



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*
Executive Director of *Grizzly Times*.
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Dear Friend of the Grizzly Bear,

LATEST BLOG:

Wyoming Thugs Greenlight Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunts

Attached below is my latest blog in response to last week's announcement by Wyoming that the state is moving forward with setting a grizzly bear hunting season, starting perhaps this fall.

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/01/22/Wyoming-Thugs-Greenlight-Grizzly-Bear-Trophy-Hunts>

TAKE ACTION:

Tell Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that Draft Habitat Based Recovery Criteria (HBRC) are inadequate to Protect Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzlies.

In December, FWS released a draft plan to protect NCDE grizzly bears when Endangered Species protections are removed, perhaps later this year. These "Habitat Based Recovery Criteria" fall far short of what is needed to sustain this population, which drives the recovery of all threatened grizzlies in the Northern Rockies.

Please send a comment letter to FWS by midnight January 26, and urge them to redouble protection for a population that has been called the "Heart of the Grizzly Nation."

Click here to learn more and to comment: <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/>

MORE ON NCDE HABITAT PLAN: BLOCKBUSTER COMMENTS BY BLACKFEET CONFEDERACY

Attached below are comments by the Blackfoot Confederacy which are simply amazing, and well worth reading. They connect science to cultural/spiritual issues, and tie NCDE to what is going on in the Greater Yellowstone, North Cascades and Canada, including the BC hunt ban which happened in part in response to tribal concerns.

The power of the tribes to shift the debate about grizzly bears and delisting is enormous. Even former Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator Chris Servheen acknowledged that the Salish Kootenai and Blackfoot Tribes, which own a considerable amount of occupied grizzly habitat in the NCDE, could sink the government's decision to delist NCDE grizzlies. Both tribes oppose delisting, as well as another 175 tribes that signed the Grizzly Bear Treaty in the US and Canada, making it the most signed treaty in history.

You can read more here about The Grizzly: A Treaty of Cooperation, Cultural Revitalization and Restoration:

<https://www.piikaninationtreaty.com/>

IN THE NEWS:

Wyoming Gears Up for Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt

On Jan. 18, Wyoming announced it is setting up the regulations for a grizzly bear trophy hunt, that could start this fall. Wyoming Game and Fish said it will allow the public to comment on the details of its plan in February.

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/this_just_in/wyoming-is-pursuing-grizzly-hunt/article_0ff5325b-7dfc-5b02-957c-6e0f714d2a2e.html

Hearing on Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Delisting Litigation: March 13, Missoula MT

On March 13, Federal Judge Dana Christiansen will hear arguments on the federal government's motion to stay the litigation over grizzly delisting, as it considers the public comments received recently over the implications of the Humane Society's successful Great Lakes wolf case on Yellowstone delisting. This is the first hearing that has been scheduled so far.

Grizzlies Moving North In Manitoba!

More grizzlies have been documented in northern Manitoba in recent years, according to Doug Clark of the University of Saskatchewan. Clark says: "It's now not a question of: are people going to see a grizzly bear this year up there, it's when are they going to see a grizzly bear (and) where are they going to see it." It is highly unusual that all 3 species of bear in North America (polar, grizzly and black) are being seen in the same area.

Clark is working with Indigenous peoples to incorporate their knowledge of bears and the landscape as part of the research underway. His approach should be emulated in the lower-48 states, where tribal concerns are typically dismissed. The large expanses of wild, protected landscape in Canada's north, and the recent BC ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting stand as testimony to what can be accomplished in collaboration with tribal people. Doug Clark is an exceptionally gifted scientist – well worth keeping an eye on this project.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/grizzlies-polar-bears-black-bears-churchill-manitoba-university-of-saskatchewan-1.4497039>

For the bears,
Louisa

Public Comments of the
**Blackfoot
Confederacy**



Supplement to the Grizzly Bear Recovery
Plan: Habitat-Based Recovery Criteria for
the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem