



## Newsletter

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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*Photo by Edward Curtiss 1909*

**Hello Friends of Grizzly Bears, and happy holidays!**

Here is David's latest blog – a kind of personal confession about why he has long been drawn to grizzly bears and their habitat...

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2017/12/14/Becoming-Grizzly-Bear-Shit>

On December 7, US Fish and Wildlife Service opened for public comment the consequences of the DC Circuit Court Ruling on the Humane Society's case that challenged Great Lakes wolf delisting. The deadline is Jan. 8, 2018:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/species/mammals/grizzly/82%20FR%2057698%20regulatory%20review.pdf>

Here are a few preliminary thoughts by David, who will soon amplify on them:

**1. The Service adopts a standard for recovery of grizzly bears in the contiguous United States that, in toto, enshrines the loss of roughly 97% of historic grizzly bear distributions and numbers. This standard does not insure adequate representation of ecosystems or adequate connectivity among populations, and is unnecessary given ample potential habitat provisionally identified by researchers.**

***The Service needs to abandon its de facto adoption of 3% as sufficient for recovery of grizzly bear distributions and populations, and reconcile any new standards with a thorough analysis of potential habitat within historical distributions.***

**2. The Service adopts a standard for recovery of grizzly bear populations within ecosystems that is inadequate for insuring long-term genetic health, evolutionary potential, and resilience to catastrophic environmental change, and is at odds with the best available scientific information.**

***The Service needs to design and implement a recovery program that provides for contiguous populations of grizzly bears of a size that comports with the best available science, sustains evolutionary potential, and insures resilience to potential catastrophic environmental changes.***

**3. The Service has failed to consider the importance of potential emigration from the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide ecosystems to natural recovery of grizzly bears in the Selway-Bitterroot, Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk ecosystems.**

***The Service needs to design and implement a recovery program that insures successful natural colonization of the Selway-Bitterroot, and natural augmentation of the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems through immigration of grizzly bears from the GYE and NCDE.***

**4. The Service errs in its reliance upon vague and non-binding indications by the State of Montana, and none by the State of Idaho, to “maintain the option” to promote connectivity among existing grizzly bear populations in the northern U.S. Rocky Mountains.**

***The Service needs to insure connectivity of grizzly bear populations in accord with a revised Recovery Plan prior to removing ESA protections, and then include authoritative binding provisions in any delisting rule that require the relevant States to maintain connectivity for the indefinite future.***

In other news, as part of its effort to delist Glacier grizzlies, FWS also recently released draft habitat-based criteria for the Northern Continental Divide population in time for holiday cheer. The deadline for comments is Jan 28, 2018:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/12/12/2017-26257/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-draft-supplement-to-the-grizzly-bear-recovery-plan>

In a transparent political move, last week Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke also ordered the USFWS to pull the plug on the reintroduction of grizzlies to the North Cascades Ecosystem. FWS considers these bears to be the most endangered of any population in the lower 48 states. The agency released a draft EIS last summer and received 127,000 comments.

[http://missoulian.com/news/local/north-cascades-grizzly-bear-work-recovery-work-halted-by-interior/article\\_54f56987-68f7-5227-a7a5-ec14d7a6d44d.html](http://missoulian.com/news/local/north-cascades-grizzly-bear-work-recovery-work-halted-by-interior/article_54f56987-68f7-5227-a7a5-ec14d7a6d44d.html)

As the Safari Club and NRA move to intervene in the grizzly bear delisting litigation, The *Jackson News and Guide* published an article on the impact of hunting grizzlies on their behavior:

[http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/experts-wonder-how-grizzlies-will-respond-to-hunt/article\\_f25e4499-7f92-5aa9-b5b5-6edacac79c9a.html](http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/experts-wonder-how-grizzlies-will-respond-to-hunt/article_f25e4499-7f92-5aa9-b5b5-6edacac79c9a.html)

Meanwhile, David Suzuki argued that the BC government should close a loophole in its ban on grizzly bear hunting that would allow people to kill grizzlies if they ate them (a cruel joke).

<http://www.pressreader.com/canada/vancouver-sun/20171216/281775629511586>

Enjoy the holidays, despite the looming deadlines!

For the bears,  
Louisa