

Natural Resources Interim Committee

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Jim Fredericks; Director



Pre-treatment fisheries monitoring



In-treatment fisheries monitoring



In-treatment fisheries monitoring



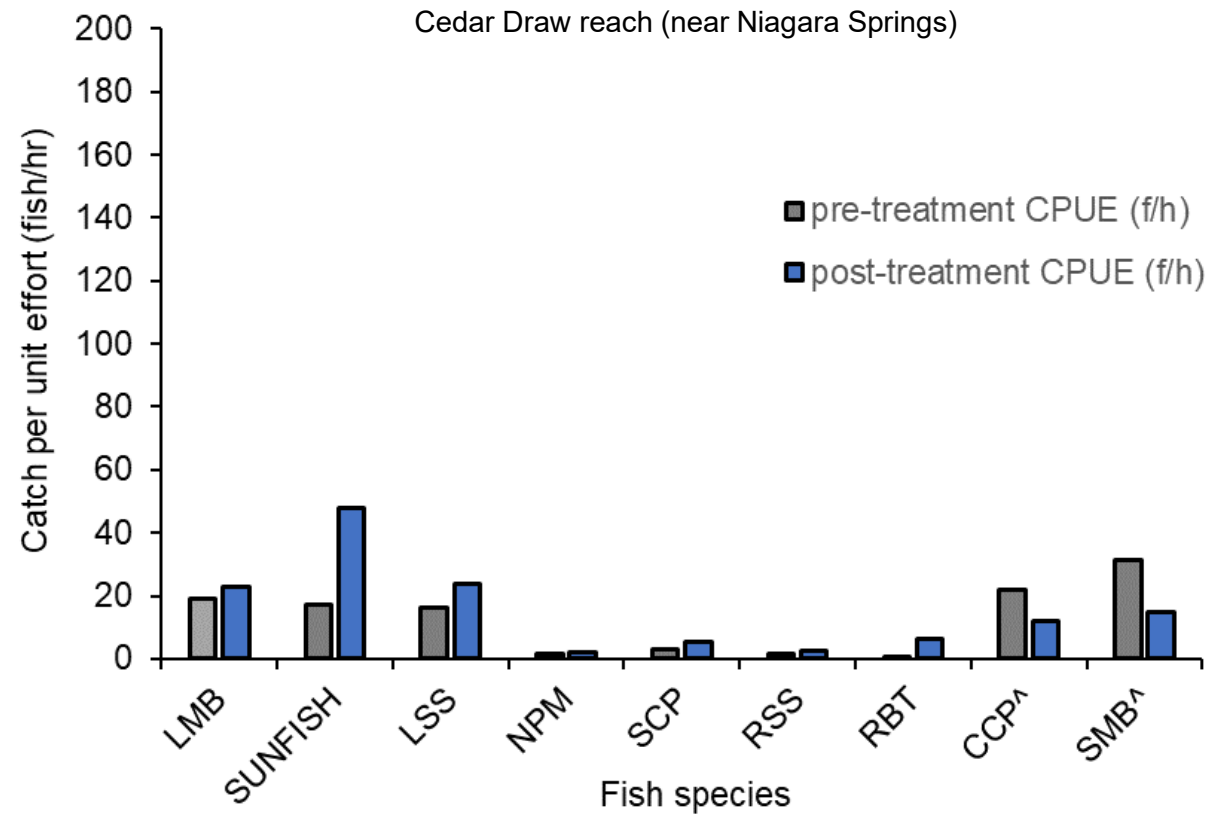
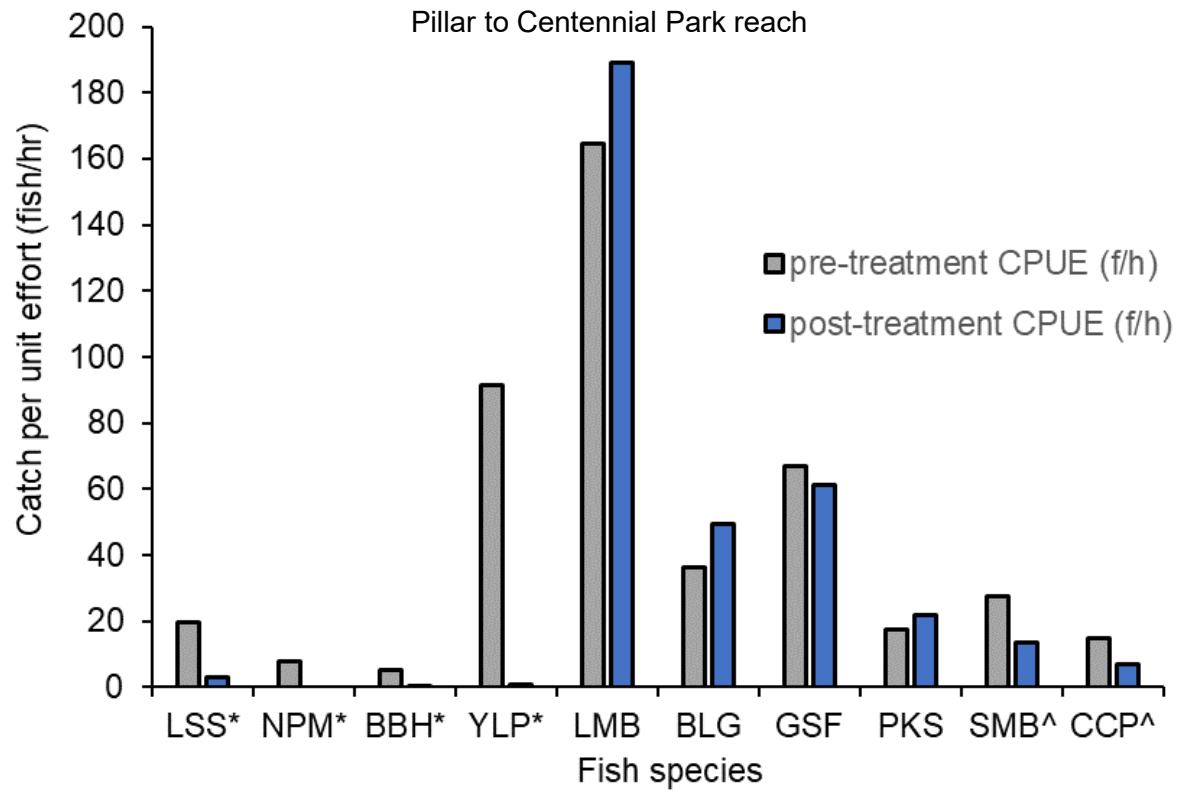
Post-treatment fisheries monitoring



