

Nigel Douglas

From: Alberta Wilderness Association [Alberta_Wilderness_Association@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: March-25-10 4:28 PM
To: awa.nd@shaw.ca
Subject: Wilderness & Wildlife Defenders Alert - Grizzly Bears

Alberta Wilderness Association

March 25, 2010



Dear Nigel,

AWA's new *No More Grizzlies* campaign was born out of the growing realization that, whether we like it or not, the decision about whether or not to recover Alberta's threatened grizzly bears is no longer about science: it is about public opinion, and it is about politics.

As a member of AWA's Wilderness and Wildlife Defenders program, we are contacting you because now is a crucial time to speak about the future of Alberta's grizzlies. Please take a few moments to help protect grizzlies and their habitat.

- Nigel Douglas, AWA Conservation Specialist

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ALBERTA'S GRIZZLIES
NEED YOUR HELP!

AWA
www.AlbertaWilderness.ca
[1-866-313-0713](tel:1-866-313-0713)



ALBERTA'S GRIZZLIES NEED YOUR HELP!

THE ISSUE

Sustainable Resource Development Minister, Mel Knight, has said that he will be consulting with his cabinet colleagues about whether to act upon the new recommendation from the Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC) to list grizzlies as a *threatened* species in Alberta.

So now is a critical time for MLA's to hear from Albertans who care about grizzly bears, and want to see action to recover them.

BACKGROUND

This week, the province's Endangered Species Conservation Committee (the ESCC) submitted its official recommendation to Minister Mel Knight that the grizzly should be designated as *threatened* in Alberta. In fact the ESCC made exactly the same recommendation in 2002 but it was never acted upon. This time, the need to take action to protect grizzly habitat is more pressing than ever.

This has been a busy few weeks for grizzly bears in Alberta. At the beginning of March, the spring grizzly hunt was suspended for one more year. A new

Status Report pegged the provincial population at 691 bears, and made it clear that "To reduce mortality, motorized access to bear habitat must be minimized and human activities that lead to conflicts with bears must be mitigated."

And of course AWA launched its new satirical No More Grizzlies campaign. If you haven't done so yet, check out www.NoMoreGrizzlies.com to see our spoof website. Although based in satire, the campaign addresses a serious concern: the science and public opinion have been clear for many years on what needs to be done to recover Alberta's grizzlies, but nothing is being done.

Minister Knight has already dismissed the No More Grizzlies campaign. "It's just shenanigans," he told the Edmonton Journal. "They can do what they like. At the end of the day, that kind of thing has little effect on me." We beg to differ! In a recent Calgary Herald online poll, a resounding 81 per cent of Albertans replied "yes" to the question "With a population count of 691, should grizzly bears be designated a threatened species in Alberta?" Now it is up to all of us to make sure that our politicians listen to their own voters.

ACTION

If you care about the future of Alberta's grizzlies, please consider contacting your MLA.

[Click here](#) to find contact information for your MLA.

You can also write to:

The Hon. Ed Stelmach
Premier of Alberta
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 – 97th Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Premier@gov.ab.ca
Phone toll-free at 310-0000

- AWA continues to recommend that:
Grizzly bears must be designated as a threatened species, as recommended this month by the province's Endangered Species Conservation Committee.
- More importantly, grizzly bear habitat must be protected from motorized access. This needs to begin immediately.

Thank you for your support for AWA and for Alberta's grizzlies!

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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