# 4 Endangered US Mammals

A plant or animal species that exists in such small numbers that it is in danger of becoming extinct. One of the main factors that put these species at risk is the destruction or pollution of its native habitat.

## Grizzly Bear

Grizzly Bears reach weights of 400 – 1,5000 pounds; the male is on average 1.8 times as heavy as the female. The coloring ranges widely across geographic areas, from blond to deep brown or black. The Grizzly has a large hump over the shoulders which is a muscle mass used to power the forelimbs in digging. In spite of their massive size, these bears can run at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

### Grizzly Bear Location

Grizzly Bears live in continental US (lower 48 States), predominately in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming.

## Black-footed Ferret

The black-footed ferret is well adapted to its prairie environment with its color and markings blending in with the grassland soils and plants. It is a slender, wiry animal with a black face mask, black feet, and a black-tipped tail and the sleek body is a yellow-buff color. It has short legs with large front paws and claws developed for digging. The black-footed ferret is 18 – 24 inches long including a 5-6 inch tail and weighs only one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half pounds.

### Black-footed Ferret Location

The black-footed ferret lives in Arizona, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

## Jaguar

The Jaguar is a large, heavy bodied, big-headed cat. Yellowish to tawny, spotted with black rings in horizontal rows along the back and sides; most rings are tan inside with one or two black spots.

### Jaguar Location

The Jaguar lives in Arizona and New Mexico

## Florida Panther

The Florida Panther is a large, long-tiled cat with a great deal of color variation. Males weigh from 102 – 154 pounds and measure nearly 7 feet from nose to tip of tail. Females are considerably smaller weighing from 50 – 108 pounds and measuring about 6 feet.

### Florida Panther Location

The Florida Panther lives in Florida.