

News Release



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Grizzly Bears in Lower 48 States to Retain Threatened Status Under Endangered Species Act

*Determination made by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following completion of five-year status
review*



A grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in Grand Teton National Park.
Credit: Joe Lieb / USFWS

DENVER — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending no change to the current listed status of the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) following the completion of a five-year status review [[link to doc](#)]. This recommendation follows a thorough review of the best available science, informed by an independently peer-reviewed species status assessment [[SSA link](#)].

The grizzly bear is listed under the ESA as a single entity in the lower 48 states. As such, the

status review and recommendation is made to the listed species as a whole. Although grizzly bear populations in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems are biologically recovered, five-year status reviews must evaluate the status of a species as it is currently listed under the ESA to ensure it is receiving the appropriate level of protection.

The five-year status review is informed by a peer-reviewed species status assessment, which includes the best available scientific information. The assessment evaluated the species' current needs, conditions and threats and model future scenarios. It also involved significant contributions from scientific experts, including an independent peer review as well as review by partners at federal, state and Tribal agencies.

Progress toward recovering the species has been made through close partnerships with local, state, federal and Tribal agencies since the original listing in 1975. This work among recovery partners is a significant factor in the species not being listed as endangered. However, considerable challenges remain to fully recover the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states, resulting in the recommendation to continue listing it as threatened. These remaining challenges include limited habitat connectivity, management of access by motorized vehicles, human-caused mortality and uncertainty surrounding future conservation efforts in some ecosystems. The Service looks forward to continuing grizzly bear conservation work with partners at local, state, Tribal and federal agencies to fully recover the species.

To learn more about grizzly bears, please visit the [species profile page](#); bear safety information is [available from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee](#). You can also visit our website to learn more about [5-year status reviews](#) and [Species Status Assessments](#).

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