

WILDGROUNDS TO PLAYGROUNDS





Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area and
Adjacent Roadless Areas (230,000 acres)



Porcupine Creek Drainage



South Cottonwood Drainage



Ramshorn Peak and Lake Area



Upper Hyalite Creek Drainage

West Pine Area



- 1872- Yellowstone Park Created

- 1910- Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot advocates for wildlife refuge in Southern Gallatin Range

- 1911- State of Montana established a wildlife refuge in the Buffalo Horn and Porcupine drainages.

- 1925- work begins to purchase inholdings

- 1947- State of Montana purchases eight sections of inholdings in the Buffalo Horn drainage

- 1958- Montana Wilderness Association insists the Regional Forester cancel plans for roadbuilding and logging in Porcupine and Buffalo Horn drainages and he agrees

- 1977- Montana Wilderness Study Areas Act established the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area

- 1983- Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act authorizes land exchanges in the Gallatin Range

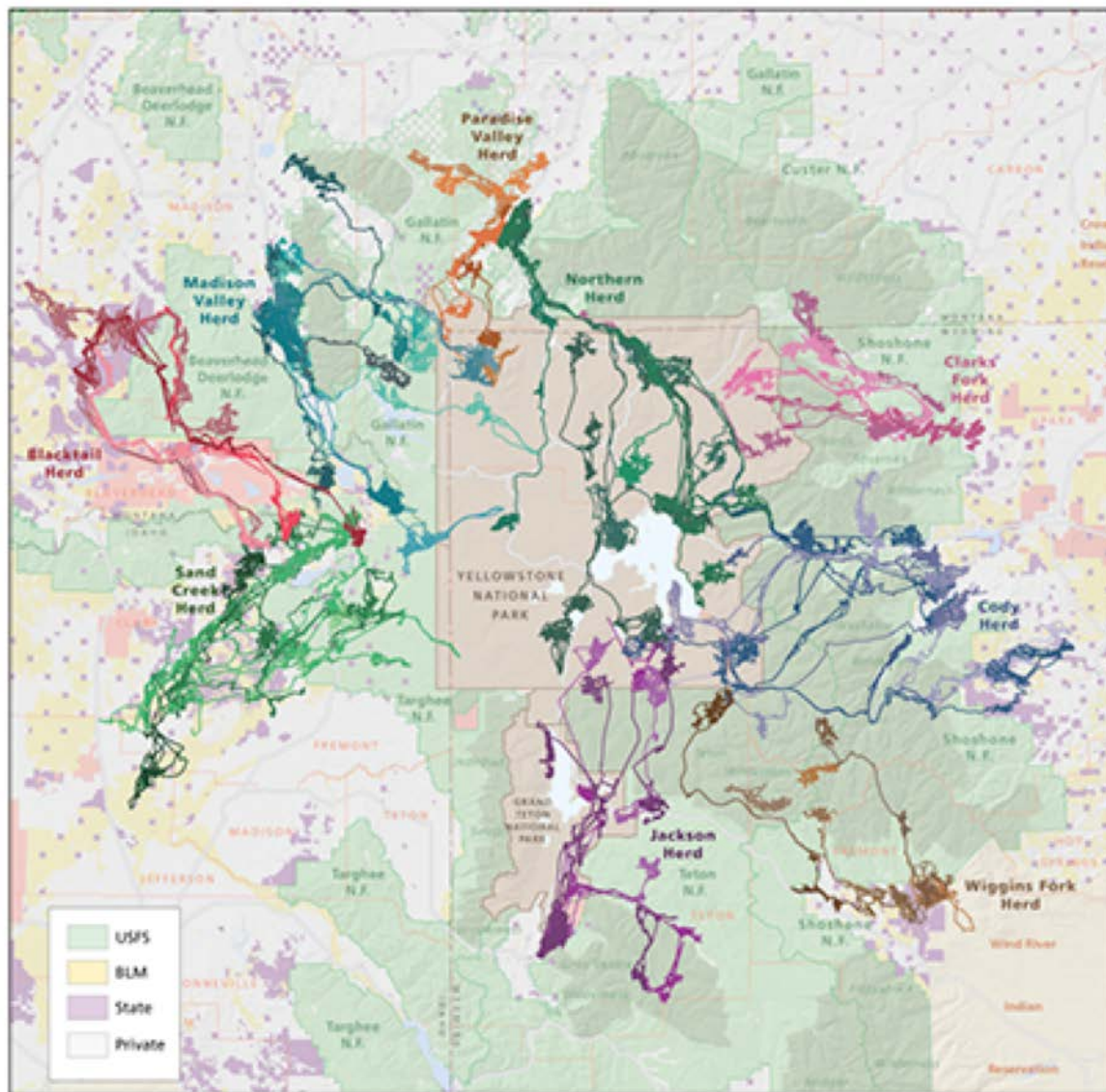
- 1993- Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act

- 2019- More than 100 leading scientists endorse 230,000 acres of Wilderness

S. 393 requires protection of the outstanding wilderness character of the wilderness study areas until Congress would move on final disposition, stating:

“the wilderness study areas designated by this Act shall, until Congress determines otherwise, be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.”





