

Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos horribilis*



Description

- Grizzlies are usually larger with a prominent shoulder hump and a wider dish-shaped face, which are both lacking in Black Bears.
- The long, outer guard hairs of the Grizzly Bear are often tipped with white, silver, or cream giving the bear a grizzled appearance.
- Coat colour is quite variable, usually brown but ranging from black to almost white.
- The front claws on a Grizzly Bear are longer than on Black Bears, being as long as 10 cm. The long front claws and hump of muscle on the shoulders are adaptations for digging.



Similar Species

- Black Bears can sometime be mistaken for Grizzly Bears, as their ranges overlap.

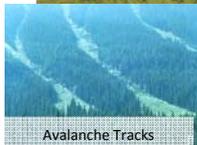
Biology

- Mating occurs May through mid-July and gestation is 63-70 days; 1-3 cubs are born in January or February in the den. Cubs will remain with their mothers for 2 - 4 years.
- Grizzly Bears hibernate for 5-8 months, and usually dig their dens on north-facing slopes to ensure good snow cover.

- Grizzly Bears are omnivorous

Habitat

- Grizzly bears are found in a variety of habitats, from dense forests, to subalpine meadows
- Important feeding areas are estuaries, skunk cabbage swamps, wetlands, herb-dominated avalanche tracks on warm aspects, berry producing sites and salmon spawning reaches.
- Grizzly Bears follow distinct "pad trails" within their home ranges and have mark trees within these areas.
- *Elevations:* Valley bottoms to alpine meadows



Avalanche Tracks



Skunk Cabbage

Occurrence: DCR (CM), DSC

- Found throughout the coast forest region except the islands, and the southwest portion of the province.

Status

BC: Blue-listed (Species of Special Concern) and Identified Wildlife Species in B.C.
Canada: Special Concern (2002)

Action Required

- If an active block is near a Grizzly Bear WHA, follow GWMS
- If a den, pad trail or significant feeding area is observed within or near a block notify BCTS and document location.
- Maintain the ecological integrity of important seasonal habitats or features within a WTP, buffered retention or a WHA.
- Contact a qualified professional if you are uncertain about retention requirements.