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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 Friends of Grizzly Bears,

LATEST BLOG:

Please see David's latest blog below on the implications of Wyoming's proposed trophy hunt of Yellowstone area grizzlies – that provides ample reason not to trust the states in this post-delisting world. The maps are especially worth examination.

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/03/14/Wyoming-Plans-to-Slaughter-Grizzly-Bears>

PLEASE COMMENT TO WYOMING:

The comment deadline is APRIL 30, and the doc is here:

https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/May_CH-68_Draft-2-28-18-9.pdf

Groups are targeting WY Governor Matt Mead, who not only is responsible for leading the charge to delist grizzlies, but also is a major force behind gutting the Endangered Species Act – send a message to him at @GovMattMead

And, some folks are already threatening to cancel their trips to WY because of this cruel proposal, a good move to keep the pressure on.

https://www.facebook.com/governormattmead/photos/a.686757628118872.1073741829.667200546741247/1439220096205951/?type=3&fref=gs&dti=1967663996792885&hc_location=group

THE FIRST COURT HEARING ON DELISTING:

On Tuesday, we had the first of what may be several court hearings in federal District Court in Missoula, MT on the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Rob Cheney of the Missoulian was one of two press people there and wrote this proforma piece:

http://missoulian.com/news/local/federal-judge-in-missoula-speeds-up-grizzly-lawsuit-ahead-of/article_91609760-cab2-502c-b88e-e4e543d39814.html

Below are my comments on what I saw as some of the key aspects to the hearing that Rob missed... I was writing fast, and a court reporter was there also – we can get the proceedings in time, but I thought you might be interested in an overview in the meantime.

<https://www.facebook.com/GrizzlyTimes/posts/1971166566536034>

The hearing was about the federal government's request for a stay in the litigation on grizzly bear delisting as US Fish and Wildlife Service reviews the comments received in December and early January on the effect of delisting grizzlies on the remainder of the listed grizzly bear populations, as per an August, 2017 DC Circuit Court ruling on delisting of Great Lakes wolves. (This was a big win for wolves by HSUS). The FWS adopted the same approach to Yellowstone grizzlies as it did to delisting Great Lakes wolves, so its approach to delisting griz is vulnerable to being overturned on the same grounds.

But, as the first of what will be more hearings in front of this judge, we got a taste of what this case will be about: whether we can trust the states to do a good job with grizzly bear conservation; the extent to which the federal government bowed to political pressure by the states and hunting groups, instead of basing its decision on the best available science and logic; the effects of a trophy hunt and more aggressive killing of griz on the health of Yellowstone grizzlies; and, the extent to which the tribal concerns were addressed -- or not.

By the way, I did a few interviews on Facebook Live before and after the hearing (see the link below), with apologies that this was the first time I used this technology – a tough task for this Luddite:

https://www.facebook.com/louisa.willcox?hc_ref=ARTcoqKNztTrhpSpofECKEZd0RgH7c3p--zrQOL3cQOH7b8MJG7GWsve6nKUZpqXDBM&pnref=story

ARTICLE BY DOUG PEACOCK:

Here is a wonderful article on these issues in the Daily Beast by Doug Peacock, calling a spade a spade in his remarks on the NRA and Safari Club:

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-nra-and-the-safari-club-are-gunning-for-grizzlies?ref=author>

WAKING BEARS:

On a positive note, bears are starting to wake up in Greater Yellowstone! Mostly males so far... http://montanauntamed.com/get-outside/article_7f57a1b1-4694-5c1a-ac55-fd69fb217caa.html

NEW GRIZZLY TIMES PODCAST PLATFORMS:

In other updates, I thought you would be interested in the new, greatly improved podcast site layout in Grizzly Times (thanks to Chuck Irestone), now on your favorite platforms:

- Itunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/grizzly-times-podcast/id1324266637?mt=2>
- Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/grizzly-times-podcast>
- Stitcher: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/grizzly-times-podcast>
- Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC05_dT9GhLLuRosj-uZKCvQ/

For the bears,
Louisa