

January 17, 1974

Mr. Nathaniel P. Reed
Assistant Secretary of Interior
for Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have received my copy of National Wildlife Magazine for February/March, in which was your "response from interior". One can see from your statement "The grizzly bear is not on the Endangered Species list but..." that you care little if a few or few hundred grizzly bears die because of the closing of the garbage-dumps. Dr. Craighead, who is probably one of our best authorities on Grizzly Bears, only wanted the garbage-dumps closed at a slower rate and I whole-heartedly agree with Dr. Craighead.

As for looking to the future...our future is with men as dedicated and good as Dr. Craighead. Men who do instead of talk. We need more men such as he and fewer politicians in this country and it would be a far better place to live.

Sincerely

Nancy Tyree
Nancy Tyree (Miss)
P. O. Box 631
Miami, Fla., 33138

CC: Dr. Frank Craighead ✓

2
223 Castleton Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10301
November 2, 1973

Mr. Nathaniel Reed, Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Reed:

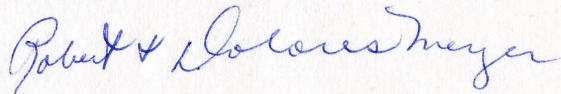
In an article which appeared in the October-November issue of National Wildlife magazine, entitled "They're Killing Yellowstone's Grizzlies", the National Park Service seemed very indifferent towards the conclusions drawn by Dr. Frank C. Craighead, the author. Since Drs. Frank and John Craighead have studied the grizzlies of Yellowstone Park for about ten years (during which their scientific research was sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation), we are quite surprised by the attitude taken by the Park Service in ignoring these well-known and knowledgeable scientists.

We believe the Park Service's duties should encompass protection of the grizzlies and other wildlife species, rather than creating situations that endanger both wildlife and campers.

Why are the Craighead brothers being barred from further studies in Yellowstone? Why were restrictions put on their work and publication of their research findings?

Please let us hear from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert & Dolores Meyer

cc: Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Sierra Club
San Francisco, California

Dr. Frank C. Craighead ✓
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

BCC - Defenders of Wildlife (written after having read the report by Steve Seater of your staff-a fine story). Fund for Animals - D. Dixon - R. Clark - National Audubon Society - National Parks & Conservation Assn.

Mrs. J. C. Yarbrough
3149 King Arthur Court, N. E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30345

Craighead Brothers

October 5, 1973

Answered Oct 13
with personal
note. E.C.

The Honorable Ronald Walker
Director,
National Park Service
Interior Department
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Walker:

Hopefully, you will have much more sense in dealing with the grizzly bear situation in Yellowstone Park than did your predecessor.

For several years I have been following the work of the Craighead Brothers who have been making a study of the grizzly bear in Yellowstone since 1959 - as you well know by now - and from what I have read it is hard to believe there is, or are any men in this country who are better acquainted with their habits.

Therefore, it is surprising to me - and I feel an insult to these fine men - to completely ignore their recommendations with regard to phasing out the garbage dumps in Yellowstone, rather than closing them all at once. Even a schoolchild would understand that the bears are going to continue to return to where they have been freely feeding for generations, and this closing of the dumps all at once will not discourage them.

I am one of these "kooks" who deplore and protest the eradication of our predatory animals - mostly to please the sheep and cattlemen who graze their animals on public land. Let them hire the necessary men to protect their herds, thereby eradicating only the "guilty" predators, if they can truly be called "guilty" for trying to survive in a land where the human being has decided he must go.

I call on you to listen to what the Craigheads have to say, and to be guided by their years of work so we can save this magnificent animal. Surely our wild animals have some rights left to them. They have been pushed further and further into the wilds, until they have little range left.

And please don't send me one of those deprecating, meant-to-be placating replies that the Interior Dept. "surely doesn't want any animal exterminated". I have received enough of them. I'm not a child - just someone who is interested in the rights of the animals.

Sincerely,

J. C. Yarbrough
(Mrs. J. C. Yarbrough)

✓

MRS. ROBERT H. LAVENDER
6230 Caminito Andreta
San Diego, Calif. 92111

2 October 1973

Dear Dr. Craighead,

I sat down yesterday to enjoy my National Wildlife magazine and I was filled with horror reading about the Grizzlies. We have watched you, your brother and your families on TV and enjoyed the programs so much. The Special on the Bears was terrific. This past summer we were in Yellowstone and saw one bear. I couldn't believe it. One poor black bear after telling our daughter there were more bears than people when I went to Yellowstone in '37; '38 and '39.

At any rate, the above is not why I am writing. Is there anything I can do to help you to save the Grizzlies? Would writing letters to that stupid biologist and his sidekick the superintendent do any good? What about their idiot superiors in Washington? If you can think of any way to put pressure on these people please let me know. I will get my friends and the local chapter of the Audubon Soc. to help and the Animal Protection Society (they're trying to establish a Tule Elk Refuge in Owens Valley in Calif.). It could spread through these people.

I really can't see why the P.S. and his tame biologist are fighting you. It's impossible to discredit your work. It seems to me that you are the final authority on the

Grizzlies.

I know you are very busy so if you think I can't help you continue your work in Yellowstone please don't take the time to answer. If you believe I can start the ball rolling just tell me what to do and I will start immediately.

Thank you for the important work you have done.

Kathryn E. Lavender.

