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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 Grizzlies,

I hope you enjoy David's most recent powerful **Blog** (following the Newsletter below), *Monuments to the Ego* – the latest in David's numerous, thought-provoking pieces, and one very close to home...

- <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/05/27/Monuments-to-the-Ego>

Also, just up is a new **Podcast by former Montana Congressman Pat Williams**, a champion of the environment, the arts and the underprivileged. These days, I am nostalgic for the times we had thoughtful, committed congressmen and women in the region such as Pat, including the likes of Senators Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield, and Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin. This was a fun interview, as Pat is a terrific storyteller. For wildlife species of national interest, such as grizzlies, wolves, and bison, Pat thinks federal oversight of state actions seems appropriate – a perspective I heartily share.

- <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/the-grizzly-times-podcast>

Wyoming and Idaho approve grizzly bear sport hunt for the fall, over objections by conservationists and the Tribes

As you probably know by now, last week Wyoming and Idaho approved a grizzly bear hunt, ignoring yet again, the lions' share of comments from the public and Indian Tribes which opposed the hunt. Wyoming made a tiny adjustment from its draft proposal, reducing the hunt numbers from 12 to 11 grizzlies inside the Demographic Monitoring Area, but allowing essentially unlimited killing outside this zone in what David has called "The Slaughter Zone." The press has almost completely ignored the fact that Wyoming's explicit goal is to reduce the size of the population, even inside the DMA – something that Yellowstone Park Superintendent Dan Wenk vigorously protested until after Trump was elected president. Idaho aims to kill one grizzly by hunting.

Some selected links here:

- <https://earthar.com/wyomings-grizzly-bear-hunt-wont-happen-without-a-fight-1826372791>

- https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/article_6d1794ba-6e7d-574d-85d3-95d157f62266.html
- <http://wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/tribes-dismayed-announcement-wyoming-grizzly-hunt#stream/0>
- https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/thousands-call-on-gov-mead-to-halt-grizzly-hunt/article_048e0fed-382a-5baf-89ae-ceb3e488226f.html

Grizzly bear number 610, daughter of rock star mom 399, may be dead

Grizzly bear number 610, 399's only reproductively successful daughter so far, is feared dead, as she frequents the Grand Teton Park roads and has not been seen this spring. Hopefully she will yet appear. But if she does not, her celebrity, now-ancient grizzly mom 399 (at 22 years) is not likely to replace herself in the Greater Yellowstone population by the time she dies – underscoring the need to redouble efforts to reduce human-caused mortalities, which are the cause of death of almost all her cubs. Of course, trophy hunting these tolerant, roadside bears will likely result in their deaths, despite the too-small “no hunt” zone designated by the state in the Jackson area.

- https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/article_608e4964-1f00-5779-b32f-c74673b240a4.html

Gold mine proposal in Paradise Valley, MT, overruled by courts, due to impacts on environment, including grizzlies

Last week, approval of a mine proposed by Lucky Minerals near Emigrant Peak in Paradise Valley hit a major snag as Judge Brenda Gilbert ruled that environmental impacts of the mine, including on water and grizzlies, had not been adequately analyzed by Montana. This is one of two gold mines being proposed near Yellowstone Park -- and both would have devastating impacts on the ecological integrity of the region.

- <http://mtpr.org/post/proposed-paradise-valley-mine-needs-more-study-court-rules>

Government moving forward to delist and hunt grizzlies in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) around Glacier Park

Despite uncertainties created by current litigation over delisting of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's (GYE) grizzlies, the federal government is barging ahead with a delisting proposal of NCDE grizzlies this fall. Delisting and hunting of grizzlies in the NCDE and GYE are certain to kill more bears on the periphery of both areas, ensuring their long-term isolation, and preventing recovery of either population. Without a hunt and related excessive killing, grizzlies in both populations have been expanding and could connect. Conservationists and Tribes are committed to preventing hunting and delisting in both areas.

- <http://flatheadbeacon.com/2018/05/09/us-seek-end-protections-montana-bears-fall/>

Wyoming Stockgrowers urge Washington ranchers to oppose grizzly bear introduction in the North Cascades

Carrying on its proud tradition of opposing large carnivore recovery in any ways possible, the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association recently urged ranchers in Washington state to block reintroduction of grizzly bears in the North Cascades. Recently, Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reversed an earlier position to prevent grizzlies from returning to one of the biggest wildland ecosystems in the lower-48 states, which could harbor hundreds of grizzlies. Time will tell if the views of the public, who overwhelmingly supported grizzly bear recovery in the Cascades, will prevail, and if Zinke will stand by his current supportive position.

- <http://www.capitalpress.com/Washington/20180531/ranchers-told-to-fight-grizzly-reintroduction>

Please be in touch if you have suggestions for future newsletters.

For the bears,
Louisa