

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FRIDAY

FEB. 24, 2006

3:30 - 4:30 pm

**ROOM
NUMBER
6-205/211
(Conference Centre)**

**LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT 3:20 PM**

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Why are There so Many Grizzly Bears?

Analysis of 46 grizzly bear populations across North America showed that their density increased with both precipitation, which is an index of herbaceous vegetation, and the amount of salmon in their diet. However, that generality was context specific. Where grizzly bears ate lots of salmon and grew large, they were less able to compete with black bears for vegetation, and their densities were low. But where there were few trees, grizzly bears could exclude black bears, and grizzly bear densities were very high. It will always be a challenge to come up with general mechanisms of population ecology that also account for variation in local conditions.