

# Return of the Bear



National Park Service

*Grizzly bears are protected by the Endangered Species Act.*

Grizzly bears are huge, powerful animals. Thousands once lived in the western United States. In recent years, however, the number of bears has been very low.

Over time, illegal hunting and habitat loss caused many bears to die off.

A habitat is a place in nature where an animal lives. The bears' habitat became smaller when people cut down trees to build homes and roads.

Many people thought they would never again see a grizzly in the West. Now wildlife officials say the bears are making a comeback.

## Good News for Grizzlies

Grizzly bears live in Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding forests. That area covers parts of the western states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Today, more than 550 grizzlies live there. That is almost double the number that lived there in the 1980s!

The bears living in the Yellowstone area have been protected by the Endangered Species Act. Wildlife officials say these bears may be taken off the endangered species list within the next year.

"That does not mean the bears will no longer be protected," grizzly bear expert Chris Servheen told *Weekly Reader*. "We will continue to monitor them to make sure they are healthy. A lot of people are interested in making sure grizzlies survive."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Bears lost their habitat

- A. after being taken off the endangered species list.
- B. before trees were cut down.
- C. after trees were cut down.
- D. after the Endangered Species Act.

2. Which happened first?

- A. More than 550 grizzlies live in Yellowstone National Park.
- B. Illegal hunting and habitat loss caused many bears to die off.
- C. Grizzly bears may be taken off the endangered species list.
- D. Thousands of bears lived in the western United States.

3. Which happened last?

- A. Thousands of bears lived in the western United States.
- B. Illegal hunting and habitat loss caused many bears to die off.
- C. More than 550 grizzlies live in Yellowstone National Park.
- D. Grizzly bears may be taken off the endangered species list.

4. This passage is

- A. an autobiography.
- B. fiction.
- C. a biography.
- D. non-fiction.

5. What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

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