



PO Box 2406
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: 406-224-2250
Email: info@grizzlytimes.org
Web: www.grizzlytimes.org

Newsletter and Blog

Featuring updates on grizzly bear conservation activities,
and the latest *Grizzly Times* Blog
from [Louisa Willcox and David Mattson, PhD.](#)
Co-Founders of *Grizzly Times*.
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Dear Friends of Grizzly Bears,

NEW BLOG:

Constructions of Victimhood and Blame: When Grizzly Bears Go Bad

By Dr. David Mattson

David's Mattson's latest powerful essay below delves into, critiques, and reconstructs the rhetoric and framing used in politicizing the tragic death last September of hunting guide Mark Uptain from a grizzly bear attack.

Here is an excerpt: "I have been alarmed and distressed by the vacuity of much of what has been written about the Uptain incident; the unexamined, unreflexive, and unhelpful blame of the involved bears; the degree to which the incident has been apparently treated by some as an opportunity to position themselves as experts; the related degree to which certain journalists have patently exploited the incident to make a name and advance a career; the extent to which those who were instrumental in causing Uptain's death—bear managers and backcountry outfitters—have escaped any legitimate scrutiny; and, the venality of Wyoming politicians and wildlife managers who have exploited this tragedy to aggressively promote a political agenda that is about little more than appropriating power and, through that, killing more bears—not improving human well-being."

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/constructions-of-victimhood-blame>

IN THE NEWS:

· Wyoming and Montana Anti-bear Rampage

Proving David's point about Wyoming's grizzly shenanigans, last week its House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill that would putatively allow Wyoming wildlife managers to move ahead with a grizzly bear trophy hunt in defiance of a court order by federal Judge Christensen. The bill also allows Wyoming Game and Fish to relocate bears to other states—specifically California—if deemed necessary to "protect Wyoming citizens and tourists" – a obvious poke at out-of-state environmentalists. Having passed both chambers of

the legislature, the bill needs only Governor Mark Gordon's signature to go into effect. Needless-to-say, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has so far remained mum.
https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/jackson_hole_daily/local/article_58bf7585-1c1a-5102-8bb1-3433b0ff57cd.html

Here is an opinion piece I wrote that was just published by the Idaho State Journal on the problem:
https://www.idahostatejournal.com/opinion/columns/anti-grizzly-fever-grips-wyoming-again/article_19d2413f-850d-5485-9165-a020031d5db8.html

Not to be outdone by Wyoming, Montana lawmakers have again introduced a joint resolution to unilaterally remove ESA protections for grizzly bears. In response to the resolution's claim that the recovery zones in Montana "should be considered one large interbreeding distinct population segment," retired FWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator Chris Servheen, who led the charge to delist grizzlies for the past few decades, said this: "It's not factually correct. There's been no documented genetic interchange between those systems other than the bears that have been augmented...in the back of a pickup truck. That's not natural connectivity. And there's been no genetic exchange between the Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide populations....Under the law, the United States federal courts have an ability to review federal management decisions, and to circumvent that review through some political interference is wrong."

Isolation of grizzly populations never stopped Servheen from promoting delisting before – perhaps retirement put the shoe on the other foot?
<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2019/02/11/montana-lawmakers-take-aim-delisting-grizzly-bears/>

- Conservationists Threaten to Sue Over New Flathead Forest Plan

Last week, the Swan View Coalition and Friends of the Wild Swan announced they are headed to court to stop the Flathead National Forest from removing key protections for grizzly bears and bull trout.

"The Flathead is abandoning road removal, the true habitat restoration it says is helping recover grizzly bears and bull trout," said Keith Hammer of Swan View Coalition. "It is replacing that with road building and logging and trying to call that restoration."

Arlene Montgomery of Friends of the Wild Swan said that without existing protections, road culverts will inevitably fail and dump sediment into spawning beds for bull trout that need clean spawning and rearing gravel.

The groups are represented by Josh Purtle of Earthjustice who wrote that the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service have violated the Endangered Species Act "by arbitrarily dismissing the threat to grizzly bears and bull trout posed by road building and the proliferation of human use of roads and trails permitted under the revised Flathead National Forest Plan."

Thank you, Keith, Arlene and Josh! Go get 'em!
https://www.dailyinterlake.com/local_news/20190213/groups_threaten_to_sue_over_new_forest_plan

- Now Some Good News – Senate Passes Bill Protecting Yellowstone, Grizzlies from Mining!

Last week, the Senate voted 98-2 in support of the Natural Resources Management Act, which gives more than two million acres new or strengthened protection from mining and

encroachment; expands eight national parks and historic sites; and, adds new national monuments and heritage areas.

The bill also removes mining rights from areas close to Yellowstone National Park that are important grizzly bear habitat.

This is the first significant success for environmentalists since President Trump came into office and began dismantling many of the protections for public lands and wildlife instituted by previous administrations. All who worked on this, thank you!

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-6698177/US-Senate-votes-expand-nationals-parks-protected-lands.html>

Please Consider a Gift to *Grizzly Times*

We need your help! David and I have retired and are doing this full-time work pretty much gratis.

If you were following the delisting court case last summer, you know that David's role was vital to the litigation success that restored protections to Yellowstone region's grizzly bears. The skilled attorneys could not have won the case without David's scientific expertise.

There will be continued demands on David's time with the appeal of this case to the 9th Circuit Court, the potential delisting of the NCDE - or even all Lower 48 - grizzlies, and mounting threats to the Cabinet-Yaak population.

As we do not have a nonprofit, Conservation Congress, a not-for-profit tax-deductible organization, has agreed to be our fiscal sponsor. (Thank you, Denise!)

You can make a one-time contribution or sign up for a monthly donation through the Conservation Congress link below.

ConservationCongress-ca.org/give

Or, you can mail a donation to:
Conservation Congress
2234 Sierra Vista Circle
Billings, MT 59105

* Be sure to note that your contribution is for *Grizzly Times* (GT).

Thank you for your continued support - in any way. It is greatly appreciated!

***For the bears,
Louisa and David***