



Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Initiative (GYTSI)

2009-2013

GYTSI PROJECTS

CENTENNIAL VALLEY, MONTANA NEST HABITAT CONSERVATION

- ❖ Working with local ranchers and agencies to protect and improve historic nest territories on private and BLM lands in the Centennial Valley
- ❖ Evaluating characteristics of key nesting territories and possible factors causing recent reduced cygnet production
- ❖ Evaluating Lima Reservoir's molting habitat and coordinating with partners to maintain its exceptional habitat quality.



IDAHO SWAN STEWARDS

Organizing Idaho Landowners to

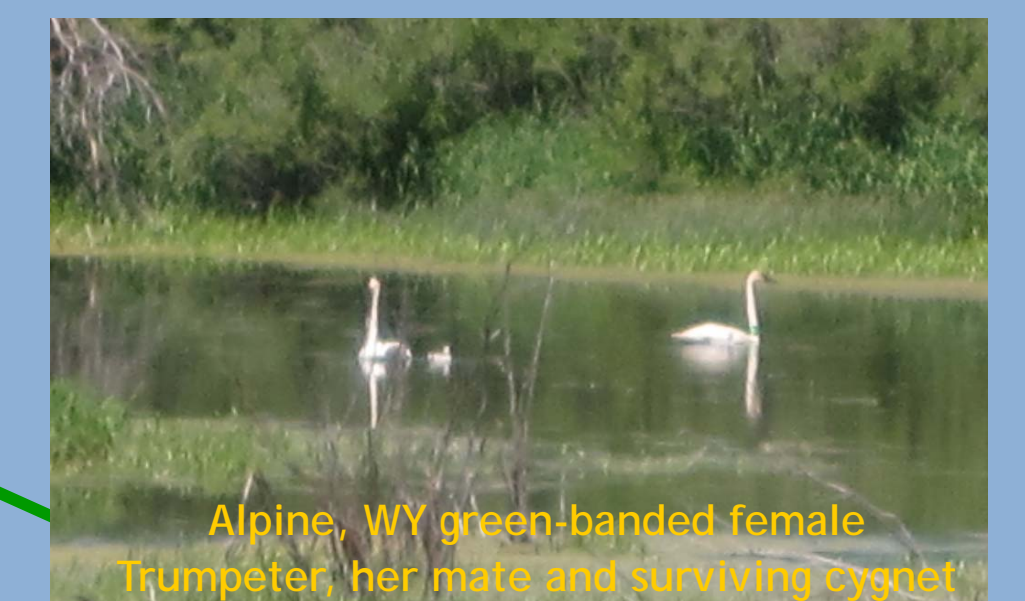
- ❖ Improve and conserve key habitat
- ❖ Gather meaningful data on Trumpeter Swan use and habitats in their local areas
- ❖ Increase community awareness of Trumpeter Swans and their habitat needs

First Efforts in 2011

- ❖ Swan Valley "fence busters" removed hazardous old barbed wire fences
- ❖ Marked hazardous power lines
- ❖ Created Trumpeter Swan information brochure
- ❖ Exploring long-term habitat protection

