



STOUFFER PRODUCTIONS LTD.

November 24, 1975

Mr. Charles J. Jonkel
Research Associate
School of Forestry
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Mr. Jonkel:

Thank you for sending us the copies of your report "OF BEARS AND PEOPLE". Before making any comments, let me explain something of my background in this whole realm of the Grizzly Bear and its management.

More than five years ago, we began work on a film production dealing with Endangered Species of wildlife in America. Since that time, we have succeeded in documenting every species of mammal and bird (and many of the reptiles, amphibians, and fishes) on the official U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE listing. Naturally, the contents of this list have changed almost as often as has the name of this division of the Department of the Interior. But at that time, the Grizzly Bear was included on the listing.

Rightfully so we felt - after having made several difficult filming ventures after this rare and elusive creature. Since that time, we have done film work on them in several Western states, Canadian provinces, and Alaska. We spent a very interesting month with the Brown Bears at McNeil River this past summer.

During the course of this production work, extensive research was done on each of these species. In the case of the Grizzly Bear, we became interested in the fact that it was then extinct throughout even the largest of Colorado's wilderness areas. Having done alot of exploring on foot throughout backcountry Yellowstone Park, Glacier Park and wilderness areas in Colorado; it did not seem too far-fetched to us to consider the reintroduction of this species here.

We knew that they needed alot of land, and in several areas there was more than enough. We knew that these areas were historical Grizzly range and assumed that they would still be suitable. Of course, changes had been made and we knew there was the possibility of conflict with humans. But even considering the limited vision which many of our race possess, we did not feel that even this major consideration would be insurmountable. With extremely rare (National Park garbage program caused) exceptions, hundreds of Grizzlies and millions of humans have been able to share the same area in Yellowstone Park admirably well.

But what about livestock? Even in supposedly protected "wilderness" areas in Colorado (the large Maroon Bells area near here is an excellent example) the number of head of domestic livestock a hiker encounters far exceeds the number of wild ungulates seen in the same period. Not only are they more numerous, these domestic creatures seem to have lost all vestiges of natural intelligence and fitness. Compared to a wild deer, a domestic sheep is a stumbling idiot. And as nature intended, the predatory species are more apt to capture these "inferior" prey species. Unfortunately for the Bears and Wolves of the past, there were economic strings attached. But we felt that with changing attitudes regarding wilderness and public lands, maybe just a few of these areas could have livestock banned from then in an attempt to reestablish the natural order of things.

Maybe that's not good business. Maybe that's not the way to make the most dollars. But, we thought it was logical.

So, we proceeded with our film work and research on this species only to reach many strange roadblocks. We were quite interested in seeing Grizzlies returned to Colorado, but were also concerned with other Endangered Species as well. While in Florida, we arranged and organized the release of four captive born Florida Panthers into the Everglades. We had been along for transfers of Cheetah from growing ranches in Southwest Africa back into the bush and for transfers of Utah Prairie Dogs from poisoned private land to public land in Utah. We knew it could easily be done. In the Grizzly's case, it would just take a little more organization and research.

With the best of intentions, we had set out to document the whole realm of man the biologist working in an attempt to help these Endangered Species in America. In the case of the Grizzly Bear - after numerous contacts with game department administration and personnel and with National Park Service administration in Wyoming and Montana - some patterns began to emerge. Every attempt possible was made to dissuade us in our interest and, failing that, to block our efforts.

All we wanted to show were biologists working with Grizzlies in an attempt to save the species (as we had done with more than 20 other Endangered mammals and birds throughout America). All we met were slammed doors.

This resulted in massive mistrust on our part with regard to the activities and intent of those persons so desperately involved in blocking our view of the proceedings.

Represented by this summary are hundreds of telephone calls, letters and personal contacts over the period of December 1971 to November 1975. At one point, during more than two months that we spent in Yellowstone National Park, we were deliberately lied to on repeated occasions. Our purpose there was to document the trapping and removal of a troublesome campground bear to a remote area. In this effort, we were continually given misleading directions or personally driven on extended "wild goose chases" by obliging park personnel.

