

# Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)  
www.nps.gov

**Species:** Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

**Group:** Mammal

**Natural Heritage Rank:** G4, S1

**Legal Status:** Federally Threatened, State Endangered

### General Description

This bear is the larger of the two bears in Washington. These bears can be 6-7 feet long and weigh 400-1300 pounds. Coloring ranges anywhere from blond to deep brown or black. Cubs are born in spring and stay with their mothers for several years. Grizzly bears are omnivorous and eat roots, plants, fungi, berries, insects, fish, amphibians, and mammals of all sizes. The grizzly bears can be confused with the much more common black bear (*Ursus americanus*) which is smaller and does not have a distinctive hump at the shoulder.

### Habitat

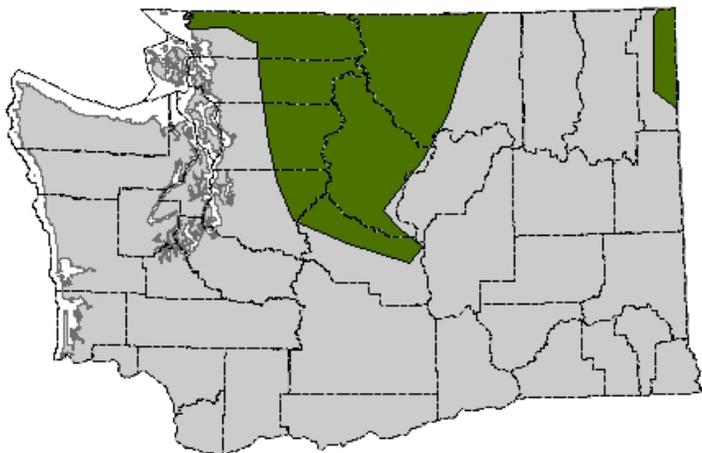
This species has a very large home range and historically occurred in most habitat types in Washington. Currently, grizzly bears are recolonizing into more remote forested habitats in northern Washington from Canada.

### Range in Washington

This species was extirpated in Washington. Grizzly bears now exist in small numbers in the northern Cascades and northeastern Washington.

### Threats

The primary threat to grizzly bears has been persecution by humans.



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:  
Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy—Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International—CABS, World Wildlife Fund—US, and Environment Canada—WILDSpace.  
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The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit [www.wdfw.wa.org](http://www.wdfw.wa.org) or [www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp), or [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org).

