

# The North Cascades



# Grizzly Bear Outreach Project [GBOP]

www.bearinfo.org

Fewer than 20 grizzly bears remain in the North Cascades of Washington

## About Us

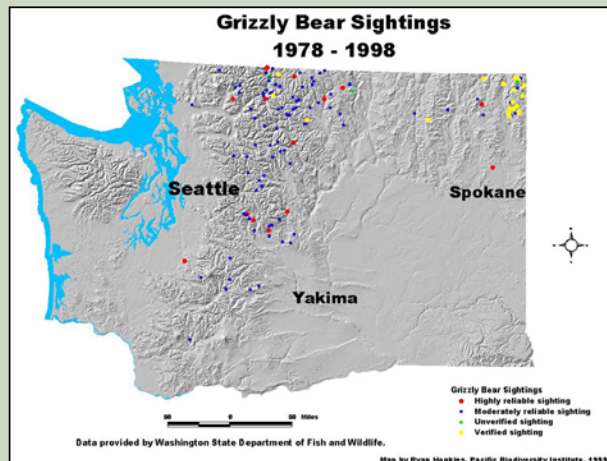
The GBOP is an independent project guided by community members and facilitated by Insight Wildlife Management (IWM) and the Conservation Partnership Center (CPC). The project began in Okanogan County in 2002 and was expanded to encompass Whatcom and Skagit Counties in 2003.

## Our Mission

GBOP promotes an accurate understanding of grizzly bears and their recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem through community education and involvement.



Photo courtesy of John Hechtel



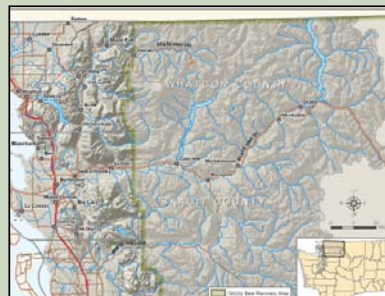
## Current distribution and recovery areas

Map by Ward P. Hooper © Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC)



GIS Image courtesy of Anne Bralton, NPS

### Below: Whatcom, Skagit, and Okanogan County grizzly bear recovery area boundaries



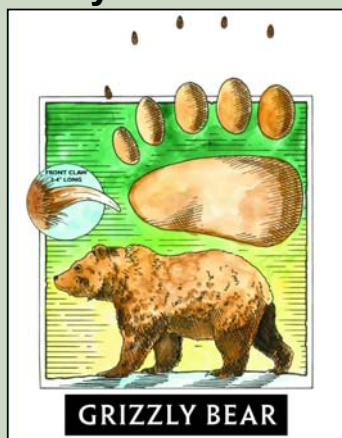
Above: Whatcom and Skagit Counties (north western portion of the recovery zone)



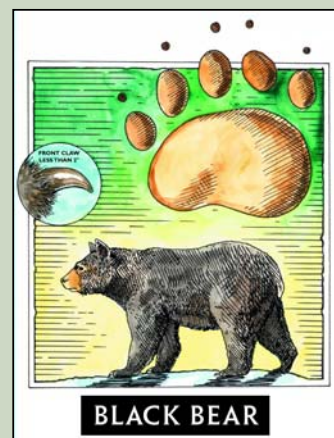
Above: Okanogan County (north eastern portion of the recovery zone)

GIS maps courtesy of Kerry Laguerue

## Grizzly bear and black bear characteristics



GRIZZLY BEAR



BLACK BEAR

Illustrations by Ward P. Hooper © Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC)

### Grizzly bear

- Prominent shoulder hump
- Rump is lower than shoulder
- Dished face profile
- Round, small ears
- Color varies: blond to black
- Often medium-dark brown with grizzled fur on head, face, upper body
- 6-7 feet tall standing upright
- 3.5 to 4 feet at shoulder on all four legs
- Average weight 300-500 lbs
- Males are larger and may weight up to 800 lbs.

### Black bear

- No distinctive hump on shoulder
- Long, straight face profile
- Tall, prominent ears
- Usually light brown snout
- Color varies: can be black, brown, cinnamon, rust, blonde
- 5 feet tall standing upright
- 2.5 to 3 feet at shoulder on all four legs
- Average weight 100-300 lbs
- Males are larger and may weight up to 400+ lbs.

If you see a grizzly bear, or grizzly bear field sign, please call 1-888-WOLF-BEAR

## Grizzly bears in the North Cascades – a chronology

**Pre-1850s:** Grizzly bears present in all western United States south to plateau area of Mexico. Lower 48 population between 50,000 and 100,000.