Elk Migrations of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

- Blacktail Herd
- Clarks Fork Herd
- Cody Herd
- Jackson Herd
- Madison Valley Herd
- Northern Herd
- Paradise Valley Herd
- Sand Creek Herd
- Wiggins Fork Herd



© 2015 University of Wyoming
 Source: Atlas of Wildlife Migration, Wyoming's Department of Game and Parks
 Cartography: University of Oregon, Oregon State University
 Elk data contributed by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Idaho Fish and Game, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Iowa State University, and Utah School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

September 10, 2015 (draft)

Wilderness, Wildlife, and Ecological Values of the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn

Wilderness Study Area

A Report for the Lee and Donna Metcalf Foundation

By The Craighead Institute

Frank Lance Craighead, PhD

November 2015



Heather Lake in the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area.

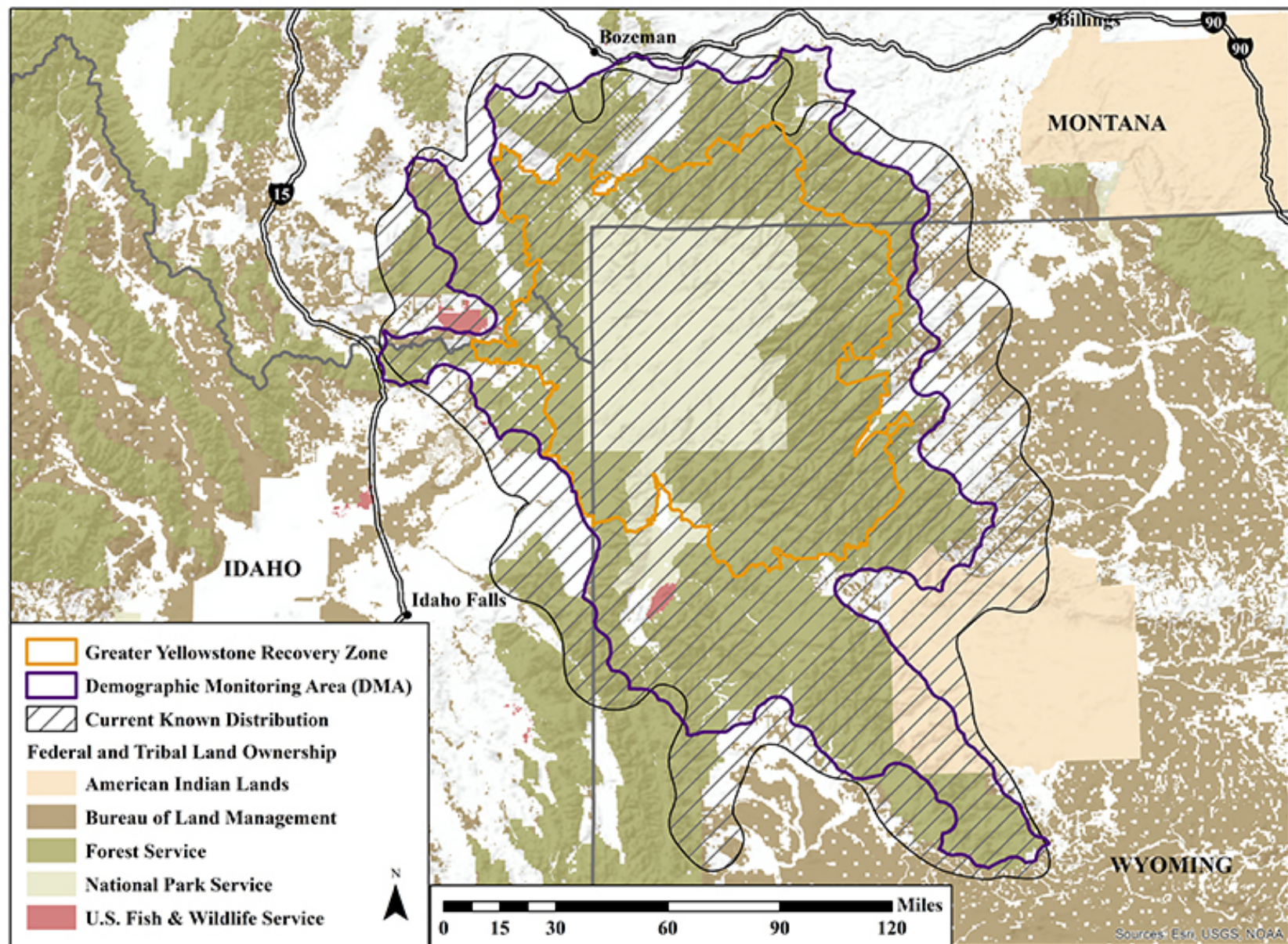
Photo Credit: Lance Craighead







Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



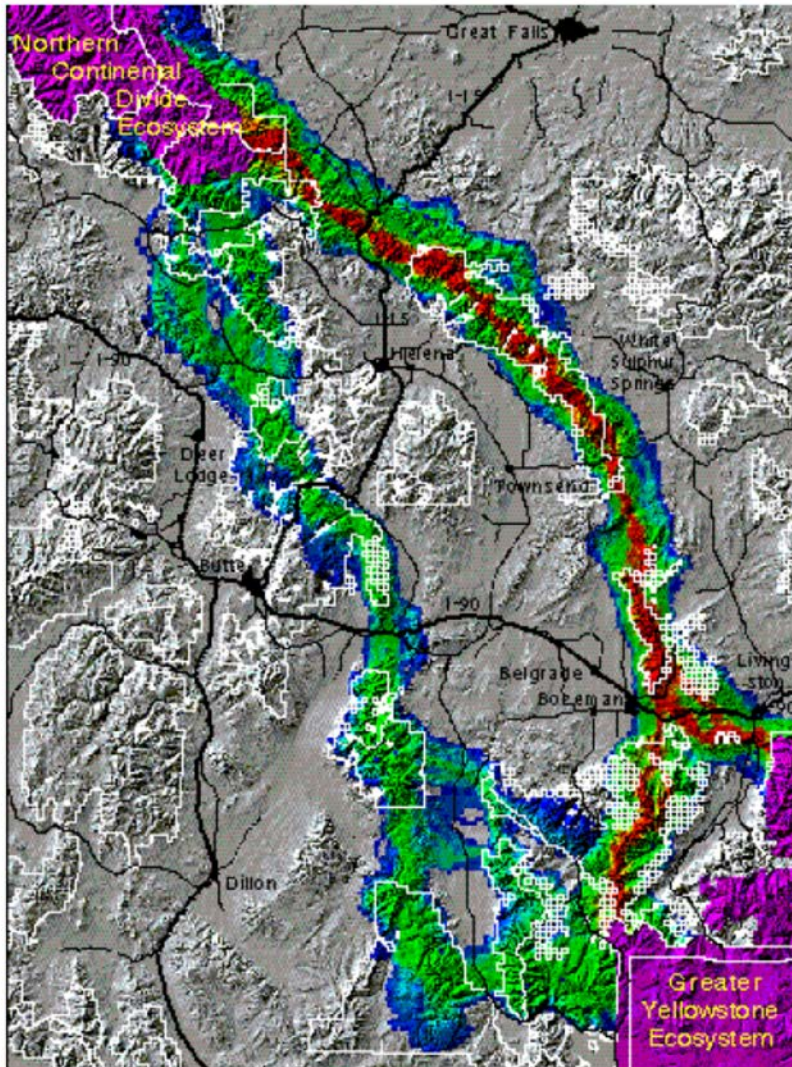


Figure 16. Least Cost Path Corridors for Grizzlies Between GYE and NCDE.
Credit: American Wildlands, Richard Walker and Lance Craighead

The Gallatin Range Is Part of
the Most Direct Route Between
Greater Yellowstone and the
Northern Continental Divide
Ecosystems

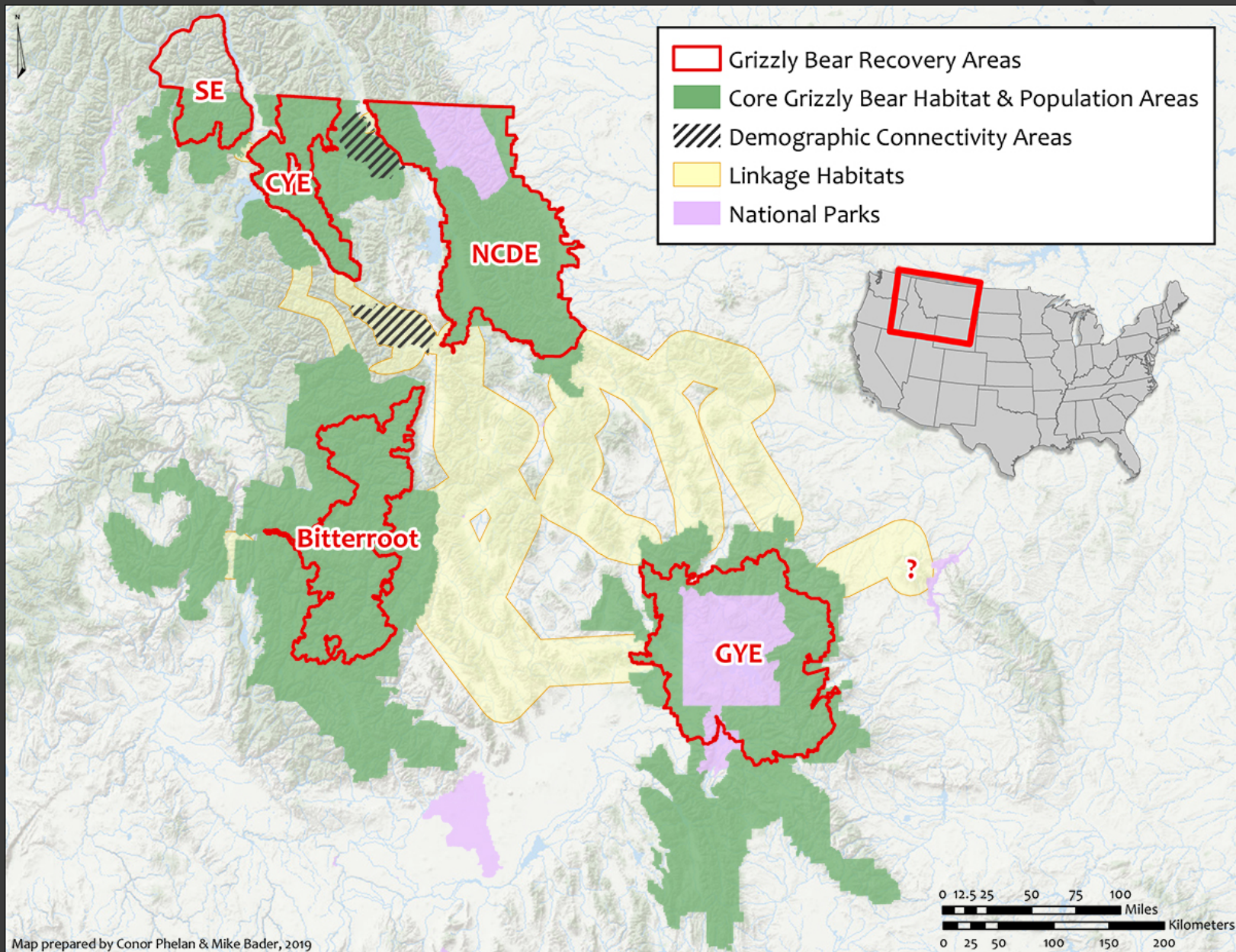
Walker & Craighead

Conservation biologists: 2,500-5,000 grizzly bears are needed in a single population or metapopulation to ensure long-term viability

The Core of Any Grizzly Bear Population is the Area Inhabited by Overlapping Breeding Age Males & Females

Expanding and linking core areas is the central aim of grizzly bear recovery







Demographic
Connectivity Between
GYE and the NCDE
Isn't a Sprint by Males
Between the Recovery
Areas

It's a Genetic Relay
Between "Stepping
Stones" of Secure Core
Inhabited by Females

“An Unbroken Wilderness”

—“The consolidation of the checkerboard in the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area within the Gallatin Range sets the stage for future consideration of the WSA and surrounding lands for wilderness. It is the largest roadless area in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem not currently designated wilderness. In addition to protecting the values mentioned above, it would provide an unbroken wilderness from just south of Bozeman to Yellowstone National Park.”

—Congressional testimony of The Wilderness Society and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition

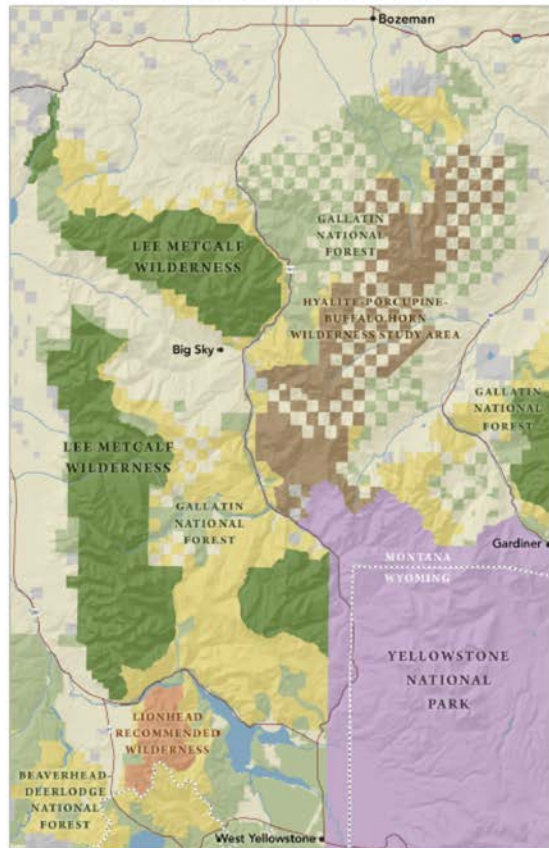


Greater Yellowstone Coalition

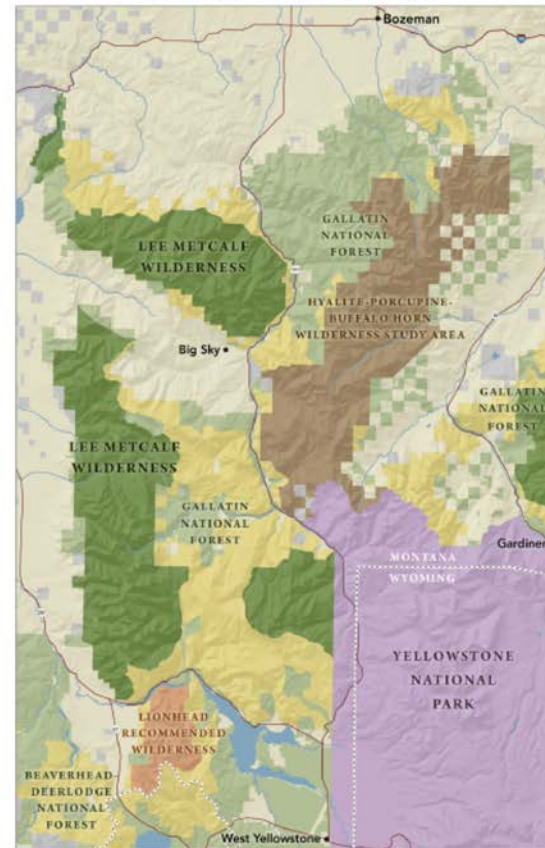
Proposed Wilderness

Submitted to Congress 1994

BEFORE THE GALLATIN LAND
CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1998



TODAY AND LOOKING AHEAD:
POTENTIAL WILDERNESS



The Gallatin Range

CHANGES IN LAND OWNERSHIP AND
MANAGEMENT FROM 1998 TO TODAY

- DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS
- INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA
- U.S. FOREST SERVICE LANDS
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LANDS
- PRIVATE LANDS
- STATE OF MONTANA LANDS



Potential for “Unbroken Wilderness” Enacted

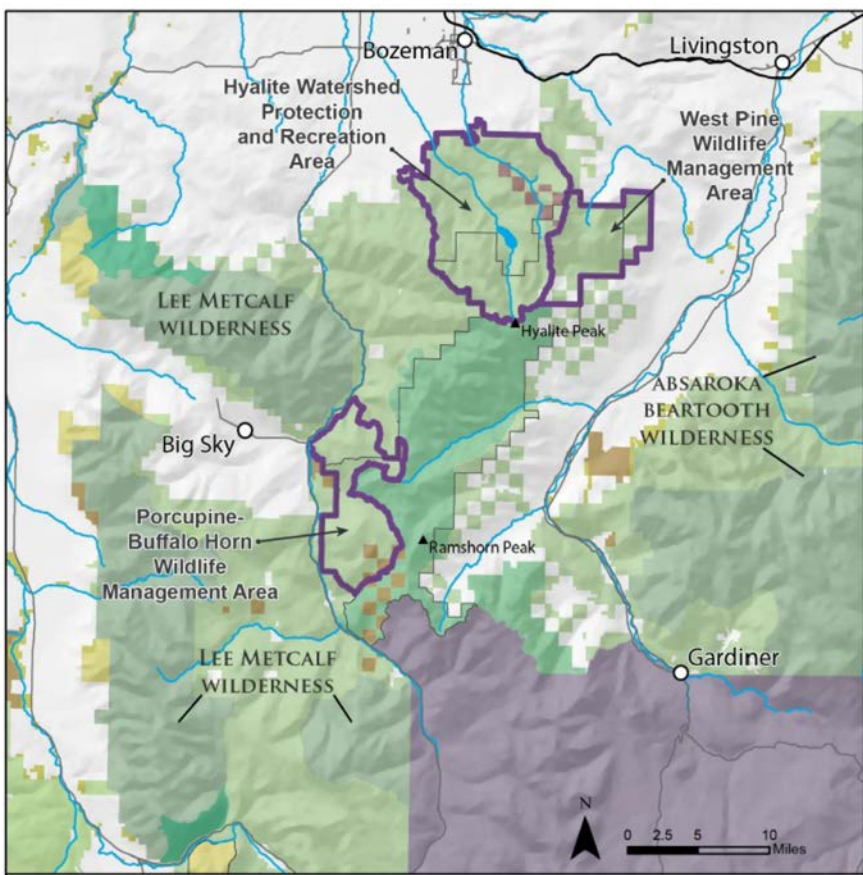
The Dr. Reed Noss Letter Signed by Over 100 Top Scientists and Conservation Leaders Who Advocate 230,000+ acres of Wilderness in The Gallatin Range