White Sturgeon mortality monitoring



Fish monitoring summary



Rebuilding fisheries



Questions?

Antler Season Setting

2023 Legislation

- SB 1143
- Idaho Code 36-507
 - Effective July 1, 2023
- Provides IFG Commission authority to set seasonal restrictions on “searching for, locating, or gathering antlers or horns” to protect wintering big game.
- Excludes private property



Antler Season Setting

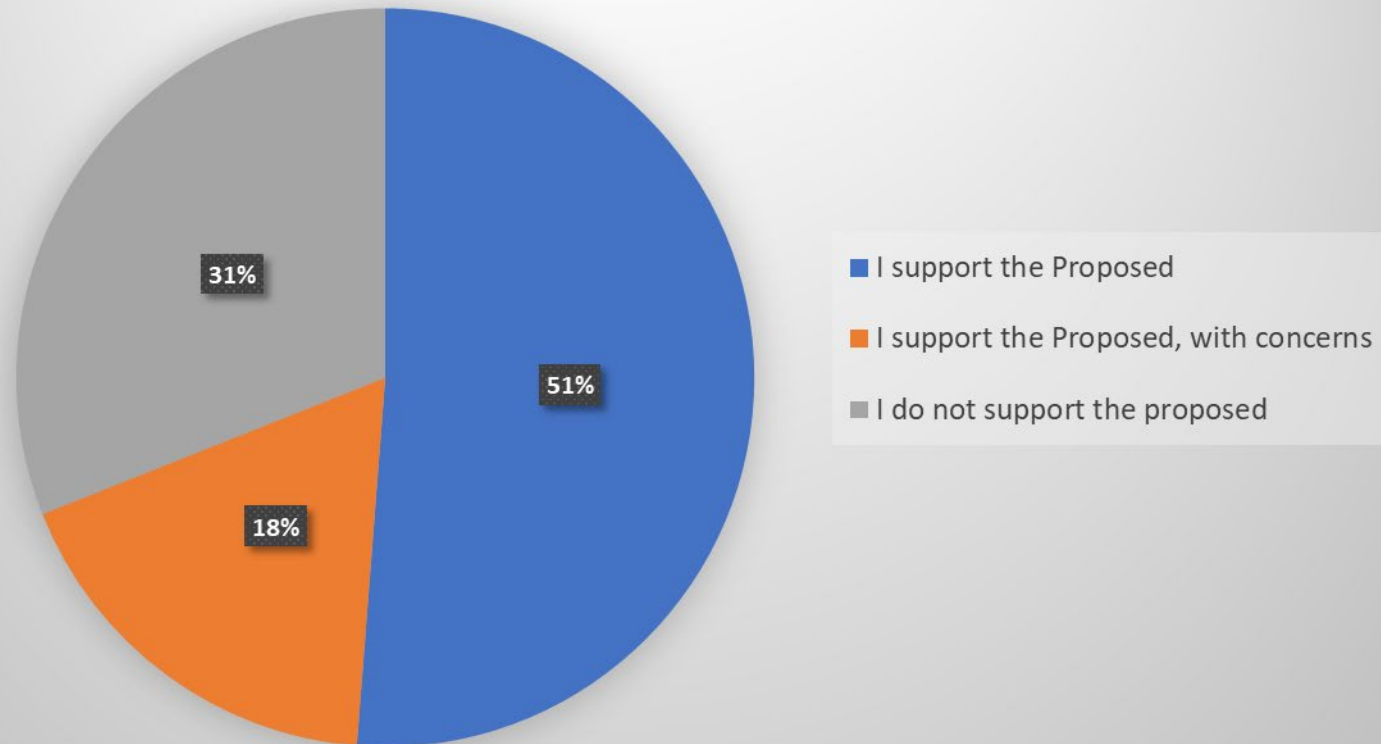
Public Scoping

- September 18 – October 9, 2023
- 1,916 submissions
- 1,788 from Idaho residents



Antler Season Setting

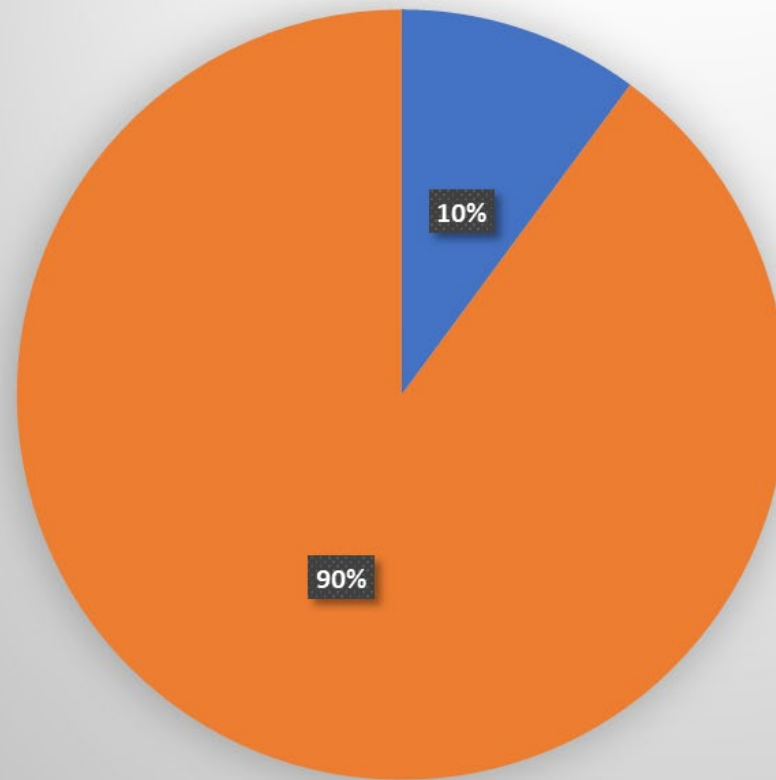
Do you support the establishment of Emergency Shed Antler Closures to decrease disturbance to wintering big game during and after severe winters?



