

Researchers: Yellowstone grizzlies not in decline

February 27 2014, by Matthew Brown

(AP)—A government-sponsored research team says there are no signs of decline among Yellowstone's grizzly bears despite warnings from outside scientists.

Members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study team say in a new study that data collected on the bruins over the past several decades contradict claims they could be in serious trouble. The back-and-forth comes as officials consider lifting the animals' [federal protections](#).

The peer-reviewed study is slated to appear in the scientific journal *Conservation Letters*.

Lead author Frank van Manen is with the U.S. Geological Survey. He says researchers re-examined how bears are counted after a prominent University of Colorado professor raised concerns about the government's methods.

Van Manen says the results confirm the validity of assertions that more than 700 [bears](#) live in the Yellowstone region.

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