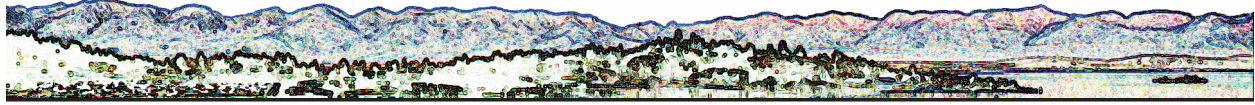


Swan View's News

Holidays 2018



Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

www.swanview.org
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Temporary Win for Grizzlies but More Work Ahead!

Our colleagues in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem won a temporary reprieve for grizzly bears that had been removed from the Endangered Species Act list there! On page 2 we report on a Sept. 24 court ruling which returned ESA protections to those bears and prevented them from being hunted for trophies this Fall. On page 3 we report on how that ruling has also temporarily delayed plans to "delist" the Glacier/Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear population!

The good news ends there, however. 2018 was a record-breaking year for grizzly bear mortalities in the NCDE, due largely to more people, more guns and more cars in bear habitat. On pages 4 and 5, we display how the Flathead National Forest thinks it can return to the good old days of large-scale logging and road-building under its revised Forest Plan - whether the griz is on the ESA list or not!

With your continued support, these challenges will not go unanswered! We thank each and every one of you for making donations that met our Cinnabar Challenge Grant this year - meaning Cinnabar matched your \$4,000 in donations!

Like last year, however, we need to raise another \$15,000 in December to meet our year-end budget. We've managed to do it every year, but not without your generous help. So please **DONATE NOW** to support our continued work (page 7).

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we need to hire attorneys and experts to bring legal challenges against grizzly bear delisting in the NCDE and the dropping of key protections for grizzly bears and other wildlife in the revised Flathead Forest Plan!

Equally important as your financial support are the unsolicited words of praise and encouragement you've

sent our way! On page 6 we include a sampling of what you've said about us and our work. We also include on page 6 a few words of wisdom from Thich Nhat Hanh alongside a photo of the Swan Range for your holidays contemplation!

**HAPPY SOLSTICE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS
and THANK YOU!**

Keith



Yellowstone Grizzly Bears Win in Federal Court!

On August 30, 2018, U.S. District Court Judge Dana Christensen heard oral arguments in Missoula about whether grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem should have their protections under the Endangered Species Act restored. US Fish and Wildlife Service had removed those protections by "delisting" the bears on June 30, 2017, saying the threatened GYE population segment was "recovered."

Later the day of the hearing, Judge Christensen issued an order blocking grizzly bear hunting set to begin the following day. The State of Wyoming would have allowed up to 22 bears to be killed and Idaho would have allowed one. Montana had decided to wait before proposing a hunt in the GYE, even though it says "sport hunting is the most desirable method" of managing bears.

On September 24, Judge Christensen made that injunction permanent by [ruling in favor of the bears](#) and reinstating their protections under the ESA! Key in his ruling was that FWS had not described the effects that delisting the GYE as a distinct population of bears would have on the other bears in the lower 48 states.

While the government simply argued those other bears would retain ESA protection, Judge Christensen noted FWS was proposing to also delist the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bears. He called the government's claims "simplistic at best and disingenuous at worst."

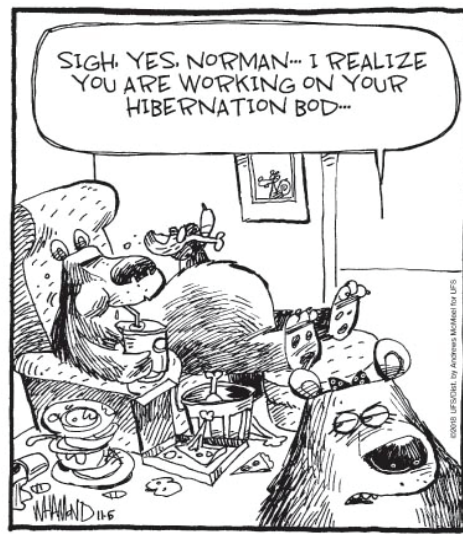
He noted that, if the NCDE and GYE populations were both de-listed, the origi-

nal "lower-48 grizzly listing will cover only two areas with fewer than 100 grizzlies, one area where grizzlies have not been affirmatively located in over twenty years, and a fourth where grizzlies have not been seen since at least 1975 . . . [FWS's] approach - evidenced by this delisting and by its proposal to delist the other significant population, the [NCDE] - does not square with the ESA as a matter of statutory interpretation or policy."