Antler Season Setting

If you answered “Support”, which of the following options do you think the Department should implement for 2024?

The Department is considering two options for Emergency Shed Antler Gathering Closures in 2024.



- Option 1: A single season, Shed Antler Gathering Closure in the Southeast Region only, closed January 1, 2024 - April 14, 2024.
- Option 2: A single season, Shed Antler Gathering Closure in the Southeast Region and Upper Snake Region, closed January 1, 2024 - April 14, 2024.

Antler Season Setting

Common comments:

- Add seasons for entire state
 - Implement closure annually
 - Concern about enforcement
 - Close winter range to all entry
 - Gateway to more restrictions
 - Open May 1 not April 15
-
- Results to be presented to IFG Commission November 16 for deliberation and possible action.



Questions?

Grizzly Bears



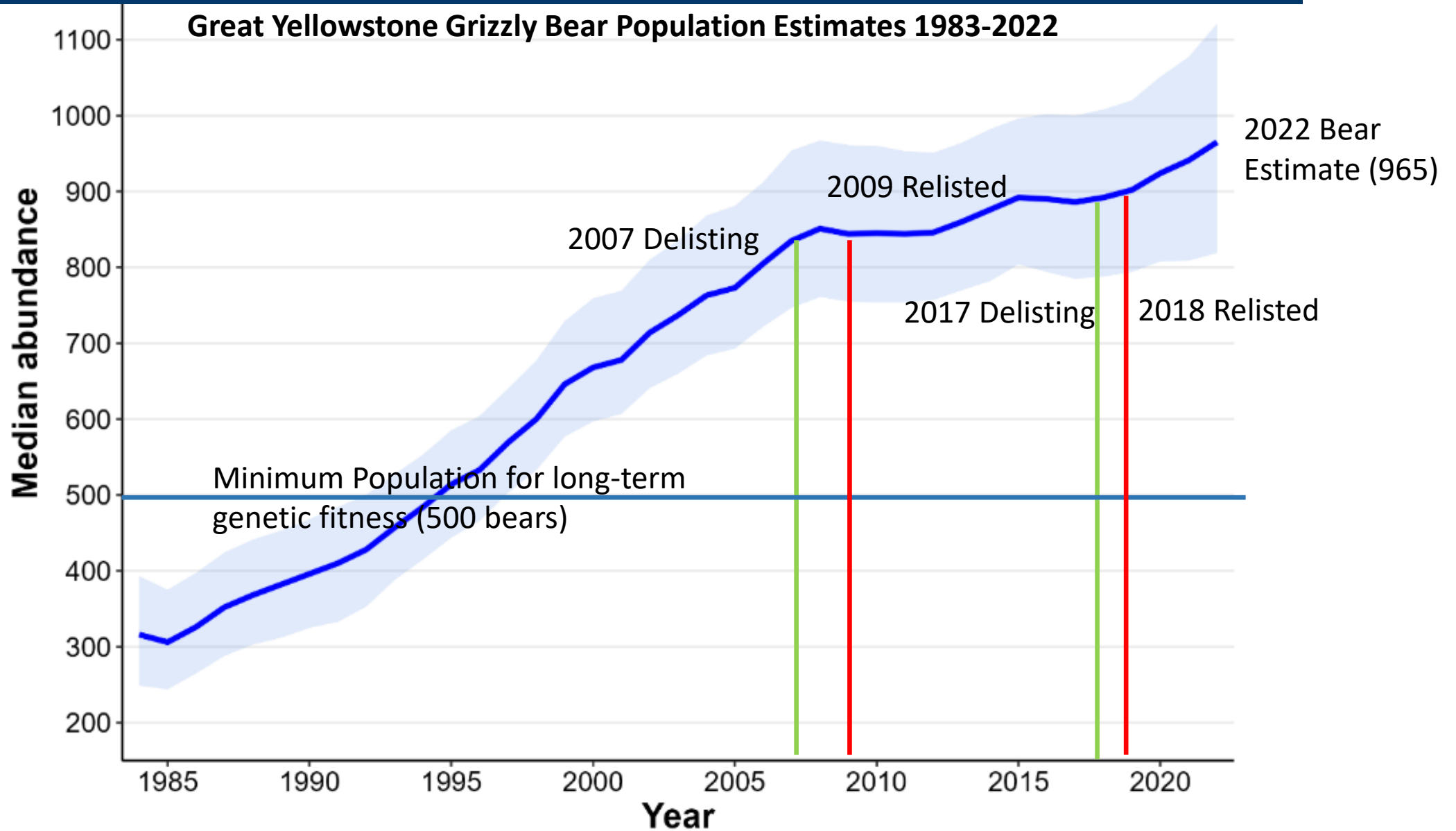
Grizzly Bears



Status of Grizzly Bear Recovery Areas

- Selkirk/Cabinter Yaak Ecosystem
 - - Occupied
 - -Selkirks- meeting goals
 - Cabinet/Yaak-not meeting goals
- Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
 - - Occupied-Meeting all ESA recovery goals
- Bitterroot Ecosystem
 - - Unoccupied
- Approximately 200 grizzly bears in Idaho
 - 100-120 bears in GYE
 - 70-80 bears Selkirk/Cabinet portions in Idaho
 - Zero bears-Bitterroot

Grizzly Bears



Grizzly Bears

Administrative/Coordination Efforts

- Working towards delisting
 - Greater Yellowstone
 - Tri-State (ID, WYO, MT) Memorandum of Agreement
