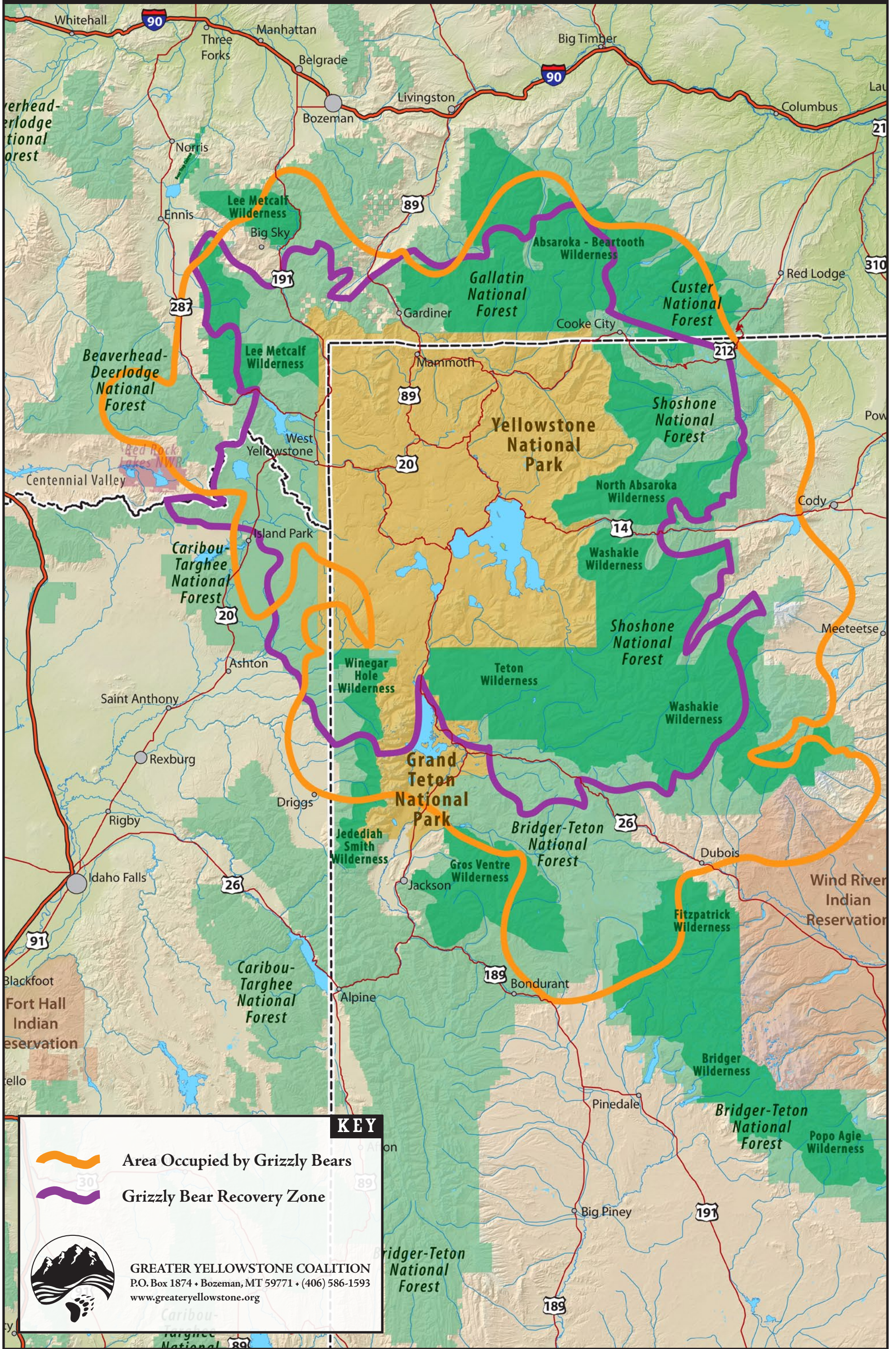
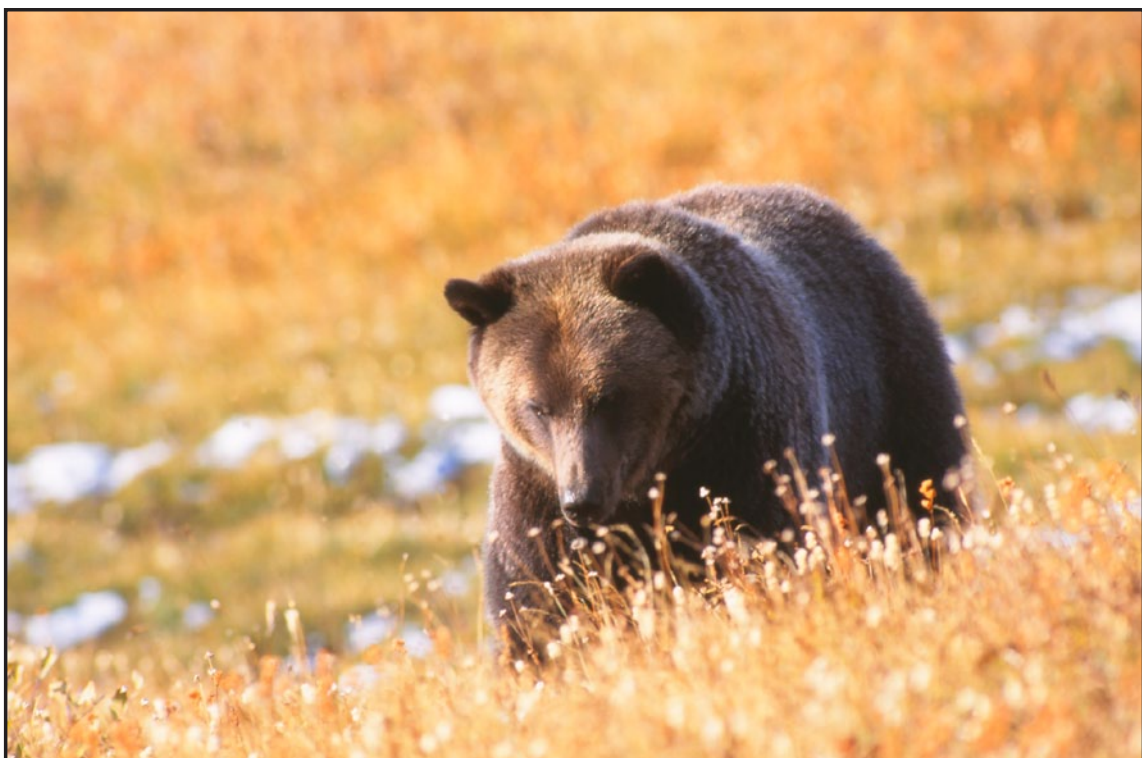


