From:	Noreen Walsh
To:	Steve Oberholtzer
Subject:	RE: News Clips 7_10
Date:	Friday, July 10, 2015 3:01:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png

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Thank you I did see this. Also, saw last night all the comments on this announcement on the FWS R6 facebook page.

Noreen Walsh
Regional Director
Mountain-Prairie Region
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
303 236 7920

From: Steve Oberholtzer [mailto:steve_oberholtzer@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Noreen Walsh; Matt Hogan; William Woody; Ed Grace
Cc: Dan Rolince
Subject: FW: News Clips 7_10

Fyi

Noreen and Matt- wasn't sure if you were on Denise's ARDs mailing list (below), sorry for the duplicate email if you are.

From: Sanchez, Denise [mailto:denise_sanchez@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 1:46 PM
To: FW6 RO EA; FW6 RO ARDs
Subject: Fwd: News Clips 7_10

Utah hunter who killed gray wolf won't be charged

By Brady McCombs
Associated Press
Published: Thursday, July 9 2015 2:25 p.m. MDT
Updated: 17 hours ago

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SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah hunter who killed the first gray wolf seen near the Grand Canyon in seven decades won't face criminal charges because he thought he was shooting a coyote, U.S. Fish and Wildlife announced

Thursday.

The federal agency's investigation concluded the hunter didn't intentionally shoot the wolf, which is protected in Utah under the Endangered Species Act. The man, whose name was not released, realized his mistake after he saw the dead animal and immediately reported it to authorities, according to a new release. In Utah, anybody can hunt coyotes.

The 3-year-old female wolf — named "Echo" in a nationwide student contest — captured the attention of wildlife advocates across the county because it was so rare to see the animal near the Grand Canyon.

The wolf was shot in December in southern Utah. The Fish and Wildlife Service did DNA tests to confirm the wolf was the one seen roaming near the Grand Canyon's North Rim and nearby forest earlier that year.

Fish and Wildlife officials said in the release that the case is a good reminder that all hunters should "identify their target before pulling the trigger."

Wildlife advocacy groups who called the wolf's death heartbreaking said they wanted the hunter prosecuted. They said the animal could have helped wolves naturally recover in remote regions of Utah and neighboring states.

Michael Robinson with the Center for Biological Diversity said a Department of Justice policy called the McKittrick policy is allowing hunters who kill wolves to get off unless authorities can prove they knew they were shooting a wolf. That makes the burden of proof too high and undercuts the protections of the Endangered Species Act, he said.

"You can get a 'Get out of jail free card' by saying the magic words," Robinson said. "Those are: 'I thought it was coyote.'"

Documents obtained by the Center for Biological Diversity through the Freedom of Information Act show prosecutors cited the McKittrick policy in declining to pursue charges.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials didn't immediately comment about the role the policy played in the decision.

Robinson also laid blame on Utah state officials for not doing more to inform the public that the wolf may be roaming through the state.

State officials have said they are planning to address that by teaching hunters how to tell the difference between a wolf and a coyote during an

orientation for a county program that offers people $50 per coyote. The man who shot this wolf was not registered for the program, officials said.

The wolf had worn a radio collar since January 2014.

Wolves can travel thousands of miles for food and mates. Gray wolves had been spotted as far south as Colorado until the Arizona wolf was confirmed. Gray wolves last were seen in the Grand Canyon area in the 1940s.

In recent years, the Fish and Wildlife Service lifted protections for the wolves in the Northern Rockies and western Great Lakes.

But during the past year, federal judges reinstated protections, which barred further hunting and trapping, in Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan after wildlife advocates sued.

Wolf hunts have continued in Montana and Idaho.

Wolves and coyotes often have similar coloring, but wolves are usually twice as large. Wolves also have longer legs, bigger feet, and rounder ears and snouts.