**1827—1859:** Hudson's Bay Company records show 3,788 grizzly bear hides shipped from three forts around Washington's North Cascades (3,477 from Fort Colville, 236 Fort Nez Perce near Walla Walla, 75 Thompson's River in British Columbia).

**1975:** Grizzly bear listed as a "threatened" species in the lower 48 states by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

**1981:** Washington Department of Game listed grizzly bear as an "endangered" species under Washington law.

**1983 through 1991:** 153 reports of grizzly bear sightings. 21 of these were confirmed and are considered verified Class 1 grizzly bear sightings.

**1983:** Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) established with goal of recovering the grizzly bear population in the lower 48 states.

### 1986 through 1991

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Evaluation completed by agency biologists and submitted to Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC). IGBC committee concluded that the North Cascades Ecosystem contains sufficient quality habitat (i.e. food, space, isolation, etc.) to maintain and recover a viable grizzly bear population.

### 1991

North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE) designated as a grizzly bear recovery zone by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The NCE recovery zone is nearly 10,000 square miles. 90% of the recovery zone is public land (federal or state). About 68% of the recovery zone has no motorized access. IGBC directed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies to begin efforts to recover the grizzly bear in the North Cascades. North Cascades Grizzly Bear Subcommittee formed one month later.

### 1992

NCE Recovery zone boundaries developed and recommended by an interagency group working on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Chapter.

### 1992 and 1993

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held public informational and scoping meetings in Seattle, Mount Vernon, Wenatchee, and Winthrop to identify concerns and familiarize the public with grizzly bear ecology and the recovery process.

### 1995

Public informational meetings held to gather comments on the draft North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Chapter.

### 1996

Survey of 430 Washington residents commissioned by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine public's knowledge and attitudes about grizzly bear biology and recovery in NCE. Survey results showed: 77% support for recovery (statewide respondents); 73% support for recovery (western NCE respondents); 64% support for recovery (eastern NCE respondents).

### 1997

Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan Chapter for the North Cascades Ecosystem signed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### 2002

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP) began in Okanogan County (north-eastern NCE) and is expanded to Skagit and Whatcom Counties (north-western NCE) in 2003. GBOP commissions 2003 attitude and knowledge survey of rural Whatcom and Skagit County residents living in or next to recovery ecosystem. 76% of 508 respondents are supportive of recovery (52% strongly supportive).



# BEAR SIGN



**Grizzly bear tracks**  
(note long claws and shallow toe arc)



**Tracks**  
Bacon Peak, WA



**Flipped rocks**



**Trails**



**Scat**



**Hair on trees**

**Clawed trees**



**Torn logs**



Chesaw, WA 2008  
Photo courtesy of Scott Elkin, WDFW

**Digs**

# DIET

(some of the favorites)

Cow parsnip stems



Glacier lily



Grizzly bears use their claws to dig for roots of plants like glacier lily

90-95% of a grizzly bear's diet is vegetation



Huckleberries



Serviceberries



Berry scat



Background picture: Grizzly bear eating horsetail plant.  
Photo courtesy of John Hechtel



Photo courtesy of Chris Weston  
(www.naturalphotographic.com)

- If you see a grizzly bear, or grizzly bear field sign (such as a plant excavation dig or track), please call 1-888-WOLF-BEAR and 360 734 6060
- To get involved with GBOP activities please call 360 734-6060

## Did you know?

- Grizzly bear home ranges are generally 50-300 square miles for females and 200-500 square miles for males.
- Surveys have shown that the majority of people living in the North Cascades ecosystem support grizzly bear recovery.
- Grizzly bears are omnivores with a typical diet of less than 10% meat or fish.
- More than 100 plant species in the North Cascades have been identified as grizzly bear foods.
- The North Cascades grizzly bear population will be considered "recovered" when it numbers 200-400 bears. It will take up to 100 years to achieve this population.
- Grizzly bears den for up to 6 months each year to avoid times of low food availability. During this winter sleep they can lose 40% of their body weight.
- For more interesting facts about grizzly bears and the GBOP, please go to: [www.bearinfo.org](http://www.bearinfo.org) or pick up a brochure.



Please help yourself to a GBOP brochure

### Many thanks to our contributors:

Defenders of Wildlife  
Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee  
National Park Service  
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance  
USDA Forest Service

US Fish And Wildlife Service  
Seattle City Light  
Secure Rural Schools and Communities Self Determination Act  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Woodland Park Zoo