

# **GRIZZLIES**



One of nature's most awe-inspiring creations, the grizzly bear is threatened by clear-cutting, hunting and habitat loss. Wayne McCrory has spent 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and the rare white spirit bear of the British Columbia rain forest.

His lobbying paid off in 1983, when two wilderness areas were set off to protect these stunning creatures and their habitat — and he is committed to making sure

that humans don't drive these incredible animals to extinction.

Endangered animals — and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them — feature in this spectacular series of 13 half-hour videos! Stunningly shot around the world, from the frozen ice fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines fascinating natural history with the intrigue of personal drama.

Directors: Christian Bruyère, Ian Herring
Producers: Christian Bruyère and Ian Herring (Omni Film),
George Johnson (NFB)

Executive Producer: Michael Chechik (Omni Film)

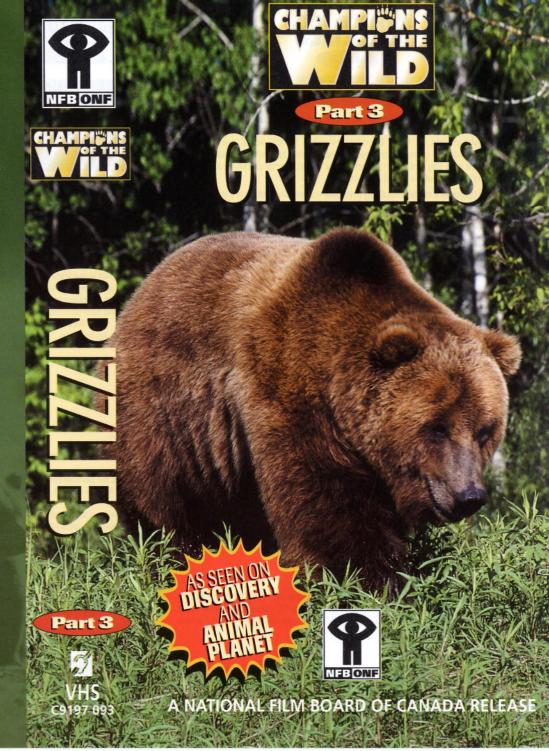
25 minutes Order number: C9197 093 Series order number: 193C 9197 106

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Wayne McCrory is at home in the British Columbia bush, and totally at home tracking and observing the awe-inspiring grizzly and rare white spirit bear. He has spent the last 25 years observing and protecting both of these animals.

A passionate and effective lobbyist, McCrory successfully won the support of the United Nations for his fight to save the grizzly bear habitat on the edge of the Rocky Mountains. In 1983, he was rewarded for his vocal perseverance when BC's provincial government established protected wilderness areas in the Kootenays and the Khutzeymateen Valley as provincial parks to safeguard these magnificent creatures and their habitat.

A long-time opponent of clear-cutting and over-harvesting, McCrory now directs his efforts to save the habitat of the rare white spirit bear of Princess Royal Island. A subspecies of the black bear, the white spirit bear accounts for one tenth of the bear population of the island. Native legend has it that the spirit bear was created during the Ice Age, as a reminder of a frozen world. Today only 200 of these unique animals exist in the world, and they are found only on BC's Princess Royal Island. Wayne McCrory is determined to see that they are not driven into extinction.

# PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Locate the following sites on a map of Canada: British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, the Kootenays, Khutzeymateen Valley, Princess Royal Island.

Over the course of human history people have hunted animals for different reasons. Why would people have hunted animals in the following time periods? Think in terms of all the uses people would have made of the different animal parts.

- a) Seals in Newfoundland in 1524
- b) Bears in North America in 1776
- c) Whales in the Pacific Ocean in 1992

# POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

What is clear-cut logging and how does it affect the bears' environment?

The bear is described as an "indicator species". What does this mean? Why is it important to be aware of what is happening to the indicator species in an environment?

What happens to a bear when it hibernates? How should a bear prepare for this period in its life cycle?

Many animals rub their bodies against objects in their environments. Why do the following animals do it?

- a) bears against trees
- b) pet dogs against a piece of furniture
- c) cats against people's legs

Many animals have behaviours that appear aggressive or frightening to people. What are bears really doing when they jaw each other? If you didn't know what this behaviour meant, what would you think bears are doing or saying when they jaw each other?





Champion: Wayne McCrory

#### Champions of the Wild

is a spectacular
13-part series featuring
endangered animals
and the champions
who have dedicated
their lives to
saving them.

Produced by Omni Film Productions Ltd

with the participation of Telefilm Canada.

in association with British Columbia Film, Amaya Distribution, Discovery Channel and The National Film Board of Canada, and with the participation of the Cable Production Fund and Rogers Telefund.



## **WORLD WIDE WEB SITES:**

Information and pictures about Grizzlies http://www.nature-net.com/bears/brown.html

Information on Bear habitat loss

http://www.bearwatch.org/habitat.html

Information and pictures of Grizzlies http://www.web.apc.org/save-species/zone/grizzly.html

### OTHER NATIONAL FILM BOARD PRODUCTIONS:

Project Grizzly, 72 minutes, order number C9196 047 All About Bears, 12 minutes, order number C0185 060

# **CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD SERIES:**

Part 1: SHARKS (C9197 096): From their research station on Bimini Island in the Bahamas, Tim Calver and his mentor, Dr. Sam Gruber, are committed to changing the world's negative perception of sharks.

Part 2: GORILLAS (C9197 104): In the dangerous surroundings of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Dr. Pascale Sicotte risks her life to protect one of the

world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas.

Part 3: *GRIZZLIES* (09197 093): Wayne McCrory has spent the last 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and rare white spirit bears of the British Columbia rain forest.

Part 4: WOLVES (C9197 103): Dr. Paul Paquet studies the harmful effects of wolves coming into contact with civilization and has succeeded in reintroducing

wolf packs into the southern Alberta Rockies.

Part 5: HUMPBACKS (C9197 099): Dr. Jim Darling, a leading authority on humpback whales, follows the migration of these magnificent creatures in order to protect them in their Pacific environment.

Part 6: PANDAS (C9197 102): A self-proclaimed "pandaholic," Dr. Sue Mainka helps the Chinese make critical breakthroughs in raising captive pandas.

Part 7: LEMURS (C9197 105): Dr. Lisa Gould's mission is to protect the ringtailed lemurs of Madagascar and to make the world aware of these obscure primates.

Part 8: ORCAS (C9197 100): Radical researcher and visionary Dr. Paul Spong, having researched killer whales for over three decades, helps us understand how humans affect orca habitat and behaviour.

**Part 9: POLAR BEARS** (C9197 095): Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has a love affair with the polar bear. His thousands of photographs have profoundly influenced our understanding of the world's largest land-based carnivore.

Part 10: DOLPHINS (C9197 097): Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb are leaders in the fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales and return them to the wild.

Part 11: SWIFT FOXES (C9197 094): Clio Smeeton has dedicated her life to completing her parents' dream of reintroducing the once-extinct swift fox to its Canadian Prairie home.

**Part 12:** *RIGHT WHALES* (C9197 101): By policing the Bay of Fundy and educating those who use the world's waterways, Deborah Tobin and Dr. Moira Brown are dedicated to saving the northern right whales, the planet's rarest marine mammal.

**Part 13:** *ORANGUTANS* (C9197 098): Activist researcher Dr. Biruté Galdikas lives in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the increasingly threatened orangutan.