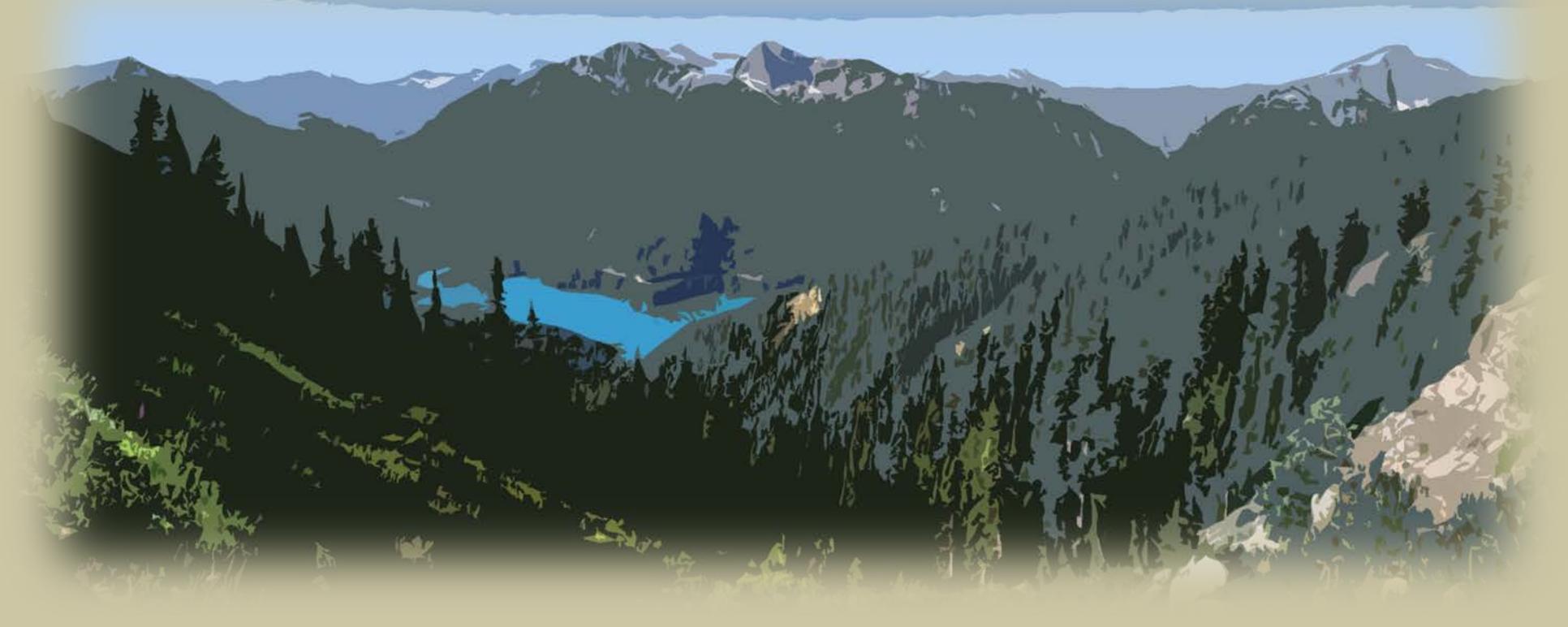


Grizzly Bear

North Cascades Ecosystem



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MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

RECONYX

“Grizzly” refers to lighter tips on their guard hairs, creating a grizzled appearance. This bear was photographed by remote camera in Canada.

Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos*

- Mammal
- Adult bear measure 3-4 ft high at the shoulder and 6-7 ft tall standing upright
- Adults weigh between 250 and 600 pounds
- Color of their coat varies from blond to reddish to dark brown
- Prominent shoulder hump and round ears

Shoulder hump →



Grizzly Bear

Smaller, round ears Larger, oval ears



Grizzly Bear



Black Bear

Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos*, Cont'd

- Claws that measure more than 2 inches in length
- Breed infrequently (once every 3 to 5 years)
- Small litters average one to two cubs
- Spend 2.5 to 4.5 years raising cubs



Comparison of the black and grizzly bears.

Grizzly Bear Diet



- Omnivores
 - Primarily vegetation
 - Carrion (dead things)
 - Insects, fish, and small mammals
 - Rarely take kills from other predators
 - Occasionally kills large animals

This bear was photographed by remote camera in Canada.