Relying on a similar case regarding piecemeal delisting of wolves in the Great Lakes area, Judge Christensen concluded

"Here, the Service is engaged in a process of real-time 'balkanization' criticized by the D.C. Circuit in *Human Society*: 'when a species is already listed, the Service cannot review a single segment with blinders on, ignoring the continuing status of the species' remnant' . . . Moreover, it is illogical for the Service to determine that, because the populations have not interbred for many generations - making them biologically distinct from one another - it is appropriate, without further analysis, to reduce the chance that they will interbreed in the future."

Our thanks to the many groups and attorneys who brought about this victory for the GYE! The ruling has big implications for arguing that the GYE, NCDE, Bitterroot, Cabinet-Yaak, Selkirk, and North Cascades be reconnected before being delisted! Meanwhile, [FWS says it remains committed to delisting the GYE and NCDE grizzly bear populations and will try again.](#)



De-listing of NCDE Grizzlies Temporarily Delayed; Human-Caused Mortalities Set New Record!

Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced it would delay delisting of the NCDE grizzly bear population in light of Judge Christensen's September 24 reinstatement of ESA protections for the GYE population (see previous page). At the November 20 meeting of the NCDE Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks also reported that 2018 set a new record for grizzly bear mortalities.

Of the 51 bears known killed or removed from the NCDE, 17 died when hit by automobiles, some 15 died by gunshot and 11 were removed by MDFWP when they came into conflicts with people who didn't settle the encounter with a gun. MDFWP estimates the number of known mortalities should be doubled to include those that go unreported. (See [MTPR story for more details](#)).

While some argue that grizzly bear mortalities are increasing simply because there are more bears each year, the graph on this page suggests otherwise. The 1,000 bears estimated to live in the NCDE don't even register as a blip on the chart compared to the 100,000 residents of Flathead County, let alone the nearly 400,000 residents of the 12 counties that comprise the NCDE!

Or, as Glacier National Park bear biologist John Waller put it at the recent NCDE

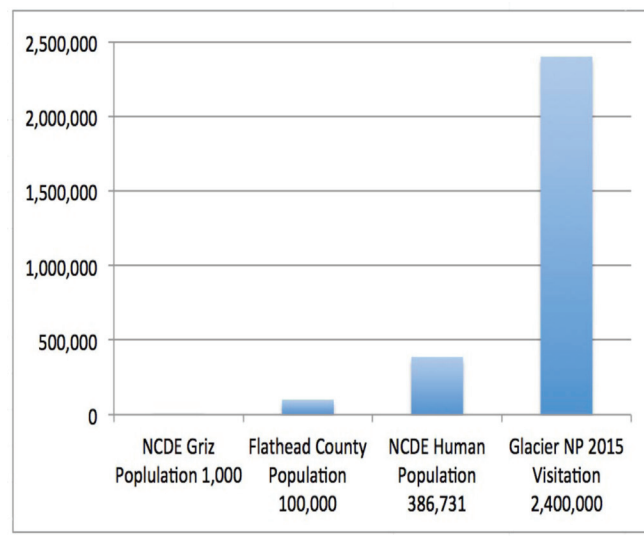
meeting, compare the 300 bears that reside in the Park to the 2.9 million people who visited the park in 2018. He concluded those are some pretty well behaved bears, given the minimal conflicts with people. Now compare the 2.9 million GNP visitors in 2018 to the 2.4 million noted for 2015 in the graph on this page and one can see the odds are stacked against the bears, even if

their population is hopefully increasing.

What needs to change in order to truly recover grizzly bears is for the agencies and detractors to quit trying to characterize the problem as too many bears. People need to foster a more receptive attitude towards bears and take responsibility for not attracting bears into problems with

people. And agencies need to require good human behavior in bear habitat rather than excusing bad behavior and concluding that "sport hunting is the most desirable method" of managing bears ([ARM 12.9.103](#)).

The fate of the grizzly bear cannot be turned over to State agencies dedicated to hunting them. While temporary victories have been won to keep federal ESA protections in place for the lower-48 grizzly bears, the mission of our current federal administration, the affected states, and industry is to get them removed. We still have our work cut out for us and we need your help!



Grizzly bears aren't even a blip on the chart compared to the people living, working and playing in their habitat!

Flathead Proposes Huge Mid-Swan "Landscape Restoration" Project in Anticipation of Its Revised Forest Plan!

The Flathead National Forest is preparing to sign the final decision on its revised Forest Plan the day before Christmas. Not waiting for the ink to even hit the page, however, the Flathead has proposed to build 60 miles of new logging roads in just one-third of the already over-roaded Swan Valley as a part of its "[Mid-Swan Landscape Restoration and Wildland Urban Interface Project](#)." This Project would also "actively manage" 70,000 acres, most of it by logging and with much of the logging done in a way that can create clear-cut openings of up to 150 acres!