 - Conservation Strategy (roadmap for state management once delisted)
 - Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak (Shared with WA and Montana)
 - Drafting Conservation Strategy
 - Bitterroot
 - Cooperating Agency Status on Environmental Impact Study Process
- Work closely with the Governors office and the Office of Species Conservation (OSC)

Grizzly Bears

Judicial Efforts

- Idaho, Wyoming, Montana file three separate delisting petitions
- Idaho Petition to delist lower 48 population filed March, 2022
- February 2023 – “90 day” finding: USFWS agreed to accept WY and MT petitions and begin “12-month finding”
- Denied Idaho petition
- Save the Yellowstone Grizzly Lawsuit
- State of Idaho Cross Claim

Grizzly Bears

Legislative Efforts

Sen. Risch introduces **S.2571** - Grizzly Bear Review and Resource Restart Act of 2023 (GRRR Act) – Senator Crapo Cosponsor

Rep. Fulcher introduces **HR 4997**

- Introduce identical language that would fully delist grizzly bears in lower 48

HR 1245 and identical **S.445** order republication of Greater Yellowstone delisting rule (similar **HR 1364**)

- Cosponsored by Sens. Risch and Crapo and Rep. Fulcher



Grizzly Bears

Monitoring and Conflict Management

Greater Yellowstone (one full time biologist, one officer in island park area)

- Managing bear conflicts
- Capture and Monitoring Bears (IDFG)

Selkirks/Cabinets (one seasonal technician, one officer in Bonners Ferry)

- Managing conflicts
- Monitoring by USFWS



Questions?