Factors that Affect Grizzly Bear Recovery

- Have a large home range
- Home ranges vary from 50 to 500 square miles
- Home range depends on food, age, sex, and breeding status
- Related females often overlap ranges
- Male's home range generally overlap with those of several females and other males
- Bears utilize a broad variety of habitats, food, secure habitats, and den sites

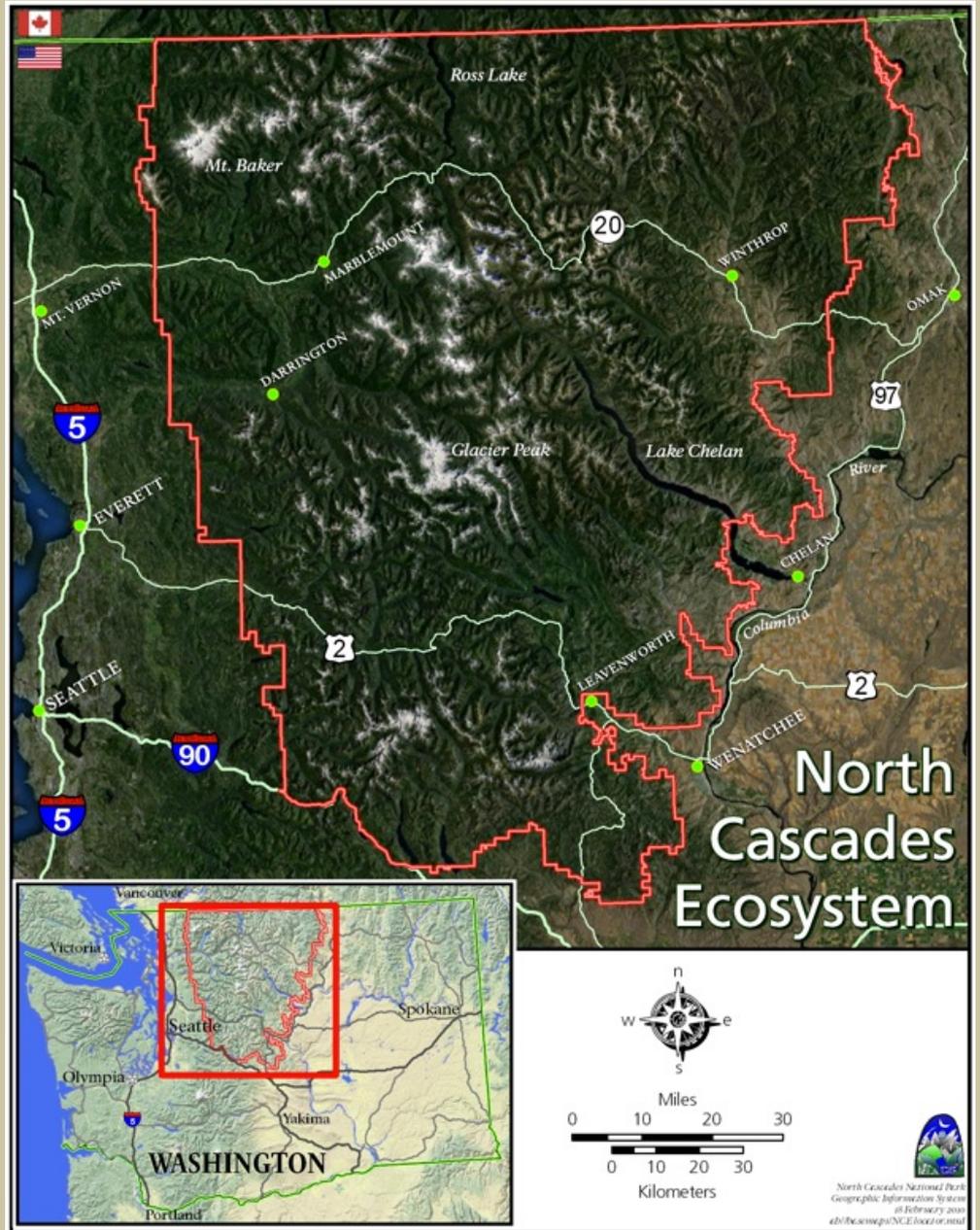
Factors that Affect Grizzly Bear Recovery

Cont'd

- Because of slow reproduction and slow dispersal, recovery would be slow in North Cascades
- People would see bears rarely, if at all, during the first 10 – 20 years
- In a similarly sized ecosystem in Idaho it was estimated to take 50 – 125 years to attain a recovered population of 200 – 300 bears



Grizzly bear track in North Cascades NP



North Cascades Ecosystem

North Cascades Ecosystem

Is transboundary and shared with Canada.

The largest area of the ecosystem, 9,800 square miles, lies in the United States.