P.S. Would writing to the Gov. of Wyoming do any good?

Copies of Letters on
Natth. Wildt's article
sent
to
N.W. ✓

Copy to N.W.

September 26, 1973

Hon. John Seiberling
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Seiberling:

I am enclosing an article from National Wildlife magazine entitled "They're Killing Yellowstones Grizzlies." It is an interview with Dr. Frank Craighead, well-known biologist and leading authority on grizzlies. According to Dr. Craighead the National Park Service has been killing large numbers of grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park, threatening the survival there of this endangered species.

Bear management in Yellowstone and some of the other park areas has always been a great problem, but the grizzly problem came to a head several years ago when grizzlies killed two visitors in Glacier National Park. A biologist (embryologist) was in the campground when one of these killings took place, and apparently was so shaken that he has been campaigning ever since to have the grizzlies removed from the parks because they endanger the visitors.

NPS seems to have reacted to pressure from him and other people in typical bureaucratic fashion by seeking to relieve the pressure and avoid criticism, showing more concern for the welfare of the agency than for the welfare of the parks it is supposed to be protecting.

Craighead also charges that NPS has put a stop to his research in Yellowstone, because his recommendations conflict with NPS policy. This is especially serious because the only way in which we can work out satisfactory long-term management policies is by getting a better understanding of whatever it is that we are managing.

The whole attitude of NPS (and other agencies) toward outside research in the areas they administer probably needs reexamination. Some types of research clearly are inappropriate in parks and wilderness areas, and any type of research should be conducted under supervision to safeguard the park, the visitors, and the researchers themselves. However, research should not be limited for the convenience of the agency or to suppress criticism of the agency.

I have had a bit of a brush with agency regulations myself. Two years ago I wanted to collect mice in Everglades National Park, in connection with a research project that I was working on. The Park Service people were glad to cooperate but they said that according to regulations only government employees were permitted to collect vertebrates in the parks. To do my trapping I would have to become an unpaid temporary government employee, and to do this I would have to have some sort of security clearance.

I had a Top Secret clearance long ago, where it mattered, but the idea of needing a clearance to trap mice seemed absurd. I considered taking it up with the ACLU, but dropped the matter when the Everglades officials decided that I would not have to be an employee if I trapped the mice alive and released them after making my observations. Apparently trapping mice dead involved national security but trapping them alive did not. Since then the concept of national security has been broadened to include many things no one ever knew were covered, and perhaps today I would not even be able to trap mice alive in a park without a clearance.

I hope that the House Interior Committee will look into the Yellowstone grizzly situation and also the policies of Interior agencies toward outside research.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Walter Sheppe
Assoc. Professor of Biology

WS/nb

Sent card
ERI

Copy to N. W. ✓

October 4, 1973

Dear Mr. Craighead,

I am writing in regard to your article published in the Oct-Nov. issue of National Wildlife magazine.

I am a biology-chem instructor at Sanborn Public School. I have followed your work on the Canada goose, published in National Geographic - to your work on the grizzly bear. I have ordered films for my students on your research projects. You have done a tremendous job and I know you won't give up on the grizzly project.

It is very upsetting - appalling to me, that in this day and age how politics and people can ruin, destroy, and turn away from facts and research which has taken years to come by.

Granted, some facts and findings can and do become outdated, but we build on these and update them, but when refusal to accept ideas and

research that has taken years - devoted years, of ones life because it may cause some inconvenience and policy change, is outrageous.

I can imagine how you must feel about this situation - I'd have gone through the roof! I may be wrong, but I believe that politics has no place in the management of our Natural Resources. It seems as though we will never rid ourselves of that plague. Everytime you get some fanatical beurocrate expounding to great lengths on something he knows absolutely nothing about - you have trouble.

I sincerely hope that enough people read your comments on the subject and try to do something about it.

I am sure the whole story is not there, but enough of it is and this in itself should make some sit down and think.

Sometimes one wishes to sit down and say to - Hell with it, but you find yourself asking the question "Am I going to be just like the rest"?

Things are not going to change for the better if left alone. We have caused changes and we must now cope with these situations.

I have taken enough of your time, but I sincerely hope that you will be the "point" on the needle that will prod and poke until something is done.

Thank you for your time and if I can help in anyway I would be more than glad to do so. I want my children to have these natural things also.

Sincerely yours,
Gerald E. Simonson

*Copy to ✓
Nat'l. W.*

COLE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.
MALVIN COLE, M.D.
246 SOUTH WASHINGTON
CASPER, WYOMING 82601

October 3, 1973

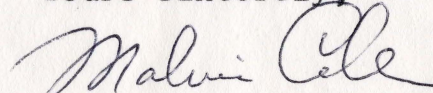
Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Jr.
Kelly, Wyoming 83011

Dear Dr. Craighead:

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for the recent candid interview which you gave to National Wildlife in the October-November issue of 1973. It is a pleasure to find someone who is not only not afraid to find the truth but to tell the truth. Of course, the ~~bure~~aucratic supression of data so as to "not to rock the boat" permeates not only the thinking of our directors of parks but of our military and of our highest levels of government.

Once again may I thank you for your excellent studies of behavior and for your fearlessness in speaking out. Perhaps someone will listen before our grizzly population is destroyed. With very best regards and many thanks.

Yours sincerely,



Malvin Cole, M. D.

MC/mp

*Sent FRT card
Oct. 23*