



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*.
www.GrizzlyTimes.org

Visit our Website

Listen to our Podcasts

Dear Friends of Grizzlies,

NEW PODCAST: *Estella Leopold, Part Two*

This week, we are excited to feature the second of four podcasts of my interview with Estella Leopold, daughter of conservation icon, scientist and philosopher Aldo Leopold, who's considered by many to be the father of wildlife ecology and the United States Wilderness system. Estella, who inherited his scientific and storytelling gene, is a force of nature herself.

Episode Two features the story of her father's romance with her mother, also named Estella, and their early years together in New Mexico. After the family moved to Wisconsin, Aldo Leopold bought "the Shack," a degraded farm along the Wisconsin River, and the place became the center of family life – and later, a mecca for conservationists around the world. Here, the family discovered how to restore the forests and prairie by doing it.

Estella's mother was also an incredible archer. Her story on her mother's prowess as "Lady Diana," as the newspapers called her, also gives a sense of her parents' relationship and family adventures – here involving craftsmanship, practice, competitions, and fun bowhunting adventures.

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/the-grizzly-times-podcast> (Episode 36)

NEW BLOG: *Of Leopold's Land Ethic and The Need for a New Approach to Managing Wildlife*

By Louisa Willcox

This week, in honor of Aldo Leopold, I do a deep dive into his Land Ethic and what has happened to implement it (or not) during recent decades. I do not here mince words about trophy hunting (which he too detested), the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the plight of large carnivores, and the need to reform current systems of wildlife management. Thanks as always to David for such keen editing skills!

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2019/04/16/Of-Leopold-Land-Ethic-and-The-Need-for-a-New-Approach-to-Managing-Wildlife>

Great Success for Grizzlies, with Friends of the Clearwater

On April 11th and 12th, David and I traveled to Moscow, Idaho, to give presentations sponsored by Friends of the Clearwater on prospects for grizzly recovery in the vast Selway-Bitterroot Ecosystem. The houses were packed and people very enthused! The event on the 12th, co-sponsored by The Wildlife Society Chapter of the University of Idaho, was well attended by an impressive diversity of students, as well as a number of professors, including two who were on David's PhD committee. Friends of the Clearwater filmed the April 11th public presentation which will be on YouTube soon. Thank you FOC!

IN THE NEWS:

On Coexistence

The challenges of coexisting with grizzlies have been in the news a lot recently. On April 4th, the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee agreed to review its conflict reduction measures, especially with application to big game hunters and livestock producers. This comes in response to pressure from conservation groups after a record-breaking number of grizzly bear deaths last year.

<https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/yellowstone-grizzly-panel-to-review-conflict-prevention-efforts>

Bear spray has been featured in a number of recent stories. Several conservation groups petitioned the states to require hunters to carry bear spray. Today only hunters involved in Grand Teton Park's fall elk hunt and outfitters in BLM's Dillon District are required to carry bear spray. Check out the string of hostile comments, predictably by thugs from Cody, in response to coverage of the petitions in the Cody Enterprise, underscoring what we are up against.

<http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local>

In more positive news, a 17 year-old recently deterred a charging grizzly in the Madison Valley with bear spray:

<http://en.brinkwire.com/us/montana-17-year-old-manages-to-fight-off-grizzly-bear-using-repellent-spray/>

And, Todd Wilkinson did a nice story about coexistence more generally in this piece in Buckrail. <https://buckrail.com/the-new-west-greater-yellowstoneans-know-how-to-co-exist-with-the-icons-of-wildness/>

Is Yellowstone's Grizzly Ecosystem "Full?"

At the recent Yellowstone Subcommittee meeting, grizzly bear researchers claimed that grizzlies now occupy all corners of the ecosystem. Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) leader Frank Van Manen said that the Demographic Monitoring Area is now "full." He conveniently overlooked the fact that this artificial zone was informed by politics, not science. Nor did he acknowledge that carrying capacity has almost certainly dropped during the last 20 years. Nor did he note that IGBST researchers were claiming more than 20 years ago that the Yellowstone ecosystem was "full" when we had roughly 350 bears, half of what we have now. Nor did he concede another important fact: that more bears could be accommodated within the ecosystem and between Greater Yellowstone and other ecosystems in the Northern Rockies if humans were less lethal.

https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/jackson_hole_daily/local

Center for Biological Diversity Sues Trump Administration Over Piecemeal Approach to Grizzly Bear Recovery

On April 10th, Center for Biological Diversity filed suit over the US Fish and Wildlife's failure to create a comprehensive recovery plan for grizzly bears that considers reintroducing them to places such as California's Sierra Nevada and the Selway-Bitterroot in Idaho. CBD notes that outside the Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide populations, very little progress has been made in recovering grizzlies.

