



May 22, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Eli Nasogaluak
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 2120 Inuvik, NWT, Canada X0E 0T0
eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak,

Re: COSEWIC STATUS ASSESSMENT – Grizzly Bear

Please find attached a status review of grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) recently released in May 2012 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). As discussed in the attachment, the previous use of “Northwestern population” has been changed to “Western population”. This announcement is posted on the COSEWIC website at:
www.cosewic.gc.ca/rpts/Detailed_Species_Assessments_e.html.

Parties to the review should use the revised population name in future discussions.

Sincerely



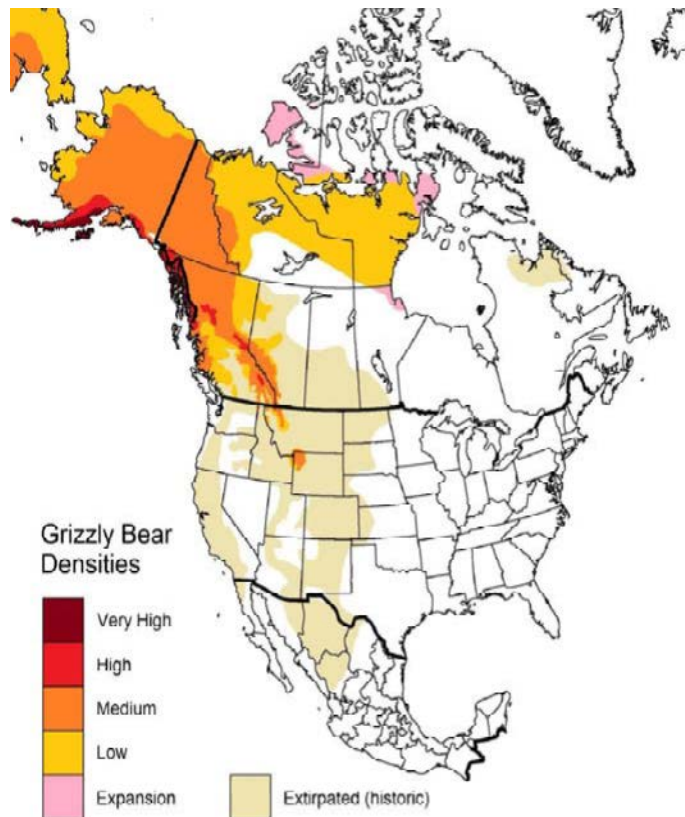
Gavin More
Manager
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
Environment and Natural Resources

Cc Jim Stevens - GNWT Department of Transportation
Stacey Leblanc – Environment Canada

Grizzly Bear Western population *Ursus arctos*

Special Concern

Status History - The species was considered a single unit and designated Not at Risk in April 1979. Split into two populations in April 1991 (Prairie population and Northwestern population). The Prairie population was designated Extirpated in April 1991. Status re-examined and confirmed in May 2000 and in May 2002. The Northwestern population was designated Special Concern in April 1991 and confirmed in May 2002. In May 2012, the entire species was re-examined and the Prairie and Northwestern populations were considered a single unit. This newly-defined Western population was designated Special Concern in May 2012.



Reason for Designation - The global distribution of this large-bodied carnivore has declined by over 50% since the 1800s, with western Canada representing a significant core of the current North American range. A habitat generalist, its distribution and relative abundance in the absence of humans is largely driven by habitat productivity and seasonality. It is highly sensitive to human disturbance and is subject to high mortality risk in areas of human activity and where roads create access. Population estimates in much of the range are highly uncertain; the Canadian population is estimated at 26,000, but the number of mature individuals is uncertain and could be close to 10,000. While there is no evidence of a decline in the overall population during the past 20 years and increasing numbers of records indicating some range expansion in the north, a number of populations in the southern extent of its range in Alberta and southern BC are known to be declining and there are concerns about unsustainable mortality rates there and in parts of Yukon. There is strong evidence of genetic fragmentation in the southern parts of its range where some populations are increasingly isolated and subject to demographic stochasticity. Their poor condition in some parts of the range, combined with their naturally low reproductive rates and increasing pressures of resource extraction and cumulative impacts in currently intact parts of the range, heighten concern for this species if such pressures are not successfully reversed.