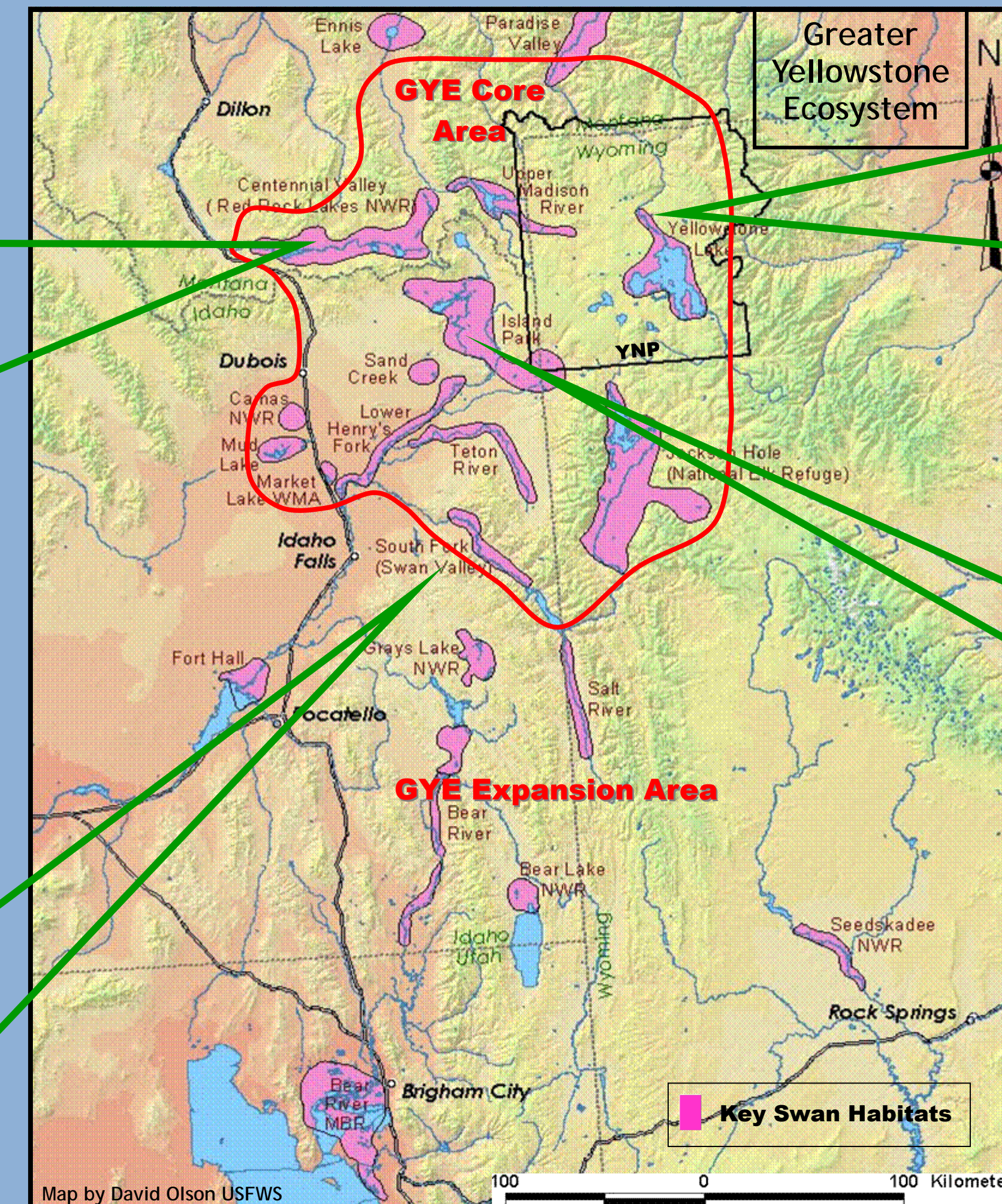
YNP – EARLY TRUMPETER SWAN STUDIES

- ❖ Analysis of early nesting studies and efforts by George Melendez Wright that saved the last Greater Yellowstone Trumpeters
- ❖ Reconstruction of the early distribution and seasonal movements of Trumpeters based upon early historical studies



NEST MONITORING

- ❖ Monitoring nesting in Idaho's care area and Wyoming portion of the Caribou-Targhee NF
- ❖ Long-term trend analysis and coordination of habitat improvement opportunities with IDFG, USFS, and other agencies



GOAL

To rebuild a secure nesting population of Trumpeter Swans in Greater Yellowstone

OBJECTIVES

Pacific Flyway RMP Management Objectives for Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeter Swans

	2013 Minimum Objectives	2010 Actual Values	% Min. Obj. Achieved by 2010
September Adults	535	377	70%
Nesting Pairs	116	71	61%

PROBLEMS

- ❖ Greater Yellowstone's nesting swans are substantially below the minimum objectives managers want to achieve by 2013
- ❖ There are no long-term management objectives for the Greater Yellowstone Flocks beyond 2013
- ❖ There is no vision of minimum population parameters, distribution, and habitat protection that must be achieved to maintain their long-term viability
- ❖ Nesting habitat conditions in some areas are declining due to human disturbance, water supply problems, and possibly other more subtle causes.

CONSERVATION VISION PROJECT (2011–2012) OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Create a "Conservation Vision" tool to assess the minimum population parameters, geographic distribution, and connectivity needed to maintain the long-term viability of the Greater Yellowstone Flocks
- ❖ Complete by 2013, prior to the revision of the Management Plan
- ❖ Compile and analyze all possible long-term data sets; reprint and build on the 1987 Gale, Garton and Ball analysis
- ❖ Identify risks to long-term viability, genetic issues, and habitat conservation needs
- ❖ Build effective partnerships with landscape level habitat initiatives to conserve habitats needed to maintain long-term viability
- ❖ Welcome the involvement of all Trumpeter Swan managers and researchers and build new partnerships with universities and habitat conservation initiatives.