

NATHANIEL P. REED

JUPITER ISLAND-BOX 1213  
HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33475

Dear Bud,  
I may be able  
to join you in September -  
After September 21, but  
my plans are "not clear"  
until later this summer

I will take an interest  
in the MSD Trout & Salmonid

Steering Committee for campaign  
must remember - I am

far away -

Special Sect Worker

J. P. Fathauer



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

February 14, 1973

Mr. Bud Lilly  
Lilly's Tackle Shop  
West Yellowstone, Montana 59758

Dear Bud:

What a very nice letter I received from you, and congratulations on a superb catalogue! I'll send you an order for a few things which I ran out of last summer. I was extremely impressed with the improvement both at the Fire Hole and at Slough Creek. I concur with the innovative fish management activities of Glen and Jack.

I missed a good hatch on the Fire Hole but had several evenings with 20's and 22 Baetis. I used some of these new Swisher nohackle imitations and took several really great fish. The best fishing of the summer was in late September on the South Platte in Colorado where I took 30 odd fish out of one incredibly complicated pool, in the midst of a tremendous hatch of Baetis and Little Blue Olives. For about 10 seconds I lip-hooked a fish that must have gone close to 7 pounds. I also fished a ranch with a lovely spring creek in the lower part of the Teton Valley which had the greatest collection of huge Snake River Cutthroats probably left in the valley. I saw one fish which was easily 7 or 8 pounds and released 5 fish between 3 and 4-1/2 pounds. Regrettably, the stream was quite clogged with weeds and fish were totally unmanageable after being hooked. I hope to get back out and will accept an invitation to join you with pleasure. Take out your calendar and take a calculated guess for both spring and fall.

With sincere best wishes and I hope to see you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel P. Reed  
Assistant Secretary for  
Fish and Wildlife and Parks





# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 26, 1973

Dear Bud:

My only regret of the last visit to Yellowstone was our inability to get together for an afternoon's fishing on either Slough Creek or the Firehole. Let's correct that on my next visit!

I cannot tell you how much it meant to me to have you guide Adrian and the Astins.

With every best personal wish to you.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel P. Reed  
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bud Lilly  
Trout Shop  
West Yellowstone  
Montana 59758



# NATHANIEL P. REED

POST OFFICE BOX 1213  
HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33475

PHONE (772) 546-2666  
FAX (772) 546-5019

Date: December 22, 2008

To: Bud Lilly

From: Nathaniel Reed

Bud,

Yellowstone National Park's superintendent has asked me to change my plans to join you in early-mid September and be part of a series of events around October 1st.

I have accepted her invitation which includes giving the oral history of the great grizzly bear controversy, the trout release program, the first Wild Trout Symposium and talks to the park's management staff and an evening speech for the Yellowstone Foundation.

I remember fishing in late September, even early October on the Livingston spring creeks and the Firehole. There was surprisingly heavy hatches midday to mid afternoon. I found the season to be "refreshing" to say the least for my Florida blood!

Would this change in plans work for our proposed days together?

I send you my special best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nathaniel P. Reed". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

**Main Identity**

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**From:** "Nathaniel Reed" <npreed@earthlink.net>  
**To:** "Tom Macy" <tm@tcf-colorado.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008 10:27 AM

Date: April 22, 2008  
To: Tom Macy and Bud Lilly  
From: Nathaniel Reed

Rayburn Tucker is a great golfing friend of mine. He asked me who to contact you in order to aide a friend who has acquired a major holding on the Gunnison River and wishes to form a 'club' of ken anglers.

I informed Rayburn that you two know more about the subject than I do.

Would you do me a favor and contact Rayburn by phone or mail and give him advice as to where his friend should turn to? I suspect that you two are the correct contacts for Rayburn's friends, but I leave that option up to you two.

With special best wishes, NPR

Mr. Rayburn Tucker  
3131 Maple Ave, Apt 5E  
Dallas, TX 75201-1289  
(214) 999-0722

521-8260

521-8260  
Dallas, TX 75201-1289  
214-999-0722



# Nathaniel P. Reed

P.O. Box 1213

Hobe Sound, FL 33475

(772) 546-2666 Fax: (772) 546-5019

Bud

There is  
the Fair

article

that has caused  
a "stir".

