



NDF WORKSHOP
WG 5 – Mammals
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THE NDF PROCESS FOR *URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS* (GRIZZLY BEAR) IN CANADA

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Grizzly bears are a slow-growing, long-lived species (lifespan generally 20-25 years) with a low reproductive output. This species depends on a variety of food sources to meet their nutritional needs including vegetation, seeds and berries, salmon, moose, caribou, small mammals, and insects. Grizzly bears are habitat generalists and can be found from sea level to high elevation alpine environments. Suitable grizzly habitat must provide an adequate food supply, appropriate denning sites, and isolation from human disturbance.

Although their range has been reduced, *Ursus arctos* is widespread across North America, Europe, and Asia. The global population, although reduced compared to historic levels, is estimated to be more than 200,000 individuals and the IUCN Red List has determined the grizzly bear to be of 'Least Concern'. In Canada, the grizzly bear population is stable with approximately 29,900 individuals and the species is not considered threatened or endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Habitat loss and degradation (due to urban encroachment, agricultural development, commercial timber harvests, oil/gas exploration and development, and mining) are the primary threats to grizzly bears in Canada. Additional threats include bear-human conflicts (e.g. defence of life or property, collisions with automobiles or trains) and illegal harvest.

The legal harvest of grizzly bears in Canada is sustainably managed and therefore does not constitute a threat to the long-term viability of the species. The harvest of grizzly bears in Canada is strictly monitored through the issuance of licenses, tags, and quotas. Sustainable harvest levels are based on conservative population estimates determined using a combination of field techniques, expert-opinion models, DNA analysis, harvest data, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

Wildlife managers, in collaboration with species experts in the provincial and territorial jurisdictions, are responsible for the management of grizzly bears in Canada. The Scientific Authority relies on these managers and species experts to provide up-to-date information on grizzly bear populations primarily in the form of the IUCN Checklist for Non-Detriment Findings, but also via consultations, when making an NDF.