

Policy Discussion Intent Paper

Stopping All Hunting of Grizzly Bear in the Great Bear Rainforest

On August 14, 2017 the Government of British Columbia announced that effective November 30, 2017 it will end trophy hunting of grizzly bear and stop all hunting of grizzly bear in the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR). The press release for this announcement can be found online at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017FLNR0232-001442>

Background:

The current management system for grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest is considered sustainable and the proposed closure is not a response to a conservation concern.

Closing the grizzly bear hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest means that no licensed hunting of grizzly bears will be permitted within the Great Bear Rainforest, however First Nations will still be able to harvest grizzly bears pursuant to aboriginal rights for food, social, or ceremonial purposes, or treaty rights.

Proposed Closures Rationale:

Provincially, there are no general open seasons for the hunting of grizzly bear and grizzly bear can only be harvested during a limited entry hunting season as provided for in the Limited Entry Hunting Regulation. If the limited entry hunting seasons are eliminated in the Great Bear Rainforest, the Province will no longer be authorizing the harvest of grizzly bear within that area.

For the purpose of ending the grizzly bear hunt, the government is proposing that the Great Bear Rainforest be defined as the area set out in Schedule A of the Great Bear Rainforest Order (https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/SLRP/lrmp/nanaimo/CLUDI/GBR/Schedules/GBR_2016/GBRSchA_LandscapeUnits_jan2016.pdf) (see attached Map A).

There are a total of 13 limited entry hunting areas currently open to grizzly bear hunting that overlap with the Great Bear Rainforest: 8 of which lie completely within, and 5 of which lie partially within (see attached Map B).

MU/Zone	Total Area	% Area Inside the GBR	% Area Outside the GBR	Total Population Estimate	Population Estimate Inside the GBR	Population Estimate Outside the GBR
1-14A	326372	100%	0%	120	120	0
1-14B	170458	100%	0%	64	64	0
1-15B	169020	100%	0%	66	66	0
1-15C	323705	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-06	586462	40%	60%	104	42	62
5-08A	459245	100%	0%	91	91	0
5-08B	371463	100%	0%	73	73	0
5-08C	152118	100%	0%	57	57	0

5-09A	347683	100%	0%	49	49	0
6-03B	294152	8%	92%	73	6	67
6-10	143790	43%	57%	24	10	14
6-11	573069	58%	42%	166	96	70
6-16B	902897	39%	61%	285	111	174

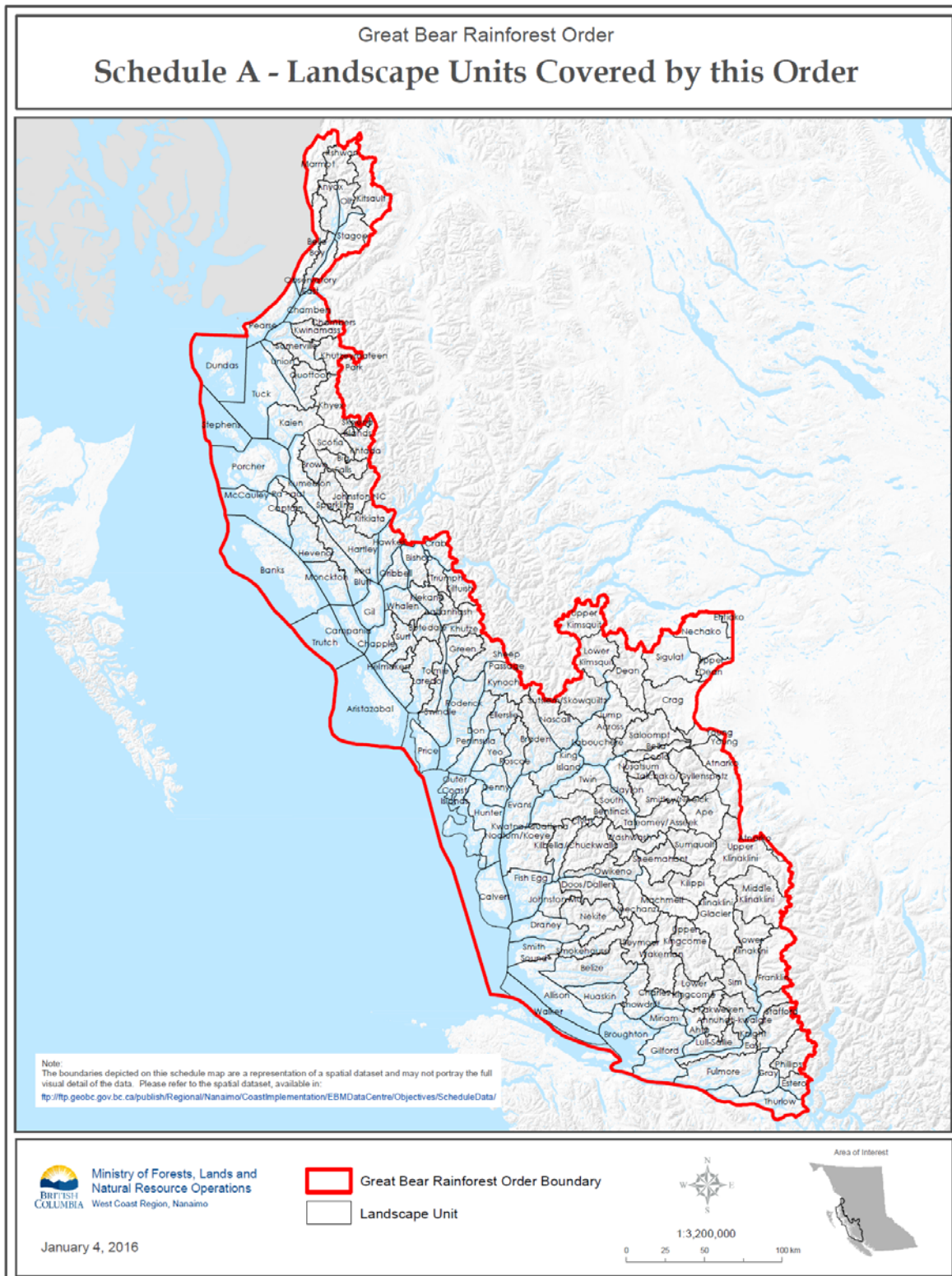
Closure of the grizzly bear hunt would require closing the 8 limited entry hunting areas that lie completely within the Great Bear Rainforest and modifying the remaining 5 to exclude the Great Bear Rainforest.

The 8 areas that fall completely within the proposed closure area add up to approximately 230,000ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears in these areas combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 38; 30 harvested by resident hunters and 8 harvested by guided hunters.

The five hunt areas that would be modified are 5-06, 6-03B, 6-10, 6-11, and 6-16B. The portion of these five areas that fall within the Great Bear Rainforest is approximately 100,000 ha. The total hunter harvest of grizzly bears within the portions of these areas that lie within the Great Bear Rainforest combined from 2012-2016 (5 years) was 9; 2 harvested by resident hunters and 7 harvested by guided hunters.

Hunts within the portions of the 5 areas that lie outside the closed area, and remain open to grizzly bear hunting (under the new trophy hunting regulations) would be managed in accordance with Grizzly Bear Harvest Management Procedure.

Map A



Map B

Grizzly Bear Hunt in the Great Bear Rainforest

