

**A Field Guide To Species at Risk
in Canfor's Planning Areas in the
North-Central Interior of British
Columbia**

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ALPHA WILDLIFE RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT LTD.



Field Guide Series

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Grizzly bear

Ursus arctos

Status – IWMS/Blue-listed

Description

Sturdy, plantigrade animal with prominent shoulder hump (muscle mass covered with long guard hairs), and massive head with upturned muzzle (dishface profile), short round ears, and a slight ruff around the back portion. Color ranges from pale yellowish brown to dark brown, nearly black. Silvery white tips on hairs give a frosted or grizzly effect. Very long claws (front paw : 3.5-10 cm; back paw : 1.5-4.5 cm). Total length: 1.8-2.1 m. Weight – Males: 250-350 kg – Females: 100-175 kg.



GP

The grizzly bear can be confused with the generally smaller black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Both species can range in color from blond to black. However, grizzly bears have a shaggy coat compared to black bears, which have a smooth, uniform coat. Grizzly bears have a pig-like nose, a concave facial profile, a face ruff, a distinctive hump between their shoulders, and very long claws. Black bears have a dog-like nose, straight facial profile, no face ruff, no hump, and short claws.

Field signs

Tracks: Both black and grizzly bears have short, broad feet with five toes on both front and back feet. However, front-foot tracks seldom show the imprint of the front heel. The hind foot typically shows both toe and heel imprints.

Grizzly tracks may be differentiated from black bear tracks on the basis of the following criteria:



GP

Feature	Grizzly bear	Black bear
Size	Width of front pad can be greater than 15 cm.	Width of front pad rarely over 13 cm.
Claw imprint	Difficult to see, and well ahead of the toe marks.	Sharply incised and close to toe marks.
Arc of the toes		



Toes are more in a straight line; toe imprints are joined.



Toes arc more; toe imprints are separate.

Bedding area: The presence of 3-10 bear scats all within a 10-m radius, and flattened vegetation or a smooth hollow, may be indicative of a nearby bedding area.

Rub-marking trees: Careful examination may reveal the presence of hair, or bite and claw marks.



VB



VB



VB



VB

Digging areas: large disturbed areas where bears dug for small mammals or roots.



VB

Trails: Along well-used paths, tracks and droppings are usually found.



VB

Distribution

The grizzly bear is found throughout Canfor's Planning Areas.

Habitat

Bears use a diversity of habitats according to food abundance and seasonal needs. Appropriate landscapes correspond to mosaics of early seral stages interspersed with late seral stands, wet and dry sites, and altitudinal vegetation belts from river bottom to alpine.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

Numenius americanus



F. Jones

Long-billed curlew

Description

Adult: Sandy brown shorebird with buff-coloured breast, and cinnamon underwings. Small head, long neck and legs. Very long (males: up to 14 cm long; females: 19 cm), downward curved, black bill with pinkish base on lower mandible. White eye ring. Dusky eyeline. Sexes are similar, but females are larger. **Juveniles:** less downward curved and shorter bill. **Body length:** 50-60 cm.

Voice: A trilling "curleeeeeeeuuu" call.

Field signs: Feeds in flocks and flies in line formations. **Nests** - Slight scrape (< 28 cm across) lined with vegetation and dung, in open dry grasslands with <30 cm-high vegetation; 5 white-olive eggs.

Distribution

Widely distributed through the south-central interior. Breeding areas are disjunct, e.g., the south Okanagan and lower Similkameen Valleys, the Thompson-Nicola, and the East Kootenay Trench.

Habitat

Large, contiguous low vegetation grasslands with flat to rolling topography. **Elevations:** 280-1220 m. **Structural stage:** 2.

Annual Schedule

Migration	Late-September-March
Breeding initiation	April
Eggs	April - June
Fledging	May-July