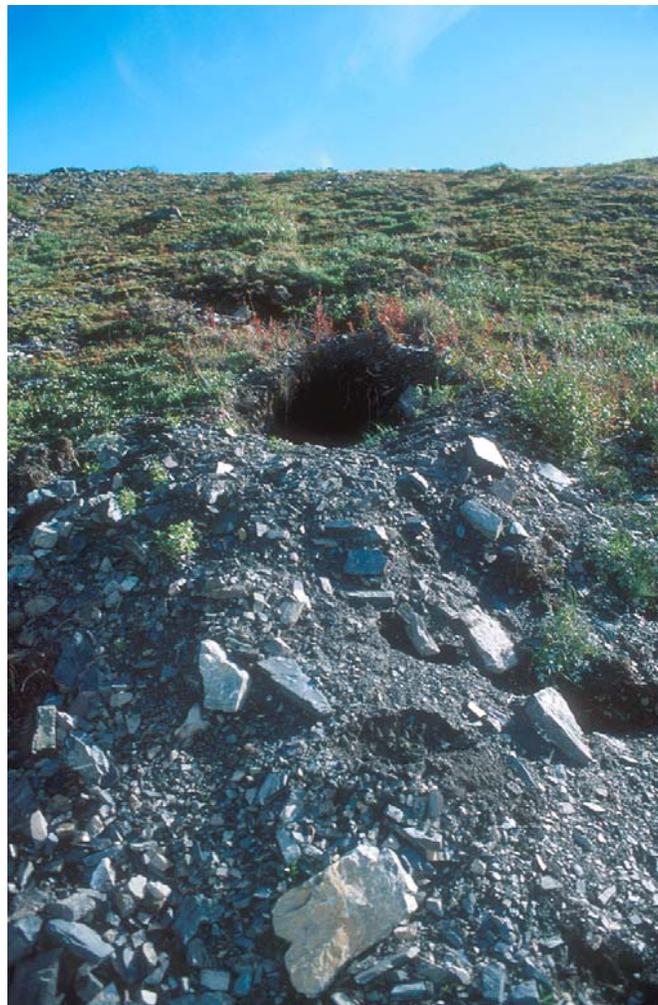


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Some grizzly bears use natural caves or rock crevasses as dens (left) or dig dens in alpine and subalpine slopes (right). Lack of new plant growth on the debris pile in this alpine den suggests this den was recently dug or was an older den that had been re-excavated.





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Bedding material is generally 10 - 20 cm deep in the chamber and may consist of shrub branches, tree boughs (above), duff, or grass but in some cases dens may not have any bedding material.

The photo on the left shows where a female grizzly had attempted to use a hollow red cedar as a den. Subsequent searching of the vicinity resulted in the location of another den used by this radio-collared female grizzly. The existing hole in the pictured den was too small for an adult grizzly but with more work may be suitable in the future.



2.8.3. Black Bear Den Characteristics

- Black bears normally den on, or close to, valley bottoms.
- Black bears may den at lower elevations than grizzlies (below 350m ASL).
- Black bears sometimes dig dens under the roots of trees, under logs or under brush piles, but their excavations are not as extensive as those of grizzlies.
- Cavities in old-growth structures, including large old trees, stumps, root masses and logs having a diameter greater than 85 cm may be suitable black bear den sites.
- In coastal British Columbia, black bear dens have been recorded in or under large diameter red and yellow cedar trees.
- Large diameter balsam poplars may also provide excellent cavity den sites for black bears.
- Black bear tree den entrances can range from 0 m to as high as 16 m above the ground.
- Black bear denning in second growth forest stands is limited by suitable denning locations.

2.8.4. Black Bear Den Photo



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In coastal BC, black bear dens are commonly found in large diameter red cedar tree cavities (above). This one has been in use for several years.



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