

In both reviews, areas for improvement were identified in how BC estimates grizzly populations, particularly emphasizing opportunities to improve the accuracy of scientific estimates through an increase in population inventories and reduced reliance on subjective, model-based population estimates. Because grizzlies have a low reproductive rate^{4,5}, unexpected changes in bear mortality can have a significant effect on the recovery of threatened populations and on the sustainability of populations currently considered healthy. Continuous and accurate monitoring of population size at both the provincial and population unit scales is required, even if the government alters hunting regulations, due to the variety of other factors that influence grizzly survival.

The APB recommends that future management decisions incorporate relevant recommendations from these and other past scientific reviews, building on what we already know while also seeking to address information gaps. In addition, other management actions are also required to ensure sustainability of grizzly bear populations in BC including recovery of at-risk populations, road and habitat management, public education, and actions to manage and minimize bear-human conflict.

The APB will continue to advocate for management decisions based on scientifically rigorous information. Employing the best available scientific methods to assess population size, trends and sources of mortality will strengthen our understanding of grizzly populations, provide everyone with greater certainty about the long-term sustainability of grizzly bear populations, and also guide us to effective management approaches, including appropriate, scientifically-defensible changes to harvest regulations.

⁴Craighead, J.J., F.C. Craighead, Jr., and J. Sumner. 1974. Reproductive Cycles and Rates in the Grizzly Bear, *Ursus arctos horribilis*, of the Yellowstone Ecosystem. International Conference Bear Res. and Manage. 3:97-109.

⁵COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Grizzly Bear *Ursus arctos* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. Xiv + 84 pp.