

Grizzly bears once ranged across most of western North America and south to Mexico. They disappeared from much of the area following the arrival of Europeans in the 1800s. Populations appear stable across most of the remaining range today however habitat in the southern portion of the range is becoming fragmented and increased development pressures in the north may threaten grizzly bear habitat in the future. Grizzly bears are sensitive to loss of habitat and are slow to recover from declining populations, so COSEWIC determined that a designation as Special Concern was warranted.

Next Steps:

This briefing is the notification of COSEWIC's status assessment of grizzly bear as a species of Special Concern at their May 2012 meeting.

Once COSEWIC has finalized its status and assessment report, which is due in the fall, it will provide this to the Minister of Environment.

Environment Canada's proposed method of consultation will be to send out information packages to Nunavut communities within the range of the grizzly bear to provide information about the assessment and give them an opportunity to provide information/ask questions in advance of working with them to decide whether in person meetings will also be required.

A list of the communities that will be contacted is attached. Copies of the consultation materials will be provided once they are completed (letter, hard copy and CD of powerpoint presentation).

CWS will provide an update to the Board on the final COSEWIC assessment and status report if there are any changes from the information presented in September.

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