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## Newsletter

Featuring updates on grizzly bear conservation activities,  
and the latest *Grizzly Times* Blog  
from *Louisa Willcox*  
Executive Director of *Grizzly Times*.  
[www.GrizzlyTimes.org](http://www.GrizzlyTimes.org)

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Dear Friends of Grizzly Bears,

Please join us for renowned bear biologist Dr. David Mattson's talk:  
**"The Shared Epic Journey of Grizzlies and Bison"**  
August 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Roxy Theater in Missoula, Montana

The event is co-sponsored by *Grizzly Times*, *the Roxy Theater*, *Bonfire Communications*,  
and the *International Wildlife Film Festival*, as part of its monthly program "*IWFF  
Presents.*"

You can purchase advance tickets for \$5.00 each here:

<http://www.theroxytheater.org/films/the-epic-shared-journey-of-bison-and-grizzly-bears/>

Dr. Mattson's presentation focuses on the intimate journey of bison and grizzly bears through a 10,000 mile long circumpolar arc, during an epoch when continental glaciers waxed and waned, and hundreds of other species went extinct. For millenia, bison, a critical food source, dictated the fate of grizzly bears (as well as humans) in the Great Plains and adjoining mountain valleys of North America—up until the arrival of Europeans.

Then, this robust and widespread relationship of bears and bison was reduced, in little over a century, to a small remnant—less than 1% of what once was—centered on Yellowstone National Park. The tragic loss of historic grizzly bear range is at the heart of some groups' arguments, to be aired during an August 30<sup>th</sup> hearing in Missoula's Federal District Court, that will determine the fate of grizzlies in the Northern Rockies, including whether a sport hunt will be initiated by state of Wyoming two days later.

Now retired from the US Geological Survey, Dr. Mattson has conducted extensive research on grizzlies and mountain lions, and natural resources policy. He has also held teaching positions at Yale, MIT and Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Mattson will be joined by his wife, Louisa Willcox, who is a co-founder of *Grizzly Times*, and has worked as a conservationist in the Northern Rockies for over 30 years, with a focus on grizzly bears.

(If you miss the talk, we are filming it to be available for future viewing.)

### ***Grizzly Times* Needs Your Help Now! An Appeal from Louisa**

David and I are working more than full time to protect Yellowstone's grizzly bears and their ecosystem at this critical juncture—with a trophy grizzly bear hunt looming, as well as, a legal battle of epic proportions.

We provide bulletproof science, information, history and perspectives on policy, that you won't find anywhere else—the fruits of over 60 years of collective experience.

We are a tiny, almost entirely volunteer outfit, which is unique among the otherwise large nongovernmental organizations involved in the fight for grizzly bears. We freely share what we know with other like-minded folks and organizations, hoping to make a positive difference in the debate, and aid current challenges to delisting and trophy hunting.

The *Grizzly Times* web site ([www.grizzlytimes.org](http://www.grizzlytimes.org)) has far more information about Yellowstone's grizzlies than you will find anywhere else. And, along with David's other site ([www.mostlynaturalgrizzlies.org](http://www.mostlynaturalgrizzlies.org), currently under construction), we are the preeminent source of information on all the grizzly bear populations in the US Northern Rockies.

Since 2013, we have been devoting much of our time to helping environmental lawyers and organizations who, in 2017, brought six different lawsuits challenging the US Fish & Wildlife Service's decision to remove endangered species protections for the Yellowstone region's grizzly bear population. Among David's other contributions, he submitted more than 130 pages of comments on grizzlies and their dwindling habitat and food sources to counter the FWS's 2016 draft rule to remove Endangered Species Act protections; and, he is hard at work on a 30-plus page declaration for submission to Federal District Court in Missoula. Not by chance, lawyers from *Earthjustice* and *Western Environmental Law Center* are leading with David's arguments.

The legal battle over delisting will come to a head on August 30<sup>th</sup> in front of Judge Dana Christensen. For those interested, I plan to do real-time interviews with activists and lawyers at the upcoming Missoula hearing. I will also be coordinating journalist interviews with David, myself and other friends of the bear family in front of the Russell Federal Courthouse to get our important message out.

I am working to maintain an up-to-date and powerful presence on Facebook, too. Much of our outreach efforts are in close collaboration with *Bonfire Communications*, one of the premiere social media outfits in the region, which has enhanced and diversified our social media presence.

And, in addition to our Yellowstone-related efforts, we are both helping conservationists fight threats to grizzly bears and their habitat in the Northern Continental Divide and Cabinet Yaak ecosystems.

We have been so consumed with the work that we have not yet asked for the donations that we so desperately need at this juncture. None of the legal outfits or environmental groups is paying us for our time, which has largely been volunteered. We have received some very-much-appreciated support from a few foundations and individuals, but the majority of our time and effort remains unfunded.

**Please consider a donation** to our work now, at <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/donate>

We do not have our own nonprofit, but our fiscal sponsor, *Conservation Congress*, a tax deductible 501(c)3 organization, is handling donations for a modest fee.

(Make it clear that your gift is for *Grizzly Times*).

If you are more comfortable mailing a check, send it to the following address (noting that the donation is for *Grizzly Times*):

Conservation Congress  
2234 Sierra Vista Circle  
Billings, MT 59105

**Thank you for your consideration and generosity!**

**For the bears,  
*Louisa***