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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:

The Night of Terror: Wyoming Game and Fish's Latest Attempt to Close the Book on the Mark Uptain Tragedy

By Maximilian Werner

We are delighted to feature a new blog, which follows this newsletter, by Maximilian Werner, a professor of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Utah. His expertise in rhetoric is particularly helpful in evaluating the frame of the final investigation report, released last week by Wyoming Game and Fish, on the tragic death of outfitter Mark Uptain last fall during a grizzly bear attack.

Maximilian raises important questions here deserving further reflection.

grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2019/02/04/The-Night-of-Terror-Wyoming-Game-and-Fish%E2%80%99s-Latest-Attempt-to-Close-the-Book-on-the-Mark-Uptain-Tragedy

Below are a few news articles on the report. The one by Mike Kosmrl of the *Jackson Hole News and Guide* is particularly disturbing as it feeds the WGF frame that the bear behaved abnormally, when it really behaved as you might expect when a bear is drawn to a carcass.

The report was released, not accidentally, as the Wyoming legislature considers several anti-bear proposals, and seems intended to amp emotions, which the *News and Guide* article further fuels.

- jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/article_c17c97cb-c2f0-5476-aa08-17301f75343d.html
- wyofile.com/game-and-fish-bear-spray-repelled-killer-grizzly/

Along these lines, *National Parks Traveler* reported on a bill under consideration in the Wyoming legislature that would relocate problem grizzlies from Wyoming to California, clearly a poke at conservationists from outside the state.

The comment string at the end shows what we are up against in Wyoming, but publisher Kurt Rapenshek handled them deftly.

nationalparkstraveler.org/2019/02/wyoming-senate-supports-relocating-greater-yellowstone-grizzly-bears-california

IN THE NEWS:

▪ NPR Story Highlights Hostility to Grizzlies

Last week NPR ran a story focused on people running out of patience with the Endangered Species Act and grizzlies. We should expect more out of NPR! David and I declined to be interviewed when NPR reporter Nick Rott made it clear that he had already written the story, had his mind made up, and simply wanted a few throw-away quotes from us that would allow him to claim his “neutrality.” His arrogance was impressive for someone so young.

npr.org/2019/02/02/688553708/as-grizzlies-come-back-frustration-builds-over-continued-protections

▪ Of Coexistence and Conflicts

- Last week, several conservation groups sent a letter to government bear managers asking that the most recent, but dated, analysis of human-grizzly bear conflicts, reported in 2009, be updated and implemented. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee indicated that the issue will be discussed at its spring meeting.

biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2019/grizzly-bear-01-31-2019.php

- A meeting sponsored by the American Prairie Reserve featured a discussion among ranchers about grizzly bear conflicts. Clearly, some ranchers are working hard to avoid problems, including the Anderson Ranch in the Tom Miner Basin near Yellowstone Park.

billingsgazette.com/outdoors/montana-women-ranchers-share-challenges-of-living-with-grizzlies/article_64bdbb13-ff78-5cbd-9af8-111cb436c20c.html

▪ Grizzly Problems in Wyoming’s Upper Green

George Wuerthner does a nice job, as always, with this story in *The Wildlife News* about the impacts of grazing practices on grizzlies, and the ecologically rich landscape of Wyoming’s Upper Green River. Even though ranchers elsewhere in the region are making a concerted effort to coexist with grizzlies, wealthy and politically well-connected ranchers in this area are not.

thewildlifeneeds.com/2019/02/03/wildlife-versus-livestock-in-the-upper-green/

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 the 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](https://www.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