There was no question as to what was being done. One of our crew would literally be waiting at the Park Headquarters for radio word of a bear in a trap and another of the crew somewhere else in the park would see a helicopter pass overhead with a tranquilized Grizzly dangling in the net!

While less dramatic than this, we have never received any cooperation from the Wyoming or Montana Game Departments in several years of requests to film any biological work on this species.

To the best of our knowledge, we have never given them any reasons for such disbarment. As recently as last spring and this fall, we received the same "be nice to them but for God's sake don't let them in with a camera" treatment from the Montana Department of Fish and Game. We positively know that field work on this species has been underway during this time period. And while we were ready to travel to the working area and provide ourselves with all necessary provisions, no cooperation was extended. These men may know their wildlife, but they surely don't know a damn thing about public relations.

The last we heard, a letter we wrote to the Hearst Corporation regarding an article on Grizzly Bear hunting (after the species was listed as "Threatened" this summer) in FIELD & STREAM magazine went against Montana Game Department policies, so they stated that they could no longer offer us assistance. Next we suppose that the Montana Department of Fish and Game will instigate firing squads for those dangerous radicals who dare question their royal decrees. That would be a fitting tribute to their medieval mentality.

At the same time that sequences on other Endangered Species were being filmed, we persisted in this Grizzly Bear effort for several years. Only in retrospect can the monumental proportion of the lack of cooperation which we received be understood.

During this same period, the Grizzly Bear had been removed from the Endangered Species listing by pressure from those who wanted to "manage" (hunt & kill) it. Added to this controversy was the confusion of 250 starved "garbage" bears stampeding the campgrounds in Yellowstone Park. The rangers there had fed them human waste for 80 years or more; then could not understand their strange behavior as this food source was shut off instantly.

Certainly, these controversies made all those directly involved skeptical of any "outsider" with a camera or recorder. But we weren't asking to film the hunting and killing of a wild bear or the "disposal" of a troublesome bear. We only wanted to portray the constructive side of the situation. And since we had just finished filming dozens of interviews with biologists across the country; this attitude could only serve to reinforce our suspicions that these men had something to hide.

At this point in time, we've pretty much given up as hopeless our efforts to offer the American public some truthful insight into the Grizzly Bear story.

Again during this same time period of 1971 to the present, we became frustrated with the minimal efforts of the Colorado Division of Wildlife in the field of Endangered Species. Going on the implications of one of their representatives, we learned that the problem was lack of funding and "If you want to see the Grizzly Bear back in Colorado - just pay for it" was his advice. So we did. Or at least we tried to. After we had drawn up a foundation, raised the money, and offered to hand them \$10,000 for the initial reintroduction of one female Grizzly Bear and

and cubs - they refused! They explained that it was too controversial and that they would first soften the public to the idea of predator reintroductions with something more acceptable - the River Otter. We wanted bears and withdrew our monetary support when they made other suggestions. Our reasoning behind this is that if a wilderness area can support the Grizzly Bear, it will almost certainly be able to support all smaller creatures.

The Division's total annual budget for all Non-Game and Endangered Species was then about \$100,000 (its now proposed as \$114,000 for 1976-1977) so they planned to foot the bill themselves for 10 pairs of River Otters. The release date was just around the corner. That was almost two years ago. They'll tell you even today that those 10 pairs of River Otters will be here any minute. Of course, Colorado still has no Grizzly Bears and no River Otters.

With this information as background to my interest in this matter, I would like to make several comments on your published "OF BEARS AND PEOPLE".

First, let me say that it was wise for you to put OPINION 3 times on the front cover, otherwise I might have mistaken this 7 page propaganda piece as a valid scientific report.

I totally detest your usage of your credentials and affiliations as support for such nonsensical spewings.

In my opinion, you mention many "facts" that have no scientific data to back them up.

