap team in the area for a short period and an adult female was captured within a week. All collected hair samples will be sent to a lab for analysis later this year.

The second hair snagging effort encompassed the Cabinet Mountains portion of the recovery zone. The sample area was divided into 25 square kilometer cells (9.6 sq. mi.) and a sample site was located in each cell. Sites were sampled for 2 weeks with a scent lure surrounded by a single strand of barbwire. A third of the sites were operated during each month of June, July, and August. Hair was collected at 77% of sites with over 900 total samples of hair collected. Hair samples are currently being cataloged before sending to a lab for analysis later this year. Several samples outwardly appear to be grizzly bear because of silver tipping.

TO: Cabinet-Yaak / Selkirk Interagency Grizzly Bear Subcommittee

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SUBJECT: Research and Management Update

DATE: 29 October 2003

Selkirk Ecosystem

Monitoring

Four grizzly bears are currently being monitored, including 2 subadult males and 2 subadult females. A subadult female was collared in the spring but lost her collar in early July. The collared sample has been primarily subadult bears lately. This is partly due to management actions. All bears captured due to management actions have been subadults. A subadult female that was trapped in Grass Ck spent a good portion of the summer north of B.C. Highway 3. While numerous radio-collared male bears have been documented crossing the highway, this is the first documented crossing by a female. Grizzly bear sightings throughout the summer have been numerous from nearly all portions of the ecosystem.

Trapping / management actions

One subadult male was trapped this summer in the Kootenai Valley near West Creston, B.C. The bear was frequenting a dairy where it had dug up buried cows and was eating silage corn. The bear was collared and released in Devil's Hole Lake, approximately 20 miles from the capture site. Within 1 week the bear had returned to the area but has not caused any problems upon his return.

Mortalities

The young female that was trapped in Highland Flats, recaptured in the Pack River and released in the Upper Priest River drainage was killed in a management action in B.C. near the town of Salmo. One subadult bear was killed in the lower Boundary/Smith Creek drainage this spring. The bear was shot. The investigation is ongoing. The investigation continues on the subadult male that was shot and killed last fall in early October west of Priest Lake. *Lamb Cr.*

Hair snagging for genetic analysis

IDFG assisted the USFS research branch in a large wildlife sampling effort in the Selkirks and Cabinet/Yaak this summer. Approximately 250 sites were established. Hair snagging sites were established at all sites and remote cameras were operated on approximately half of these. Hair samples are currently being analyzed at the USFS research station. Results of the hair snagging effort will be compared with the remote camera results. This is part of a larger, long-term study that is attempting to correlate occurrence of a variety of mammal species with vegetation characteristics.

Table X. Known grizzly bear mortalities associated with the Selkirk Mountains and Cabinet-Yaak recovery zones, 1982-2002.

Mortality Date	Tag #	Sex	Age	Zone	Location	Mortality Cause	<500 Meters from Open Road
Spring 1982	None	M	AD	Selkirk	Priest River, ID	Human, Poaching	Yes
Autumn 1982	None	Unk	Unk	Selkirk	LeClerc Creek, WA	Human, Unknown	Yes
Autumn 1982	None	M	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Grouse Creek, ID	Human, Poaching	No
1984	None	Unk	Unk	Cabinet-Yaak	Harvey Creek, ID	Human, Mistaken Identity	Yes
1985	867-85a ¹	Unk	Cub	Selkirk	N/A	Natural	Unk
Summer 1985	949 ¹	M	4.5	Selkirk	Selkirk Mtns., US/BC border	Human, Unknown ³	Unk
Autumn 1985	14 ¹	M	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Lyons Gulch, MT	Human, Self Defense	No
Summer 1986	106 cub ¹	Unk	Cub	Cabinet-Yaak	Burnt Creek, MT	Natural	Unk
Autumn 1986	898 ¹	F	1.5	Selkirk	Grass Creek, ID	Human, Unknown ³	Unk
1986	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Non-hunting mortality BC Unit 4-8	Human, Management	Yes
Spring 1987	1005 ¹	M	10.5	Selkirk	Wall Mtn, BC	Human, Poaching	Unk
Autumn 1987	962 ¹	M	7.5	Selkirk	Trapper Creek, ID	Human, Poaching	No
Autumn 1987	None	F	Cub	Cabinet-Yaak	Flattail Creek, MT	Human, Mistaken Identity	No
Spring 1988	134 ¹	M	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Moyie River, BC ²	Human, Hunting	Yes
Autumn 1988	None	F	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Seventeen Mile Creek, MT	Human, Self Defense	No
Autumn 1988	1085 ¹	F	3.5	Selkirk	Cow Creek, ID	Human, Mistaken Identity	No
Autumn 1988	1050 ¹	M	1.5	Selkirk	Porcupine Creek, BC	Natural	No
Spring 1988	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Hunting mortality BC Unit 4-7	Human, Hunting	Unk
Summer 1989	129 ¹	F	3.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Burnt Creek, MT	Human, Research	Yes
Summer 1989	1044 ¹	F	20+	Selkirk	Laib Creek, BC	Natural, Conspecific	No
Autumn 1990	1042	F	3.5	Selkirk	Maryland Creek, BC	Human, Poaching	Yes
1990	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Non-hunting mortality BC Unit 4-8	Human, Management	Yes
1990	None	M	Unk	Cabinet-Yaak	Poverty Creek, MT	Human, Poaching	Yes
1991	876-92a ¹	Unk	1.5	Selkirk	Unknown	Natural	Unk
Summer 1991	1076 ¹	F	20+	Selkirk	Next Creek, BC	Natural	No
Summer 1992	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Lost Creek, BC	Human, Management	Yes
Summer 1992	1090 ¹	M	5.5	Selkirk	Laib Creek, BC	Unknown	Unk
Autumn 1992	1015	F	12.5	Selkirk	Monk Creek, BC	Human, Self Defense	No
1992	None	Unk	Unk	Cabinet-Yaak	Trail Creek, MT	Unknown	No
Spring 1993	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Hunting mortality BC Unit 4-7	Human, Hunting	Unk
Autumn 1993	867 ¹	F	15.5	Selkirk	Willow Creek, WA	Human, Poaching ³	No
Autumn 1993	867-93a ¹	Unk	0.5	Selkirk	Willow Creek, WA	Human, Poaching ³	No
Autumn 1993	867-93b ¹	Unk	0.5	Selkirk	Willow Creek, WA	Human, Poaching ³	No
1993	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Non-hunting mortality BC Unit 4-8	Human, Management	Yes
Summer 1993	258 ¹	F	7.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Libby Creek, MT	Natural	No
Summer 1993	258-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Libby Creek, MT	Natural	No
1993	None	M	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Libby Creek, MT	Human, Poaching	Unk
Spring 1994	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Hunting mortality BC Unit 4-7	Human, Hunting	Unk
Spring 1994	13	M	AD	Selkirk	Hunting mortality BC Unit 4-20 ²	Human, Hunting	Unk
Spring 1995	None	F	1.5	Selkirk	Boundary Creek, ID	Human, Unknown	Yes
Autumn 1995	1100 ¹	M	2.5	Selkirk	Granite Pass, WA	Human, Mistaken Identity	Yes
1996	1027-96b ¹	Unk	Cub	Selkirk	Unknown	Natural	Unk
Spring 1996	302 ¹	M	3.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Dodge Creek, MT	Human, Unknown ³	Yes
Autumn 1996	1022	M	2.5	Selkirk	Boswell, BC	Human, Management	Yes
Autumn 1997	355 ¹	M	AD	Cabinet-Yaak	Gold Creek, BC ³	Human, Unknown ³	Yes
Autumn 1997	None	M	1.5	Selkirk	Salmo, BC	Human, Management	Yes