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2019/grizzly-bear-04-10-2019.php

Study Finds that Climate Change Predicted to Harm Grizzly Bears in Canada's Rocky Mountains

A new study by University of Calgary researchers in Canada's Rocky Mountains finds subtle but problematic impacts on grizzlies as a result of climate change. The study concludes that climate change will lead to earlier flowering and fruiting of buffaloberry, a key food for grizzlies there. As a result, grizzlies are predicted to have more run-ins with people as they search for alternative foods in the critical summer season, and less body fat as they enter winter dens. University of Calgary professor Greg McDermid said: "This is how climate change is going to impose itself on ecosystems. It's not the big things that you would expect."

This is the 5th major study on the adverse impacts of climate change on grizzlies and brown bears worldwide. (Grizzlies and brown bears are the same species, *Ursus arctos*). The other four involve David's work in Greater Yellowstone of climate impacts on whitebark pine; a study in Sweden on the harmful effects for key berries; a study in Spain's Cantabrian Mountains predicting harmful impacts on imperiled brown bears; and a study from Asia that projects significant shrinkage of habitat from climate change.

- <https://www.thestar.com/calgary/2019/04/16/climate-change-could-be-the-cause-for-increased-grizzly-bear-presence-in-the-coming-years-study-finds.html>
- <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/full/10.1098/rspb.2016.1832>
- <https://bioone.org/journals/Wildlife-Biology/volume-22/issue-3/wlb.00194/Seasonal-and-annual-variation-in-the-diet-of-brown-bears/10.2981/wlb.00194.full>

What are Grizzlies and Wolves Worth?

Long a champion of the environment, Montana State Senator Mike Phillips (D- Bozeman) has proposed a resolution in the legislature to examine the costs and benefits of grizzlies and wolves, saying: "This allows for the Legislature to take stock of what we know, the good and the bad of wolves and grizzly bears... "Because these species are so controversial, we get tugged by the extremes."

It was no surprise that Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and conservation groups supported the measure, whereas livestock groups opposed it – as always supporting ignorance where it serves a political purpose. Matt Lumley, a ranch manager (AKA employee of a rich absentee land owner) in Paradise Valley, said he was "strongly opposed" to the study out of concern that it could lead to a "wildlife viewing area north of Yellowstone National Park." Huh?

<https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/montana-could-study-of-economic-costs-benefits-of-wolves-grizzlies>

Threats to the Yellowstone to Uintas Connection

In a fascinating article in Counter Punch, John Carter examines the corridor called "Yellowstone to Uintas Connection" and the major threats to wildlife and wildlands, including phosphate mining, dirt bikes, and cattle grazing.

Since the death in 1923 of [Old Ephraim](#) in the Uintas, grizzlies are long gone from Y2U Connection. Lynx and wolverine only rarely pass through. But there is still promise in the Webster, Salt River, and Wyoming Ranges.

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/04/05/surface-mining-in-the-yellowstone-to-uintas-connection-what-about-wildlife/>

Chelsea Clinton Speaks Out for Endangered Species, Grizzlies

Chelsea Clinton spoke about the importance of protecting endangered species recently in an interview on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*. Meyers asked Clinton: "Are you constantly taken aback by exactly how chaotic this [White House] seems?"

Clinton answered with this: "Yes, and by the new levels of cruelty that this administration seems to find. Whether it's with the children being separated from their families at the border, or it's with the Endangered Species Act, which had never really been controversial before."

Clinton, who has just finished a children's book on endangered species, specifically raised concerns about oil and gas drilling in the Arctic, allowing US hunters in to import African lion and elephant trophies, and proposed grizzly bear hunting in Yellowstone. Go Chelsea!

<https://www.bustle.com/p/chelsea-clinton-says-new-levels-of-cruelty-are-what-make-trumps-presidency-so-shocking-17021828>

Please Consider a Gift to *Grizzly Times*

We need your help! David and I have 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 protections to Yellowstone's grizzly bears. The skilled attorneys could not have won the case without David's scientific expertise. There will be continued demands on David's time with the appeal of this case to the 9th Circuit Court, potential delisting of NCDE or even all lower-48 grizzlies, and mounting threats to the Cabinet-Yaak population.

As we do not have a nonprofit, Conservation Congress, a not-for-profit tax-deductible organization, has agreed to be our fiscal sponsor. (Thank you, Denise!)

You can make a one-time contribution or sign up for a monthly donation through the Conservation Congress link below.

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

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

* Be sure to note that your contribution is for *Grizzly Times* (GT).

Thank you for your continued support - in any way - it is greatly appreciated!

***For the Bears,
Louisa and David***