1. You state that "hunted Grizzlies become wary". There is no data to support this! From my personal knowledge of animal behavior and intelligence, I would say that a Grizzly Bear knows when a man is hunting it and that it knows his intentions. I feel that animals have more sensitive pickup to smells and actions of fear and aggression than we humans do. If anything, harassing bears makes them defensive and more aggressive. (I don't have any data either, but then I haven't published any "scientific" reports lately.)
2. You state "hunting is a valid form of recreation". Killing does not seem to be either "sport" or "fun" to me. If you can prove with biological data that X-amount of Grizzly Bears must be removed from a particular ecosystem for a certain reason - that's one thing. Or if a certain renegade bear does damage to our precious livestock - then kill that one. But to kill 25 Grizzly Bears in Montana this year in the name of "recreation" is a perversion of your college education.
3. You state "by removing surplus bears,...etc." This is impossible! Nothing is known of total Montana Grizzly Bear populations - much less any accurate data on their breakdown by age and sex. You know less now about Montana bears than the Craigheads did 15 years ago when they began work in Yellowstone Park. And after having long telephone conversations with both John Craighead and Frank Craighead last week (they quite obviously know more about this species than you, me, and the populations of Colorado and Montana combined) I am assured that there is still a hell of alot that is not known. Your mention of a Grizzly Bear population "surplus" is a wild guess - and you know it.

4. You state "the preoccupation of the public and press with the pros and cons of hunting" clouds the real issue of habitat destruction. And yet you then proceed to make misleading or vague statements like "it does not necessarily mean that they should be protected (from hunting)" many times over! About 50% of your report is spent in singing the praises of hunting. To me that sounds like you have renounced scientific logic and become one more puppet to support Montana's indefensible stand on the continued destruction of this magnificent creature. If others are wrong to waste their time bantering over this "worthless" topic, why then it is okay for you?

If you think that I'm against continued hunting of the Grizzly Bear - you're right.

But if you think that I'm a "well meaning but poorly informed" emotional city-slicker - you're wrong.

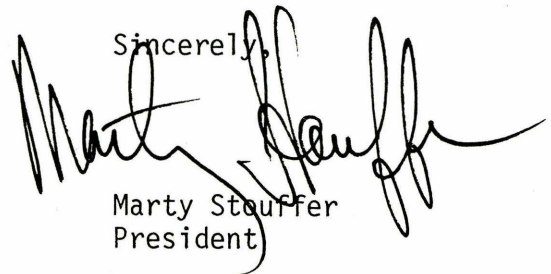
I've been on the scene in Alaska, Colorado, Montana and Africa when sport hunters killed Grizzlies, Elk, Moose, Lions, Leopards, and Warthogs. Ah sport. I have personally witnessed a grown man - an American sportsman - shooting Warthogs. WARTHOGS - there's not one thing on earth a human being can do with a dead Warthog. They can't be eaten and the skin can't be utilized. They aren't overgrazing the ranges and they aren't dangerous. But they are game. In all, one man shot four Warthogs (he was a fat VW & Cadillac dealer from Hammond, Louisiana). They were measured to see if their tusks were long enough to make the "record book" None were. They were left to rot in the African sun.

We Americans killed off our own game herds so we must now travel to the last frontiers on earth to kill for fun and ego. I happened to be in these places as a result of our photographic work and since the only camps in the Brooks Range of Alaska or the Kalahari Desert of Botswana are hunter's camps.

Many American hunters claimed that the recent CBS NEWS presentation "THE GUNS OF AUTUMN" was biased against hunters. Well, all I can say is that we have films of this "culturally rewarding form of recreation" that would make "THE GUNS OF AUTUMN" look like a picnic in the park. Its time it ended.

In 1975, there is no justification for your biased OPINION papers, and there is no justification for killing Grizzly Bears. When will you open your eyes?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marty Stauffer', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marty Stauffer
President

