



NOROCK Research Significant to Tribal Lands within the Northern Rocky Mountain Region.

Background

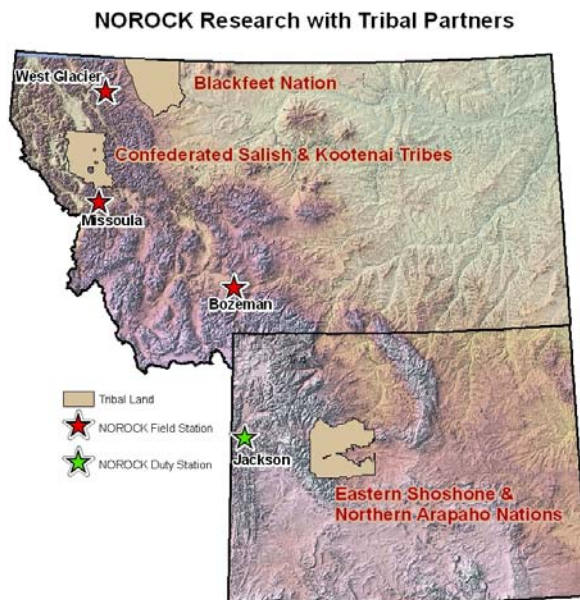
NOROCK is part of the North Central Area of the Central Region of the USGS. NOROCK Scientists work in the northern Rocky Mountains of the United States and throughout the western U.S. on issues as diverse as global climate change, wildlife diseases, aquatic ecology, bison ecology, and large carnivores. Several NOROCK research projects focus on wildlife and landscapes issues significant to Tribal lands throughout Montana and Wyoming and rely on partnerships with Tribal members to gather sound, scientific information.

Assistance Opportunities

The USGS provides assistance programs to facilitate partnerships between NOROCK and tribal entities. One such program is SISNAR (Student Interns in Support of Native American Relations). SISNAR is a USGS sponsored program seeking student interns to participate in USGS scientific research. The goal of this program is to encourage students to pursue careers in geological, biological, hydrological, geographical, geospatial information management or related sciences that may be helpful in natural resources management for Tribes.

Current Projects

Current and past research involved partnerships with the Blackfeet Nation, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, and the Eastern Shoshone & Northern Arapaho Nations. Projects focus on the conservation of wildlife species significant to the cultural and natural resources of Tribal organizations.



See reverse side for project specific information.

Reintroduction of Bison to the Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming

The Wind River Indian Reservation of northwestern Wyoming contains habitat that supports a wide array of wildlife species. Through a concerted effort of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep have been reestablished and are now abundant on the reservation.

Of the 7 ungulate species that historically inhabited the area, plains bison is the only one missing from the area today. An undergraduate at Montana State University, and member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, is working with NOROCK researchers to prepare a plan for reintroduction of bison to the Wind River Indian Reservation. The internship is part of the USGS-SISNAR program.

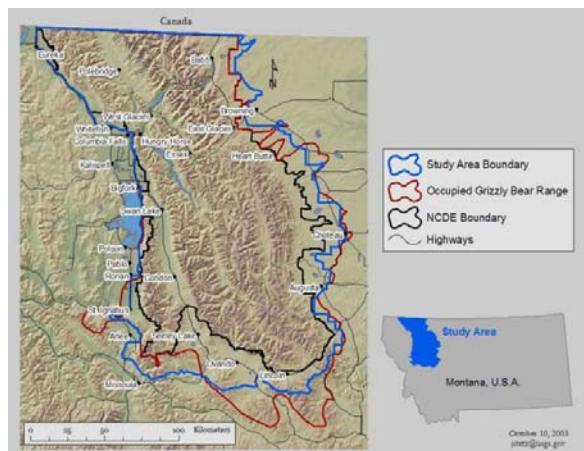


The management plan for bison reintroduction will address issues such as: cultural importance, legal status and subsistence use, contributions of the population to bison genetic conservation, diseases of livestock and bison, habitat availability and implementing an inventory and monitoring program.

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Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project, Montana

The USGS in cooperation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Blackfeet Nation, and Federal and State agencies, conducted a research project to determine the number of grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE). This project is designed to produce a scientifically valid estimate of the size of the grizzly bear population for the entire ecosystem.



Much of the project is on Tribal lands, and tribal participation contributed to a successful 2003 and 2004 field season. Representatives from both Tribal governments were actively involved in all stages of the planning process. They provided technical knowledge about bear activity patterns and facilitated field activities on their lands. A contract with the Blackfeet Tribe funded fieldwork conducted by Tribal members on the Blackfeet Reservation.

For more information contact:
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The Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center is located in Bozeman, Montana and includes three field stations in Montana and one duty station in Wyoming. For more information on NOROCK's research, please visit <http://nrmsc.usgs.gov> or contact the Center Director: Jeff Kershner 406-994-5304 or jkershner@usgs.gov
