



Pacific Northwest Trail Association. Bear Recovery Ecosystems and the PNNST. TF Outdoors, IGBCOnline.org, 2021.

Grizzly Bear Recovery Ecosystems

Grizzly Bears "May be Present" (U.S. only)

GRIZZLY BEARS

Grizzly bear recovery ecosystems were established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993 to delineate regions in the lower 48 states that have sufficient habitat to focus recovery efforts for known grizzly bear populations. The Pacific Northwest Trail traverses four of the six: the Northern Continental Divide, Cabinet-Yaak, Selkirk and North Cascades ecosystems, which are identified with red boundaries here, and noted on PNTA strip maps.

Please be advised that current grizzly bear distributions extend beyond these boundaries to include approximately 400 miles of the Pacific Northwest Trail.

Based on verified location data, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) tracks current distributions and “may be present” locations which are identified in blue here.

As of spring of 2024, the most recent verified evidence of a grizzly bear in the US portion of the North Cascades Ecosystem was documented in 1996. Current USFWS methodology for determining “may be present” areas currently excludes the North Cascades Ecosystem as a result.

On April 25th, 2024, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a decision to begin moving three to seven grizzly bears per year for a period of five to

10 years to establish an initial population of 25 bears within the North Cascades Ecosystem. It is currently not known when translocation will begin.

Two of the three proposed release sites for North Cascades grizzly bears are bisected by the PNT, and these sections of trail may be temporarily closed during relocation activities. The release sites are on either side of Ross Lake, in the western Pasayten Wilderness and north-western portion of North Cascades National Park.



Learn more about bears and responsible recreation on the PNNST at www.PNT.org.