MS:ac

xc: Jack Perkins
Donald W. Richardson
Anthony W. Smith
John Denver
Paula H. Deats
Harry L. Tennison

xc: Wayne Barrett
Dr. John Craighead
Dr. Frank Craighead
Wesley W. Woodgert
Governor Tom Judge
Tom McGuire
Ed Corpe
Lewis E. Hawkes
Warren Page
Robert Redford
Dr. C.R. Gutermuth
Thomas Kleppe
Lynn A. Greenwalt
Cleveland Amory
Ronald O. Skoog
Nathaniel Reed
President Gerald Ford
Craig Sharpe
Senator Lee Metcalf
Representative Max S. Baucus
Representative John Melcher
Curt Berkland
Theodore W. Sudia
Thomas G. Scott
Dr. Clyde Jones
Dr. Lucille F. Stickel
Russell E. Train
Walter L. Mims
Fred G. Evenden
Senator Elmer Flynn
Edward L. Kozicky
Roger Contor
Jack Grieb
John Torres
Wayne Sandfort
W.G. Freeman
Jean K. Tool
Dr. J.K. Childress
Vernon C. Williams
Dean Hull
Dean C. Suttle
Samuel J. Caudill
Roger C. Clark
Thomas T. Farley
Harris D. Sherman
Peter Hansson
Governor Richard Lamm
Senator Gary Hart

Senator Floyd K. Haskell
Representative Patricia Schroeder
Representative Timothy E. Wirth
Representative Frank E. Evans
Representative James P. Johnson
Representative William L. Armstrong
Senator Michael J. Mansfield
Harry McNeal

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The status of the Grizzly Bear in America has reached a very critical stage.

This species is no longer being handled in a competent manner by researchers and biologists of the Montana and Wyoming Game Departments. The situation in Yellowstone National Park has progressed from embarrassing to unbelievable.

Recent papers, reports and articles in MONTANA OUTDOORS have taken such a closed minded view of the situation as to have reached the point of ignoring scientific procedures and logic.

Reports such as "OF BEARS AND PEOPLE" by Dr. Charles Jonkel as such pro-hunting and pro-Game department policy propoganda as to discredit any findings that might result from current efforts.

We feel that the following moves should be made IMMEDIATELY:

1. Declare a moratorium on all Grizzly Bear hunting in the few areas where they are still found.
2. Begin research on this species which is NOT conducted by the Wyoming or Montana Game Departments. This research MUST be done by an independent, outside researcher. The game departments involved have proven themselves to be self-serving and untrustworthy in their findings.
3. Make public all results of all studies and observations.
4. Depending on the preliminary independent findings, consider placing this species on the "Endangered" species list, rather than the current vague "Threatened" list.

Unless this IMMEDIATE ACTION is taken, the Grizzly Bear will be extinct in America before the year 2000.



SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801
(406) 243-0211

January 6, 1976

Dr. John Craighead, Leader
Montana Co-operative Wildlife Research Unit
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

Dear John,

The recent letter from Marty Stouffer to me in regard to grizzly bears was mostly untrue. It would appear from his text that he had gotten some of his views from the telephone conversations he had with you and Frank. I don't really believe that either of you would foment illogical biology, or so attempt to introduce politics into grizzly management. I do hope, therefore, that you will ask him to at least disassociate his views from your's and Frank's.

Grizzlies have suffered enough from emotionalism and politics, and as you emphatically know, their management is an increasingly delicate matter. Indeed, considering the problems that exist because of the different views of corporate land-owners, Indian bands, agencies, states, and provinces (and the professionals within them); the energy crisis; the re-birth of the anti-predator movement; and subdivisions, the last thing we need is further unprofessional theatrics.

I have asked Mr. Stouffer to direct his energies towards obtaining a Colorado mandate for grizzly re-introductions and to fighting subdivisions in grizzly habitat. I have already had a favorable response from him, but perhaps encouragement along these lines by you and Frank would help. We desperately need the good will and co-operative efforts of all in the management and preservation of North American bears, to hold what we have.

Sincerely,

Chas. Jonkel
Chas. Jonkel

c: F. Craighead ✓

WS

Marty Souffer:

I take it from your Nov. 24 letter (which I received Dec. 29) that you are very interested in grizzlies, and so I will attempt to keep you informed about the Borden Grizzly work. I have already asked you to comment on working paper No. 3, but if any others strike your fancy I'll send you copies.

We don't agree on several points, but are going in the same direction. Therefore I would like to hear your further views, especially if you are a little less inhospitable to me. The grizzlies need all our efforts, but they are not an easy species to help. *Carlisle*

Also sent: Flipperty Bill papers
re buying them out, the
problems w/ subdivisions, etc.

