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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,

With most bears at last snug in dens, it seems fitting to dig into their miraculous lives below ground. Although scientists have long tried to unveil the secrets of hibernation, much remains a mystery. And, researchers are not the only ones who at some point just surrender themselves to awe. Bears and other wild animals will always defy circumscription by the human intellect, and throw us back on heart, soul and imagination. That is as it should be.

NEW BLOG:

Bear Dreaming: Of Wonder in Winter

By Louisa Willcox

The Blog follows the Newsletter below, and the illustration is by David.

Hope you enjoy!

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/12/18/Bear-Dreaming-Of-Wonder-in-Winter>

IN THE NEWS:

• **Court Appeals and Confusion Over Grizzly Bear Delisting**

Recent meetings by government representatives underscored widespread confusion about next steps in the management of grizzly bears. Wyoming was joined by four hunting groups, including the NRA and Safari Club, in an appeal of Judge Christensen's ruling that relisted Yellowstone region's grizzlies in September. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has until Dec. 21 to decide on its course of action.

<http://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/four-groups-join-wyoming-appeal-yellowstone-grizzly-bear-decision#stream/0>

Meanwhile Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks moved to adopt new regulations to facilitate delisting of the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem (NCDE), which has been delayed by

the ruling that “threw a monkey wrench into what we were going to do,” according to Ken Macdonald of MTFWP. Grizzly bear dispersal within and between the Selway-Bitterroot, Selkirk, NCDE, and Yellowstone ecosystems, has caught agencies flatfooted and unprepared, just as record-breaking grizzly bear deaths threaten to reverse hard-fought gains towards recovery during the past 40 years.

<https://www.missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2018/12/montana-grizzly-bears/>
<https://www.missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2018/12/human-grizzly-conflicts/>
<https://www.missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2018/12/grizzly-bitterroot/>

Kudos to Laura Lundquist of the Missoula Current for her awesome reporting!

• **So Long Zinke**

Amid multiple financial and ethics probes, Ryan Zinke resigned last week as Secretary of Interior – the most anti-environmental secretary in the agency’s history. Before we get too excited, some of the names being circulated as replacements are equally terrible, including former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and former Idaho Governor Butch Otter. Anti-wolf, anti-grizzly bear, former Wyoming Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis has also expressed interest in the position. The man behind the Zinke throne, current Deputy Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt, is also under consideration. The assault on our natural legacy is far from over.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/interior-secretary-zinke-resigns-amid-investigations/>

• **Terror Entrepreneurs Meet Bambi...**

We have written elsewhere about the problem of “Terror Entrepreneurs” inciting violence against bears. The term comes from David’s writings about the Early Modern Witch Craze, when innocent healers, mostly women, were killed in order that thugs could hold onto, and enhance, their power. Here are some recent manifestations of this pathology:

- Brent Stalkup of Cody, WY was recently fined \$25,000 for poaching a grizzly bear - the heftiest penalty in decades. As a chilling reminder that he is far from alone in his bloodlust, someone commented on line in the *Cody Enterprise* article that this was “just another reason to practice a modified version of the 3 S’s - short for “shoot, shovel and shut-up.”
- Austin Kondash, also of Cody, was recently fined nearly \$2,000 for killing a wolf without a license. He also killed at least one grizzly bear this year, on top of multiple convictions for illegal drug use. We will see whether justice is served in treatment of this grotesque malefactor.

<http://www.powelltribune.com/stories/cody-man-fined-for-killing-wolf-without-license,16931>

- Get this: a judge ordered a Missouri man involved in a massive deer poaching ring to watch Bambi every month in jail, saying “I hope when you get to the part where Bambi’s mother dies, it makes you think.” Oh, that watching Bambi could cure the likes of Kondash and Stalkup!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/18/us/deer-hunting-bambi-sentence.html>

• **Holiday Special Bear Documentary on Rehabilitating Grizzlies: *Grizzly Bear Cubs and Me***

Renowned wildlife documentary filmmaker Gordon Buchanan has a new film on a Russian family’s amazing efforts to rehabilitate and release wild brown bears (*Ursus arctos* – the same

species as our grizzly bear) into the wild. For over two decades, Sergey and Katya Pazhetnov have adopted bear cubs orphaned by trophy hunters, releasing literally thousands successfully into the wild.

Check the *BBC* listings for showings this week.

Buchanan offers this wisdom, "To help protect not just grizzlies, but many other creatures in the natural world, we all need to look more closely at how we live our lives...We are all interconnected. Trees that are being felled in Russia, end up in warehouses in the UK, so we can't say this is a Russian problem." No rehabilitation program for grizzlies yet exists in the US.

Please Consider a Gift to *Grizzly Times* this Year

Grizzly Times needs your help! We've retired and are doing this full-time work pretty much gratis. If you were following the recent delisting court case, you know that David's role was vital to the litigation success that restored grizzly bear protections to Yellowstone's bears. Talented as they are, the attorneys could not have won the case without David's scientific expertise. And, there will be continued demands on David's time if this case is appealed to the 9th Circuit Court, and as the issue of delisting of NCDE grizzlies heats up.

During this holiday season, we hope you will consider a donation to our efforts. As we do not have a separate nonprofit, *Conservation Congress*, a tax-deductible organization, has agreed to be our fiscal sponsor. (Thank you, Denise!)

<https://www.conservationcongress-ca.org/give>

You can also sign up for a monthly donation through the *Conservation Congress* link – just be sure to note it is for *Grizzly Times*.

Or, you can mail a donation for our work to:
Conservation Congress
2234 Sierra Vista Circle
Billings, MT 59105

For the bears,

Louisa and David