> But how well a person can distinguish depends on the lighting, the distance and how much experience a hunter has comparing the two animals.
>
> A similar mistake happened in northern Colorado recently when a hunter with permission to kill coyotes shot a gray wolf. After the hunter shot the wolf on April 29, he notified authorities.
>
> There are at least 13 documented cases since 1981 in which hunters have shot a wolf thinking it was a coyote, according to research from the Center for Biological Diversity. That figure includes the recent incidents in Utah and Colorado.

http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765677166/Utah-hunter-who-killed-gray-wolf-wont-be-charged.html

No Charges Against Cougar Hunters Who Killed Echo the Wondering Wolf: “I had a shot and took it”
Read the Salt Lake Tribune Article here: http://www.sltrib.com/news/2713814-155/no-charges-against-utah-cougar-hunter

History shows that small temperature rise can cause massive polar ice melt, scientists say

Camille von Kaenel, E&E reporter
Published: Friday, July 10, 2015
The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets contributed significantly to a past rise in sea level of 20 feet or

more and could melt extensively if temperatures increase even a few degrees, concluded a review published in *Science* yesterday. The authors surveyed three decades of research on interglacial periods. They found that minute changes in temperature caused large past spikes in sea level and concluded that it could happen again. While the paper is a review of existing research, the scientists behind it indicate it is clear that recent data are helping fill in wide gaps in knowledge.

"This is a statement by the community that we are reaching a consensus," said Andrea Dutton, a geochemist at the University of Florida who led the group of authors.

Meltwater from the Antarctic ice sheet raised ocean levels around 20 feet 3 million years ago, when temperatures were around 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than average, according to the paper. That's about the same level of global warming experts predict this century. The polar ice sheets have already witnessed significant thawing.

"We used to think of them as leaking giants, but a fleet of papers in the past year or so is suggesting that they are waking up," Dutton said. "There's discharge of ice from the Antarctic ice sheet. There's evidence they are retreating. It's disconcerting."

A study last year, for example, found that glaciers in West Antarctica could be headed for "irreversible" collapse (*ClimateWire*, May 13, 2014).

An unavoidable outcome

Over the last 100 years or so, global sea levels rose by around 7 inches. Most of the rise was due to mountain glaciers melting and water expanding with higher temperatures. But meltwater from the polar ice sheets is increasingly disappearing into the oceans -- it recently jumped to contribute an estimated 40 percent of last decade's total rise, according to the paper.

A higher sea level threatens coastal communities from Miami to the Marshall Islands with an increased likelihood of storm surges and flooding. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report showed that global sea levels could increase by 3 feet this century.

"People talk about the year 2100, but it's important to understand that sea level will continue to rise after 2100, and to look at what we're doing to change the path we're on for the long term," Dutton said.

Some sea-level rise is already unavoidable because current carbon dioxide levels match those the planet saw 3 million years ago, said Peter Clark, a paleoclimatologist from Oregon State University and a co-author, in a statement. But the world will have to wait, probably for a long time, to see exactly how much the ice sheets melt.

"What is not as certain is the time frame, which is less well-constrained," he said. "We could be talking many centuries to a few millennia to see the full impact of melting ice sheets."

Many questions remain

Advances in modeling and interdisciplinary collaboration are gleaning fresh information about the magnitude, rate and sources of sea-level rise from ancient geologic records. The review's authors said it's ushering in a new era in their field.

In the past, scientists came up with disparate estimates for ancient ocean levels because they used field observations from around the world. Different regions have fluctuating surfaces based on shifting magma or gravity fields. That makes figuring out the average global rise particularly difficult. But recently, scientists have turned to geophysical modeling to eliminate the variability in local field observations.

"Now, taking this integrated approach, we are getting the same number, over and over again," said Dutton. The number was 20 feet.

The authors of the review belong to an international working group called "PALeo constraints on SEA level rise," or PALSEA2. They encouraged the scientific community to set up a data-sharing system to harmonize sea-level rise studies.

There's still research to be done, emphasized Dutton and her colleagues. It's still unclear at what temperature thawing of the ice sheets becomes irreversible, for example. If they continue to melt, scientists don't know exactly where that melting will occur or how it will affect local sea levels.