2) PC 13's paper

3) Brian paper

4) Behavior paper + comments re his #1 + 2

5) CWS who's who (griz) re re-introduction of G. Bear
to Colorado.

Grizzly Habitat Still Shrinking; Action Needed

ED DOBSON

Tom Garrett's article in the April, 1975 NMA created more concern at just the right moment for one of America's most magnificent mammals, the grizzly bear. For two months it has been rumored that the great bear was about to be designated a threatened species, thereby coming under the protection of the Endangered Species Act. But as the days roll by with no designation, conservationists are becoming concerned that a purposeful stall is afoot. Strong pressures are working against protection of the grizzly — pressure that can only assure its progressive demise.

Habitat disruption is certainly one of the most serious threats to the great bear. Trophy hunting is a problem, but the bears' survival probably hangs on our approaches to habitat and public education. Although Mr. Garrett criticizes the Montana Fish and Game Department (MF&G) for doing little to help the grizzly, the agency did close the season in the Yellowstone Ecosystem and severely restricted it in the Bob Marshall. (The grizzly is probably extinct in the Selway-Bitterroot.) MF&G has an admitted paucity of sound biological information to manage the grizzly but is currently involved in two extensive studies, one in north-west Montana and the other in and around Yellowstone Park in an attempt to gather necessary data.

It has not been demonstrated that public lands — even national parks and wilderness areas — are "safe" from development that may wipe out the grizzly. Even such seemingly minimal development as road-building can drive away the bears.

DISAPPEARING HABITATS

There are many other developments that threaten the grizzly. Some of the big ones are cited below, although many small single-use projects promoted by special interests are, on a cumulative basis, rapidly whittling away remaining grizzly habitat.

1. In northwest Montana's Flathead National Forest, Texas-Pacific Oil Company, owned by whiskey magnate Joseph Seagrams, plans to develop oil and gas reserves in 236,000 acres of prime grizzly country, including part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Forest Service doesn't have the public support to say "no." A letter to Ed Corpe, Supervisor, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana 59901, would help.

2. Just west of Yellowstone Park, a Pennsylvania-based corporation, Ski Yellowstone, Inc., wants to build a massive second-home subdivision and ski resort. Virtually every grizzly authority has said that this type of development will hurt the grizzly. Still, the Forest Service is seriously considering giving the private developer special permission to place ski runs, 13 chair lifts, roads, a gondola, and a mountain-top restaurant on nearly 7,000 acres of the Gallatin National Forest. Montana Governor Tom Judge thinks Ski Yellowstone is more important than a few grizzly bears, so he has criticized MF&G for opposing the development. In fact, MF&G has been silenced for trying to prevent grizzly habitat destruction. Write to John McGuire, Chief of the Forest Service, Washington, DC 20250; Lewis E. Hawkes, Supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest, Federal Building, Bozeman, Montana 59715; Governor Tom Judge, State Capitol, Helena, Montana 59601. Urge them to reconsider their positions. Drop a copy to the Pennsylvania law firm behind Ski Yellowstone: Smith & McCleary, 124 East Market

Street, York, Pennsylvania 17401. Contact the Montana Wilderness Association for more details on Ski Yellowstone, c/o Rick Applegate, Box 931, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

3. The Montana Power Company hopes to route a high-voltage transmission line through a pristine grizzly area and on to the Big Sky development just north of Yellowstone Park. Again, write to the Forest Service and Governor Judge.

4. Special interests want a new road through the same corridor Montana Power picked for the power line. Both the road and the line would affect the grizzly directly by destroying habitat, but they would also have a serious indirect impact. By providing easy access and extra electricity to the semi-primitive area, the two projects would encourage more recreational subdivision and commercial development, much to the detriment of the grizzly. Both the line and the road require the approval of the Forest Service.

5. Despite strong objections by almost everyone who knows something about grizzlies, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management still allow sheep grazing on public lands supporting grizzly bears. Bear experts, including those at the National Academy of Sciences, have recommended against grazing, but it continues nonetheless.

