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## Group sues to reclassify Montana bear population

1 hour ago • Associated Press

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A conservation group is suing the federal government for failing to reclassify a small population of grizzly bears as endangered.

The estimated 42 Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bears in northwestern Montana are considered a threatened species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last year issued a decision that said changing the bears' status from threatened to endangered was warranted but precluded by higher-priority species.

The Alliance for the Wild Rockies says in its lawsuit filed Tuesday the population needs to be at least 100 to be considered viable.

The group says an endangered species classification would require federal officials to designate critical habitat for the bears to aid with their recovery.

The lawsuit argues the "endangered-but-precluded" designation is a loophole that allows federal officials to delay their obligations.

### Grizzly bear management plan approved

As more than 700 grizzly bears begin to emerge from winter dens in southwestern Montana, state wildlife officials say a recently updated conse... [Read more](#)

### FWP wants to buy grizzly habitat near Choteau

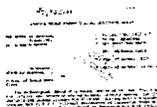
Saying it would provide important year round habitat for grizzly bears and winter range for elk and mule deer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park... [Read more](#)

### Montana uses federal grant to buy grizzly habitat

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The Montana Land Board has approved the purchase of 320 acres of threatened grizzly bear habitat next to the Blackleaf Wi... [Read more](#)

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