



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Wilderness Defender},

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has proposed the addition of the Grizzly Bear to the Canadian Species at Risk Act (SARA) listing as a *Species of Special Concern*. The Government of Canada is soliciting feedback on the proposed addition and will be accepting submissions until **Friday October 4, 2013**. AWA supports this listing and hopes that you will write the government with an expression of support.

- Sean Nichols, Conservation Specialist

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Proposed addition of Grizzly Bear to federal Species at Risk Act listing

AWA

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This is the second time that COSEWIC has proposed the Grizzly Bear be added to the species listing. The 2002 proposal was followed by a decision not to add the Grizzly to the list “in order to better incorporate the best available community knowledge and Aboriginal traditional knowledge.”

AWA agrees with COSEWIC that these concerns have been addressed in the latest proposal, which includes considerable new research that has been conducted on the species since the last 2002 report.

One of the greatest threats to Grizzly population sustainability is the impact from human activity and development, most especially the high levels of human linear access (whether that be roads, pipelines, trails, railroads, cut lines or other access) that threatens to fragment that habitat.

As a consequence of this fragmentation, many remaining populations are small and isolated. This is especially the case in Southern Alberta and British Columbia where barriers such as highways reduce the connectivity between regional populations. The last official census taken in Alberta showed approximately 700 Grizzly Bears remaining in the province, but with several populations having much smaller numbers than that being effectively isolated and with very low reproductive rates.

Numerous Grizzly studies have also drawn a clear link between high levels of human linear access and high population - especially cub and infant - mortality. For example, the Government of Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan 2008 - 2013 notes:

“Grizzly bear mortality has been linked to proximity to roads. Roads and other access corridors increase the frequency of contact between humans and bears, which can lead to increases in human-caused bear mortality – **human use of access (specifically, motorized vehicle routes) is one of the primary threats to grizzly bear persistence.**”
(emphasis in original)

AWA is hopeful that a listing on the SARA registry can provide a tool to help manage more appropriately access management issues in grizzly habitat.

For reference, you can find a copy of AWA's letter of support [on our website](#).

To provide feedback on the proposed SARA listing for Grizzly Bears, visit the web page at: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2437

Or you can send a letter to:

Caroline Ladanowski
Director, Wildlife Program Support Division
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
351 Saint-Joseph Boulevard
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Email: sararegistry@ec.gc.ca

Please copy AWA on any correspondence you send in, at snichols@abwild.ca.
Please note again that the deadline for sending feedback is Friday October 4, 2013.

Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action

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