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NEWSLETTER

Featuring updates on grizzly bear conservation activities,
and the latest *Grizzly Times* Blog and Podcast
from [Louisa Willcox and David Mattson, PhD.](#)
Co-Founders of *Grizzly Times*.

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June 27, 2022

Dear Friend of the Grizzly,

Summer is exploding – and two weeks ago the Yellowstone River did too!

We live in Paradise Valley, Montana, just a few miles from the river, but thankfully the little creek that runs through our place stayed in its banks. We were not flooded as many others were by this unprecedented rain on snow event – which is another clear example of extreme weather events resulting from climate warming.

The cleanup in Livingston, Red Lodge and Silver Gate, will be massive. But at least grizzlies and other wildlife in the northern end of Yellowstone Park will get a reprieve from throngs of tourists this summer as the roads there have been devastated.

Grizzly Times Hero Award – and First Recipient, Gary Macfarlane

On a more celebratory note...

In this newsletter, we announce the **Grizzly Times Hero Awards**, aimed at celebrating outstanding but often unsung heroes who are making the world a better place for grizzlies and other wildlife on behalf of generations to come. Saving grizzly bears and their wild country involves challenging work that relies on people who have extraordinary passion, courage, and selflessness. Many of the most effective champions of the Great Bear work behind the scenes without promoting themselves, so they often do not receive the recognition they deserve.

At a time when threats are mounting and bad news can often prevail, it is easy to overlook the important difference that unsung heroes can and do make. In giving these awards, we aim to spotlight those people who are living the example we want to see in the world. And in essays accompanying the granting of this award, we will explain why these heroes matter, to both honor those who have been gifted and hopefully inspire others to act.

We give special thanks to the world-renowned wildlife photographer, Tom Mangelsen, who has allowed us to use an iconic image of Grizzly 399, perhaps the most famous grizzly in the world, in creating this award. This iconic bear symbolizes what we are fighting for: a magnificent animal that is not only intelligent, resourceful, nurturing, and quintessentially wild – but also deserving of our compassion, reverence, and respect.

Grizzly Times Hero: Gary Macfarlane



Gary Macfarlane is one of the great advocates for wild places in the Northern Rockies. For roughly 40 years, he has been a champion of wildlife and wilderness, with a special passion for the Clearwater and Selway-Bitterroot ecosystems – some of the largest wildlands in the lower 48 states.

We are giving Gary the Grizzly Times Hero Award in recognition of his perseverance, courage, humility, and inclusive approaches to protecting wild country, as well as for his advocacy for grizzly bears in this often overlooked but important ecosystem. From litigation to grassroots organizing to collecting data on the effectiveness of bear sanitation efforts, Gary has demonstrated creativity and commitment to keeping wild country wild, and making the landscape a safer place for grizzly bears to flourish.

These qualities are rare – and deserve special recognition. We at Grizzly Times have worked with Gary extensively for many years and have seen firsthand his quiet ferocity and dedication. As grizzly bears find their way back to this ecosystem after decades of absence, they rediscover a land that is more secure because of Gary’s many contributions.

Thank you, Gary, for heroic work that is a model of effective and fearless advocacy for wilderness and the Great Bear.



Gary on top of Pot Mountain, Idaho

About Gary

For nearly 30 years, Gary was Director of the Moscow, Idaho-based environmental group, Friends of the Clearwater. Although he recently “retired,” he continues to serve as an advisor for the organization. He is also on the boards of Wilderness Watch and Alliance for the Wild Rockies.

Gary grew up in the foothills of Utah’s Wasatch Mountains and fell in love with wild country and backpacking as a boy. He plunged into advocacy work as a young man, working for the Utah Wilderness Association to protect Utah’s wildlands.

Lush inland rainforests and big rivers of North Idaho, Montana and Washington then beckoned him. In 1994, Gary joined the board and then staff of the Friends of the Clearwater (FOC), where he raised the profile of Clearwater Country and its unique flora and fauna, including old growth Western Red Cedar and Pacific Dogwood, world-class salmon and steelhead fisheries, and indigenous species such as the Coeur d'Alene Salamander.

But these big forests face massive threats in a region dominated by powerful logging industries that long ago captured the Forest Service – a land management agency that was created to protect the broader public trust but tragically, soon after, ended up doing little more than serve a few well-heeled special interests. The outcome has been a tidal wave of destructive clearcutting, with plans for more to come.

Gary – fearless, determined, and civic minded – led FOC's undaunted efforts to speak truth to power both for the forests and for citizens across the country who care about them. He – and FOC – have enjoyed enormous success protecting forests and rivers in the Clearwater country and elsewhere due to grassroots organizing, effective political strategies, skilled legal work, diligence, and guts. As the political climate has become more polarized and more tilted in favor of big industry, Gary and FOC have adapted with creativity, innovation – and more perseverance. Meanwhile, he has mentored and inspired many young advocates who are carrying the torch and defending wild nature in various ways.

Gary pioneered collaboration with members of the Nez Perce Tribe, a people who have lived in this landscape since time immemorial, with treaty rights to the region's abundant fish, wildlife, and forests. Their partnership has significantly benefited recovery of salmon, and protection of forests and their wild inhabitants, and also served as a model for environmentalists in other regions.

During Gary's tenure at FOC there have been major successes restoring large carnivores. Wolves were reintroduced to central Idaho – a huge ecological success. And Gary and FOC have long advocated for restoring grizzlies to the Selway-Bitterroot, which would advance recovery of all grizzly bears in the Northern Rockies by helping to reconnect long-isolated populations. They have recently been leading efforts to make this landscape a safer place for the grizzlies that are finally finding their way back to the ecosystem.

In a 2020 Grizzly Times podcast, Gary offered this advice: "Tell the truth. Be firm... We've already lost a lot of wild country and wildlife, and species like the grizzly have already lost a lot of country that will never return. We have to insist that what remains wild must stay that way. We need to be staunch defenders, because we've only got one planet, and our public land system is in serious trouble now."

Thank you, Gary, for your staunch defense of the Great Bear and wild country – and for inspiring a new generation of brave advocates.

For more about Gary, listen to this Grizzly Times interview:
<https://www.grizzlytimespodcast.org/post/gary-macfarlane>

Please Consider a Gift to Grizzly Times...

We need your help! We have retired and are doing this full-time work pretty much gratis – despite the gradual dissolution of our physical bodies.

If you were following the most recent delisting court case, you know that David's role was vital to the litigation success that restored Endangered Species Act protections to Greater Yellowstone's grizzly bears. The skilled attorneys could not have won the case without David's scientific expertise. He also helped with the successful appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court, which has implications for delisting of Northern Continental Divide grizzlies, and perhaps all grizzlies in the lower 48 states.

As we do not have our own nonprofit, a not-for-profit tax-deductible organization, Conservation Congress, 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 this link:

[DONATE HERE](#)

Or, you can mail a donation to:
Conservation Congress
c/o Denise Boggs
1604 1st Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana 59401

* 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