

National fish and wildlife foundation's activities to expand grizzly bear population and range in the northern continental divide-cabinet-yaak-selkirk recovery zones

These zones extend across the WA-ID border into the NE corner of WA State



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is our nation's largest private lands conservation grant-maker. Financial commitments to the NFWF's conservation mission since their founding in 1984 now top \$5.3 billion.

From the NFWF [website](#):

“The Foundation's IDEA (Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts) department manages a nationwide portfolio of accounts arising from legal and regulatory actions involving natural resources and the environment. The portfolio consists of several hundred distinct accounts reflecting underlying proceedings at the federal, state and local levels. Most IDEA accounts are established to manage funds arising from the settlement of enforcement actions involving natural resources and the environment or funds arising in connection with permit-required mitigation for environmental impacts.”

“NFWF is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are governed by a 30-member Board of Directors approved by the Secretary of the Interior.”

To date NFWF has made 86 grants totalling hundreds of millions of dollars to fund private lands acquisition and habitat connectivity projects to enhance GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS in the Northern Continental Divide/Cabinet-Yaak ecoregion in western Montana and north Idaho.

[Recipients](#) of these grants include Y2Y, Nature Conservancy, RMEF, and many other land trust organizations.

NFWF has developed a [ten year business plan](#) specific to grizzly bear habitat connectivity range expansion through private lands acquisition. This plan directly affects residents and property

owners in eastern Washington as current grizzly bear range already extends into the NE corner of Washington State. NFWF is working to expand that range.

The following performance outcomes are expected from this plan:

- Identification of movement opportunity areas in each of the mountain valleys identified in this proposal in the next 10 years.
- ***Securing at least one complete movement route in easement and/or acquisition in at least 50% of these movement opportunity areas identified in the next 10 years.***
- Documented increased connectivity with increased sightings and evidence of key wildlife species ***including grizzly bears dispersing into areas outside current range.***
- Reduction of exurban development in at least 50% of the movement opportunity areas identified in the next 10 years.
- ***Movement of grizzly bears and other sensitive species between the large blocks of public lands*** as documented by surveys and monitoring of GPS-collared animals in the next 10 years.

Here's how NFWF characterizes the ECONOMIC BENEFITS of grizzly bear range expansion as it affects rural residents and property owners:

Preliminary value added benefits from the activities outlined in this business plan are the following:

- 1) Bear resistant product industry will realize significant sales increases.
- 2) Fencing contractors throughout the NCDE region will realize significant increase in contracts and would likely create 3-5 part-time jobs.
- 3) Land trust organizations could realize increase funds and subsequently hire additional staff necessary to procure conservation easements for grizzly bear habitat protection and in wildlife movement areas.
- 4) Seasonal, wildlife technical positions would create jobs (5-7) throughout the NCDE.
- 5) Increased opportunities for wildlife viewing / ecotourism.
- 6) Increase hunting opportunities for big game species like elk, big horn sheep as indirect benefits to these species will likely occur from wildlife movement area conservation.

http://conservationcorridor.org/cpb/NFWF_2012.pdf