



PO Box 2406
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: 406-224-2250
Email: info@GrizzlyTimes.org
Web: 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

Visit our Website

Listen to our Podcasts

Dear Friends of the Grizzly,

A lovely and lush summer attracts families like flocking birds to the Northern Rockies to soak in the Parks, wild country, and abundant wildlife. Fortunately, fires are not raging in the forests yet, but debates about the future of the Great Bear are.

NEW BLOG

Felicia's Fate: The Trials of a Grizzly Bear Mom

By David Mattson

David's latest blog plumbs the depths of the trials and tribulations of a grizzly bear mom, Felicia (Grizzly Number 863), and her family attempting to eke out a living along Togwotee Pass east of Jackson, WY. In contrast to celebrity matron Grizzly 399, who has long successfully navigated the roadsides in the more benevolent Grand Teton Park, Felicia is struggling as a first-time mom who has been trapped and handled several times. After her first encounter with managers, she was relocated to an area thick with other grizzlies that hemmed her in along a highway swarming with summer traffic.

David says this: "Felicia is a tragic figure who could have easily been a character in classic Greek literature or a Victorian novel. She is a bear's version of the young woman who got in trouble with the law and ended up a single mom in a rough neighborhood trying to scrape together a living while fending off predatory males."

In discussing the many challenges facing this bear mom and cub, David underscores the need for a long-term strategy for grizzlies living near this and other highways in Greater Yellowstone where human activity is increasing. Such a strategy potentially includes assembling, training, and deploying Bear Rangers; building a comprehensive infrastructure of highway crossings and diversions; and finally, reforming state wildlife management to better represent those who seek to treat our wildlife more compassionately.

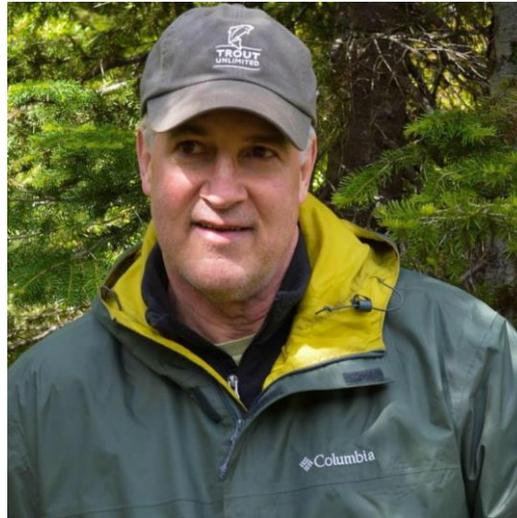
(This Blog follows below.)

<https://www.grizzlytimes.org/single-post/2019/06/26/Felicia%E2%80%99s-Fate-The-Trials-of-a-Grizzly-Bear-Mom>

NEW PODCAST

Don't Miss This Fascinating Interview with Hunter, Writer and Friend of the Wild, David Stalling!

In one of *Grizzly Times'* best interviews, David Stalling shares some of his wild adventures, including bushwhacking his way from Missoula to Alberta, and digging through feet of snow to a bear den that may or may not have been vacated. David is a hunter, angler, writer, activist and former Force Recon Marine who considers himself a "Leopoldian" in honor of the great conservationist, writer and philosopher Aldo Leopold, who shared his love of large carnivores such as wolves and grizzlies.



David shares his experience as "an anti-hunter who hunts" -- a serious bow hunter who has rejected the high-tech gear he used as a Marine to fight an all-out war, but adopted by many hunters to take on helpless prey.

Check out David's amazing blogs at "From the Wild Side: Wild Thoughts from an Untamed Heart," <http://thoughtsfromthewildside.blogspot.com/>

Episode #39 Podcast here: <https://www.grizzlytimes.org/the-grizzly-times-podcast>

Or: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyLiyTjK-Dc>

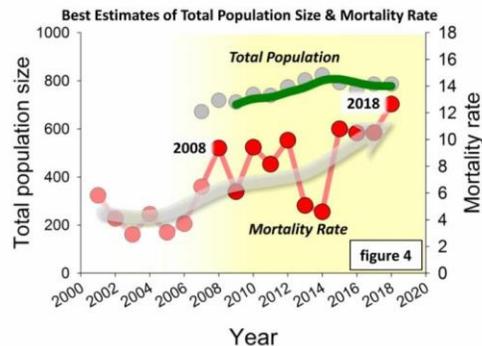
IN THE NEWS:

Grizzly Managers' Meeting: Mum on Delisting, Dismissive of Mounting Grizzly Bear Conflicts

The recent meeting of high-level grizzly bear managers was notable for key issues that were not discussed, dismissed out of hand or misrepresented. It should be noted that this group's Chairman, Matt Hogan of Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), had been chief lobbyist for Safari Club International (SCI). There was scant mention of delisting as state and federal agencies -- as well as SCI -- seek to overturn the 2018 court decision that restored endangered species protections for Yellowstone grizzlies.

