

KNOW YOUR BEARS—THE GRIZZLY



Each year, the abundant salmon at Fish Creek attract a gathering of grizzlies.

Brown Bear or Grizzly?

Actually, either name is correct! Technically, biologists classify both as *Ursus arctos*—the brown bear. People generally call coastal bears “brown,” while bears in the Interior of Alaska are called “grizzlies.” At Fish Creek, they are usually called “grizzlies.”



Although bears are often known as carnivores, they also eat vegetation.



A Bear's Year

Winter—Bears are snug in winter dens. One to four cubs, each weighing less than one pound (0.45 kg), are born in January or February.

Spring—As the days lengthen, bears leave their dens to feed on fresh green grasses along shorelines and in sunny openings. Although solitary, adults may pair up for about a week in the May-July breeding season.

Summer—This is the season to put on the pounds! Bears spend most of their time feeding on a variety of tasty berries, protein-rich salmon, roots and skunk cabbage.

Fall—Before entering winter sleep, bears can almost double their weight! Throughout fall, bears continue to eat and eat. As winter approaches, they locate a snug den high along the mountainsides and fall into a deep sleep.



Individual fishing styles

Roughly 35,000 grizzlies still roam Alaska. While populations are healthy in Alaska, populations in the “Lower 48” have decreased to less than 1,000 bears. Grizzlies depend on a wide range of habitat to meet their yearly needs. Keying into a dependable supply of protein, Fish Creek grizzlies will travel many miles from the surrounding forest to “fatten up” on spawning salmon. Sows with cubs, and young adults are the bears most commonly observed.

FRONT PAW PRINT



A line across the top of the pad does not cross the toepads.

REAR PAW PRINT



The print has no distinct notch in the instep.



Grizzlies come in different colors.

