

\$300,000 contribution to BCs Government Regional Grizzly Bear Monitoring Program

In September, 2013, Innergex signed an agreement with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, giving \$300,000 to the provincial government to carry out a five-year study into the grizzly population within the Upper Lillooet drainage. The provincially led regional grizzly bear program has the aim to develop and implement a grizzly bear inventory, and a monitoring and evaluation program to understand impacts to grizzly bear population from existing and pending development. Based on the Innergex contribution four female grizzlies will be collared and monitored. In addition, a portion of the funds will go to the hair-snag/DNA sampling component of the regional grizzly bear program.

The contribution of Innergex to the regional grizzly bear monitoring program is one of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Upper Lillooet Hydro Project. During the construction phase of the Project, Innergex will implement extensive mitigation measures to minimize potential effects on grizzly bears. These measures include avoidance of high value grizzly bear habitats, foraging sites and salmon spawning streams during critical forage periods, the creation of vegetative screens by either existing or managed vegetation near roads and construction sites forage habitat, and implementation of a Human-Wildlife Interaction Management Plan and Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan.