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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*.
www.GrizzlyTimes.org

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Hello Friends of Grizzlies,

Anticipation is mounting ahead of the August 30th Federal District Court hearing in Missoula, which focuses on the 2017 decision by the federal government to strip Endangered Species protections from the Yellowstone region's grizzly bear population, and allow a trophy hunt. More details on this high-stakes event are below.

GRIZZLY TIMES LATEST BLOG:

"Collective Narcissism and the Plight of *Ursus Arctos* in Europe and America"

by **Dr. David Mattson**

Renowned bear scientist Dr. David Mattson's latest blog is full of surprises, with a fascinating comparison between grizzly bear extirpations and subsequent recovery efforts in Europe and America. He challenges bragging managers in the US to be more humble and circumspect, and reinforces the need to do a better job of coexisting with grizzlies - as they are doing in Europe.

A few excerpts:

"Recovery gains, since roughly 1970, have been 4 to 8-fold greater in Europe than in the US, amounting to 8% of ancestral distributions in Europe as opposed to only 1% of historical populations and 2% of historical range in the US...the differences in 'recovery' between Europe and the US are stark, with Europe clearly putting the US to shame."

"European brown bears (grizzlies) have persisted and made gains in the face of orders-of-magnitude greater human densities. We, by contrast, are pathetic. We lament that we simply can't have any more grizzlies because we've reached the limits of remote areas where they can live. Nonsense, if not BS."

"If ever there was an instance (among many) where we have no business bragging, it is in how we conceive of recovering and coexisting with grizzly bears...Our history with grizzly bears throws into relief (yet again) our national chauvinism, even collective narcissism..."

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/07/31/Collective-Narcissism-and-the-Plight-of-Ursus-arctos-in-Europe-and-America>

IN THE NEWS:

· The Upcoming Missoula Federal Court Hearing on Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Delisting and Trophy Hunting

For the Yellowstone Ecosystem's grizzlies, much rides on the outcome of Federal Judge Dana Christensen's forthcoming ruling on the merits of our challenge to the government's removal of ESA protections. Judge Christensen will either rule from the bench on August 30th, or shortly thereafter. This rapid pace has been dictated by the fact that Wyoming's grizzly bear hunt is slated to start on September 1st.

As the best available science lies at the heart of decision-making under the Endangered Species Act, Dr. David Mattson has been working with attorneys challenging the federal government's 2017 decision to remove Endangered Species protections.

Here are the details:

Russell Court House, 201 E. Broadway, Missoula, Montana

August 30th at 9 am (Come early if you want to get a seat, as it is likely to be packed).

Grizzly Times' team will be doing live posts from in front of the courthouse. It is poised to be a dramatic day!

· Grizzly Times Event with noted Grizzly Bear Advocates

August 28th at 5:30 p.m.

The Roxy Theater, 718 So. Higgins Ave., Missoula, Montana

Featuring:

Johnny Arlee, Spiritual/Cultural Advisor of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Dr. David Mattson, grizzly bear scientist and *Grizzly Times* co-founder

Rick Bass, author and conservationist

Grizzly Times and the *International Wildlife Film Festival* are hosting what promises to be a fantastic evening, with an incredible lineup of speakers and film. The evening will begin with introductory remarks and prayer by a local Salish elder **Johnny Arlee**. Over 270 Tribes have expressed passionate opposition to trophy hunting grizzly bears, while supporting better coexistence with bears, as is their tradition.

Dr. David Mattson's talk, "**The Epic Shared Journey of Bison and Grizzlies**," discusses the fascinating journey of grizzlies, bison and humans over thousands of years and many miles, spanning two continents. Now retired from the US Geological Survey, Dr. Mattson has conducted extensive research on grizzlies and other large carnivores. He is also a policy scientist, and has held teaching positions at Yale, MIT and Northern Arizona University.

Author **Rick Bass** will present an introduction to *Peacock's War*, a moving, award-winning documentary about author and environmentalist **Doug Peacock's** experience as a conservationist and Vietnam vet, based on his book, *Grizzly Years*.

With this event, we also hope to provide important context for what will unfold at the August 30th hearing in Missoula's Federal District Court that will determine the fate of Yellowstone's grizzly bears.

Tickets are \$5 at the door.

<http://www.theroxytheater.org/films/the-epic-shared-journey-of-bison-and-grizzly-bears/>

This event is co-sponsored by **Grizzly Times, the Roxy Theater, Bonfire Branding**, and the **International Wildlife Film Festival**, as part of its monthly program **"IWWF Presents."**

- Conservation Champion and Nature Photographer Tom Mangelsen Draws Tag to Shoot a Grizzly - with No Intention of Doing So.

Numerous people applied recently for permits to hunt a Yellowstone grizzly in Wyoming, with no intention of shooting a bear - other than with a camera.

Amazingly, grizzly bear champion and world-class photographer Tom Mangelsen drew a tag. In a recent article in the Washington Post, Tom said: to "rob the opportunity of millions of people from ever seeing a bear is really sad. Bears do not belong to the hunters. They do not belong to the bear-watchers. They belong to themselves and the landscape."

Responding to critics, Tom responded: "Well, what other way are we going to do it? We've petitioned the government, we've gone to the meetings, we've talked and we've testified, we've gone to legislators...We have a right to protest in whatever way we feel is necessary."

Go Tom Go!

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/08/01/a-wildlife-photographer-won-a-permit-to-shoot-grizzlies-heres-what-hes-doing-with-it/?utm_term=.4dd64834b1f9

Another woman, who has asked that her name not be used, also drew a tag, with no intention of shooting a grizzly bear.

And here is a brave and inspiring new group, *Shoot 'Em With a Camera*, that is also working to oppose the trophy hunt:

<http://shootemwithacamera.com/>

- Damaging Timber Sale Stopped in the Cabinet Yaak Ecosystem

With only 40 or so grizzlies left in the isolated Cabinet Yaak Ecosystem located in NW Montana and Northern Idaho, these bears need all the help they can get. Recently the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that found that the Forest Service improperly calculated whether roads standards in their Forest Plan would be exceeded by a proposed timber sale.

Roads matter to grizzlies: high densities of roads lead to more access for people (including poachers) and fragmentation of habitat, which leads, in turn, to disruption of bear behavior. In the Cabinet Yaak, poaching is the leading cause of mortality. In a tiny ecosystem with very little protected Wilderness, more roads could inch the population even closer to extinction.

Thanks to the *Alliance for the Wild Rockies* for taking on this challenge – and winning!

<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2018/07/27/court-ruling-stalls-portion-sprawling-kootenai-timber-project/>

Please Consider Donating to our Work!

We could really use your help right now with so much going on in response to the challenges facing grizzlies. At *Grizzly Times* we have not created a separate nonprofit, because we want to keep focused on the work - not administering an organization.

But, through the generosity of *Conservation Congress* you can give a donation to our work by following this link:

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/donate>

As always, your support - in whatever way - is greatly appreciated!

**For the bears,
*Louisa***