



PO Box 2406  
Livingston, MT 59047  
Phone: 406-224-2250  
Email: [info@grizzlytimes.org](mailto:info@grizzlytimes.org)  
Web: [www.grizzlytimes.org](http://www.grizzlytimes.org)

## 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 Grizzly Bears,

So much is going on in the grizzly arena, many plates are spinning... But here are the basics, including good and bad news. Perhaps most important is that Wyoming, and Idaho as well, are moving forward with a grizzly bear hunt this fall...unless the attorneys stop them.

### **David's Latest Tour de Force: The Cult of Hunting and Its Timely Demise**

David's latest powerful piece has been making the rounds throughout North America. In this must-read essay, he examines the cult of hunting that undergirds today's state wildlife management, which he sees as "one of the most despotic and corrupt of modern-day institutions."

Although state agencies claim that plans to sport hunt grizzlies are based on science, to quote David, "'Science' does not, in fact, support trophy hunting grizzly bears, nor does it support sport hunting of essentially any large carnivore. Research worldwide, including in the Yellowstone Ecosystem of Wyoming, has shown that large carnivore populations are self-regulating. As these populations near carrying capacity, self-regulating dynamics kick-in with ever-increasing vigor. There is no science-based justification for hunting grizzly bears in Yellowstone or anywhere else."

Instead of science, the states rely on a long-standing myth that "extolls the masculine virtues of white male hunters, hearkening back to Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and Teddy Roosevelt. A recent mythic gloss has been provided by a codified doctrine and formula called The North American Model of Wildlife Management. Increasingly, those worshipping at the altar of sanctified violence directed at animals invoke this creed as justification, not only for their behavior, but also for their privileged status within the institution of wildlife management—for the perpetuation of despotism."

David concludes: "We need revolution, not reform, when it comes to wildlife management. We are no longer (for the most part) a nation bent on genocide, whether homo- or eco-centric. We need federal policies that empower everyone in this country—urban or rural; white, black, red,

or brown; female or male; who cherish animals simply because they exist, or to enjoy watching them, or yes, to hunt them—when it comes to living with the wild animals on this Earth. They are sentient beings, like us. They deserve rights. Their welfare deserves our attention.”

This Blog can be viewed below, following the Newsletter, or at:

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2018/04/19/The-Cult-of-Hunting-and-its-Timely-Demise>

### **Charlie Russell, Author, Naturalist and Best Friend of the Grizzly, Passes.**

With a heavy heart, I report here that Charlie Russell, author, filmmaker, and one of the grizzly bear's best friends, died on May 7. He was truly a pioneer and fierce advocate for a different kind of relationship with grizzly bears, one that allowed a more intimate connection with bears, which he saw as sentient beings deserving of respect and protection.

Charlie was also a dear friend, and a gentle spirit in the political storm that too often rages around grizzly bears. He taught me a great deal over the years, not just about bears, but about how to change, with calmness and civility, the debate that swirls around them. He did his best to replace traditional fear and hostility to bears with understanding and compassion.

In his demeanor, Charlie was not just like a mother bear, calm and nurturing, he literally WAS a mother bear, raising with then partner Maureen Enns, three orphaned grizzly cubs in the wilds of Kamchatka, Russia – cubs who went off later and successfully dened and survived on their own for a number of years – something that had never been done before. And then the Russian mafia murdered these now-grown bears, nailing one of their gall bladders to his cabin door as a signal that it was time for him to leave Russia, or else. When, back in Canada, he called me to share the terrible news, he could only speak in a whisper.

Yesterday, The New York Times wrote this:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/10/obituaries/charlie-russell-who-befriended-bears-dies-at-76.html>

I did an interview with Charlie a few years ago that, because of length and how fascinating his stories were, turned into 2 podcasts (Episodes 5 and 6). Amazing tales of adventure, daring and compassion - one of the best interviews in the series so far. These podcasts can be found at:

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

Charlie is featured in many films, and wrote a number of books, including *Spirit Bear: Encounters with the White Bear of the Western Raincoast*, and *Grizzly Seasons: Life with Brown Bears of Kamchatka*. But my favorite is *Grizzly Heart: Living without Fear Among the Brown Bears of Kamchatka*, which he wrote with Enns. It is a beautifully crafted, action-packed book about adventure and love of bears, of the quirky and delightful cubs he raised, of the some of the wildest country left on earth, and of the beautiful, brave Russian people who braved Kamchatka's outback. Of course, his biggest challenge was ducking and dealing with the government (such as it was after the collapse of the Soviet Union), and the Russian mafia, both characterized by brutal politics that were, at times, indistinguishable.

Charlie played an important role in stopping the grizzly bear trophy hunt in British Columbia, and you can hear his gentle but unwavering and uncompromising voice in "Trophy," a film produced by Lush Cosmetics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcYU98e095Q>

*Rest in Peace, Charlie: you have transformed the views of countless people, including myself, who will continue to carry on your work and your passion for the wild and the Great Bear.*



*Charlie with Chico and Biscuit, two of the three orphaned grizzlies he raised as cubs, who went on to survive in the wild - the first time this had been done with grizzlies.*

### **Tom Mangelsen Brings Grizzly Matron 399 Alive on CBS and 60 Minutes, and What It Takes to Deeply Observe the Wild.**

World-famous photographer and conservation advocate Tom Mangelsen hits the ball out of the park in two CBS interviews with Anderson Cooper, one aired on 60 Minutes. These interviews come at an especially critical time as Wyoming barges ahead with their ill-conceived, unnecessary and barbaric grizzly bear hunt, which will make bears like 399 and others who live in the Jackson area much more vulnerable to being killed (despite a pathetically small, postage stamp “no hunt” zone adjacent to Grand Teton Park).

