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Newsletter and Blog

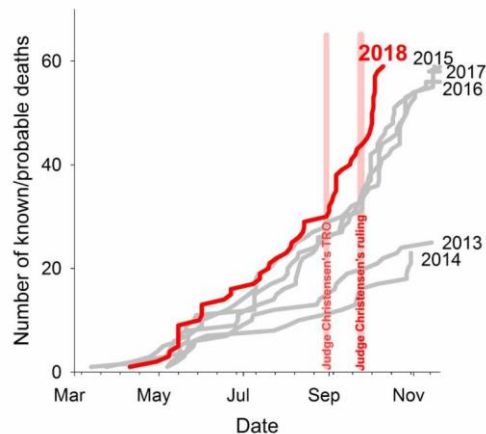
Featuring updates on grizzly bear conservation activities,
and the latest *Grizzly Times* Blog
from [Louisa Willcox and David Mattson, PhD.](#)
Co-Founders of *Grizzly Times*.
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Hello Friends of Grizzly Bears,

It has been a crazy two weeks, with the total number of dead grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem now at 59 (see graph below); in addition to a near-record 36 dead in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. But, government officials have been doing little more than inciting violence against bears (especially in Wyoming), and are otherwise doing precious little to stop the bleeding.



LATEST BLOG:

Here is David's take on what is going on:

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/10/18/Basket-of-Deplorables-Revisited-Grizzly-Bears-at-the-Mercy-of-Wyoming>

(This blog follows the newsletter below.)

IN THE NEWS:

- **More Bears Bite the Dust**

Much more can be done to reduce conflicts, especially through the deployment of bear spray, better law enforcement, and quick export of big game carcasses (which ideally would not be left overnight). My guest column on the tragedy underway, and what can be done, ran in the Idaho State Journal last week and will run in the Billings Gazette this Sunday:

https://www.idahostatejournal.com/opinion/columns/grizzly-bear-deaths-skyrocket-as-government-restores-protections/article_d5578e85-310d-5ce6-a907-213dd81d2f42.html

And, this opinion piece from David about what is driving the conflicts was just published in the Livingston

Enterprise: <https://www.facebook.com/GrizzlyTimes/photos/a.1555606541425374/2139254043060618/?type=3HYPERLINK>

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Meanwhile, there are a few bright spots. An elk hunter survived a grizzly mauling when his partner pepper sprayed the bear, saying later that he did not support killing the bear, and: "That's what a bear will do. It was startled, protecting its cub, starting to take care of the threat that was there."

https://www.cdapress.com/local_news/20181015/hayden_man_survives_beingattacked_by_grizzly_bear_in_montana_wilderness

And, here is a great piece that ran in Mountain Journal by hunter, conservationist, and friend David Stalling:

<https://mountainjournal.org/does-trophy-hunting-animals-make-wild-places-safer>

- The Zombie March to Delist Grizzlies in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem

Despite the court-ordered restoration of Endangered Species protections for Yellowstone grizzlies, the government is marching, zombie-like, to strip protections for grizzlies in the NCDE, possibly before the end of the year. This blind rush by the US Fish & Wildlife Service comes despite the fact that Judge Christensen's ruling essentially mandates that designation of "Distinct Population Segments" and subsequent piecemeal delisting, as is being attempted in both Yellowstone and the NCDE, be accompanied by a thorough analysis of consequences for other grizzly bear populations in the lower-48 states. You might think the government would hit the pause button.

As a sign of how Montana might conduct grizzly bear management if allowed to take control, here is a rule still on the state's books: "Sport hunting is considered the most desirable method of balancing grizzly bear numbers with their available habitat, minimizing depredations against private property within or adjacent to grizzly bear habitat, and minimizing grizzly bear attacks on humans." When challenged in a recent story in the Missoulian, state officials stated that the rule did not mean that the state would allow hunting of grizzlies. Really?

https://missoulian.com/news/local/old-grizzly-hunting-rule-still-on-the-books-in-montana/article_183bd3d0-4c89-59a9-bf49-18ea9a4cf9de.html

In an important development, a grizzly killed a calf near Two Dot, Montana, by the Big Belt Mountains, about midway between the Glacier and Yellowstone ecosystems. This is the third grizzly documented in the area in the last few years. A government biologist has collected hair from the site, in an effort to determine where the bear was from. But the point is: bears are demonstrating the ability to move between ecosystems -- if we let them.

<https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2018/10/11/grizzly-turns-up-near-two-dot-kills-calf/1608024002/>

• **State Wildlife Agencies: Is Change in the Wind?**

Key to improving bear conservation is reform of state wildlife management. This issue may seem a bit of a sleeper, involving complex governance and fiscal policies, but it is vital: states play a huge role in whether grizzly bears live or die, even with Endangered Species protections. In a sign that the times may be changing in Idaho, a Game and Fish Commissioner resigned last week after a photo of him with a family of baboons he had killed in Africa went viral.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2018/oct/16/idaho-wildlife-official-resigns-after-killing-africa-baboon-family/>

Alert: Help Cabinet Yaak Grizzlies, Stop a High-Use Trail Through the Heart of the Yaak

The Yaak, and the Yaak's last 25 grizzlies, need a sentence by you (especially if you are from Montana), just one sentence, to Montana Senator Jon Tester, asking for his support in re-routing the current awful location of a Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) that directs untold numbers of thru-hikers into critical bear habitat in the Yaak.

The PNT was authorized as a secret, last-minute rider on unrelated legislation by ex-Rep. Norm Dicks and Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, and bisects dozens of miles of Montana core grizzly habitat, so that the PNT hikers—en route from Glacier's high peaks to those of the North Cascades—can summit the Yaak's two much more modest high points.

No one was given the courtesy of a voice in the passage of this midnight rider back in 2009, attached to the must-pass Omnibus Bill. It will require an act of Congress to correct this, and a more scenic southern alternative exists that avoids all core grizzly habitat.

PLEASE contact Senator Tester at your earliest convenience, urging him to support a PNT that avoids core grizzly habitat, at <https://Tester.Senate.Gov/Contact/>

And, please copy and paste your note to the Yaak Valley Forest Council at info@yaakvalley.org

For the Bears,
Louisa and David