97% of the US portion of the North Cascades ecosystem is public land

- North Cascades National Park Service Complex – 10%
- Okanogan-Wenatchee & Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests – 76%
- Other Federal Lands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense) – 2.6%
- State lands – 7.4%
- County and municipal – 1%

3% private land

Grizzly Bears Benefit the Ecosystem

- Restores a native species and restores natural biodiversity
- Biodiversity is sign of a healthy ecosystem
- An ecosystem capable of supporting grizzly bears is healthy and is also capable of supporting a large array of other species in the same habitat
- Restores a part of the natural and cultural heritage of Washington

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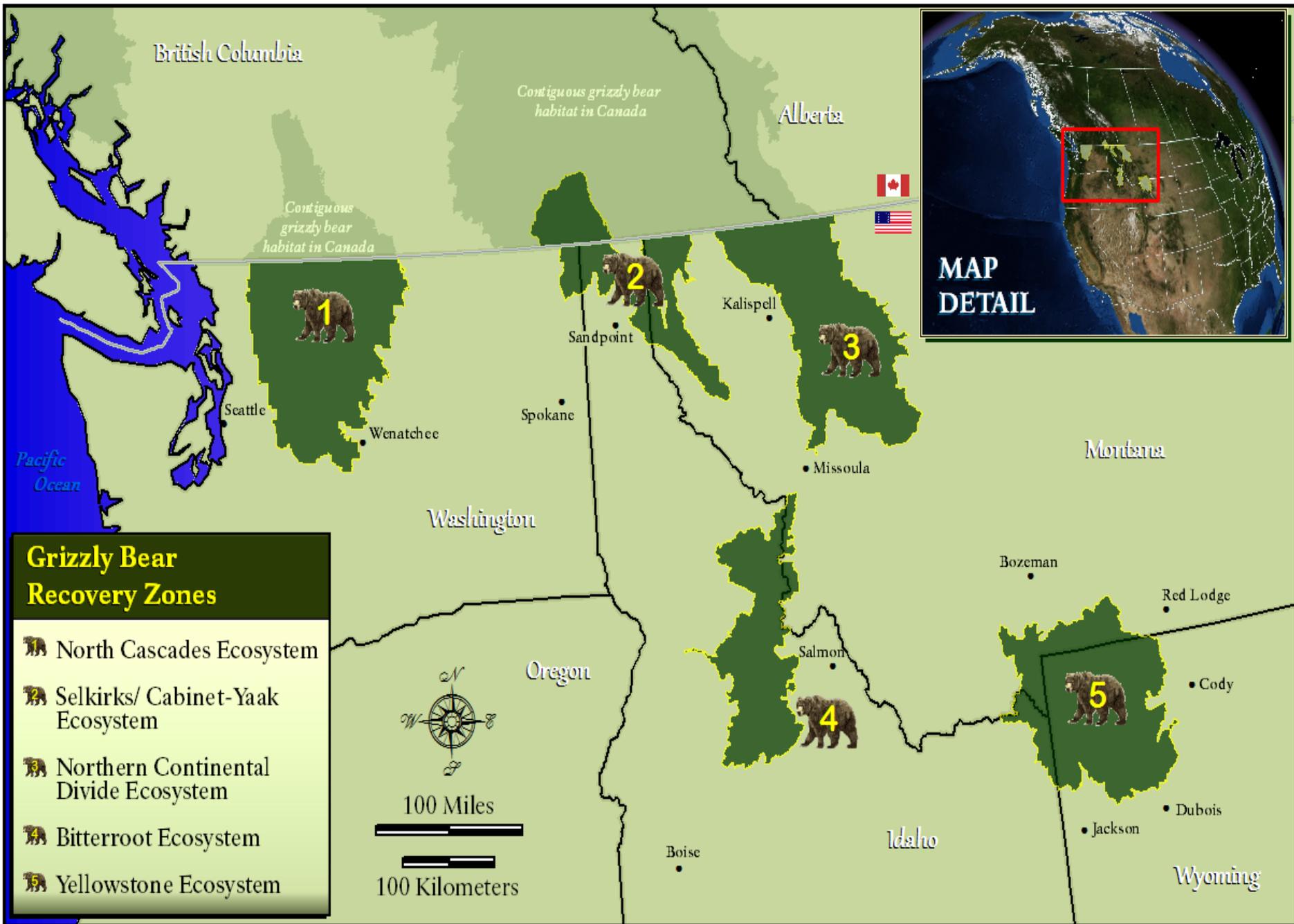
Few grizzly bears remain in the North Cascades. This bear was photographed by remote camera in 2010 and 2012 near the US/Canada border.

Habitat for Bear Survival

- North Cascades ecosystem habitat quality, quantity, and security support grizzly bears
- Decline in grizzly numbers due to direct killing by people killing them, not habitat loss
- Thousands of grizzly bears from within and around this ecosystem were killed by mid-1800s for the sale of their hides



An example of grizzly bear habitat in the North Cascades.



Grizzly Bear Impact

- Big game population – grizzlies primarily feed on vegetation, insects, small mammals, and carrion, yet take advantage of vulnerable, young ungulates such as elk or deer
- Ranchers and domestic livestock – grizzly bears tend to avoid areas of human activity

People and Grizzlies

- Use the same safe human behavior as in black bear territory
 - Proper food storage in the backcountry
 - Proper sanitation and storage in developed areas
- Millions of people live and recreate safely in grizzly habitat in North America with minimal risk and conflict

Agencies address high risk elements of human-grizzly conflict by increasing awareness and education.

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This bear was photographed by remote camera in Canada.

