

WILDLIFE

LYNX MANAGEMENT

Management of the lynx on the Shoshone is guided by the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction as amended into the 1986 Forest Plan.

ALTERNATIVE A VERSUS ALTERNATIVE B

The direction for lynx management is the same in both alternatives and continues to be guided by the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction. Alternative B allows for the precommercial thinning of 2,130 acres of lynx habitat consistent with lynx management direction.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

The direction for lynx management in alternatives C, D, and E is the same as in alternative B. Alternative F relaxes the secure habitat constraint and allows new groomed snowmobile trails to be built that would reduce secure habitat for lynx. All these alternatives include direction that allow for precommercial thinning of 2,130 acres of lynx habitat consistent with lynx management direction.

GRIZZLY BEAR MANAGEMENT

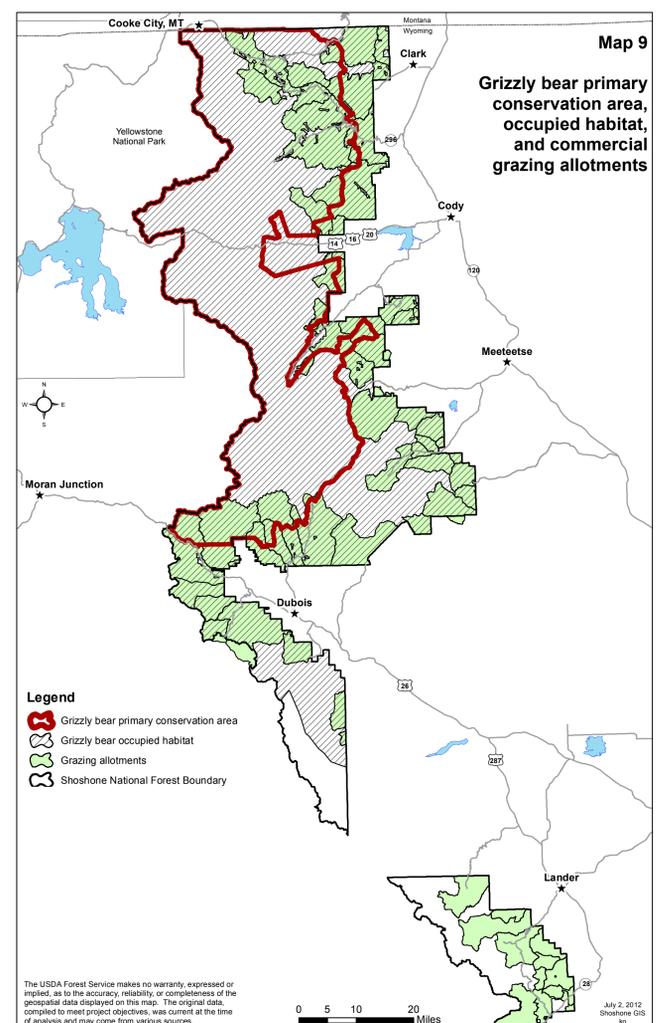
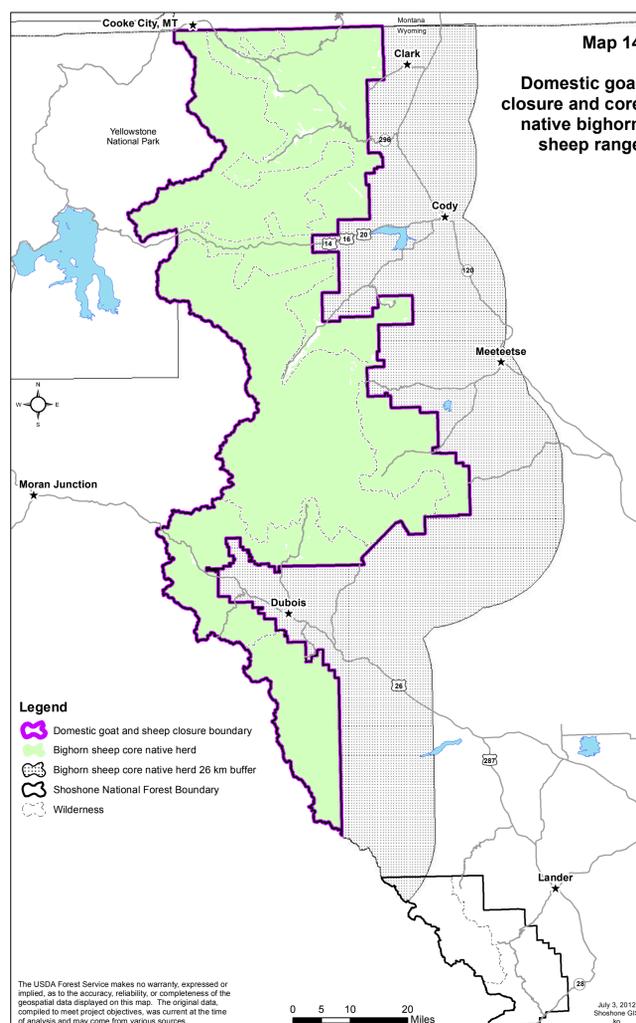
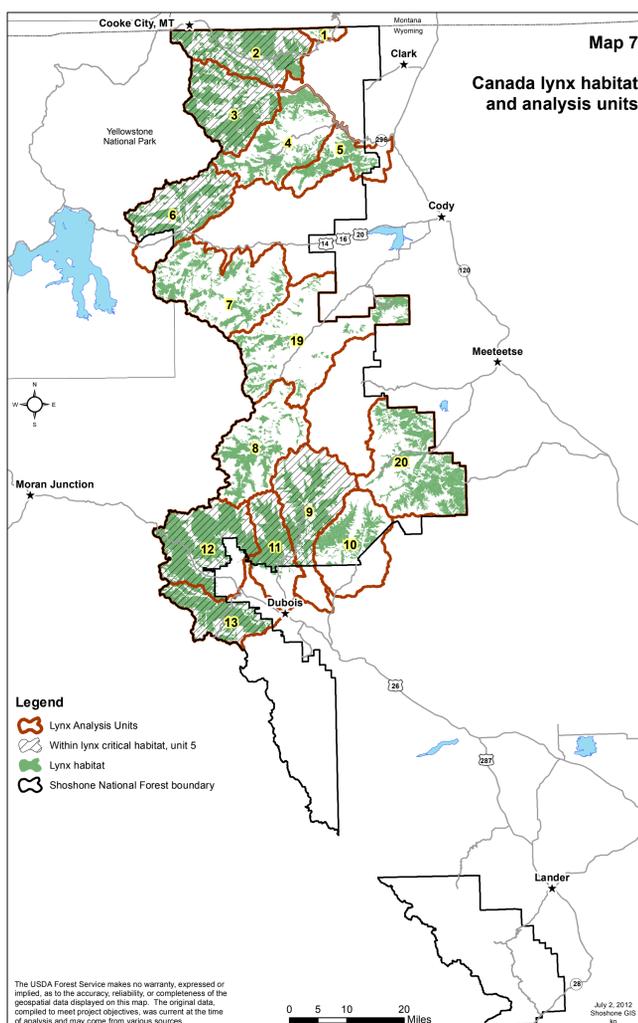
Management of the grizzly bear on the Shoshone is guided by direction from the Final Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area (2003). The Conservation Strategy direction will continue to be followed if the grizzly bear is delisted. Once the bear is delisted Wyoming's Bear Management Plan guides grizzly bear management as part of the Conservation Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE A VERSUS ALTERNATIVE B