I particularly liked Tom’s lessons about the need to “wait” for hours and hours, days and days, for magic to happen in nature – the key to becoming a good naturalist and photographer. You could see Cooper, whose life is clearly packed every second of the day, trying to upload what Tom says about the need for patience and the will to simply observe what occurs in nature. As the late great Tom Petty sang, “The waiting is the hardest part.” That is so true, and it is the gateway to wonder. Thank you, Tom for your eloquence and passion!

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/into-the-wild-with-thomas-mangelsen/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/show-tell-with-wildlife-photographer-thomas-mangelsen/>

### **Jackson Hole’s Grizzly Matron 399 is Up and About with Her Two Yearling Cubs.**

At age 22 (ancient for a reproductive bear in the wild), Jackson’s grizzly bear matron and rock star 399 emerged from her den two weeks ago, with her two yearling cubs in tow, much to the delight and relief of her extensive fan club. Grizzly 399 is the quintessential bear mom, who has decided to make her living in the company of people in and around Grand Teton Park. She finds this strategy a safer bet than exposing her cubs to potentially being killed by male bears in the backcountry.

But this means that 399 is putting her trust in people, who flock to Jackson from around the world to see her and her family. So far, people have kept up their part of the bargain, but all is changing with the removal of grizzly bear protections by the federal government in 2017. This fall we will almost certainly see the first grizzly bear trophy hunt in 40 years in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish has set aside a pitifully small area as a “no hunt” zone in Jackson, but this does not include all the habitat where 399 and her offspring live.

The unprecedented opposition to delisting expressed in over 800,000 comments and petitions submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the powerful opposition to the state-sponsored hunt, especially in the Jackson area, in the recent comment period on the trophy hunt made virtually no difference to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. As David points out in his blog, the agency pursues trophy hunting because killing animals, no matter how special or rare, lies at the heart of the state agency’s philosophy. In fact, in state game agencies in the Northern Rockies states, “wildlife management” means “killing and hunting,” not conservation.

The WGF Commission will almost certainly rubber stamp the Department’s proposal to hunt grizzlies at their meeting in Lander on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Good luck to the numerous lawyers who are fighting the hunt!

[http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/ursine-matriarch-returns/article\\_1e7c64e6-2179-5c0f-a511-d5aed78061d4.html](http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/ursine-matriarch-returns/article_1e7c64e6-2179-5c0f-a511-d5aed78061d4.html)

***Nature*: Yellowstone's grizzlies are under threat from controversial hunting proposal: Biologists argue that plan could endanger the bear population in the iconic ecosystem.**

The prestigious journal *Nature* reported on the letter sent on April 25<sup>th</sup> to Wyoming Governor Matt Mead by 73 scientists that provided strong arguments against sport hunting of Yellowstone grizzlies.

The scientists question whether the relatively small and isolated population can sustain the proposed hunt of as many as 24 grizzlies, on top of other human-caused sources of mortality which have been unsustainably high in recent years. The letter’s signators also request that an independent panel be established to evaluate the status and health of the population, especially in light of behavioral changes associated with climate change and disease which are affecting key grizzly bear foods.

As Dr. David Mattson, one of the letter’s authors, says: “This will threaten the survival of some bears and push them to hunt livestock or look for food near houses, increasing their run-ins with people.” This could lead to a rise in the number of animals killed as a result of these conflicts, which would further shrink the population.

Sadly, *Nature* appears to have sunk to the level of most of the rest of the press today: another formulaic “he said, she said” piece that provides little critical analysis of what is really at stake with the grizzly bear and the proposed hunt.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05061-9>

**Shoshone-Bannock Tribe Come Out Swinging Against Idaho’s Proposed Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt, Again.**

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, for whom Greater Yellowstone is their ancestral home, have come out swinging against the proposed grizzly bear trophy hunt. In the statement by the Tribe, Fort Hall Business Council Chairman Nathan Small states: “No grizzly bears will ever be hunted on Shoshone-Bannock lands, and my Tribe will oppose any attempts to hunt grizzlies in our recognized ancestral homelands.” The declaration, signed by the Fort Hall

Business Council, not only renounces the federal government's desire to delist the grizzly bear but also is unambiguous in rejecting Idaho Fish and Game's proposed trophy hunts.

The grizzly bear holds a unique position in the Tribes' traditional culture and ceremonial life-ways. "The Tribes consider the Grizzly Bear to be a brother/uncle to our people and there are ceremonies and songs for this animal. We hold the Grizzly Bear in high regard and harvesting of this animal will affect our Tribe and all other Tribes as well," says Lee Juan Tyler, Council member of the Fort Hall Business Council.

<https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/the-shoshone-bannock-tribes-reiterate-opposition-to-the-state-of-idahos-proposed-hunt-of-the-yellowstone-grizzly-bear/>

For the Bears,

*Louisa*