



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 and David Mattson, PhD.](#)  
Co-Founders of *Grizzly Times*.  
[www.GrizzlyTimes.org](http://www.GrizzlyTimes.org)

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*Dear Friends of the Grizzly,*

As the days lengthen, light has been on my mind, whether from the sun or stars, hence this Blog, which follows below, on bears in the night sky, and our connection with Ursa Major and Ursa Minor that goes back many thousands of years.

### **NEW BLOG:**

***Sky Bears, Earth Bears: Finding and Losing True North***  
By Louisa Willcox

I found the stories of the sky bears to be fascinating and provocative. Special thanks go to David for his keen editorial skills. I hope you enjoy!

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2019/01/17/Sky-Bears-Earth-Bears-Finding-and-Losing-True-North>

### **“Heart of the Grizzly Bear Nation”**

**Talk by Dr. David Mattson**

David’s wonderful talk, “Heart of the Grizzly Bear Nation” is now on the *Grizzly Times* YouTube channel!

In this powerful presentation, David offers a critique of how government officials have managed and researched grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), and articulates an alternative vision of robust recovery for this bear population.

Government officials claim that the population is both growing and spreading out geographically. But David explains that claims of population growth are exaggerated, and that increases in distribution are more plausibly driven by loss of key natural foods in the core of the ecosystem, combined with increases in anthropogenic foods on the periphery.

David concludes that we still have a chance to recover the Great Bear, if we let grizzlies live in more places and connect populations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pflBnZtjTw>

## **IN THE NEWS:**

### • **Wyoming Agitates to Delist Yellowstone Grizzly Bears, Again**

A [joint resolution](#) calling for the “swift delisting” of Yellowstone grizzly bears is working its way through the 2019 Wyoming legislative session, remaining alive through two readings in the House thus far. The text relies on a litany of bear-human conflicts, including the recent tragic fatality of Mark Uptain, as well as, bear management costs which are considered excessive.

While the bill, if passed, would have no authority over the federal government, it would send yet another political signal that Wyoming aims to undo Judge Christensen's rule that “forced the state of Wyoming to cancel the carefully planned and much anticipated grizzly bear hunt that would have positively contributed to the state's management of the GYE grizzly bear population.” Turning the debate around in Wyoming will be a challenge.

<https://county17.com/2019/01/16/state-legislators-call-for-delisting-of-grizzly-bears/>

### • **Worldwide Rally Against Trophy Hunting in Jackson**

One big step in that direction was a January 12<sup>th</sup> rally in Jackson by opponents to trophy hunting. The event was organized by Wyoming Wildlife Advocates. Wildlife biologist and retired filmmaker Franz Camenzind offered this, “I agree with the philosophy and mission completely. Killing for fun, it's just not right. I think it's time we move on. It's an evolutionary step, and evolution's not fun, but it goes on.” Right on.

[https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/article\\_c1580a51-f092-5207-802b-78b990541472.html](https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/environmental/article_c1580a51-f092-5207-802b-78b990541472.html)

### • **Steve Primm article in *Mountain Journal* on Grizzly Bear Recovery**

Large carnivore coexistence expert Steve Primm wrote this insightful piece reflecting on the long arc of litigation over grizzly bear delisting, and the possibility of recovery through a strengthened commitment to coexistence, which could allow for expansion of grizzly bear populations, and re-connect those that are currently isolated from each other. The piece tracks what David also offers in his NCDE talk.

<https://mountainjournal.org/searching-for-the-meaning-of-grizzly-bear-recovery>

### • **Cool New Science on Bears, Salmon from BC**

Coastal black bears thrive on a variety of salmon species, not just an abundance of one, say Raincoast Conservation Foundation researchers, who note their findings should prompt federal authorities to think more broadly about fish conservation.

Their recent study found it is healthier for bears to eat a number of salmon species – coho, chum, Chinook, pink, sockeye and steelhead – because their migration runs are spread out over the year. Another reminder that protecting a diversity of species matters. More great work by the wonderful folks at Raincoast!

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-salmon-diversity-crucial-to-thriving-coastal-bear-populations-bc/>

### • **Flathead Forest Plan Goes Live During Shutdown**

In a strange turn of events, the Flathead National Forest officials released its final Forest Plan revision on December 27<sup>th</sup>, triggering implementation of the plan within 30 days. But the Forest Service has refused to release the Record of Decision, or ROD, that outlines changes

made in response to comments on the draft plan. Keith Hammer of the Swan View Coalition says: “that puts us into a really weird spot.” No kidding.

#### • **Terror Entrepreneurs**

We recently began regular updates on what David calls “Terror Entrepreneurs,” named after those who incited the burning of so-called witches during the Early Modern European Witch Craze as a way of consolidating their power. The term seems apt to describe what regressives are doing on the grizzly bear front.

##### • **Details of Grizzly Bear Poaching Incident, Park County, WY**

More details are emerging about a poaching incident last year, and a Park County Circuit Court judge’s decision to fine Brent Stalkup more than \$25,000, and suspend his hunting privileges for a year. Wyoming Game and Fish Warden Scott Werbelow said this, “after the investigation, [we] just did the math on everything and said, ‘You know what? He didn’t need to shoot this bear.’ The bear never charged him, never bluffed him, never came towards him.”

Further, Stalkup was standing “right next to his pickup,” and could have driven off and called for help, rather than shoot a video on his phone. “It wasn’t like he was out in the wilderness by himself and had a bear encounter,” Werbelow said. Fortunately Stalkup was caught, but judging from the pile-up of grizzlies under investigation for possible poaching last year, he is not alone. <http://www.powelltribune.com/stories/casper-man-pays-25k-for-accidentally-killing-grizzly-bear,17152>

##### • **Cody Enterprise Stirs Hostility Towards Grizzly Bears**

Cody Enterprise staff writer Lew Friedman stands out as perhaps the most aggressive anti-bear reporter in the region. A recent arrival from back East, Friedman, here, fits the description of a Terror Entrepreneur, bashing conservationists and pouring out sympathy for grizzly bear hunters:

[http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/opinion/article\\_e2d2ac12-183d-11e9-b4bb-7b5d355f6fd7.html](http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/opinion/article_e2d2ac12-183d-11e9-b4bb-7b5d355f6fd7.html)

##### • **Are Wolves Being Baited Near Cooke City, MT?**

Wildlife filmmaker David Rohm recently posted an article suggesting that wolves may be getting baited near Cooke City, where wolf 926F, known as Spitfire, was killed by a hunter last fall.

The issue has raised the hackles of locals and Montana officials, who defend the state’s wolf hunt. Of course, if true, wolves, bears and other wildlife could be harmed by this immoral and illegal activity.

Wolf expert and Montana legislator Mike Phillips of Bozeman is drafting a bill creating a no-hunt buffer zone around Yellowstone Park. Thank you, Mike!

[https://mtstandard.com/outdoors/after-beloved-wolf-s-shooting-near-cooke-city-baiting-rumors/article\\_49e615e8-d390-57fc-93ac-497fd0a9f56b.html](https://mtstandard.com/outdoors/after-beloved-wolf-s-shooting-near-cooke-city-baiting-rumors/article_49e615e8-d390-57fc-93ac-497fd0a9f56b.html)

#### **Please Consider a Gift to *Grizzly Times***

As we enter, with hope, the new year, we ask you to consider a donation to our efforts.

We need your help! David and I have retired and are doing this full-time work pretty much gratis.

If you were following the delisting court case last summer, you know that David's role was vital to the litigation success that restored protections to Yellowstone region'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 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, the potential delisting of the NCDE - or even all Lower 48 - grizzlies, and the 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***