Signers Include:

- **Bruce Babbitt**, *former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, former Governor of Arizona*
- **Mike Finley**, *former Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park*
- **Rick Reese**, *principal founder and 3-term President, Greater Yellowstone Coalition*
- **Mike Clark**, *former Executive Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition*
- **Louisa Willcox**, *former Program Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; founder of Grizzly Times*
- **Bart Koehler**, *former Associate Program Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, former Senior Campaign Director, The Wilderness Society*

“Fragmenting the HPBH WSA into smaller pieces of protected habitat would greatly diminish its value for wildlife habitat and the provision of ecosystems services and could nullify its ability to function as a refuge from climate change.”

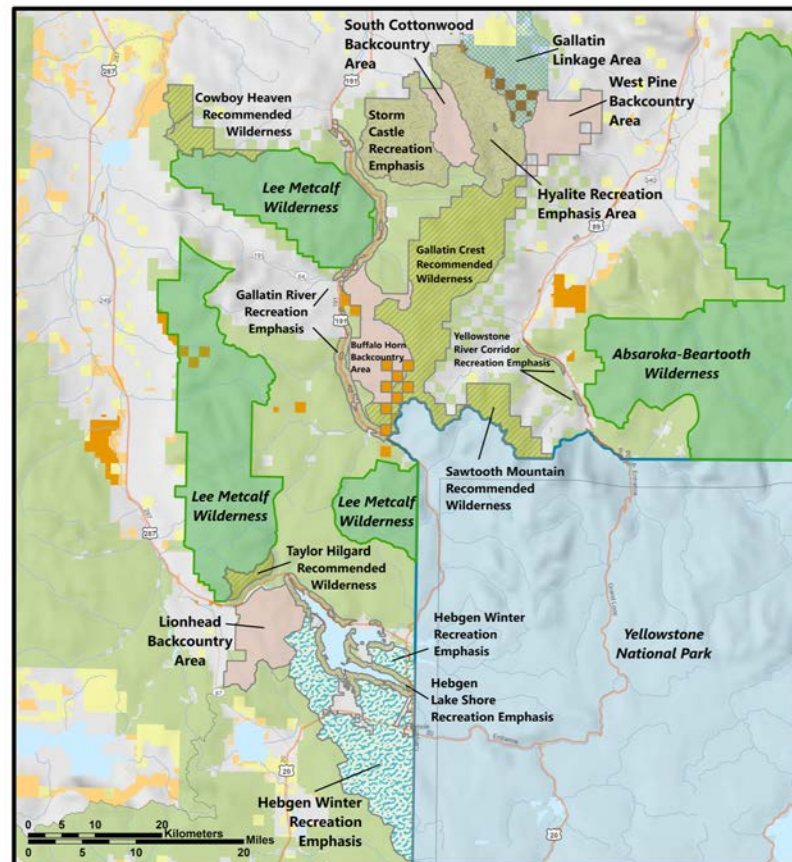
— Dr. Frank L. Craighead



Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement

Land Management Designations

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| US Forest Service | National Park Service |
| Existing Wilderness | Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks |
| Proposed Recommended Wilderness | Bureau of Land Management |
| Proposed Special Management Areas | City of Bozeman |



Designations--Custer Gallatin Revised Forest Plan, Madison-Gallatin-Henry's Lake Area

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Winter Recreation Emphasis | Wilderness | State of Montana |
| Recreation Emphasis | Yellowstone National Park | Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks |
| Recommended Wilderness | US Forest Service (USFS) | City of Bozeman |
| Backcountry Area | Bureau of Land Management | Key Linkage Areas |

Designations in the Gallatin Forest Partnership and the Custer Gallatin Revised Forest Plan

GFP Reply

The GFP claims I wrote that the Forest Service controlled the GFP. In fact, my report states:

The Forest Service did not establish the GFP and has been careful to keep an arm's length and vice versa, yet it is clear they were delighted as evidenced by the consistent praise for the GFP by the Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor Mary Erikson.

