

Grizzly Bear Population Units Data Change History 2012 To 2020

Document History

Last updated September 16, 2020

Summary

This document outlines, in brief, the changes made to the Grizzly Bear Population Unit (GBPU) boundaries for British Columbia, from 2012 to 2020. Spatial updates were made in June 2015 and June 2020, and the associated GBPU bear population numbers were adjusted in 2015 and 2018. In 2018, a new conservation concern rank was derived for each GBPU. The conservation concern rank reflects population size and trend, genetic and demographic isolation, as well as threats to bears and their habitats. As of 2018, this conservation concern rank replaces the previously used 'population status' category for the GBPU (STATUS field).

Dataset Name: WHSE_WILDLIFE_INVENTORY.GCPB_GRIZZLY_BEAR_POP_UNITS_SP

Grizzly Bear Records in BC's Data Catalogue:

- Population Units: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/caa22f7a-87df-4f31-89e0-d5295ec5c725>
- Population Estimates: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/2bf91935-9158-4f77-9c2c-4310480e6c29>
- Conservation Ranking Results: <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/e08876a1-3f9c-46bf-b69a-3d88de1da725>

Data Change History

June 2015

2012 GBPUs were sourced from the BC Geographic Warehouse (BCGW). 2015 GBPU spatial edits were directed by T. Hamilton. The 2015 GBPUs were used in the combined linework with GBPUs, Wildlife Management Units (WMU), Limited Entry Hunting (LEH), and National Park boundaries, for which bear population numbers were estimated. This is a brief summary of the GBPU spatial changes, and the overall population estimate changes by GBPU in 2015:

- Expansions to Blackwater-West Chilcotin, Klinaklini-Homathko, and South Chilcotin Ranges. No change to number of bears.
- Wells Gray / Columbia-Shuswap boundary modification – section of Columbia-Shuswap moved to Wells Gray (28 bears allotted from Columbia-Shuswap to Wells Gray)
- Merging of Spillamacheen GBPU into North Purcells GBPU (98 bears allotted from Spillamacheen to N.Purcells)
- Central Monashees - no boundary changes, but number of bears reduced by 33 due to double accounting.

Inter-boundary Adjustments:

- Flathead / South Rockies (3 bears allotted from South Rockies to Flathead)
- Khutzeymateen / Cranberry (Kitsumkalum Valley) (3 bears allotted from Khutzeymateen to Cranberry)
- Kitlope-Fiordland / Tweedsmuir
- Cassiar/Taku (1 bear allotted from Cassiar to Taku)

2018 Updates

There were no spatial changes to the GBPUs in 2018, however the population status (STATUS field) was replaced by the CONSERVATION_CONCERN_RANK and CONSERVATION_CONCERN_DESC fields.

In addition, the 2018 Population estimates were revised based on new numbers for 8 GBPUs:

- Flathead & South Rockies – Mowat and Lamb 2016
- Garibaldi-Pitt, South Chilcotin Ranges, Squamish-Lillooet, Stein-Nahatlatch, Toba-Bute – Apps et al. 2014
- Kettle-Granby – Mowat et al 2017
- Kitlope-Fiordland / Tweedsmuir bear number adjustments to re-align with 2012 total GBPU numbers.

June 2020

GBPU Boundary Amendment:

- Kitlope-Fiordland – The boundary extent was modified to include:
Alec Islet, Ashdown Island, Cecilia Island, Cone Island, Dowager Island, Hastings Island, Ivory Island, Jane Island, Jessop Island, Lake Island, Leighton Island, Lohbrunner Island, Martha Island, Milne Island, Princess Royal Island, Sarah Island, Swindle Island, Watch Island

Credits

Tony Hamilton, Garth Mowat, Don Morgan (Knowledge Experts); Sasha Lees, Rajiv Lalla (GIS Analysts)
