

**From:** Gunther, Kerry  
**To:** [Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer](mailto:Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer)  
**Subject:** Re: grizzly population within YNP  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 07, 2016 1:35:32 PM

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I think the numbers in that table actually support our qualitative thinking that in YNP we reached carrying capacity in the late 1990's and have been relatively stable ever since, with most of the population increase and range expansion since that time being outside of the park.

Kerry

On Wed, Sep 7, 2016 at 1:19 PM, Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <[jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu)> wrote:

Thank you!

Jennifer Fortin-Noreus, Ph.D.  
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Missoula, MT 59812  
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[jennifer.fortin-noreus@umontana.edu](mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@umontana.edu)

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From: Gunther, Kerry [[kerry\\_gunther@nps.gov](mailto:kerry_gunther@nps.gov)]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 1:15 PM  
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer  
Subject: Re: grizzly population within YNP

Jennifer,

Here is how the 150 was derived. It is important to remember, it is a very rough estimate for interpretive purposes to answer a common visitor question. It was never published in a scientific peer reviewed journal and so cannot be considered best available science. The Conservation Strategy manages bears throughout the DMA, not just YNP.

The 126 - 312 was for the area occupied in 1975, which included YNP and portions of the 5 National Forests Surrounding the park, so you can't compare the 150 just for YNP to the 126 - 312 for the occupied range of the GYE in 1975.

Kerry

On Wed, Sep 7, 2016 at 12:36 PM, Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <[jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu)> wrote:

Thanks! I may have you look over our response to the comment when we get that far. The comment was:

- o The estimated population inside the park, "approximately 150 with home ranges wholly

or partially in the park” ([www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/grizzlybear.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/grizzlybear.htm)<<http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/grizzlybear.htm>><<http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/grizzlybear.htm>> means that current bear numbers in the park are less than or barely exceed numbers estimated in 1975 (126-312 “restricted largely to the confines of Yellowstone National Park and some surrounding areas”).

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From: Gunther, Kerry [[kerry\\_gunther@nps.gov](mailto:kerry_gunther@nps.gov)<[mailto:kerry\\_gunther@nps.gov](mailto:kerry_gunther@nps.gov)>]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:30 PM  
To: Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer  
Subject: Re: grizzly population within YNP

That is a very rough estimate based on the number of females with cubs observed in the park. It was never intended for scientific or management purposes, visitors always ask, so we give them a rough estimate. Since our counts of females with cubs have been relatively stable, it is still applicable, but I would'nt necessarily call it accurate. I'll see if I can dig up the calculations it was based on.

Kerry

On Wed, Sep 7, 2016 at 12:08 PM, Fortin-Noreus, Jennifer <[jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu)<<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>><<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>><<mailto:jennifer.fortin-noreus@mso.umt.edu>>>> wrote:  
Kerry,

On the YNP grizzly bear webpage it says that there are "approximately 150 with home ranges wholly or partially in park." Do you know if this is still accurate? We received a public comment related to this estimate.

Thank you,

Jennifer

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