



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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Dear Friends of Grizzlies,

Here is David's latest blog on hunting, and whether it makes bears wary, as claimed by the NRA and Safari Club International, which recently moved to intervene on the side of the government in the litigation on Yellowstone grizzly bear delisting. David's take-home: not a shred of evidence to support their claim that hunting make bears wary and thus improves human safety.

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2017/12/02/Hunting-to-Scare-Grizzlies-NRA-Safari-Club-Spawn-a-Re-Herring>

In other news, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team reported that the 2017 population estimate is 718 grizzlies, which includes 57 females with cubs. So, about same as last year, but down from 757 griz four years ago. And, IGBST reports that mortality thresholds have not been violated, which seems extraordinary given the number of bear deaths (46 inside the DMA), and suggests that most of the deaths under investigation (where no data is given on the IGBST site) were male grizzlies. But some bears may still be up in Jackson due to availability of hunter gut piles. And, there seems to be significant lag times in the reporting of dead bears on the IGBST site post-delisting. So, the reported numbers could change.

<https://yellowstoneinsider.com/2017/12/01/yellowstone-grizzly-bear-population-stable/>

Here is an interesting article from the *Washington Post* on coexistence and connectivity. Too bad the optimism is not warranted about the likelihood of connectivity between populations if sport hunting is allowed. And, it's too romantic about cowboys and their perspectives, but some nice quotes from coexistence expert Steve Primm.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/environment/grizzly-bear-population-spreads/?utm_term=.4cc509160ae6

In the NCDE, the delisting debate is heating up, with managers hoping to have a delisting rule out by 2020. (In reality, the fate of delisting is tied to what happens in Yellowstone with litigation).

<http://mtpr.org/post/ncde-grizzly-bear-management-plan-nearing-final-publication>

But as in Yellowstone, avoidable conflicts with livestock operators in the NCDE are also increasing – especially on the Rocky Mountain Front.

<http://mtpr.org/post/rocky-mountain-front-grizzly-conflicts-hit-record-numbers-2017>

For the bears,
Louisa