GFP Claims the Backcountry Designation in the CGNF Revised Plan Does Not Allow Mining, roads, logging—

“Exceptions to the backcountry area standards in chapter 2 and chapter 3 shall be allowed to provide for reasonable access and mining activities pursuant to the 1872 Mining Law. New access to and development of minerals shall minimize impacts to backcountry areas.” Moreover, temporary roads are allowed in South Cottonwood.

*“The backcountry areas are not suitable for timber production. Vegetation management, **including timber harvest**, is suitable for purposes such as fuels reduction, restoration, or wildlife habitat enhancement.”*



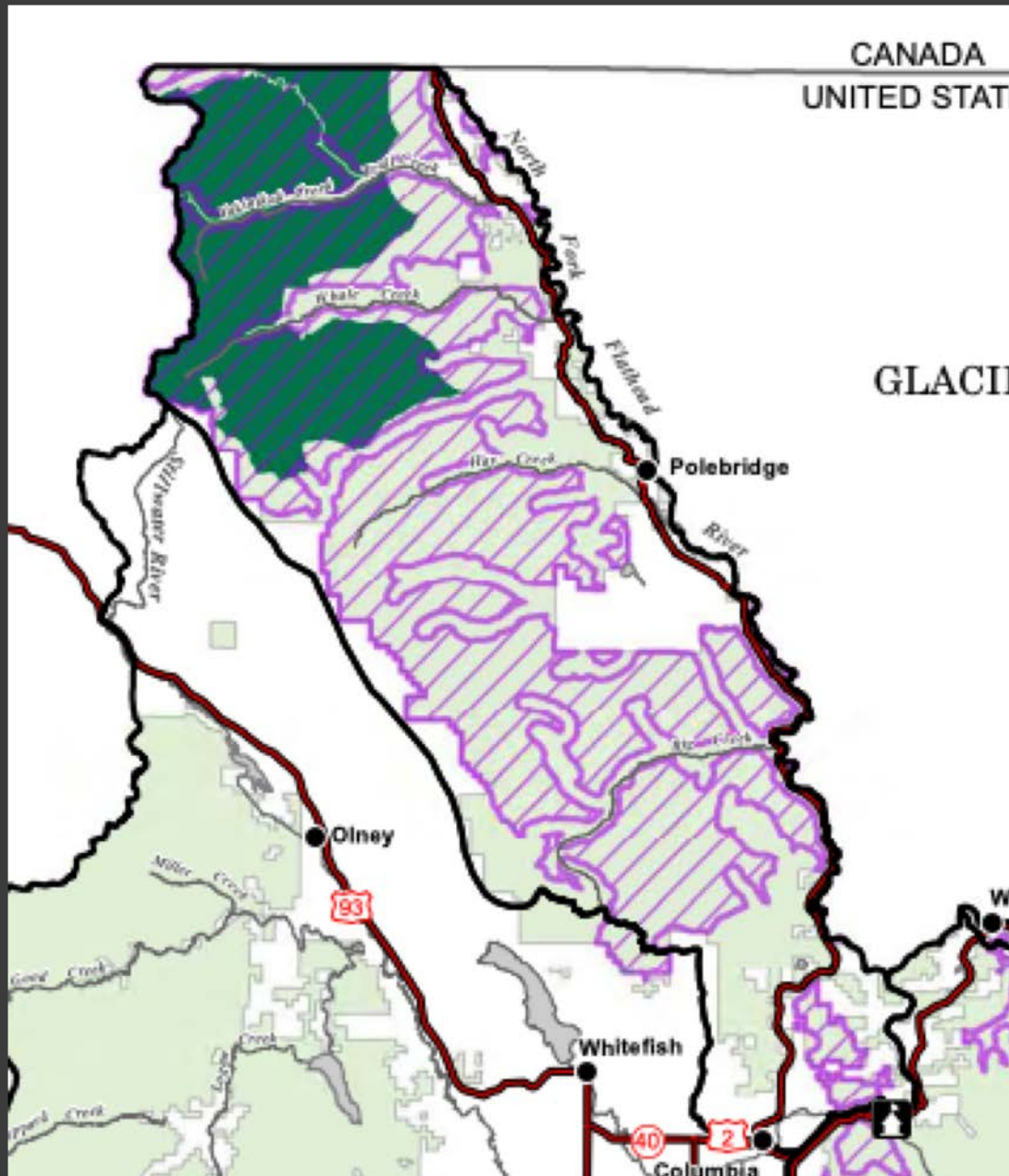
Most “Restoration Projects” On the Custer Gallatin National Forest are Commercial Timber Sales Under A Different Name

The GFP claims that new trails are not allowed within the current bounds of the WSA except the extensive new trail loop in West Pine.

