

November 2020

Grizzly Bear Protection Yukon Society – MEMBERSHIP REPORT - NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all members

We hope that you have all stayed well over the past 10 months since we registered as a Society for the Protection of Grizzly Bears.

Our membership networks in the Grizzly world are growing which gives us the strength we need to pursue our challenges to stop the hunting of Grizzly Bears, stop roadside hunting throughout the Yukon and protect abandoned cubs. All three issues are separate and challenging.

OUR RATIONALE

The Yukon Grizzly Bear conservation plan released October 21, 2019 by the Yukon Government and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is meant to help guide decisions related to Grizzlies in the Territory by ensuring they remain healthy in their habitat and that their population is sustainable.

The main goal identified in the plan is to minimize human-grizzly conflicts, taking care of the land and other species that grizzly bears rely on. It also states that Grizzly Bears are important to Yukon's tourism and sustainable hunting economy. YTG hopes this plan enables partnerships and decision making that will result in grizzly bear conservation and habitat protection for future generations.

Due to the Yukon's current Grizzly Bear population 'estimates' and 'sustainable mortality rates' derived from the 1980s, we are certain that the current population number given to us is not representative of the actual population size. We ask that extensive 'from the land' evidence and modern modelling techniques be used to obtain a current and more accurate estimate.

OUR CHALLENGES

Our Society wants to establish a collaborative partnership with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and its network of stakeholders to discuss:

- current hunting status within the Southern Lakes region where diminished populations of Grizzly Bears have been identified
- identify Grizzly Bear habitats at risk and sustainable land use planning options
- justification for the continued issuance of Grizzly Tags
- more timely and accessible information on the number and type of mortalities
- values associated with non-resident hunting
- the development of a (2050-2020) report on Grizzly Bear deaths under all circumstances
- a separate report on defence of life and property mortality numbers
- total allowable harvesting within each (TAH) area
- Wild-Wise report and recommendations on human grizzly conflicts
- Yukon Biology and population research currently ongoing and reports
- modern modelling techniques identified and being utilized.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS over the past 10 months

We are pleased to report the following work that has been established and is ongoing.

- registered Grizzly Bear Protection Yukon Society with Corporate affairs
- completed logo and branding, plus Website and Facebook Page established. www.grizzlybearprotectionyukon.com
- membership growth initiated-currently at 34.
- initiated support from members for relevant participation ongoing
- monthly Board of Directors meetings to establish a Strategic Plan, with clear and well defined goals.
- initiated outreach to the wildlife champions for additional direction and support.
- initiated investigation, on YTG Environment Data, specific to the protection and sustainability of Grizzly Bears.
- board Review of the Oct. 2019 YF&WMB Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan to establish a base for potential change in meeting goals established.
- initiated dialogue with Grizzly Champions in North America, to determine our best steps forward for change.
- initiated dialogue with Yukon YTG Environmental, wildlife and habitat associations, councils, non-profits and Societies.
- initiated dialogue with BC bear cub rescue center and Wildlife preserve, to start a bear cub rescue center.
- initiated dialogue with our government representatives.
- submitted Application, to City of Whitehorse Environmental funding for our proposed spring Grizzly Forum event.

Our current Work Plan is to continue to:

- fundraise
- reach out to all stakeholders and create strong presentations for the Spring Grizzly Forum
- develop all three case reports for presentation to YTG Environment, after the Forum.
- make GBPY Society well known and initiate discussion and thoughts about Grizzly bears in Yukon.
- educate Yukoners about the reality of bear population status and protection today.

The purpose is to create a very professional and credible catalyst for change. Our reports will be put on the record and utilized for ongoing research, media publications and public awareness presentations.

We are a growing Public Voice for Grizzly Bear Protection

Let your voice speak. Please add your comments, recommendations and return them to us.



Grizzly Hunting Season 14 weeks (Aug 1- Nov 15) All 11 Zones, except Zone 6 – not allowed.

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership to www.grizzlybearprotectionyukon.com is our public voice and the credibility that we need to see our membership grow.

Can you help in any way?

We have posters, membership applications, and a substantial network of grizzly stakeholders to be called on for support, recommendations and membership. Your voice matters.

WWW.GRIZZLYBEARPROTECTIONYUKON.COM

GRIZZLY BEAR PROTECTION

Dr. Annette Belke, President (867) 335-6890

Sue Greetham, Secretary (867) 335-7335

Dr. Lucile Fressigne, Biologist

Matthias Liniger, Treasurer

Directors