

From: Alberta Wilderness Association [Alberta_Wilderness_Association@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 4:16 PM
To: awa.nd@shaw.ca
Subject: WiN News - Grizzly bear Response Guide



Alberta Wilderness Association

October 27, 2009



Dear Nigel,

Through our Wilderness Network (WiN), we continue to encourage Albertans to take any opportunities which are presented to have a say in issues affecting Alberta's wilderness and wildlife.

The Alberta government is asking for public comments on its draft Grizzly Bear Response Guide. AWA believes that the guide needs considerable strengthening before it is finalized.

In This Issue:

DRAFT GRIZZLY
RESPONSE GUIDE

AWA
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DRAFT GRIZZLY RESPONSE GUIDE

BACKGROUND

The draft Guide is a tool intended to help government staff determine appropriate and consistent responses to specific events involving grizzly bears anywhere in Alberta outside of a national park.

The guide ranks grizzlies according to their behaviour – e.g. nuisance, habituated, problem. It then lists possible responses to human encounters with grizzlies.

Click here to see AWA's response to the [draft Grizzly Bear Response Guide](#)

AWA's response includes:

- A goal of the response guide should be to minimize the number of bears removed from the population as a result of conflict situations.
- The draft guide defines a nuisance bear as "an animal whose presence is likely to cause some people to feel apprehensive." This definition is inadequate and must be changed. For doing nothing more than exhibiting perfectly normal, safe behaviour, a bear could be trapped and relocated inside or outside the Bear Management Area, or retained in captivity. In fact after two such incidents, such relocation would be mandatory.
- Any relocated bear should be radio-collared and tracked for at least two years.
- Captured bears can only be relocated to areas of suitable grizzly bear habitat. If these areas are already occupied, then there are likely to be considerable impacts both on the relocated bear and on the resident

bears. If these areas are not already occupied by grizzly bears, then there is presumably a good reason why not - the mortality risk is too high in the area, for example. Follow-up monitoring of both the relocated bear and any resident bears is crucial.

- This document reinforces the misconception that bears and people cannot coexist. If people encounter bears and “feel apprehensive” then the bear must be moved. This is not appropriate for a species recommended for threatened listing for the past seven years.
- Responses to bear encounters should be reported publicly in a timely fashion.

ACTION

The deadline for comments is Friday October 30, 2009. Please consider taking the opportunity to provide input to the draft [Grizzly Bear Response Guide](#).

Comments can be sent to the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Information Centre at srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca.

Please send us a copy of your response to: awa@shaw.ca

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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