Can't wait for  
September!!!

Special Set  
Wishes

→ Nathan

# NATHANIEL P. REED

POST OFFICE BOX 1213  
HOBE SOUND, FLORIDA 33475

PHONE (772) 546-2666  
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## The Yellowstone National Park Grizzly Bear Saga

The Department of Interior had been undergoing personnel changes among President Nixon's appointees. Walter Hickel, President Nixon's Secretary of Interior, was fired after leaking a letter indicating his concern for the continuing war in Vietnam.

After Hickel's departure, for reasons never clarified, Robert Haldeman, the president's chief of staff wandered through the Department of Interior and fired a number of appointees for no apparent reason. Perhaps it was to show the world that the Nixon administration brooked no opposition to any of its policies. Dr. Leslie Glasgow, a distinguished professor from the Louisiana State University, had been appointed Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and National Parks. A gentle, scholarly man, he was among those summarily dismissed.

Rogers C.B. Morton was appointed Secretary of Interior. I had known Mr. Morton for many years, as we shared keen interest not only in waterfowl but in the management of distressed ecosystems such as Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades.

In March 1971, Secretary Morton invited me to join him on an all day helicopter flight over the Everglades and the Big Cypress. We flew, were briefed by park staff and had ample time to talk about the problems of water delivery through the Florida water conservation areas, the importance of the vacant land adjacent to the then eastern boundary of Everglades National Park, the problem of restoring some form of natural flow impeded by the dike that the Tamiami Trail represents, and my strong feeling, supported by the park's experts, that development of the Big Cypress would inevitably destroy water quality and natural drainage to the western portion of the park and the Ten Thousand Islands.

On return to Miami International Airport, Secretary Morton and I held a press conference and then sat quietly in a private room to discuss Everglades - Big Cypress options. He handed me an envelope that contained a short letter from President Nixon that stated he wanted me to become Morton's Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and National Parks.

I had promised recently elected Governor Reuben Askew that I would continue to serve as Chairman of the Florida Department of Air and Water Pollution Control for a minimum of one year as he assumed control of the Florida government. If I was going to accept this new assignment, I had to make it work for the governor. Also, Alita and I had three young children. Moving to Washington would be a monumental operation.

But Alita felt that I would never have another similar opportunity to champion the areas that I felt and still feel so deeply about. The era of conservation and environmental awareness was sweeping the country and the opportunities to be involved with the three agencies managed by the Assistant Secretary: the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation were critical cogs in the growing spokes of the nationwide environmental movement as it underwent a growth spurt to maturity and the evolution of



national policy. Governor Askew stressed that the assignment represented a major opportunity and gave me leave of his administration with thanks and appreciation.

I moved into the Jefferson Hotel and was confirmed on May 13, 1971.

Dr. Stanley Cain, eminent professor of the Department of Conservation at the University of Michigan had served four years under Secretary Stewart Udall as Assistant Secretary and was known as a very wise, well informed member of the Kennedy-Johnson administration. He made an appointment to see me within days of my being sworn in.

We covered the waterfront. He took time to explain his victories and his defeats. He concluded with a list of "opportunities and serious problems" that he was turning over to me.

I was quite taken back by the number of "serious problems"!

Dr. Cain stated that one of the most vexing issues that had bedeviled him was the decision to initiate and support the closure of the garbage dumps within Yellowstone National Park.

He explained that even in the 1960's for "cost reasons" the park had maintained a minimum of five garbage dumps located near the major camp grounds and lodges. Garbage dump sites changed now and then, but for years they'd been operated near developments in and outside park boundaries. A large garbage dump had been operating at West Yellowstone and a smaller one at Cooke City attracting a number of grizzly bears. He spent time on the "problem" that the park faced with the famous Craighead brothers whose long term grizzly bear study was concentrated on bears that were using the garbage dumps as a principal source of food especially during the summer and early fall months. As their dependence on human garbage grew, he maintained that the data indicated that they were losing their fear of man and were becoming a significant danger to park visitors.

