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## **Albertans asked to help solve wildlife crime involving grizzly bears**

*Peace River...* Alberta Sustainable Resource Development's Fish and Wildlife officers are seeking public assistance as they continue to investigate an incident earlier this month in northwestern Alberta that has left two grizzly bears dead.

On October 9, an oilfield worker driving down a remote road about 160 kilometres west of Manning (100 kilometres north of Peace River) spotted what looked like a dead bear just off the road in the bush. Fish and Wildlife officers responded and discovered two dead grizzly bears about five metres apart.

The remains were examined at the Fish and Wildlife Forensic Lab in Edmonton. One was a six-year-old male, the other a two-year-old, the sex of which could not be determined. An autopsy revealed that the younger bear had been shot. The cause of death of the older grizzly could not be determined. Judging by the state of decomposition of the two bears, it appears the younger one died several days before the other and that the older bear had consumed part of the younger bear's remains.

Anyone with information that would assist in solving this wildlife crime is asked to contact a local Fish and Wildlife Division office or call the toll-free Report A Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. The Report A Poacher line is open 24 hours and anyone who provides information can remain anonymous and could qualify for a reward.

The maximum penalty for poaching grizzly bears in Alberta is a \$100,000 fine and/or up to two years in jail.