



Taking action on behalf of grizzly bears & their habitat

For Immediate Release

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Experts Speak Prior to August 30th Court Hearing on Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Delisting

On August 28th, *Grizzly Times* will host a 2:00-2:45 p.m. press conference at the Doubletree Edgewater Hotel, 100 Madison St. in Missoula, Montana.

Featured speakers include noted bear scientist Dr. David Mattson, Salish elder Johnny Arlee, author Rick Bass, athlete/hunter Doug Lefler, and grizzly bear advocate Louisa Willcox.

This event will provide important context for the August 30th Federal Court hearing in Missoula, that could reverse the federal government's 2017 decision to strip Endangered Species Act protections for Yellowstone region's grizzlies. Reinstatement of protections would prevent a trophy hunt in Wyoming that is planned to begin on September 1st.

At 5:30 p.m. on August 28th, The Roxy Theater, *Grizzly Times*, and the International Wildlife Film Festival, as part of its "IWWF Presents" series, will feature a talk by Dr. David Mattson, ***The Epic Shared Journey of Bison and Grizzly Bears***.

Johnny Arlee, Cultural and Spiritual Advisor for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, will introduce the program. Dr. Mattson's talk will be followed by the film ***Peacock's War***, which will be introduced by author and conservationist Rick Bass.

Dr Mattson offers this: "Yellowstone's grizzly bears are sitting on top of a powder keg. The natural ecosystem that once sustained them is unraveling at the same time that Wyoming and Idaho have unleashed an unsustainable trophy hunt."

Johnny Arlee says this: "Grizzlies are important, sacred. These animals – small, big – they all have a gift. This idea of trophy hunting grizzly bears is really dumb. It's the complete opposite of our culture. If it was turned around the other way, and trophy hunters were hunted, there would be a different thought." Arlee adds: "There has got to be a change in our hearts."

Rick Bass notes: "It is agonizing to see how grizzly bears—the great ecological driver of so many of the Northern Rockies' ecosystems—are being moved here-and-there like poker chips on a table, while we continue to stare at numbers, instead of science. When a grizzly bear is

not free or able to roam, it cannot be said to be recovered. Indeed, some would refer to such a condition as captivity.”

Doug Lefler, an athlete and hunter says: “The current fight to save or kill the bear is a reflection of the internal state of all of mankind. If we can evolve and learn rationally with increased compassion for all beings, both the grizzly and man may have a chance to survive together. Fundamentally we are one – what we do to the animals we do to ourselves.”

Louisa Willcox observes: “The American people, who flock to Yellowstone and Glacier each summer to see a wild grizzly, overwhelmingly support recovery of grizzly bears and oppose trophy hunting. The good news is that it is not too late to truly recover grizzlies in the lower-48 states. But premature delisting and sport hunting takes us further from recovery. Threatened grizzlies deserve better.”

For more information about the **Roxy Event**, see: www.theroxytheater.org
For advance tickets at \$5.00 each, go to: [Ticket Link](#)

About *Grizzly Times*:

We provide scientific evidence-based information about the Great Bear – its natural history and the policy debates surrounding it – for journalists, advocates, scientists and bear fans. The husband-wife team of David Mattson and Louisa Willcox shares over 60 years of experience studying, and striving to protect, grizzlies.

Find us at www.grizzlytimes.org and follow us on Facebook.

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