



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Name: Louisa Willcox

Phone: 406-224-2250 (cell) 406-222-1485 (home)

Email address: info@grizzlytimes.org

Grizzly Times -- Transformed and Improved

Easy Access to Everything You Need to Know About Yellowstone Grizzly Bears and the Debate over Delisting

Livingston, Montana: Today world-renowned grizzly bear biologist David Mattson and his wife, long-time grizzly advocate Louisa Willcox launched a completely revised and easy-to-use web site on the state of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population (www.grizzlytimes.org). Grizzly Times includes abundant information on bear ecology, management, threats, public attitudes, stories old and new, and other material related to the question of whether or not endangered species protections should be removed at this juncture.

Nowhere else has such a comprehensive, up-to-date body of information and analysis on Yellowstone grizzly bears and threats – and effective responses to these threats -- been assembled in one, easy-to-navigate place. The site also includes over 20 podcasts from illuminati of the bear world, and weekly blogs which are published online by the journal Counter Punch.

The release of this new improved Grizzly Times comes on the heels of the announcement on June 28 by Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke that grizzly bears will be delisted and a trophy hunt allowed. This decision will be challenged in court by at least five lawsuits representing numerous conservation and tribal groups, and the dispute will likely grind on for years. The debate has become so convoluted and confused as to baffle even the most astute reporter and activist – and this trend will likely continue. That is why Grizzly Times has been massively revised and expanded: to provide interested parties with comprehensive and accurate information.

The debate over the health of Yellowstone grizzlies has been a hot topic since they were listed as threatened in 1975, along with the other 4 remaining populations in the lower 48 states. All five populations were listed because of unsustainable mortality driven by trophy hunting, other unchecked killing, and loss of key wildland habitat.

The State of Wyoming began advocating removal of ESA protection a mere 15 years after the population was listed, when the Yellowstone population numbered just 300 or so animals. Wyoming's main goal has been to wrest authority away from the federal government and reinstate a grizzly bear sport hunt, primarily for the benefit hunters and ranchers. In 2007, the US Fish and Wildlife Service conceded to states' demands and delisted the population, but the agency was forced to restore protections by a federal court which judged that the Service

had essentially ignored the climate-driven collapse of a major bear food—whitebark pine seeds—and failed to provide adequate post-delisting regulatory protections.

Since that time, the states and federal government have sought to paper over problems related to threats such as climate change, long-time isolation, and habitat fragmentation and loss. The debate has been further confused by the issuance of hundreds of pages of government gobbledy-gook invoking partisan science produced by agency researchers intent on showing that the population was recovered and ready for delisting. With delisting, the states of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana will institute a sport hunt and embark on plans to deliberately reduce the size of the population, perhaps by hundreds of animals.

[Grizzly Times](#) aims to cut through agency obfuscations and double-speak to provide the truth about the plight of Yellowstone's grizzly bear population, including the consequences of delisting. All of this plays out against a backdrop of skyrocketing, record-breaking, grizzly bear deaths driven by deteriorating habitat and bureaucratic indifference, even hostility. Major themes of the site include corrupt science, corrupt management, the causes and consequences of bear deaths, as well as positive stories of co-existence and tolerance. A main message of [Grizzly Times](#) is that grizzly bears can still be recovered, but not under auspices of regressive state management. State and federal governance needs to be reformed to ensure that grizzly bears will flourish for many years to come.

[Grizzly Times](#) enjoys the support and insights of an illustrious advisory committee, which includes author Doug Peacock; scientists Dr. Jesse Logan, Barrie Gilbert and Chuck Neal; story teller Laura Simms; poet Lyn Dalebout; musician Jack Locker; educator Brian Peck; attorney Deidre Bainbridge; and authors and activists Jeff Gailus and George Wuerthner. Our pages are filled with beautiful images provided by generous photographers, including Tom Mangelsen, Roger Hayden and Kent Nelson, as well as cartoonist Phil Juliano. Many thanks to Sara Mathuin for her work on layout and design.

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[How many bears are there in Greater Yellowstone and are numbers increasing?](#)

[Is the Federal government's science on grizzly bear numbers reliable and accurate?](#)

[What are the biggest causes of grizzly bear mortality?](#)

[Is grizzly bear mortality increasing?](#)

[Is the Yellowstone grizzly bear population scientifically recovered?](#)

[Is there still enough habitat to restore a connected population of 2,500 or more grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies?](#)

[How healthy is the Yellowstone Ecosystem for grizzly bears, and are conditions changing?](#)

[What does the public think of the delisting proposal?](#)