[Interior Secretary Zinke](#) is urging more exemptions from environmental laws to speed logging, claiming "Active management doesn't necessarily mean clear-cutting or large-scale logging, as some environmentalists would have you believe."

Projects like Mid-Swan show him to be a liar. So does the nearby Weed Lake Landscape Restoration Project logging two clear-cuts exceeding the 40-acre limit, "totalling approximately 225 acres ([EA, pp. 45](#))."

The Mid-Swan "restoration project" gets even worse. It requires "two project-specific suspensions of forest plan standards to implement the proposed actions." This is because it would thin and log critical lynx habitat in ways that violate the lynx management standards that are part of both the current and revised Forest Plans!

Building 60 miles more logging road in areas that already have too many roads is not "landscape restoration," nor is revis-

ing a Forest Plan to allow unlimited miles of road in grizzly bear habitat. Look at the map on the following page and you can see the 60 miles of new road construction indicated in yellow (if you are looking at a b/w hard copy of this newsletter, go online to the link provided below the map for color)!

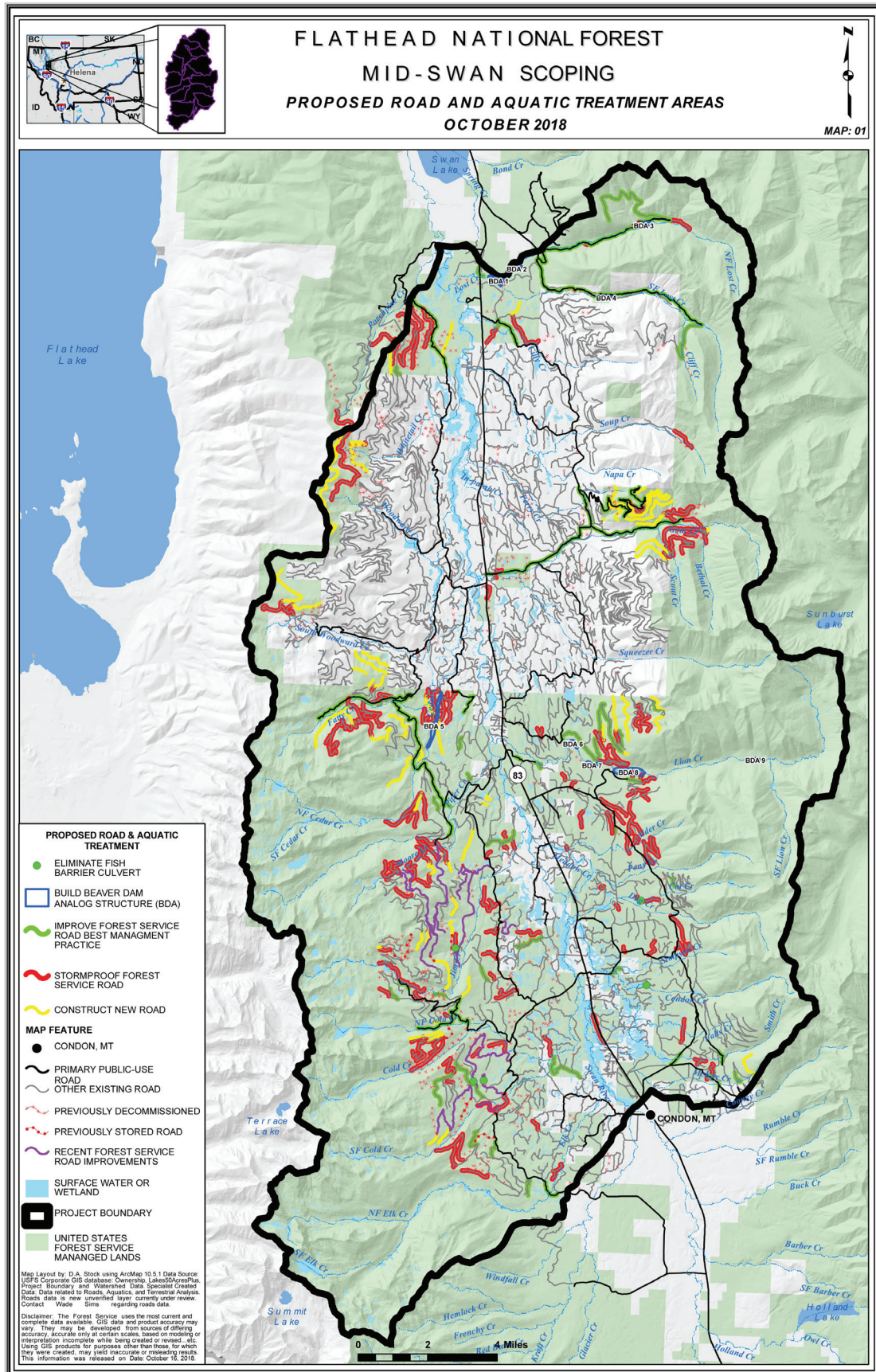
It is also deceptive to claim "stormproofing" roads (thick red on the map) is going to restore aquatic habitats when it does not require that stream-bearing culverts be removed so they don't plug up and wash out the road. The current Forest Plan requires those culverts be removed if the road is not to be counted in Total Road Density grizzly bear limits.