"Sea-level rise is not like turning on a tap in the bathroom," Dutton said.

http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2015/07/10/stories/1060021583

Bumblebees in severe and rapid decline from climate change -- study

Malavika Vyawahare, E&E reporter
Published: Friday, July 10, 2015
The heat is beginning to sting for bumblebees. As the Earth warms, they are being driven out of their habitats in North America and Europe, according to a new study published in *Science*.
"They have disappeared from places they used to be found," said Jeremy Kerr, an ecologist and one of the lead authors of the paper. "If these species are losing range at the rate at which we are observing here, that cannot go on for long before many of these species go extinct."
By studying the distribution of 67 bumblebee species on the two continents over a 110-year period the authors concluded that human-induced climate change was a "significant cause of rapid declines in bumblebee populations." The results are a grim reminder that not all species are adapting to climate change, experts said.
Warming temperatures are forcing bumblebees to retreat from the southern boundaries of their range while being unable to settle in regions farther north, the research found, effectively trapping them in what the authors called a "climate vise."
Compared to a base line period of 1901 to 1974, the bees have lost almost 300 kilometers (186 miles) of vital habitat in southern belts that are experiencing rising temperatures. There are "dramatic losses of bumblebee species from the hottest areas across two continents," Kerr said. A study of 31 species in North America and 36 in Europe showed that they have "run up against a kind of wall that most bumblebee species show no signs of passing."

Bad news for many crops

Scientists concur that a shrinking habitat means the threat of extinction is real for many of these plump, fuzzy pollinators, whose generic name *Bombus* is derived from the Latin word for buzz.
Population sizes over such a large area and time period were difficult to determine. "No one in the past has tried to measure the species populations across continents, which has made it almost impossible to actually compare population sizes," Kerr explained.
"If their range is shrinking at one end and not increasing on the other end, then one would assume that the numbers of those bees is declining," said David Inouye, a zoologist and bumblebee expert at the University of Maryland, College Park, who reviewed the research.
The loss of bumblebees from some regions could prove disastrous for ecosystems and for agriculture, as bumblebees play an important role in pollinating both crops and wildflowers. They can perform a feat called "buzz pollination," that other pollinators like honeybees cannot. Bumblebees power their way to pollen that is stubbornly attached to flower anthers, producing a distinctive buzzing noise as they get the job done. Crops like tomatoes, chili peppers, eggplants and cranberries are more deftly pollinated by bumblebees than by any other winged pollinator.
The anxiety about threats to bumblebees feeds into a wider concern about pollinator populations. The collapse of bumblebee populations in the southern reaches poses a threat to plant populations in this region, Inouye said.
Apart from their role in the wild, more than half of global food crops rely on pollination. A 2013 study in *Science* noted that falling populations of pollinators in the wild could adversely affect crop yields.
Managed pollinators like honeybees that are mostly domesticated for pollination purposes and for honey cannot always fulfill their mandate. In fact, honeybee populations have also seen a decline in recent years.
The widespread use of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids seems to have precipitated a rapid fall in their numbers. The chemicals in these pesticides find their way to the pollen and can prove fatal to pollinators like honeybees and bumblebees.

Why are butterflies heading north when bees are not?

While bumblebee populations are also under threat from other factors like habitat loss because of changing land use and use of toxic pesticides, the new research found that there was a stronger link to warming. "Bumblebee disappearances from warm, southern areas are just as likely when there is no pesticide use and little agriculture," Kerr said.
But this pattern of habitat contraction and population decline does not always hold with other insects. Butterflies, for instance, seem to be flying into cooler locations in response to warming.
Why bumblebees are failing to do so remains a puzzle.
Rich Hatfield, a conservation biologist at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation who has studied bumblebees for the past 17 years, said he was surprised by the results -- especially the fact that bumblebees were not migrating to more habitable climates.

One theory proposed by the authors of the new study suggests it is because bumblebees -- unlike butterflies -- evolved in cooler climates and are biochemically unsuited for hotter conditions. "Imagine a car that starts running out of coolant and starts blowing steam out the front of the hood. That's kind of like an analogy for what bumblebee species do when it gets too hot," the scientists said.

Inouye speculated on behavioral reasons why the bees were not moving, including their inability to disperse well. While bumblebees are generally mobile, his research showed that they do not venture too far from their hives. They may also not be able to grow their population quickly in the new environment.

