

Montana

Grizzlies bouncing back, study finds

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The majestic grizzly bear, once king of the Western wilderness but threatened with extinction for a third of a century, has roared back in Montana. The finding, from a \$4.8 million, five-year study of grizzly bear DNA, could help ease restrictions on development.

Researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey announced Tuesday that there are approximately 765 bears in northwestern Montana. That's the largest population of grizzly bears documented there in more than 30 years. Montana ranchers and farmers pushed for the study as a step toward taking the bear off the endangered species list.