



PO Box 2406
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: 406-224-2250
Email: info@grizzlytimes.org
Web: www.grizzlytimes.org

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 Grizzlies,

With the recent snows, bears are slowing down, and thinking about the big snooze. Denning cannot come soon enough in this deadly year. Since the last newsletter, no more dead bears have been reported, but there seems to be major lag times now in government postings of deaths now.

LATEST BLOG:

Saving Romania's Brown Bears - Sharing Lessons About Coexistence and Conservation

By Louisa Willcox

This week, we are excited to feature the brown bear in Romania (same species as the grizzly, *Ursus arctos*). With 7,000 bears (10 times what we have in Greater Yellowstone) in a landscape of similar size and with lots more people, Romanians have figured something out that we can learn from – and vice versa. A recent workshop sponsored by Humane Society International to foster a dialogue on grizzly bear coexistence with Romanian experts was truly inspiring, as was the chance to continue the conversation with 4 of them the following week when they stayed at our home. My blog on all of this can be found below, and at: <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/11/11/Saving-Romanias-Brown-Bears-Sharing-Lessons-About-Coxistence-Conservation>

And, you should not miss this Grizzly Times podcast with Gabriel (“Gaby”) Paun, Romanian activist, founder of Agent Green, and winner of Europe’s most prestigious environmental award (pictured below). What he has endured in the interest of protecting wild animals and forests makes me feel like a weenie. The interview is in two parts, Episodes 32 and 33, at: <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/the-grizzly-times-podcast>



Anyone interested in grizzly bear conservation and coexistence in Romania should consider supporting Agent Green, which does an amazing amount of brave and wonderful work with very few resources!

<https://en.agentgreen.ro/agent-green-nu-tace-dar-face/>

IN THE NEWS:

▪ Status of Grizzly Bear Delisting in the Northern Continental Divide

Reports continue to be confused about the Fish and Wildlife Service's timeline for delisting NCDE grizzly bears, as well as next steps on Greater Yellowstone grizzlies following Judge Christensen's order to restore Endangered Species protections. FWS has even suggested delisting all grizzlies in the lower-48 states, an approach the agency is pursuing for wolves.

FWS had promised to release a draft delisting rule for the NCDE population before the holidays (a classic move to minimize input from the public), but the timeline may be slipping.

▪ Entrepreneurial Bears Show That Connecting Populations is Feasible

A grizzly was recently captured in Washington State west of the Pend Oreille River, outside the recovery area for the tiny Selkirks grizzly bear population. This is the first grizzly to be reported in this area for decades, and comes on the heels of reports of grizzlies near the Big Belt Mountains halfway between Yellowstone and NCDE, and in the Bitterroot Valley. Bears are showing with their paws where their prospects are, but agency efforts on coexistence are not keeping up with the expansion.

https://missoulain.com/news/local/grizzlies-wandering-into-new-parts-of-washington-idaho/article_73541a5d-f775-5308-8582-5dd8dc1fea9a.html

In a related story, some agencies are both confused and resistant to the notion of letting bears move naturally into the vast Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem, which scientists have shown could support hundreds of grizzlies. Recovery in this ecosystem was stalled in 2000 in a political move after President GW Bush was elected, but reports of bears moving in from the NCDE continue to trickle in. The "golf course" bear that was recently captured and moved from the Bitterroot Valley back to where it came from in the NCDE, has put a spotlight again on this ecosystem, while highlighting agency resistance, especially from the Forest Service.

https://helenair.com/lifestyles/recreation/bitterroot-grizzlies-catch-forest-service-at-a-tough-time/article_903ab977-f5d1-52fa-a3cf-32bcd2302d9b.html

▪ Motorized Recreation Forcing Grizzly Bears Out of Habitat

A recent paper by University of Alberta's Mark Boyce in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* provides an important reminder of the adverse impacts to grizzly bears of roads and ATV use on trails. The past few decades have witnessed an explosion of use by ATVs and quads, which can disturb and displace bears. The study found that males and solitary female grizzly bears were more likely to avoid trails when there was motorized recreation, and tended to move faster when near these trails. And, females with cubs were displaced more to poorer habitat and places that other bears might avoid. Needless to say, government agencies on both sides of the border are ill-equipped, and often unwilling, to regulate motorized vehicle use to protect bears.

<https://www.rmoutlook.com/article/motorized-recreation-forcing-grizzly-bears-out-of-habitat-20181108>

▪ **The Drone Effect**

The lesson is simple: people should stop flying drones if they are disturbing wildlife. In this alarming video, watch a cub following mom – and slipping – as he scrambles to catch up after mom was disturbed by a drone. Bears have enough problems without this thoughtless behavior.

<https://www.care2.com/causes/this-viral-baby-bear-video-isnt-so-cute-after-all.html>

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 absolutely 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 as this case is appealed to the 9th Circuit, and as delisting of NCDE grizzlies heats up.

As you know from reading our newsletters, blogs, etc., grizzly bears need help more now than ever, as threats are mounting. We will be expanding our reach to focus more on the NCDE - and we need to do more to help the beleaguered bears in the Cabinet Yaak and Selkirks ecosystems.

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*. And, you can mail a donation for our work to CC at:
2234 Sierra Vista Circle
Billings, MT 59105

***For the bears,
Louisa and David***