Despite pressure from conservationists to galvanize more effort to reduce conflicts, the government showed little interest, opting to kick the can down the road to the fall meeting. Agencies are relying on the narrative that grizzly bear populations continue to increase and so bears are increasingly disposable. But the truth is that the Yellowstone and Northern

Continental Divide populations are flatlined according to the best available science, at the same time that grizzly bear deaths have mounted to unsustainably high levels.



The gray dots in this figure denote annual estimates for size of the entire Yellowstone grizzly bear population, including bears both inside and outside of the DMA. The green line is a 3-year running average as means of emphasizing trend. The red dots are estimates of mortality rate for the entire population, including deaths both inside and outside of the DMA. Death rates jumped during 2007 and remained high through 2012, and then jumped again to even higher levels during 2015, culminating in the record-breaking 2018. Notice that estimates of total population size started dropping in 2015, coincident with the dramatic increase in mortality rates.

Concerns about how a plethora of threats might impact grizzlies fell largely on deaf ears, including attraction of grizzlies to baits used by black bear hunters in Idaho and Wyoming; competitive racing through high-quality grizzly bear habitat; and construction of a high-use recreational trail through the best habitat left for highly-endangered grizzlies in the Yaak.

- <https://www.mtpr.org/post/recreation-hot-delisting-cold-governments-grizzly-conversations>
- <https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2019/06/grizzly-bear-deaths-3/>

Spotlight on the Beleaguered Yaak Grizzly

A recent press tour sponsored by the Yaak Valley Forest Council highlighted the threats posed by a high-use trail proposed for construction through the Yaak's best remaining grizzly habitat. Perhaps 25 grizzlies are hanging on in the Yaak, one of the most imperiled populations in the lower-48. Despite this, hiking groups headquartered in Seattle are campaigning to build the trail -- called the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Thousands of through-hikers are expected each year that will predictably disturb and displace grizzlies. Conservationists are pressing for an alternative route that avoids irreplaceable habitat in the heart of the Yaak. This article covers the issue well:

<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2019/07/05/defending-the-yaak/>

We would not be having the current debate about the Yaak's grizzlies except for the efforts of writer and passionate champion, Rick Bass. In this interview with Mountain Journal, Rick shares his long history in the magical wild Yaak with its unique grizzlies. Rick will inspire you to care about and fight for these bears!

<https://mountainjournal.org/prominent-writer-says-imperiled-grizzlies-will-pay-price-for-proposed-trail>

Forest Service Approves Dumb, Dangerous Races Through Grizzly Bear Habitat

Despite concerns expressed by a number of scientists and bear advocates about the impacts of proposed competitive races through key grizzly bear habitat in the Flathead National Forest, the Forest Service (FS) recently approved an ultra-marathon of up to 200 people from Whitefish to Big Mountain and back. Running fast through a grizzly bear's home is asking for trouble.

Agency investigators concurred with this verdict after investigating the death of an FS employee who was killed after colliding with a grizzly while racing along on his mountain bike several years ago. In approving the decision, the Flathead NF Supervisor deliberately misinterpreted data on the hazards of different activities in bear habitat, including a simple-minded interpretation he obtained from Wikipedia.

Surging interest in mountain biking and racing in extreme environments are part of a culture shift that features counting coup on nature while shrugging off a host of impacts.

- <https://www.missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2019/07/whitefish-ultra-marathon/>
- https://www.dailyinterlake.com/local_news/20190703/forest_service_issues_permit_for_marathon_event
- <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2019/06/28/risk-recreation-wildlands-offering-broader-perspective/>

Blackfoot Confederacy Opposes Grizzly Bear Delisting in the "Heart of the Grizzly Bear Nation"

On July 2nd the Blackfoot Confederacy -- comprised of the Piikani Nation, Blackfeet Nation, Siksika Nation, and Blood Tribe -- released a statement opposing the Trump Administration's attempts to remove Endangered Species protections for grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), which the Confederacy calls the "Heart of the Grizzly Bear Nation."