The GFPA states: *“Immediately following completion of forest plan revision conduct travel analysis for all trails within the P-BH area, **designate additional system trails as necessary**, and allow no new trail construction following this process.”*

No new trails AFTER new ones are added and/or built and possibly add illegal user-created trails to the official system rewarding illegal activities.

This is consistent with the GFP's citing the illegal motorized and mechanized use within the WSA for the past 35 years as an excuse for not advocating Recommended Wilderness for large areas of the WSA and rewarding the illegal motorized and mechanized use.



Whitefish Range Partnership Proposed Wilderness

*“Big Win in the
Whitefish Range,
Forest Service
embraces the
Whitefish
Partnership
proposal in its final
Flathead Forest
plan.”*

“While I did not incorporate the Gallatin Forest Partnership proposal in its entirety, I found the work of the Gallatin Forest Partnership to be the most compelling for this landscape... The plan includes backcountry areas in the Buffalo Horn, South Cottonwood, and West Pine areas, and a Hyalite Recreation Emphasis Area although with some different boundaries than the Gallatin Forest Partnership proposal.”

—Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor Mary Erikson

*“Overall, the new plan represents a balanced approach to managing the national forest’s 3-million-acre landscape. We commend the forest managers for including many of the collaborative solutions that GYC advocated for to protect our wild backyard for humans and wildlife alike. Included are protections for the Gallatin and Madison mountains **that largely mirror the recommendations of the Gallatin Forest Partnership**, of which GYC is a founding member. While not perfect, **the new plan is a decisive win for public lands in the northern Greater Yellowstone.**”*

—Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Shrinking Wilderness Proposals for the Gallatin Range 1986-2022

MWA 1986	GYC 1994	GFPA 2018	Revised Forest Plan 2022
171,000/202,000	210,000/210,000	92,000/230,000	78,000/230,000
85%	100%	40%	34%



Opening Shot of GYC's Video on the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement—the Denial of Recreational Impact on Native Wildlife

Desire—

“Mountain bikers are out to challenge the resource. It’s about how fast you can go and how many miles you can put on. Snowmobilers are after the highest mark on the hillside, the highest speed across the meadow.”

—Arnold “Smoke” Elser

Denial—

While all human use has impacts on wildlife, Numerous Research Studies Show ATVs and Mountain Biking Have the Most Displacement Impact on Elk including Forest Service research (Wisdom, et al.)

The risk of a serious encounter with a grizzly bear while mountain biking is approximately 14X that of hiking.



Mountain Biking in Grizzly Bear Habitat is a High-Risk Activity Due to Silent Travel At High Speeds Around Blind Corners

Conclusions of the Board of Inquiry Report on the Death of a Mountain Biker Who Collided With a Female Grizzly Bear With Cubs

—Chaired by Dr. Christopher Servheen, former National Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator

Also see the video of Dr. David Mattson on mountain biking in grizzly habitat. www.grizzlytimes.org

NORTHERN
CONTINENTAL
DIVIDE ECOSYSTEM

Roads a major threat to grizzlies

Bears probe limits of
highway tolerance

ROB CHANEY
rchaney@missoulian.com

The dictionary defines “mortality” as both death and loss.

For grizzly bears along the Northern Continental Divide, both definitions came into play last month when the ecosystem recorded five grizzly mortalities, although only four bears died. And because two of the deaths were adult females of breeding age, the loss could have longer term consequences.

On July 24, Montana Fish



**2018 All-Time Record for
Grizzlies Killed on Highways**

Road/Motorized Trail Density Impacts on Grizzly Bears

(0.6 = 1mi/mi²; 1.2 = 2mi/mi²)

Road Density km/km ²	Survival Rate	Growth Rate	Density Bears/1000km ²	Den Selection Probability
0	≈ 100%	Positive	30	N/A
0.6	95%	Static	30	70%
1.2	85%	Negative	10/	30%
1.4	75%	Rapid decline	Lower	N/A
1.6	Lower	Rapid decline	Lower	N/A
2.0	Lower	Rapid Decline	Lower	≈ 0%

Sources: Proctor et al. (2019); Boulanger and Stenhouse (2014); Pigeon et al. (2014).



Trail Damage
Within the WSA