Spring 1998	1023	M	4.5	Selkirk	Hunting mortality BC Unit 4-26 ²	Human, Hunting	Unk
Summer 1998	None	M	3.5	Selkirk	Usk, WA	Human, Under investigation	Yes
Spring 1999	106 ¹	F	21	Cabinet-Yaak	Seventeen Mile Creek, MT	Natural, Consppecific	No
Spring 1999	106-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Seventeen Mile Creek, MT	Natural, Consppecific	No
Spring 1999	106-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Seventeen Mile Creek, MT	Natural, Consppecific	No
Autumn 1999	596 ¹	F	2.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Hart Creek, BC	Human, Self Defense	Yes
Autumn 1999	358	M	15	Cabinet-Yaak	Yaak River, MT	Human, Management	Yes
Autumn 1999	9810	M	10	Selkirk	Smith Creek, ID	Human, Under Investigation	Unk
Autumn 1999	None	M	22	Selkirk	Wyndell, BC	Human, Management	Yes
Autumn 1999	1032	M	18	Selkirk	Procter, BC	Human, Management	Yes
Spring 2000	538-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Hawkins Creek, BC	Natural	Unk
Spring 2000	538-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Hawkins Creek, BC	Natural	Unk
Summer 2000	303-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Fowler Creek, MT	Natural	Unk
Autumn 2000	592 ¹	F	3	Cabinet-Yaak	Pete Creek MT	Human, Under Investigation ³	Yes
Spring 2001	None	F	1.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Spread Creek, MT	Human, Mistaken Identity	Yes
Spring 2001	538-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Cold Creek, BC	Natural	Unk
Spring 2001	538-cub ¹	Unk	0.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Cold Creek, BC	Natural	Unk
Summer 2001	7	F	13	Selkirk	Porcupine Creek, BC	Natural	Yes
Autumn 2001	None	Unk	Ad	Cabinet-Yaak	Elk Creek, MT	Human, Train collision	Yes
Autumn 2001	None	M	Unk	Selkirk	Cottonwood Creek, BC	Human, Management	Yes
Spring 2002	17	M	3.5	Selkirk	Nelway, BC	Human, Depredation	Yes
Summer 2002	577	F	1.5	Cabinet-Yaak	Marten Creek, MT	Natural	Yes
Autumn 2002	None	F	3	Cabinet-Yaak	Porcupine Creek, MT	Human, Under Investigation	Yes
Autumn 2002	None	F	Ad	Selkirk	W of Nelson, BC	Human, Under Investigation	Yes
Autumn 2002	None	Unk	1	Selkirk	W of Nelson, BC	Human, Under Investigation	Yes
Autumn 2002	None	Unk	1	Selkirk	W of Nelson, BC	Human, Under Investigation	Yes
Autumn 2002	None	Unk	1	Selkirk	W of Nelson, BC	Human, Under Investigation	Yes
Autumn 2002	19	M	3.5	Selkirk	Lamb Creek, ID	Human, Under Investigation ³	Yes

¹ Part of radio collar sample at time of mortality.

² Mortality outside recovery zone more than 10 miles.

³ Human caused mortality determined only because of the radio collar on the animal at the time of death.

2003 3 mort in BC } Selkirkos
1 mort in US }

	Cabinet-Yaak			Selkirk Mountains			Total		
	<500 m from open road	>500 m from open road	Unk	<500 m from open road	>500 m from open road	Unk	<500 m from open road	>500 m from open road	Unk
Human-caused	12 (75%)	4 (25%)	1	21 (78%)	6 (22%)	9	33 (77%)	10 (23%)	10
Natural / Unknown	1	6	6	1	3	4	2	9	10