6. The Forest Service continues to log in grizzly habitat, but the logging may represent only a temporary disruption of habitat. In fact, some grizzly authorities such as Dr. John Craighead and Dr. Charles Jonkel say opening the forest canopy might even help the bear by encouraging the growth of berry bushes and other plants useful to the grizzly. The bad part of logging is the accompanying road building. When the Forest Service does not destroy the roads, dirt bikes and four-wheelers still use them, so we must insist the Forest Service completely close all roads to the public during and after logging.

7. Montana's dedicated Senator, Lee Metcalf, is making a sincere effort to preserve the grizzly by introducing two bills we should support. First, S. 392 will place the region between Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System as the Great Bear Wilderness. Second, the

Montana Wilderness Study Bill, S. 393, would give wilderness study status to nine pristine areas for a few years while their wilderness potential is analyzed. Timber interests have mounted a scare campaign against both bills, especially S. 393. Support them in any way you can.

Considering all this destruction of habitat (and there is much more) we cannot concentrate on putting an end to hunting to save the bears. The MF&G has taken strong stands against some developments, but that is not enough. The grizzly should be on the threatened list, not so much to stop hunting as to save habitat. We can now use that status and section seven of the Endangered Species Act to stop some of the disasters about to befall the grizzly.

EDUCATION PLUS TOLERANCE EQUALS SURVIVAL

One obvious way we can help the grizzly is to accept the bear. For example, if some wildlife managers suggested transplanting grizzlies into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to re-establish the historical populations, there would be an uproar. Local ranchers and some recreationists simply don't want the grizzly where they live or play. A few years ago Idaho Fish and Game Department officials proposed transplanting grizzlies into the northern part of the state. When the plan became known, the public almost threw the concerned biologists out of the state.

We desperately need educational programs to inform the public of the grizzly's worth.

The grizzly is a dangerous animal, to be sure, but it is not a vicious killer, as it has been described throughout history or whenever a human is injured by a bear. Bad regulatory policies in the national parks caused two deaths in 1967 and another in 1972, but these were caused by garbage-foraging bears. New policies have apparently eliminated the dangerous garbage situation.

While we watch grizzly habitat disappear, we cannot condemn sportsmen for not helping the bear. Won't we tolerate the grizzly in any other places except where it now exists? There

are millions of acres of wild land that could support grizzlies.

*** What You Can Do:** A lot of letter-writing! To help the grizzly:

1. Urge the Forest Service and other federal agencies to take every possible action to protect all remaining grizzly habitat;
2. Support Senator Metcalf's two bills, S. 392 and S. 393;
3. Write to the addresses given earlier and send copies of your letters to others who might influence the outcome of these developments or other projects threatening the bear and its habitat;
4. Allow wildlife professionals to investigate the possibility of transplanting grizzlies into viable historical ranges.

