

****Analyzing Grizzly Bear Movement Patterns – Insights for Identifying Females with Newborn Cubs using Telemetry Data (Poster and Oral Presentation)**

Mayson Whitlock*, Wildlife Biology, University of Montana, Missoula

Sarah Sells, Wildlife Biology Program & Ecology and Evolution Program, U. S. Geological Survey, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Montana, Missoula

Milan A. Vinks, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana, Missoula, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Kalispell

Wayne F. Kasworm, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Libby, MT

Thomas G. Radandt, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Libby, MT

Justin E. Teisberg, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Libby, MT

*Indicates Presenter

**Indicates Student Presentation

Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) generally den in rugged, remote terrain during winter months. Females give birth to cubs in the den in mid to late winter and emerge in spring with highly vulnerable cubs. Detection of cub presence to date has generally relied on aerial surveys, which are costly and challenging, particularly in denning terrain. An understanding of the presence and survival of grizzly bear cubs after den emergence is thus generally limited. This information gap impedes an accurate assessment of reproductive rates, an understanding of which is particularly important in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk Recovery Ecosystems, where small populations can be particularly impacted by cub recruitment. Using post-den location data from 39 GPS-collared female grizzly bears in these populations, we aim to compare movement patterns using cumulative net displacement in an effort to differentiate females with newborn cubs, older young (1–2 years of age), and no offspring. We hypothesize that females with cubs will exhibit lower cumulative net displacement (a metric to quantify the total distance moved over a period of time) and reduced movements compared to females with older young or no offspring, because more females who localize their space use can conserve energy and improve survival of their cubs. This ongoing research will improve an understanding of grizzly bear ecology in the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk Recovery Ecosystems.