

British Columbia's Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy: Progress to Date and Future Directions

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ABSTRACT

The Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy (GBCS) was launched by the government of British Columbia in June, 1995 and is intended to be a comprehensive approach to the conservation of this vulnerable species. Elements of the GBCS include: 1) a commitment to establish Grizzly Bear Management Areas where grizzly bear hunting will be restricted and where habitat and access issues will be addressed through land use planning, 2) the creation of an independent Grizzly Bear Scientific Advisory Committee, 3) increased research and inventory of grizzly bear populations and habitat, 4) improved hunting regulations, 5) increased enforcement, 6) increased penalties for poaching and trading in bear parts, 7) a comprehensive educational program, 8) reducing conflicts between people and grizzly bears and 9) partnerships with the private sector to raise funds for grizzly bear conservation. In addition, other projects have been undertaken such as detailed input on grizzly bear habitat needs to land use planning processes across the province, the creation of a cross jurisdictional committee to coordinate the conservation and management of grizzly bears in the Rocky Mountains, the delineation of Grizzly Bear Population Units and recovery planning for threatened populations. A review of the progress made to date under the GBCS will be presented and future directions for the strategy will be discussed.