To add insult to injury, the Flathead credits the Southwest Crown Collaborative for helping develop the Mid-Swan assessment. In return, the

SWCC, "[applauds the Forest Service . . . in the mid-Swan](#)." The Flathead's attempts to increase logging in grizzly bear and lynx habitat has also unfortunately been given approval by the [Whitefish Range Partnership Agreement \(p 28\)](#).

We're fighting this proposal to build new roads, including those through snow avalanche chutes where culverts plug up with debris (see photo on this page of such a plugged culvert in the Goat Creek Watershed - critical habitat for threatened bull trout). This is just another big logging project and [we are sounding off](#) about collaborators providing political cover for the Forest Service to break the law!





If you are viewing this map in grayscale, the yellow new road construction barely shows up. Visit http://www.swanview.org/reports/Mid-Swan_Map_1.pdf for a full color map.

Unsolicited Praise For Our Work!

"Thank you for fighting on to protect this part of wild Montana!"

Patricia H.

natural resources since our state/federal departments are lacking."

Francesca D.

"Excellent comments [on MTPR] Keith . . . great work getting this all out in front of the public!"

Matthew K.

"Keep up your great work. You're a great spokesperson for Montana and beyond."

John S.

"Thank you so much for your long term, expert, diligent, ardent work on behalf of the grizzly, the forests, and all it's inhabitants!"

Patty A.

"The Swan View Coalition is the most effective organization in protecting our precious wildlife . . . speaks for me and my husband."

Donna M.

"I appreciate the comments you made on the MTPR news story the other day."

Linda C.

"We are happy to donate to this group."

Ruth Q.

"Dedicated people such as yourselves are critical in protecting our

"Thank you for all you do to protect the beautiful Swan Range."

Dick H.

"Our true home is in the present moment. To live in the present moment is a miracle. The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green Earth in the present moment, to appreciate the peace and beauty that are available right now. Peace is all around us - in the world and in nature - and within us, in our bodies and our spirits. Once we learn to touch this peace, we will be healed and transformed."



Thich Nhat Hanh in "At Home in the World"

Help Us Raise \$15,000 to Meet our Year-End Budget!

We rely in large part on member donations to fund our work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. **You can help us broaden our membership by giving Gift Memberships at \$25 each**, either on-line or using the form below! **It's easy to join with and help others support our work:**

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 - or -

2. Use your credit card securely on-line at www.swanview.org or www.swanrange.org, by clicking on the **Donate Now** button found there (or at right)!



[Network for Good](#) handles your transaction securely for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation by credit card. You can also choose to give monthly, quarterly or yearly there to make it easier or more affordable (or change your mind anytime)! If you have other info you want to get to us, such as Gift Membership info, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail it to the address in #1, above.

THANK YOU to those of you who helped meet our Cinnabar Foundation matching grant! Please join them in helping us meet our budget and continue our work!



If there is pink on your mailing label, it means you haven't donated in nearly a year or more. Please make a donation so we can keep sending you our newsletter and continue our work!

- Here's \$25 to cover my minimum dues, newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger Reports.
- Here's \$50 to help restore a bit of peace and quiet to America's public lands.
- Here's \$100 to help keep forest roads from ending up in America's bull trout streams.
- Here's \$500 to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.
- Here's \$_____ to help save the world, one mountain range and one river at a time!
- Here's \$_____ for _____ Gift Memberships at a minimum of \$25 each. I've included each recipient's name, mailing address, email address, and my greeting on separate paper.
- As a gift of appreciation for my donation, please send me the Swan/Flathead history booklet "The Lineage of Chief Aeneas: A History of People and Place" and/or a Swan Ranger patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").
- Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

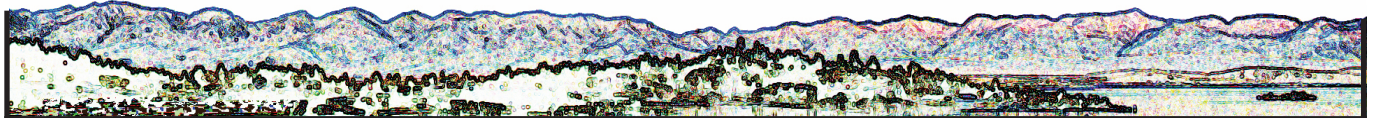
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