The direction for grizzly bear management is the same in both alternatives and continues to be guided by the Conservation Strategy.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

The direction for grizzly bear management in alternatives C, D, and E is the same as in alternative A. Alternative F is different in that it relaxes the secure habitat constraint and allows new motorized routes to be built that would reduce secure habitat for grizzly bears.



BIGHORN SHEEP AND RECREATIONAL PACK GOAT USE MANAGEMENT

The plan revision is exploring adding management direction to limit recreational pack goat use within bighorn sheep core native habitat. The direction is designed to manage the potential risk of disease transmission between pack goats and bighorn sheep. Currently, a temporary closure is in effect on the Shoshone prohibiting the use of pack goats within core native bighorn sheep habitat.

ALTERNATIVE A VERSUS ALTERNATIVE B

The temporary closure in alternative A for pack goats in core native bighorn sheep habitat would become permanent in alternative B.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives C and D include management direction for a permanent closure for pack goats in core native bighorn sheep habitat. In alternatives E and F the temporary closure would end and pack goat use would be allowed on the entire Shoshone.

CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE MANAGEMENT

Big game winter range is the area on the Shoshone where big game animals use habitat in substantial numbers during the winter. Crucial winter range is a particular seasonal range that is a determining factor in a population's ability to maintain itself at a certain level. The Shoshone is using the winter range habitat mapping provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

The charts illustrate how crucial winter range is managed in the different alternatives, what management categories are applied to the winter range acres, and how motorized use is managed on crucial winter range.

ALTERNATIVE A VERSUS ALTERNATIVE B

Alternative B provides more management direction to protect crucial winter range than alternative A. Of the portion of crucial winter range that is also managed to produce timber, alternative B assigned those lands to the big game winter range management area that includes goals for crucial winter range management. Alternative A only allocates one third of those lands to the big game winter range management area and the rest is managed to meet timber production goals. Alternative B manages a higher proportion of the crucial winter range to exclude winter motorized recreation than Alternative A does. Both alternatives A and B manage commercial livestock grazing to maintain forage on crucial winter range for big game use.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

The other alternatives vary in the amount of protection they provide for crucial winter range, with alternative C providing the most protection and alternative F providing the least.

Timber management on crucial winter range

In alternatives C, D, and E crucial winter range that is also managed to produce timber is assigned to the big game winter range management area which includes goals for crucial winter range management. In alternative F, those areas are managed to meet timber production goals.

Winter motorized recreation

Alternatives C and D do not allow any winter motorized activity on crucial winter range. Like alternative B, alternative E allows some snowmobile use in crucial winter range where that use is currently occurring and WY Game and Fish has determined it does not impact winter range goals. Alternative F allows winter motorized use in crucial winter range.

Commercial livestock and winter range forage

Alternative C does not allow commercial livestock grazing on any winter range including crucial winter range. Alternative D manages commercial livestock grazing on crucial winter range to maintain forage for big game use. Alternatives E and F do not include any management direction to maintain forage for big game on crucial winter range.

