The objective of this research program is to provide resource managers with the necessary knowledge and planning tools to ensure the long-term conservation of grizzly bears in Alberta.

Study Location
All GRIZZLY BEAR RANGE IN ALBERTA

This program is taking place in western Alberta, Canada and encompasses an area of 228,160 km² along the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rocky Mountains and up into the Boreal Forest. A portion of the study area lies within protected areas and allows comparisons between landscapes with different degrees of human use and resource extraction activities.

Capture and Collaring

Why is this necessary?: We need grizzly bear location data to create and validate our models.

Where?: Areas within Alberta’s grizzly bear range where grizzly bear data is currently lacking.

How?: Bears are captured by ground snaring, aerial darting or culvert traps. GPS collars are fitted to bears to obtain up to 24 locations a day.

Results: Not only have we obtained one of the largest databases in Alberta, we have and will continue to improve capture, drug and darting protocols that will reduce stress and injury to bears during capture. In addition, the number of illegally killed collared bears has highlighted this as being a leading threat to the survival of grizzly bears on provincial lands in Alberta.

Results: Habitat maps for the entire grizzly bear range in Alberta were completed in 2007.