

Bear Identification

Grizzly bears and black bears look different in several ways. Color and size cannot be used for identification because they vary greatly in both species. Look for a combination of the following characteristics:



- The shoulder hump (muscles to assist digging for plant materials, insects, and rodents) is usually much more pronounced on a grizzly bear than a black bear.
- The facial profile of a grizzly bear is more *concave* than the *Roman nose* profile of a black bear.



- Grizzly bear front claws are as long as a human finger, while black bear claws are much shorter and more curved to assist in climbing.
- Grizzly bear ears are shorter and rounder than black bear ears.

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Report Grizzly Bear Sightings

Why report a grizzly sighting? Information contributed by the public helps management agencies monitor bear distribution and provides valuable information on bear recovery.

For information on **Bear Safety** or **Reporting** go to:

Western Wildlife Outreach
WesternWildlife.org

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee
IGBConline.org

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
360-902-2200 • wdfw.wa.gov

Washington Poaching Hotline
800-447-6224

For information on the **North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan**, the **Environmental Impact Statement**, and the **Recovery Process**, visit:
IGBConline.org

Washington State Laws Prohibit Feeding Wildlife

In Washington State it is illegal to intentionally or otherwise leave food waste in places where it will attract large wild carnivores. These laws were designed to keep both people and wildlife safe. Violations are subject to monetary fines.



westernwildlife.org



npca.org



zoo.org

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GRIZZLY BEARS

of the North Cascades



Promoting an accurate understanding of grizzly bears and their recovery in Washington through community education and involvement.



The North Cascades Ecosystem provides excellent habitat for grizzly bears, yet there are very few remaining in the North Cascades Recovery Area. Because of their small numbers, they are widely believed to be the most at-risk grizzly bear population in the U.S. today, incapable of enduring without active recovery efforts. A sustainable population of grizzly bears serves as an indicator of the overall health and sustainability of their environment.



The North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Area is one of the largest contiguous blocks of Federal land remaining in the lower 48 states, encompassing approximately 9,565 square miles within north central Washington. Stretching from the US–Canada border south to Interstate 90, it includes all of the North

Cascades National Park, and most of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, and Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forests.

The North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Area is directly adjacent to the Canadian portion of the ecosystem, where some grizzly bears remain, also in low numbers.

Threats to the species in this recovery zone include insufficient habitat protection measures (e.g. motorized access management), small population size, and population fragmentation resulting in genetic isolation. Low population numbers and migration barriers between British Columbia and the United States limit the chance of natural recovery.

Population augmentation may be the only way to recover this population, and even then it will be many years before the success of recovery efforts can be determined.

What's Next for North Cascade Grizzly Bears?

In 1997 a supplement to the original North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan of 1982 was adopted. The Plan identifies certain steps before grizzly bear recovery can be fully implemented.

In early 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service embarked on a joint effort to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a requirement identified in the Recovery Plan.

The EIS will examine several approaches to achieving grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades. Public input will be solicited and considered at several points in the EIS process. It is anticipated that the entire process will take several years.

Once the EIS process is completed, a *Record of Decision* will be issued and grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades can begin in earnest.