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NEWSLETTER

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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November 29, 2020

UPCOMING WEBINAR:

Please join us for the University of New Mexico's "Species in Peril Project" Online Panel Discussion on State Wildlife Management!

Thursday, Dec. 3, 5:30-7:00 MST



Dear Friend of the Grizzly,

As we are interested in the fate of grizzlies, we have spoken at length about the problem of state wildlife management over the years. Indeed, the notorious anti-carnivore hostility of the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is at the heart of why we continue to vigorously oppose delisting. As you know, after the potential removal of Endangered Species Act protections, the states will not only begin trophy hunting grizzly bears, but they also aim to reduce the size of remaining populations, leaving them vulnerable to the effects of inbreeding and the loss of high quality foods by a warming climate – and they would inflict these harms over the objections of most U.S. citizens.

Of course, we are not alone. A growing number of conservationists and academics across the country, including those who are part of the Southwest Environmental Center, share our concerns. We also share a diagnosis of why the institution of state wildlife management is so problematic. These issues include dependencies on funding by hunters; an ethos of domination and exploitation rather than reverence; and a culture organized almost exclusively around white males who see hunting as an expression of their manhood. These white men also feel increasingly threatened by social and economic changes that are leaving them with ever less power and privilege. The image below makes this point perfectly.

Years ago, rancher and outfitter Wes Livingston explained how this sense of personal crisis gets taken out on carnivores, with terrible consequences. At a fraught hearing in Cody over the proposed delisting of wolves, he told me: “We can’t control beef prices or the weather or the flood of out-of-state rich people buying up land, but here we all have guns and we can kill us a wolf.”

This Thursday, Louisa is joining a panel discussion on State Wildlife Management. (Details follow below.) She is sharing this panel with Adrian Treves, an expert in large carnivores and the human dimensions of wildlife, and Fred Koontz, who brings his background based in wildlife conservation and research to his current coexistence work in Washington state. Moderator Kevin Bixby of the Southwest Environmental Center has been leading a conversation among environmentalists for many years about how to reform state wildlife management.

We hope this discussion generates new ideas about how we can improve management of wildlife by states in the West to reflect the broader public interest, and better include women, minorities and nonhunters who share a stake in the future of our precious – and increasingly beleaguered – wildlife.

This panel is the last of the University of New Mexico's extraordinary fall series on Species in Peril.

<http://speciesinperil.unm.edu/wp/unm-biodiversity-webinar-series-fall-2020-program/>

You can watch videos of the previous panels here or see below:

<https://speciesinperil.unm.edu/wp/unm-biodiversity-webinar-series-fall-2020-webinar-videos/>

*For our non-human family,
Louisa and David*

EVENT DETAILS

When: Thursday, Dec. 3, 5:30-7:00 MST

Where: The panel discussion on Zoom is free and open to the public, but registration is required:

https://unm.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R_AfWxHBSIGrDe2m_iFjFA

Who: Panelists (Bios follow below.)

Moderator: Kevin Bixby

Fred Koontz

Adrian Treves

Louisa Willcox

Background: This is the last of a fall webinar series that includes speakers from the U.S., Canada and Mexico, and builds on the efforts of UNM professor Subhankar Banerjee, founding Director of the Species in Peril project at UNM, and Senator Tom Udall, a longtime voice for bold action to address climate change in order to confront threats to biodiversity across the globe.

The webinar explores how academia can help policy-makers advance agendas that are informed by science and cultural knowledge and practices – fully recognizing that these sources of knowledge are critical to the long-term health of the planet.

**Sneak Preview of Louisa's Remarks on
*Sex, Death and State Wildlife Management***



Image thanks to David Mattson

PANELIST BIOS

Panel Moderator: Kevin Bixby

Kevin is the founder and executive director of the Southwest Environmental Center where he has advocated for wildlife and wild places for nearly 30 years, including campaigns to reintroduce Mexican wolves, restore the Rio Grande, protect desert grasslands and end wildlife killing contests. Born in San Diego and raised mostly in northern California, he earned a B.A. from Dartmouth College in Biology and a M.S. in Natural Resources Policy from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources. He was the lead organizer of the first national conference on the topic of Reenvisioning State Wildlife Governance, held in Albuquerque in 2018. He has lived in New Mexico since 1988.

Fred W. Koontz

Dr. Koontz retired in 2017 after a 35-year wildlife conservation career working in zoo, field and university settings at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trust (now “EcoHealth Alliance”), Columbia University and Woodland Park Zoo. As a Bronx Zoo mammal curator and research director, Fred served on many Association of Zoos & Aquariums endangered species and science programs. His field work at Wildlife Trust and Woodland Park Zoo included consulting on endangered species projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Dr. Koontz co-directed a successful howler monkey reintroduction into the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize in 1991-1997. Dr. Koontz was an adjunct professor and founding member of the Executive Management Committee of Columbia University’s Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. In recent years, Fred has served on several advisory committees for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has sparked his passion for transforming state wildlife agencies.

Adrian Treves

Adrian Treves is a Professor and Founder of the Carnivore Coexistence Lab 2007 at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his B.A. in 1990 in Biology and Anthropology from Rice University and his Ph.D. in 1997 in

Behavioral Ecology and Biological Anthropology from Harvard University. After six years working for international wildlife conservation organizations, he returned to applied research. He conducts independent research and advocates for future generations of all life, scientific integrity, and sovereign publics worldwide. He studies and speaks about the public trust doctrine and intergenerational equity around the world. For the past 27 years, his research has focused on ecology, law, and human dimensions of ecosystems in which crop and livestock ownership overlaps the habitat of large carnivores from coyotes to grizzly bears. He has authored more than 130 scientific papers on predator-prey ecology or conservation.

Louisa Willcox

Working for Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity and Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Louisa has advocated for preservation of wilderness and wild animals of the Northern Rockies for over 40 years. Louisa specializes in developing comprehensive strategies that succeed because they work on multiple scales using various approaches, including grassroots organizing and outreach, education, media and communication, policy analysis, lobbying, coalition development, and public protest. She is especially passionate about grizzlies, wolves and other large carnivores. In 2015, Louisa and her husband Dr. David Mattson founded the website Grizzly Times (www.grizzlytimes.org) and a podcast (www.grizzlytimespodcast.org) to provide a voice for grizzly bears and the wild. Louisa has a B.A. from Williams College and a Masters of Forest Policy and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

PAST UNM "SPECIES IN PERIL PROJECT" PANEL DISCUSSIONS

[Building a National Biodiversity Action Plan: Science, Policy, and the Grassroots](#)

Monday, September 14 with Congresswoman Deb Haaland, Enric Sala, Subhankar Banerjee

[Flora, Fishes, and Fireflies: Assessing Species in Peril in New Mexico and Abroad](#)

Thursday, October 8 with Kira Mileham, Sara Lewis, Topiltzin Contreras-MacBeath, Clayton Meredith

[Indigenous Kinship and Multispecies Justice](#)

Thursday, November 19 with Robin Wall Kimmerer, President Fawn Sharp, Elspeth Iralu

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