

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Taskforce: Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The taskforce will make recommendations on the completion and implementation of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the North Cascades of British Columbia, consistent with the long term conservation of the population.

Rationale:

The North Cascades grizzly bear population is one of 11 in the province that has been recognized as being "Threatened" and was selected in 1999 as the first pilot area for recovery planning. The North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team – consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Energy and Mines and the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee – has drafted a Recovery Plan.

A consultation process was undertaken between February and May, 2001 on the draft Recovery Plan for Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades of British Columbia. This process included 24 stakeholder meetings and 9 Open Houses in local communities as well as an opportunity to provide written input.

The taskforce is intended to provide recommendations to address the concerns raised during the public consultation process. These concerns include, but are not limited to, potential risks to public safety and private property and questions regarding the scientific foundation for the recovery team's work.

Reporting to:

Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection

Structure and composition:

The taskforce will consist of up to 10 members, including representatives from First Nations and relevant stakeholder interests appointed by the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection. The taskforce will choose its own chair, who will be assisted by an independent facilitator contracted by the provincial government.

Decision-making:

If possible the taskforce will make consensus recommendations. If this is not possible alternative recommendations will be presented. All of the taskforce's recommendations will be accompanied by a supporting rationale.

Mandate:

The taskforce will provide recommendations on the completion and implementation of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the North Cascades of British Columbia based on a review of:

- (1) the draft Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the North Cascades of British Columbia (January 19, 2001),
- (2) the input received during the public consultation period,
- (3) the proposed responses to this input from the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team, and,
- (4) any additional technical/scientific input.

Support to the panel:

The North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team will provide technical support to the taskforce. The taskforce may request whatever advice and assistance it requires from other staff within the provincial government subject to their availability.

A maximum of \$25,000 will be available to fund travel expenses and honoraria for taskforce members as well as other expenses associated with the taskforce's work including hiring a facilitator (subject to normal provincial government processes for awarding contracts).

Timelines:

The taskforce will provide recommendations to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection on or before October 15, 2002.