



INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR STUDY TEAM GRIZZLY BEAR TRAPPING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: June 18, 2021

BIOLOGISTS SET TO BEGIN GRIZZLY BEAR CAPTURES FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ON THE CUSTER-GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA.

PUBLIC REMINDED TO HEED WARNING SIGNS

BOZEMAN - As part of ongoing efforts required under the Endangered Species Act to monitor the population of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem, the U.S. Geological Survey, in conjunction with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, is working to inform the public that pre-baiting and scientific capture operations are once again about to begin within northwestern portions of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, south of I-90, in Montana. Biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) will begin the field captures June 23 and continue through July 30. Capture operations can include a variety of activities, but all areas where work is being conducted will have major access points marked with warning signs. It is critical that all members of the public heed these signs.

Monitoring of grizzly bear distribution and other activities are vital to ongoing recovery and management of grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In order to attract bears, biologists use natural food sources such as recently road-killed deer and elk. Potential capture sites are baited with these natural foods and if indications are that grizzly bears are in the area, culvert traps or foot snares are used to capture bears. Once captured, bears are handled in accordance with strict protocols developed by IGBST and its partner agencies.

Where bear capture activities are being conducted for scientific purposes, the area around the site will be posted with bright warning signs to inform the public of ongoing activities. These signs are posted along the major access points to the capture site. It is important that the public heed these signs and do not venture into an area that has been posted. For more information regarding grizzly bear capture efforts, please call the IGBST hotline at 406-994-6675.