

Grizzly Bear

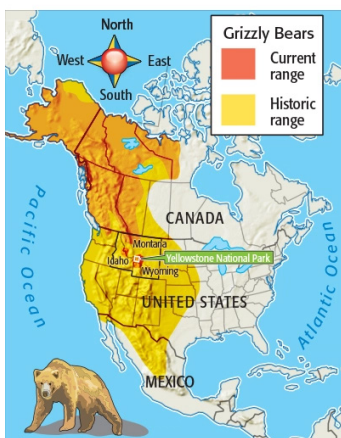
(Ursus Arctus)



The grizzly bear inhabits forests and mountains in polar regions of Eurasia and in coastal British Columbia and Alaska. Their diet consists mainly of plants, fish, and occasionally caribou and moose. Although grizzly bears are solitary in nature, they can be found in large groups in feeding areas.

Current Standing in the U.S.

- There are approximately **32,500 grizzlies bears living in the United States**, 31,000 of which are in Alaska.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not list grizzlies as an endangered species in Alaska, but does consider them **endangered in the lower 48 states**.
- Grizzlies are experiencing **habitat loss** from expanding mining projects and other human developments.
- **Human-caused mortality** during bear encounters is the largest threat to the grizzly bear's survival.



- **Grizzlies reproduce slowly**, making it difficult for populations to recover after major habitat loss.

Importance of Grizzly Bears

- Grizzlies play an important role in **managing ecosystems**. Their varied diet allows them to fertilize soil, disperse seeds and pollen, and keep prey populations in check.

- A 2019 study estimates that bear viewing contributes **19 million dollars** to the Alaskan economy.



Conservation Strategies

- The Alaska Department of Fish and Game began a largely successful conservation strategy in 2000.
- A recovery strategy by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has **increased the grizzly population in the contiguous U.S. 4-fold** since implementation 25 years ago.
- Land planning and urban development programs are now considering grizzly bears' habitat maintenance and linkage in their plans to **prevent further encroachment**.
- State, local, and federal authorities are working together to **increase public education** on bear behavior in hopes of reducing the number of bears killed in human-bear interactions.

What's Next?

- Increasing education on bear behavior and improving our understanding of grizzly bear habitat are the best ways to ensure the population remains stable and avoid intrusive actions. Preventative measures such as **securing trash cans and compost bins** are essential to avoiding unwanted bear encounters. Additionally, exploring and promoting the use of **nonlethal methods during bear encounters** will drastically reduce the number of human-caused grizzly bear deaths in the U.S.