Whatever the explanation, the loss of habitat raises concerns that some bumblebee species may already be extinct or be on the brink of extinction. Both Inouye and Kerr cited the case of *Bombus affinis*, or the rusty-patched bumblebee, which is usually found in the eastern and upper midwestern United States but may already have gone extinct.

"We are essentially hitting them with everything that we have in our global change arsenal," Kerr said. "We need to identify priority areas for conservation immediately."

As for the bumblebees, assisted migration may be one way to save them, according to the study. However, artificially relocating populations to what humans determine as more suitable sites for threatened species remains a controversial conservation strategy. It presents not only logistical challenges but also ethical concerns.

"It is an ethical issue -- to what degree we want to manipulate these communities?" Inouye said. Hatfield suggested a more immediate response to the plight of bees: Take better care of their current habitats.

"I'd rather not imagine a world without bumblebees," he said. "It would mean that the world had taken a sad turn for the worse."

http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2015/07/10/stories/1060021578

Mead adviser: Delegation grouse work not counterproductive

By Mead Gruver
Associated Press
Published: Thursday, July 9 2015 2:25 p.m. MDT
Updated: 17 hours ago

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wyoming's congressional delegation and governor's office have different approaches to protecting the state's energy and ranching industries by keeping sage grouse off the endangered list — but that's not counterproductive, an adviser to Gov. Matt Mead told a state legislative committee Thursday.

The delegation unanimously supports bills that would postpone any listing. That helps the governor's office by keeping pressure on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not to list, Mead adviser Jerimiah Rieman told the Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee.

"I don't think that their efforts are hurting us,

frankly," Rieman said. "It helps with the pressure that we have."

The governor's office has been working closely with federal officials this summer on refining state and federal sage grouse protections in Wyoming. Fish and Wildlife faces a court-ordered deadline of Sept. 30 to decide if the greater sage grouse needs protection as a designated threatened or endangered species.

Wyoming's congressional delegation — Rep. Cynthia Lummis and Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso — has been more adversarial with federal agencies with its support for legislation to postpone any listing. One measure to withhold federal funding to implement any sage grouse listing for another year advanced Wednesday in the U.S. House under veto threat by President Barack Obama.

Other bills would postpone listing for five years or more.

Mead has neither endorsed nor opposed such legislation, prompting state Sen. Larry Hicks, R-Baggs, to ask Rieman where the governor stood on that approach.

Wyoming's state sage grouse conservation strategy depends upon the success of federal sage grouse planning efforts to be effective, Rieman told lawmakers.

"There is a reality that without these federal plans, Wyoming's strategy does not work in its entirety. Wyoming needs the federal plans to be there," Rieman said.

Mead joined Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Cheyenne on May 28 in announcing proposed protections for sage grouse on federal land across 10 states. Since then, the governor's office has

been meeting routinely with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wyoming State Office on federal and state land-management planning for sage grouse in Wyoming, Rieman said.

Still, concern remains high in the 11 states where the bird is found that protections for sage grouse would impede oil and gas development, renewable energy, ranching and other development on federal land.

The BLM national office in Washington, D.C., could override talks between Mead's office and BLM officials in Wyoming on the details of protecting sage grouse locally, said committee Chairman Sen. Eli Bebout, R-Riverton.

"Out of Washington, out of the clear blue, comes something that does away with our hard work," Bebout said. "That's frustrating as heck."

Also, states less active than Wyoming in protecting sage grouse also could set back Wyoming's efforts to keep the bird off the threatened or endangered list, Bebout said.

Top BLM officials in every state with greater sage grouse have been discussing how to conserve the bird's habitat on BLM lands but not all every state has done as much as Wyoming, said BLM Deputy State Director Buddy Green.

"We're further down the road than the other states," Green said. "To the degree that I can, I've tried to influence my colleagues in other states."

Steve Segin
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
303-236-4578 Desk
720-355-5042 Cell

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Denise Sanchez | Administrative Assistant
USFWS Mountain-Prairie Region External Affairs
134 Union Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80228
denise_sanchez@fws.gov | 303-236-2985

http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie

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