In the statement, leaders cited deep cultural and spiritual connections to grizzly bears, and noted that the bears' survival is threatened by a changing climate, fossil fuel development, habitat destruction, and -- if protections are removed -- trophy hunts. The timing of this statement is critical as Fish and Wildlife Service considers removing federal protections for all lower-48 grizzlies, including those in the NCDE.

In 2016, the Blackfoot Confederacy initiated an historic treaty called The Grizzly: A Treaty of Revitalization, Reconciliation and Restoration. This accord has been signed by more Tribal Nations than any other in history, with currently more than 270 signatories. The treaty opposes trophy hunting, calls for reducing conflicts, and advocates for reintroducing grizzly bears on tribal lands where biologically suitable habitat remains.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/.../new-statement-blackfoot-confed...>

Climate Change, Oil and Gas Development Threaten Grizzlies, Ecosystems

Several recent articles highlight the threats posed by climate change to grizzlies and ecosystems. An article by Todd Wilkinson in Buckrail shares insights from climate expert Dr. Jesse Logan, who first flagged the threat posed by an unprecedented climate-driven outbreak of mountain pine beetles in high elevation whitebark pine forests. His cutting-edge studies, together with analyses showing the importance of whitebark pine seeds to Yellowstone grizzly bears, were key to convincing federal judges that federal protections needed to be restored for the grizzlies in 2009 after the USFWS's first attempted delisting in 2007.

<https://buckrail.com/of-harbingers-and-a-scientist-ignored/>

This article covers the recent explosion of litigation under the Endangered Species Act as a result of mounting threats to species from climate change. Predictably, the administration is seeking to rewrite the rules to lower the bar for government analyses of the threat.

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060682935>

New research in Alberta's boreal forests shows serious and underreported impacts of oil and gas exploration and associated seismic lines that increase greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands that store carbon. These lines also fragment and degrade habitat for grizzlies and other wildlife.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-06-methane-emissions-oil-gas-exploration.html>

GOOD NEWS!

Wind River Reservation Welcomes Bison

In the first tribal exchange of bison, Wind River Tribes received 5 Yellowstone bison from the Fort Peck Tribes to supplement the herd on the reservation. In this article and short video, dedicated bison advocate Jason Baldes explains why bison are culturally and spiritually important.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Kh1QbKoPc8>
- <https://www.earth.com/news/wind-river-reservation-bison/>

Selway-Bitterroot Grizzly Alive After Black Bear Hunting Season

The grizzly bear that wandered from the Cabinet-Yaak to Kelly Creek in the vast Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem has survived the black bear hunting season and the hazards of baiting that are part of the bizarre norm in Idaho. The latest news is that this young male moved to nearby Cayuse Creek. This bear is not only a living reminder that grizzlies can and should be recovered in central Idaho, but also that more needs to be done to educate the public about coexisting with grizzlies. Even more importantly, the unethical practice bear baiting needs to end.

https://tribune.com/northwest/kelly-creek-grizzly-remains-in-cayuse-creek-area/article_5ad40136-2968-5588-b5ea-7110e1971434.html

Cool Photos, Video

National Geographic published some stunning photos of grizzlies foraging for whitebark pine seeds, army cutworm moths, and dead bison as part of a recent piece on the Yellowstone grizzly bear's diet.

- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/06/yellowstone-grizzly-diet/>
- https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/06/yellowstone-grizzly-diet/#/01-yellowstone-grizzly-bears-nationalgeographic_2191214.jpg

A recent close encounter with a Glacier grizzly was captured in this photo. All ended well for both the person and the bear.

<https://ktvh.com/news/2019/07/01/photographer-captures-hikers-close-encounter-with-grizzly-bear-in-glacier-national-park/>



And a close call with an Alaskan grizzly by two honeymooners was caught on video, also ending well for the people and bear.

<http://digg.com/video/grizzly-bear-close-call>

Please Consider a Gift to *Grizzly Times*

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

If you were following the recent delisting court case, you know that David's role was vital to the litigation success that restored protections to the 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 9th Circuit Court, potential delisting of NCDE or even all lower-48 grizzlies, and mounting threats to the Cabinet-Yaak population.

As we do not have our own 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***