



Bertrand von Arx
CITES Scientific Authority
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, B.C.

January 29, 2002

Dear Bertrand,

Enclosed please find the documents that support my non-detriment finding under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for the export of grizzly bears originating in British Columbia

In brief, I believe that under the current management regime, that the export of grizzly bears from British Columbia has no significant effect on the population or distribution of the species in the province. Management for this species is consistent with modern wildlife management principles, and the legal harvest considers other human-causes of mortality to ensure the maintenance of grizzly bear populations. The attached documentation goes into some detail, but several points warrant repetition:

1. There has been no significant change in the range of grizzly bears in British Columbia in the past 30 years.
2. All estimates (Fuhr-Demarchi, hunter success, hunter days/kill, age and sex ratios of bears taken) indicate that the population is stable overall.
3. Any areas where conservation concerns exist are closed to hunting.
4. The harvest of grizzly bears is so small that even if the provincial population was only 6,000 bears (less than half the current minimum estimate) the harvest would be <4%.
5. Export of grizzly bear parts is an even smaller number, and definitely at a level where concerns about export driving population reductions and range retractions are unwarranted.

In short I believe that the provisions of Article IV of CITES regarding the regulation of trade in specimens of Appendix II species have all been met.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this issue and its resolution in the near future.

Yours truly,

David F. Fraser, R.P.Bio.
British Columbia Scientific Authority for CITES

cc : Elizabeth MacMillan, Management Authority for CITES, British Columbia