

THREAT LEVEL

IDAHO FISH & GAME

Imperiled:

At moderate risk of extirpation



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Threatened



CANADA SPECIES AT RISK ACT

Special Concern



CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Research population genetics to determine the relationship between populations
- ▶ Close wildlife areas from public use during critical periods
- ▶ Improve forest conditions and fire management efforts



Grizzly Bear

Ursus arctos horribilis

Photo Credit: Idaho Fish & Game

OVERVIEW

Grizzly in Northern Idaho are at risk due to loss of habitat, increased interactions with humans, and disturbances like wildfire and logging. Increasing temperatures and declining snowpack pose additional risks. Bears hibernate in the winter due to a scarcity of food. Rising temperatures may shorten winters, which could impact hibernation patterns. Warming stream temperatures and the establishment of non-native species present risks to their primary food sources. Maintaining conservation efforts and federal protections will be important to Grizzly bear moving forward.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

VULNERABILITY RANKING

CLIMATE

LOW-MODERATE

NON-CLIMATE

MODERATE-HIGH

CONFIDENCE

MODERATE

Physiological, phenological, or ecological factors to consider when planning conservation projects:

- ▶ Bears are omnivores and adapt their diet throughout the year, potentially making them less vulnerable to changes in food sources caused by climate change
- ▶ Shrinking population sizes and slow reproduction rates put them at risk

Vulnerability Rankings Methodology

These priority species have been assessed for climate and non-climate vulnerability using a process adapted from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Methodology for ranking the Climate Change Vulnerability of Species. WDFW's approach includes rating each species' climate sensitivity and exposure. These two rankings are then averaged for a climate vulnerability ranking. The Tribe developed a non-climate vulnerability ranking to capture species' relative risk and adaptability to factors such as human-caused development, predator/prey relationships, or low population numbers. Confidence rankings were assessed based on the availability of scientific research.

KEY THREATS

Habitat Degradation & Loss

Human presence is one of the largest threats to Grizzly habitat. Development of roads and infrastructure fragments and reduces their habitat. Increased access to the outdoors creates more human interaction, leading to dangers such as vehicle collisions or lethal removal and creates more incidences of legal and illegal hunting.

Climate Change

- ▶ Rising temperatures may lead to changes in vegetation and the potential loss of huckleberries, an important food as bears bulk up for winter. Changing climate conditions will lead to more wildfires, further fragmenting their habitat and impacting the range of prey such as caribou, deer, and elk.
- ▶ Warmer water temperatures may impact the health of the salmon population, which is a staple food source for Grizzly bear.
- ▶ Delayed snowfall and early-season snowmelt caused by rising temperatures is a significant threat. Bears are likely to alter their hibernation patterns under such shifts in conditions.

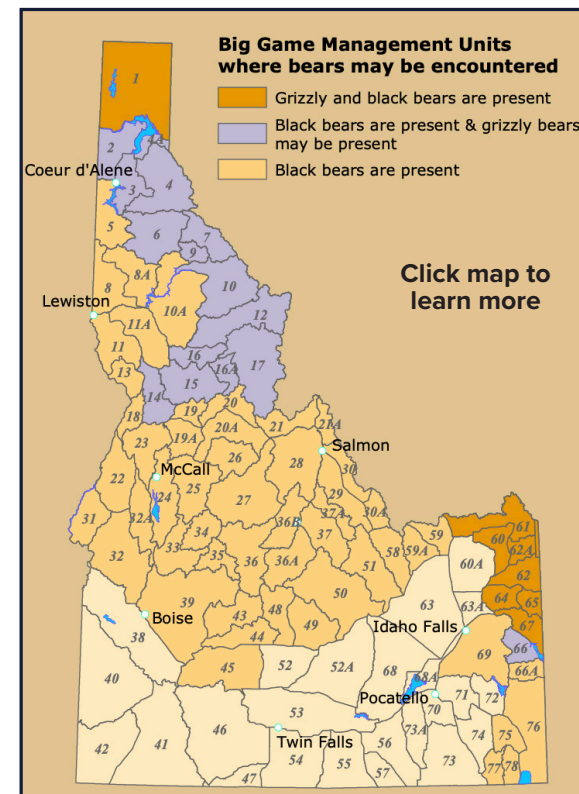


Photo Credit: Idaho Fish & Game

PROJECTED AVERAGE AUGUST STREAM TEMPERATURE (°C)

Stream location	Historical	Mid century (2040)	Late century (2080)
Boundary Creek, at Saddle creek	10.6	12.3	13.2
"Lower" Smith Creek	14.1	15.5	16.5
"Upper" Smith Creek	11.0	12.2	13.2
Kootenai River, Copeland Rd. crossing	16.2	17.7	18.7
Kootenai River, Nimz ranch	16.0	17.4	18.5
"Upper" Myrtle creek	10.3	11.5	12.4
"Lower" Myrtle creek	13.5	14.8	15.7
Deep Creek, where Pine Island Rd ends	15.2	16.7	17.7
Kootenai River, Leonia	17.0	18.5	19.6
Deep Creek, at Ruby creek	14.5	15.9	16.9

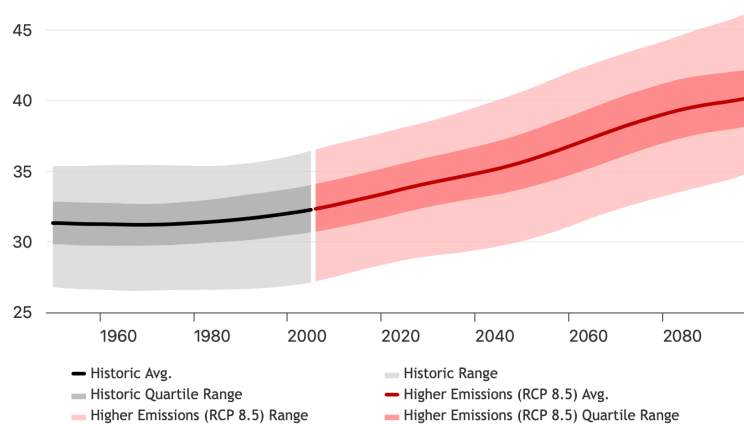
Source: US Forest Service



Source: Idaho Fish & Game

AVERAGE MAXIMUM DAILY TEMPERATURE (DEC-FEB)

BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID



Source: Climate Toolbox. Accessed November 17, 2025

REFERENCES

- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. *Grizzly Bear*. <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/ursus-arcetos>.
- Idaho Fish & Game. *How to hunt safely in grizzly bear country*. <https://idfg.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/brochure-2020-hunting-in-grizzly-bear-country.pdf>.
- Isaak, D.J., et. al. 2016. NorWeST modeled summer stream temperature scenarios for the western U.S. Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service Research Data Archive. <https://research.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/projects/norwest#modeled-summer-stream-temperatures>.
- Temperature chart: Hegewisch, K.C., Abatzoglou, J.T. *Future Time Series* web tool. Climate Toolbox. <https://climatology.org/>. (Accessed March 18, 2025).
- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [Google Chrome]. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <https://explorer.natureserve.org/pro/>. (Accessed: November 12, 2025).

PRIORITY AT-RISK SPECIES

KOOTENAI TRIBE OF IDAHO