



Environment  
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## SUBMISSION TO THE NWMB FOR

Information:

Decision: X

**Issue:** COSEWIC Assessment for Grizzly Bear – Western population



**Background:** The grizzly bear was assessed by COSEWIC in May 2012. The Committee recommended that this species be listed as Special Concern because the distribution of the species has declined by over 50% since the 1800s (see Figure 1). Much of the North American range is in Western Canada. There are no signs of the population decreasing currently but the species range is expanding north and the number of populations in the south are declining. Because grizzly bears have a low reproductive rate and there are increased pressures in parts of their range (such as resource extraction), this species could be of greater concern if these pressures are not reversed.

Under SARA, there are no requirements to restrict harvest or regulate habitat for species that are listed as Special Concern. There is a requirement to develop a management plan within 3 years of a species being listed.

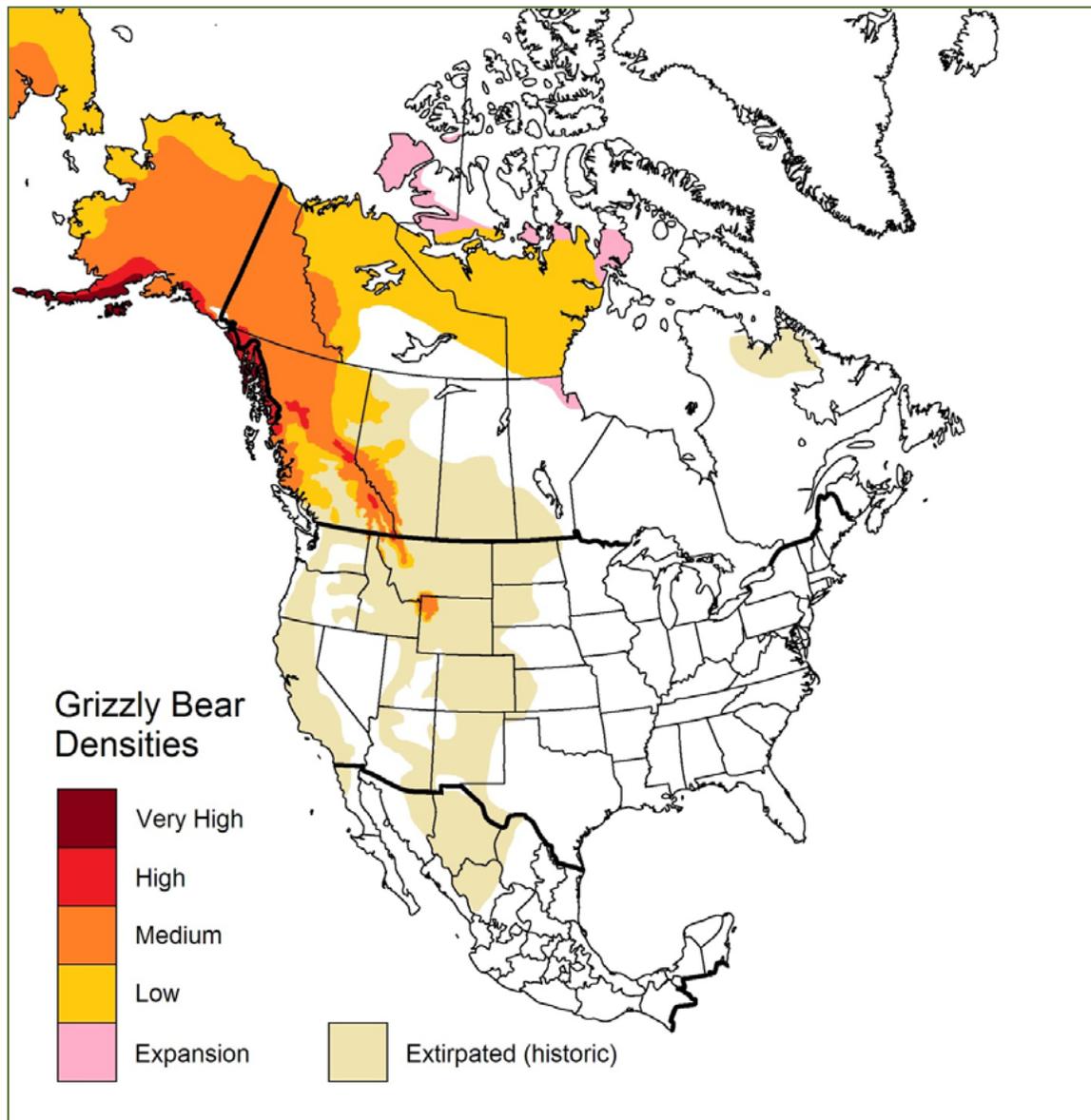


Figure 1. This is Figure 2 from the COSEWIC Assessment and Status Summary. It shows the boundaries of the current and historic distribution of the Grizzly Bear in North America. Areas in white are not known to have supported more than vagrant occurrences of Grizzly Bears in the past.

**Consultation:**

EC sent consultation packages (in English and Inuktitut) to Hunters and Trappers Associations in 14 communities in Nunavut (Repulse Bay, Hall Beach, Kugaaruk, Whale Cove, Gjoa Haven, Arctic Bay, Taloyoak, Chesterfield Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, Arviat and Umingmaktok) by mail and email on 7 February 2013.

Consultation packages consisted of:

- A plain language summary of the COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report for Grizzly Bear – Western population. It provided information about the species, threats facing the species and the reasoning behind their recommendation for listing.
- A narrated powerpoint presentation providing detailed information about the Grizzly Bear – Western population, the COSEWIC assessment and details on what the proposed listing means. Furthermore it outlines the differences between the 2002 COSEWIC and 2012 COSEWIC Assessment and Status reports.
- The complete COSEWIC Assessment and Status report for Grizzly Bear – Western population (a digital copy in English only).

Communities were asked to review the information in the packages and to respond in writing (by 12 July 2013) to the Canadian Wildlife Service with their formal position on the proposed listing (i.e. oppose, support or are indifferent) and with any other comments, concerns or information that they feel should be considered.

**Recommendations:**

The NWMB is asked to consider whether or not they wish to make a formal decision on supporting COSEWIC's proposed listing of grizzly bear as a species of Special Concern on the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Prepared by:

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30 July 2013