Dr. Cain had been attempting to increase the number and quality of scientists within the park system. He felt that the 1963 Advisory Committee to the National Park Service study, chaired by Dr. Starker Leopold was worth my study and implementation. He pointed out that there was great reluctance and resistance by many senior NPS superintendents to a strong science program or to the assignment of highly qualified scientists to major national parks because they felt they were going to have their extraordinary management authority challenged.

During a second session held the next day, Cain called Dr. Leopold at the University of California at Berkeley and we enjoyed an hour long telephone conference on far ranging subjects. Our "chemistry" was excellent. High on my list of priorities was to form a committee to examine and recommend the banning of the deadly chemical 1080 that was being misused across the Rocky Mountain west to "protect" sheep herds from coyote depredation. 1080 was a deadly poison that killed thousands of non target species annually. I asked Dr. Leopold to chair that committee. He declined stating that his plate was full with his continuing work with the Advisory Committee and his determination to advance the cause of science within the National Park System. He asked his friend, Dr. Cain: "Stan, you have railed against 1080 for years, why don't you chair Nathaniel's 1080 committee?" Without hesitation Dr. Cain accepted.



Leopold made a date to visit with me in July when he was next due in Washington to continue his efforts with the Advisory Committee to support a vigorous park science program and to discuss the vast opportunities to expand the National Park System in Alaska due to the passage of the Alaska Lands Act.

He urged me to fly to Yellowstone in July and meet then Superintendent Jack Anderson and a favorite former Ph.D. student, Dr. Mary Meagher to discuss the issues of grizzly bear, elk, and bison "management".

We agreed to meet in September when he stayed at Mammoth Hot Springs to fish the adjacent rivers. I made the suggestion that we could develop a three day meeting schedule - three mornings devoted to the ecological threats to wildlife and the Yellowstone ecosystem and the afternoons devoted to fishing! He thought that was a splendid idea and we held those sessions annually for the next five years.

I met with Jack Anderson at park headquarters in July, 1971. Jack was the personification of what a superintendent of the Mother Park should look and act like. He was larger than life. We toured the park, dined together, fished together and talked and talked. He described his encounters with the Craighead brothers, his sense that they violated their research permits, paid no attention to the NPS staff or the visitors: they did what they wanted to do. They acted as if Yellowstone was "their park".

Anderson had voided their original research permits and a war of words had begun. He then ordered senior representatives from the NPS and USFWS to redraft the research permits. The Craigheads found the revised permits unacceptable and decided on their own to end their research on garbage dump bears within Yellowstone National Park.

The Craigheads issued a series of critical comments that were carried in the majority of the Rocky Mountain newspapers. I urged caution in responding.

We both looked forward to the September meeting. Jack was devoted to Starker and was beginning the metamorphosis of accepting recommendations from Dr. Glen Cole, Dr. Meagher and the fishery biologists on management issues within the park.

I had added Jim Rush, formerly a biologist with the National Wildlife Federation to my Washington staff. I wanted him to be my "grizzly bear man", but he was already assigned to become chief of the Cain study group that would prepare the documentation of the horrors of the 1080 program, a legally defensible Environmental Impact Statement and an Executive Order for presidential signature.

Another of my key aides, George Gardner was an Everglades and water expert and was deeply involved with Starker's brother, Dr. Luna Leopold and Dr. Arthur Marshall with their epic study of the potential impacts of development within the Big Cypress. He became my lead grizzly staff person and maintained contact with Jack Anderson. His wise counsel was invaluable to me. In 1971, the news from the park was not encouraging. A number of bears, used to feeding on



human garbage had to be "removed" from the park. At first, they were tranquilized and flown at vast expense to locations within the park far removed from the capture site. Others were relocated on adjacent national forests, sent to zoos or destroyed and utilized as scientific specimens. In the 1960's, in good faith to protect marked research bears, bears were relocated multiple times, which, in part, led eventually to females in campgrounds with cubs. Moving bears was a failure. Once hooked on garbage they found their way back to the park, sometimes within but a few days.

The Craigheads kept up a steady drumbeat that the superintendent, the park service, including then Director Hartzog and me, were allowing if not encouraging the destruction of grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park. They urged a change that would reopen the garbage dumps, lessen the amount of garbage to be delivered per day, per week and maintained that it was possible to "wean" the bears off garbage.

