

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
5421 Robertson Road
Delta, BC V4K 3N2



July 23, 2021

RE: Indigenous Knowledge in the Federal Grizzly Bear Management Plan

Greetings,

As you may be aware, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is developing a Species at Risk Act (SARA) Management Plan for Grizzly Bear in Canada and our engagement on this plan with the Province of British Columbia, Indigenous governments, Indigenous led Grizzly Bear projects and local Indigenous communities and organizations has been ongoing since 2020.

Through this engagement we are gaining a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples' long history and ongoing relationship with Grizzly Bears. We recognize that the well-being of this species at risk depends on the actions we take together. Given this, we hope you will help us ensure the knowledge you wish to share is meaningfully and respectfully included in the management plan. We acknowledge that we need to take a different approach from the past to including Indigenous Knowledge in recovery documents, and with the Grizzly Bear management plan we would like to try new things, working towards co-developing methods and tools that will enhance our shared work for the benefit of Grizzly Bear and perhaps other species at risk when future recovery documents are developed.

While we hope to walk an improved path, under the SARA legislation we still must publish the management plan by a set date and include specific information. To that end, we are proposing an approach to balance these different needs with the aim of being as efficient and respectful of your time as possible.

On Page 2 of this letter, you will find information on the approach we propose, along with the different ways you can provide feedback and inform us of your interest in being involved in this shared work.

Thank you for your time and consideration as we seek to ensure Indigenous Knowledge is included in the Grizzly Bear plan in a good way.

Respectfully,

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Proposed approach for Indigenous Knowledge in the SARA Grizzly Bear Management Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada is proposing distinct regional workshops for First Nations, Inuit and Metis in the following areas (may be virtual depending on COVID health measures) to discuss Indigenous Knowledge in the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) management plan for Grizzly Bear:

- North (individual workshops for each of: Yukon, ISR, NWT, Nunavut)
- Prairie (individual workshops for each of: S Alberta, N Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)
- Pacific (individual workshops for each of: BC South Coast, BC North Coast, BC Interior)

From the proposed workshops we hope to have answers to two key questions:

- 1) How do human actions and natural factors in Canada affect Grizzly Bears currently, in the past or in the future?
and
- 2) What actions by individuals and communities are needed in a management plan that would create a more respectful understanding toward being good stewards for Grizzly Bears?

A summary of what we hear will be returned to participants to ensure that the knowledge and ideas shared are accurately and respectfully framed within the *Species at Risk Act* requirements for a Management Plan. Indigenous knowledge that is provided will only be included in the management plan with the consent of knowledge holders.

Modest capacity funding will be made available to participants. More information on this will follow once the details have been finalized.

What do you think of this proposed approach? We would appreciate your feedback!

Question 1: Do you support the proposed approach in general?

Question 2: Do you have feedback, comments or concerns on the proposed approach?

Question 3: What do you think of the two key questions proposed for the workshops?

Question 4: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Would you like to participate in a workshop?

If you would like to participate in a workshop to share your knowledge, please provide your contact information (name and email or phone number) and the name of your community.

How to provide feedback & express interest in participating

You can provide feedback and express interest in participating by:

- Completing an online form at: <https://forms.gle/StRSDXP4qX5z8YoB6>
- Emailing us with your responses at SAR@ec.gc.ca or
- Scheduling a call by emailing us with your phone number and a time we can call you

Thank you for your feedback and interest!