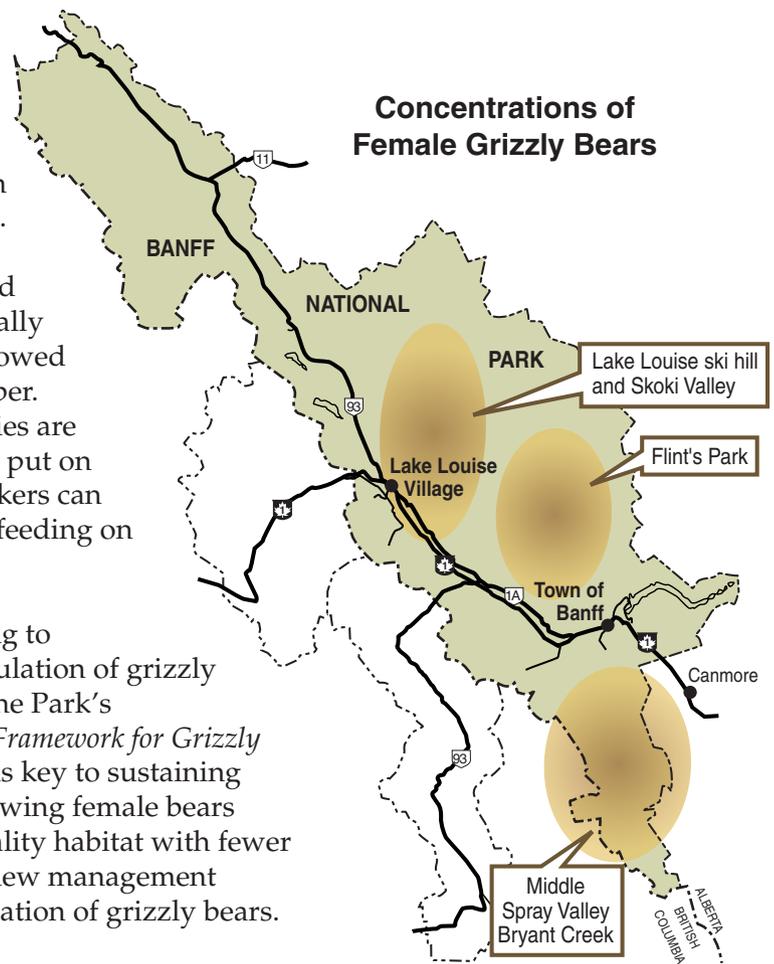


## Core Areas: Critical Habitat for Female Grizzlies

The Bryant Creek area is one of three “core areas” for grizzly bears in Banff National Park. Aylmer Pass is very close to another – the Flint’s Park / Cascade area. The Lake Louise area is the third. These core areas contain critical bear habitat, and a concentration of female grizzlies live and raise their cubs here.

Buffalo-berries and grouse-berries are a key food source for grizzly bears. Buffalo-berries are usually ripe from early August through September, followed by grouse-berries which can last well into October. Grizzly bears on the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies are food-stressed, and depend heavily on berries to put on weight for hibernation. During berry season, hikers can easily surprise bears that are preoccupied with feeding on berry bushes.

Banff National Park is committed to contributing to maintenance of a non-declining and viable population of grizzly bears in the regional landscape, as outlined in the Park’s Management Plan amendment: *A Conservation Framework for Grizzly Bears* (2004). High female grizzly bear survival is key to sustaining grizzly bear populations into the future. By allowing female bears and cubs to make more efficient use of high quality habitat with fewer disturbances at critical times of the year, these new management strategies will directly contribute to the conservation of grizzly bears.



## Staying Safe in Critical Bear Habitat

While all of Banff National Park is bear country, if you're hiking in a “core area”, you're REALLY in bear country. Here are some extra safety precautions you should take to avoid a surprise encounter with a bear:

- Make noise...on a continuous basis to let the bears know you are coming, so they can move off and avoid you.
- Travel in groups...we recommend larger groups of four or more, travelling tightly together.



- Each member of your party should carry bear spray, and have it readily available.
- Watch for fresh bear sign, e.g., tracks, droppings, diggings, torn-up logs. Leave the area if the signs are fresh.
- We recommend leaving your dogs at home. If you do bring them, they must be on a leash. Dogs will not be allowed in the Allenby Pass Restricted Access area.

*Thank you for your co-operation in promoting public safety and bear conservation in Banff NP. For more information on this or other bear management and safety measures in the park:*

- Website: [www.pc.gc.ca/banff](http://www.pc.gc.ca/banff)
- Parks Canada Publications: Bears and People
- Banff Information Centre: (403) 762-1550
- Banff NP Warden Office: (403) 762-1470