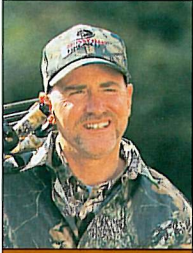


# FROM THE EDITOR



**Greg Tinsley**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Boone and Crockett Club

## Grizzly Bears Get Bigger

It is official: After three decades of precedent-setting study and management, the Greater Yellowstone–ecosystem grizzly bear population has finally turned the corner, going from just over 100 animals in the early 1970s to approximately 600 bears today.

In light of this spectacular success, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently removed the once-“threatened” Yellowstone grizzly from the list of animals protected by the 1975 Endangered Species Act.

In a March 22, 2007, USF&WS press release, Deputy Interior Director Lynn Scarlett said the cooperative efforts of federal, state, and private parties, essentially the nation, should be proud that “...we had the will and the ability to protect and restore this symbol of the wild. There is simply no way to overstate what an amazing accomplishment this is,” Scarlett said. “The grizzly is a large predator that requires a great deal of space, and conserving such animals is a challenge in today’s world.”

Henceforth, Yellowstone grizzlies will be managed under a cooperative conservation strategy developed by state and federal scientists and managers that continues to monitor the bears and the bear’s food and habitat. “This comprehensive conservation strategy, agreed to by all state and federal players involved in grizzly recovery, will ensure that the future of the grizzly remains bright,” noted Scarlett.

**The Boone and Crockett Club sends its congratulations to all of the biologists, wildlife policy makers, sportsmen, and the American public for the long-rising star of the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Long live the beast.**

The Yellowstone grizzly became a rallying point of the wildlife sciences in 1973 with the formation of an interagency team focused on the bear’s dilemma. Building on success, a super array formed in 1983—the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC)—with membership from the U.S. Geological Survey, USF&WS, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state wildlife agencies of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington; and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Universities and private organizations like the Boone and Crockett Club have contributed to the study and conservation of the Yellowstone

Grizzly as well. The IGBC managed bear mortality and habitat, worked to build public support, and helped develop regulatory mechanisms.

The 1993 Yellowstone grizzly bear plan defined three recovery goals for the great bears—population, distribution, and mortality—each of which began being ticked off one by one in 1996. The final point—population—exceeded its benchmark five years ago following some 15 years that saw the Yellowstone grizzly population growing at a rate of four to seven percent annually. The bear’s range in the Yellowstone ecosystem has expanded 48 percent since they were listed, and biologists have sighted bears more than 60 miles from what was once thought to be the outer limits of their range.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear was first proposed for delisting by the USF&WS in November 2005. The proposal was reviewed at four open houses and two public hearings; nearly 200,000 public comments were received. Notification of the 2007 delisting will be published in the *Federal Register* in the near future.

Biologists believe that the Yellowstone grizzly and other remaining grizzlies in the Lower 48 and Canada are distinctly separate from each other, with no evidence of interaction. There are approximately 1,100 to 1,200 grizzlies south of the Canadian border inhabiting five ecosystems.

Obviously, this is another tremendous chapter in America’s ongoing wildlife success story. Of course, the increasingly difficult task will be to sustain the bear’s comeback and manage it around human encroachment within the Yellowstone ecosystem. The Boone and Crockett Club sends its congratulations to all of the biologists, wildlife policy makers, sportsmen, and the American public for the long-rising star of the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Long live the beast. ■

### PRODUCTION STAFF - FAIR CHASE

Editor-in-Chief

Greg Tinsley

Managing Editor/Design

Julie T. Houk

Conservation and History Editor

Steve Williams

Research and Education Editor

Winifred B. Kessler

Hunting and Ethics Editor

Mark B. Steffen M.D.

Assistant Editors

Keith Balfour

Craig Boddington

Jack Reneau

Assistant Designer

Dariusz Janczewski

Editorial Contributors

Lowell E. Baier

John Baughman

Craig Boddington

Robert D. Brown

Richard Clough

Ryan Hatfield

Theodore J. Holsten

Stephen P. Mealey

C. Robert Palmer

Jack Reneau

Bob Robb

Jack Ward Thomas

Leonard H. Wurman

Photograph Contributors

Denver Bryan

Tony Bynum

Donald M. Jones

Lance Krueger

Andy Larson

*Fair Chase* is published quarterly by the Boone and Crockett Club and distributed to its Members and Associates. Material in this magazine may be freely quoted and/or reprinted in other publications and media, so long as proper credit is given to *Fair Chase*. The opinions expressed by the contributors of articles are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Boone and Crockett Club.

*Fair Chase* (ISSN 1077-3274) is published for \$25 per year by the Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801. Periodical postage is paid in Missoula, Montana, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: *Fair Chase*, Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801.

Phone: (406) 542-1888 Fax: (406) 542-0784

Email: [bcclub@boone-crockett.org](mailto:bcclub@boone-crockett.org)

Advertising Contact: Keith Balfour – Ext. 208

### BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB STAFF

Director of Big Game Records – Jack Reneau

Director of Publications – Julie T. Houk

Director of Marketing – Keith Balfour

Office Manager – Sandy Poston

Controller – Jan Krueger

Assistant Director of Big Game Records –

Ryan Hatfield

Associates Program/Web Coordinator –

Amy Hutchison

Development Program Manager – Jodi Bishop

Assistant Controller – Kate Mickey

Staff Accountant – Abra Plemmons

Assistant Designer – Dariusz Janczewski

Customer Service –

Ina Crist & Wendy Nickelson

TRM Ranch Manager – John Rappold

Conservation Education Program Manager –

Lisa B. Flowers

Conservation Education Specialist –

Allyson Hoof

Facilities Coordinator – JoAnne Cobb