▸ AREA OCCUPIED BY GRIZZLY BEARS ▸



GRIZZLY BEARS: YELLOWSTONE'S SYMBOL OF WILDNESS

The Issue: Nearly driven to extinction in Greater Yellowstone in the 1970s by logging in prime habitat and the closure of garbage dumps in Yellowstone Park, grizzly bears have rebounded to a population of nearly 600. They were temporarily removed from Endangered Species Act protections in 2007, but in the past three years grizzly mortality has



risen alarmingly due mostly to conflicts with hunters. Their future remains precarious because of loss of habitat due to human development and a dramatic decline in such critical food sources as whitebark pine nuts and Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout. Recent studies show that Greater Yellowstone has lost about 85 percent of its whitebark pines, a tree that grows at high elevations. Meanwhile, the introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake has sent cutthroat trout populations plummeting, from 18,000 in the Clear Creek spawning tributary in 1998 to 241 a mere decade later. The loss of food in the park's interior is pushing bears into areas where conflicts with humans are increasing. The inevitable result is dead bears. Because single grizzlies need large habitat and because they have among the slowest reproduction among Northern Rockies mammals, long-term viability will likely depend on safe passage between Greater Yellowstone and outlying wild lands.



What's Happening: On Sept. 21, 2009, a federal judge in Montana issued a ruling in GYC's favor, returning Endangered Species Act protections to the grizzly bear. The judge said the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's grizzly plan did not provide strong enough habitat standards and failed to address additional protections as food sources decline. Largely because of growing conflicts with humans, the grizzly remains in peril in Greater Yellowstone. A record 48 perished in 2008, and officially

47 were lost in 2010; bear experts say the actual number likely was closer to 75 both years — about 13 percent of the entire population. Even so, some are pushing to again delist the grizzly bear.

Our Mission: To keep grizzlies under Endangered Species Act protections until their habitat and numbers are secure enough to be deemed sufficiently recovered as a species in Greater Yellowstone. We also will educate the public on the key role the grizzly plays as a symbol of Yellowstone's wildness and help with such community programs as bear-awareness and distribution of bear-proof garbage containers.

Why Grizzlies Matter: No species is more emblematic of Greater Yellowstone's incomparable wildness than the grizzly bear, which is now relegated to a fraction of its historic habitat. For the millions who visit Yellowstone every year, there is no greater breath-taking moment than seeing a male grizzly ambling through the sage or a sow with her cubs foraging for food; the great bear is the park's No. 1 tourist attraction. Without the grizzly bear, Yellowstone simply isn't Yellowstone.



*People protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,
now and for future generations.*

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