When we met in September, the three days of informal but structured agenda items was deemed a great success. The loss of a great number of bears was discussed carefully. Many were old and would not have been alive if not for garbage. Unknown to me, a paper had been recently published describing the loss of cubs to boar grizzlies when their mother's were distracted feeding in the dumps.

Starker made and remade the point: bears that were allowed to feed on garbage were forever imprinted. They would seek human garbage forever. They would "get in trouble", serious trouble. It was impossible to "wean bears from garbage". The only solution was to tough it out.

We both were unhappy that the park had not received sufficient funds to completely "bear proof" the garbage containers within the camp grounds. I was dismayed to learn that quantities of Yellowstone trout were caught and killed daily from the lake, then photographed and discarded into the garbage containers. Photographs of grizzly bears opening supposedly secure garbage containers infuriated me. I addressed this problem with the Appropriations Committees on my return to Washington. I was sufficiently concerned about the adverse criticism of the park's grizzly bear program and the personal attacks on me and the park's superintendent and scientists, that I urged Secretary Morton to seek a review by the National Academy of Science which subsequently created a Committee on Yellowstone Grizzly Bears. The Committee's conclusions regarding the negative role of the garbage dumps were identical to those expressed by Drs. Leopold and Cain and supported by Dr. Allen of Purdue, our nation's preeminent wolf expert.

I decided that the challenge of grizzly bear recovery was not isolated to Yellowstone National Park, but had to include the adjacent national forests. This was "tricky business", as sheep grazing allotments and clear cutting operations within the forests were supported by powerful members of the Rocky Mountain congressional delegation. They were "for" bear recovery, but not for substantial changes to current forest practices.

Oversight hearings were often confrontational. Dr. Leopold's invaluable assistance in preparation of my testimony and good staff work inoculated me for the toughest of questions and saved the day. Frankly, I often felt lonely, as the rest of the conservation-environmental



community waited to see if the corner would be turned and the bear would slowly but surely make a come back.

Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, the well known and respected leader of the National Geographic Society had championed the Craighead's research and made the two highly photogenic men national heroes. He would call me with a simple request: "Do you think you are right?" He was a great admirer of Starker and liked me, and he was willing to listen to our perspective and in the end shared many of our concerns.

The reports of the continuing number of the park's grizzly bears that had to be destroyed were national news. I cannot begin to describe my personal feelings when a call would come in from the park detailing the removal of bears that had invaded camp grounds or torn up vehicles in search of human food. The Craigheads, confident that their position was scientifically sound, ran a highly efficient campaign denigrating Anderson and pointing out that the Assistant Secretary had "no qualifications" to support the judgment of the senior officials in the service and criticized the park's determination to keep the garbage dumps closed.

Dr. John Craighead was a federal employee. The Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service informed me that his constant criticisms had not been "peer reviewed" for their scientific basis and were a violation of federal rules. I asked John to meet me at the Mammoth Springs Hotel to discuss the problem. I asked George Gardner to join me to keep accurate track of the meeting. John admitted that he felt so strongly that the grizzly bears were being "exterminated" by the Yellowstone staff that he did not feel bound by the rule of "peer review". After a heated discussion, he agreed to follow federal procedures. Thereafter he furnished his brother Frank (who was not employed by the federal government) data and his interpretation of the data without peer review.

I was sufficiently concerned about the continuing loss of grizzly bears, especially after confrontations with herds of sheep allowed to graze within known grizzly bear territories in the adjacent national forests that I agreed to place the bear on the Endangered Species list as "threatened" in 1975. This produced some problems for the researchers, but gave the Fish and Wildlife Service the opportunity to question the Forest Service's grazing allotments within known bear territories. In my mind it was counter-productive to lease grazing sites when the Forest Service's own biologists acknowledged that the areas would encourage conflict with grizzly bears. It took time for the leadership of the Forest Service to free themselves from the domination of the political pressures that refused to void grazing leases in key grizzly bear territories.

