



DID YOU KNOW...

- **British Columbia is home to one quarter of the entire North American population of grizzly bears – approximately 15,000 bears**
- **grizzly bears are NOT classified as an endangered species**
- **35% of British Columbia is closed to grizzly bear hunting**
- **more grizzly bears are killed in Yellowstone National Park than in the Great Bear Rainforest**
- **throughout British Columbia, hunters only kill about 2% of the grizzly bears annually**
- **bear viewing and guide outfitting coexist in British Columbia and are both important tourism sectors.**

British Columbia (BC) boasts the 2nd highest population of grizzly bears in North America. Large grizzly bear sanctuaries, conservative hunting measures and large swaths of wilderness areas bode well for the future of grizzly bears in BC.

Are grizzly bears an endangered species?

Grizzly bears are not endangered. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) classifies grizzly bears as a species of “Special Concern” which indicates that they are neither threatened nor endangered, but are sensitive to changes in habitat.

How many bears do hunters harvest?

In 2015, hunters harvested 230 grizzly bears in BC (165 harvested by resident hunters and 65 harvested by guided clients). The provincial population estimate is approximately 15,000 grizzly bears. This harvest calculates to less than 2% of the total grizzly bear population.

What is the real threat to grizzly bears?

Habitat loss and cumulative effects are the real threats to BC’s grizzly bears. As we expand into the backcountry, we must put a higher priority on grizzly bears and their habitat. Industry development must be sustainable and put more value on wildlife and their habitat.

35% of BC is closed to grizzly bear hunting

Approximately 35% of the province or ~330,650 km² (roughly the size of Finland) is closed to grizzly bear hunting (including approximately 50% of the Great Bear Rainforest).

More bears are killed in Yellowstone National Park than the Great Bear Rainforest

Yellowstone National Park is a typical example of a National Park with higher grizzly bear mortality than in jurisdictions where hunting is not allowed. The Yellowstone is approximately 8,991 km² with a population estimate of approximately 700 grizzly bears and 59 grizzly bears were killed by people in 2015.

The Great Bear Rainforest approximately 64,000 km² has a population estimate of 1,400 grizzly bears but only 11 bears per year (5-year average) are harvested by hunters (BC residents and guided clients combined).

Can guide outfitting and bear viewing coexist in BC?

British Columbia is 94% Crown land with a multitude of natural resource industries. These industries are managed on a tenure basis which are not exclusive and often overlap.

Both industries contribute significantly to BC’s economy and rely on good, healthy bear populations. The two industries have coexisted for decades and can continue to do so in the future.

Why should we continue hunting grizzly bears in British Columbia?

“In recovered and delisted grizzly bear populations, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) supports the use of regulated hunting following the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as one approach to help manage numbers and distribution of bears to promote coexistence and help minimize conflict.”

Hunting is an internationally recognized tool to manage all species of wildlife, including grizzly bears. Most respected conservation organizations support hunting if it benefits the species and the communities near where the animals live.

For additional information please contact Scott Ellis, Executive Director at ellis@goabc.org