An epic confrontation took place at the 1975 September meeting at Mammoth Hot Springs. The meetings had always been open to the public. I did send invitations to a number of experts in specific areas of expertise to deliver papers on a variety of subjects. For instance, Dr. Maurice Hornocker, who had become a friend, led a discussion on my view that mountain lions ought to be transferred from a "surplus population" in Idaho to the park to hold down the ever increasing northern elk herd. He suggested that a study might prove that there were more lions within the park than were acknowledged and that before I rashly moved cats, it was worth studying the



existing population. His observation and recommendation for a mountain lion study had been borne out by subsequent excellent scientific field studies.

Dr Durward Allen, the great expert on wolves and the supervisor of the long standing study of the wolves of Isle Royale National Park engaged in a long discourse with Starker and Glen Cole on the issue of "replacement", the urge of any species to compensate for extraordinary losses by accelerating birth rates. As bears died or were killed, valuable space within the park opened and additional food supplies became available without competition. Data suggested that surviving bears were beginning to show increased birth rates

I must admit I felt encouraged that the program was on the right track.

Suddenly, the Craighead brothers marched into the room. Frank declared that the meeting was "illegal", because notice had not been published in the federal register. I countered that the meeting was "informal", notice had been given across the federal agencies, academia and to the general public. As a matter of fact, half of the room was filled with curious non governmental public who were fascinated by the subjects that were discussed over the three mornings. The Craigheads asked for time to show a computer printout of their conclusions that the grizzly bear would be eliminated from the Yellowstone ecosystem by the mid 1980's. A long printout was displayed. Starker asked a number of highly technical questions on how the data had been obtained, assembled and how the conclusions were reached.

Dr. Charles Loveless, the chief of research for the USFWS examined the printout and looking directly at the Craighead's pronounced: "Frank and John: an old rule: garbage in produces garbage out!"

I called for an immediate recess to prevent bodily harm!

I had the privilege of meeting and signing off on Yellowstone National Park's appointment of Dr. Richard Knight to lead grizzly bear research, and urging him on. His high quality research brought great credit to him personally and the park's management effort as it sought to understand the dynamics of the bear recovery program. I was able to gain significant funding for his efforts and for the whole science program within the park and supported funding for our incipient effort to establish a meaningful science program throughout the National Park System.

One of my major disappointments was the length of time it took to close the garbage dumps that served Gardiner and Cooke City. The lack of leadership and cooperation by the town fathers of those two gateway communities still irritates me.

The impact on me personally of the five plus years of constant criticism, the need to defend an unpopular program, and deal with a controversy that for the majority of the American people was difficult to understand has been muted by the fact that today the grizzly bear population is at record numbers, and continues to grow in population and expand its range beyond park boundaries and the Yellowstone high country. Elsewhere, grizzlies are now re-colonizing onto the plains east of the Rockies.



I have always regretted that the Craighead brothers, whose work within the park on bears attracted to human garbage, were not able to embrace the recovery of non garbage habituated bears with enthusiasm.

While serving on the Board of the National Geographic Society I had the pleasure of voting for them to receive the Society's John Oliver La Gorce medal in 1979 for their innovative work that has led to incredible advances in radio telemetry and LANDSAT satellite imagery.

I left office with the strong feeling that the corner had been turned and that the bear would make it. Most importantly, I left highly competent staff to continue the work of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team.

I am forever grateful for the support of Dr. Starker Leopold, Dr. Stanley Cain, Dr. Durward Allen, Dr. Maurice Hornocker, Dr. Glen Cole and Dr. Mary Meagher. Each one of them was important to me not only as the "wise group of advisors", but as friends. I seriously doubt that any other assistant secretary in the history of the department ever sought and received advice from such a group of renowned and dedicated experts in land and wildlife management.

Staff members: John Spinks and Amos Eno deserve recognition for the efforts carried on during the 1980s and early 1990s to augment and bring coordination to vastly expanded intergovernmental grizzly recovery initiatives after the administration changed. They were able to work with important Members of Congress to gain major funding for important aspects of the Grizzly recovery program. Spinks had the foresight and wisdom to hire Dr. Christopher Servheen in 1981 to lead the recovery effort for the Yellowstone grizzly population and other subpopulations which Servheen has done with extraordinary dexterity for the past 26 years. Most importantly, they made the managers of the adjacent national forests partners in grizzly bear recovery.

May the bear not only survive, but continue to prosper.

Nathaniel Reed