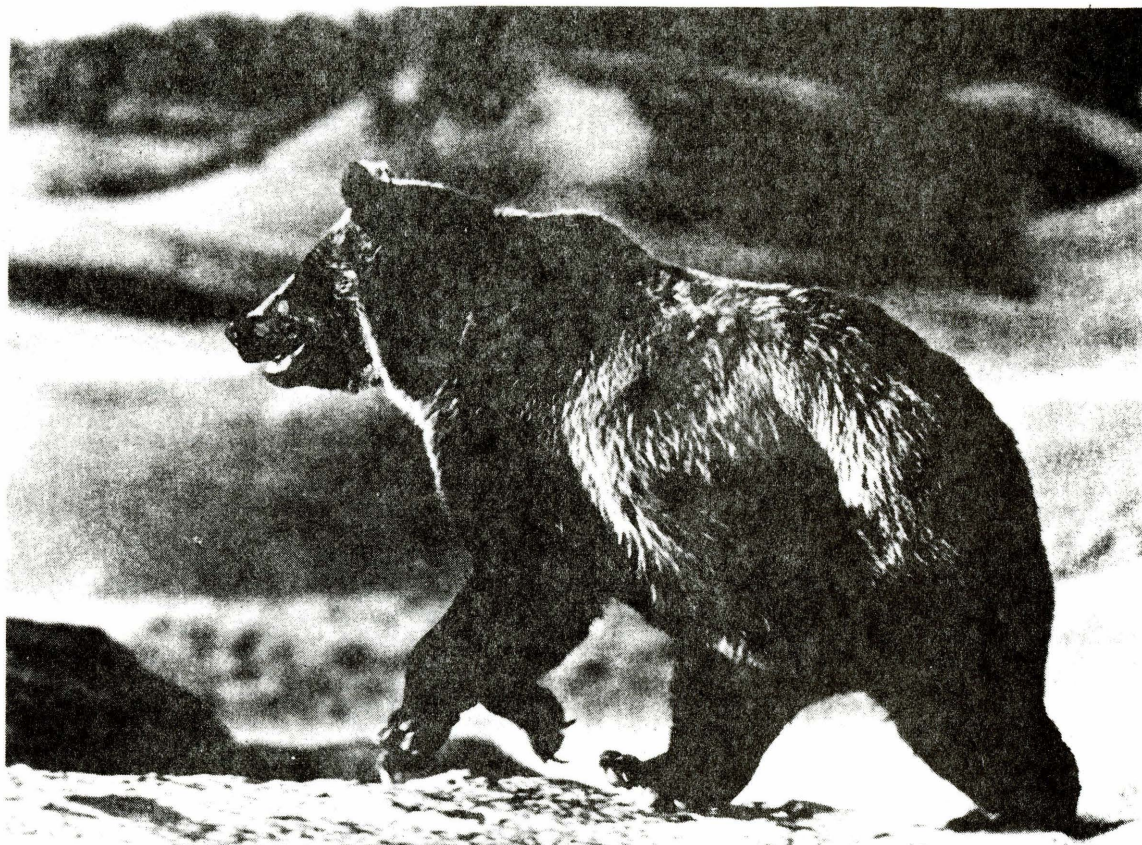
We should remain concerned about grizzly hunting, but not to the extent that we are blinded to more serious problems. Idaho banned grizzly hunting in 1947. Did it bring the grizzly back? Hardly. The Idaho grizzly population is, at best, at an all-time low, and, at worst, extinct except in a small section near Yellowstone Park and in the distant northwest corner of the state, where there are a few stragglers. Montana's grizzlies must never reach that status.

Skill and Sophistication

One of our major problems is that we don't really know what we're doing to our environment, and, ultimately, to ourselves. Like children with a new toy, we have believed that just because a thing is technologically dazzling, it is good. . . . Compared with our skill and sophistication in creating pollution, our ability and instruments for comprehending and controlling it must rank somewhere at the level of the Stone Age.

RUSSELL TRAIN
Administrator, EPA
April 19, 1975

PIGS HAVE better eyesight than human beings.



Grizzly bear in Yellowstone National Park. Photo by W. S. Keller, courtesy National Park Service.

DO SOMETHING TO HELP SAVE THE GRIZZLY BEAR FROM EXTINCTION!

If you think that the Grizzly Bear needs to be kept alive as a species in the wild, the following people need to know it:

Mr. Wesley W. Woodgerd
MONTANA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
Helena, MT 59601

Governor Tom Judge
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Mr. Tom McGuire, Chief
FOREST SERVICE
Washington, DC 20250

Mr. Ed Corpe, Supervisor
FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST
Kalispell, MT 59901

Mr. Lewis E. Hawkes, Supervisor
GALLITIN NATIONAL FOREST
Federal Building
Bozeman, MT 59715

Mr. Warren Page
NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION
1075 Post Road
Riverside, CT 06878

Dr. C.R. Gutermuth
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
4801 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008

Mr. Thomas Kleppe
Secretary of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Lynn A. Greenwalt
Director
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Ronald O. Skoog
Office of Endangered Species
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Nathaniel Reed
Asst. Sec. Fish & Wildlife
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Washington, DC 20240

SMITH & McCLEARY
124 East Market St.
York, PA 17401

WRITE THEM EACH A LETTER TODAY - URGING THAT EVERY STEP NECESSARY BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THIS SPECIES AND ITS RAPIDLY DWINDLING NATURAL HABITAT.
(attached are some samples)



STOUFFER PRODUCTIONS LTD.

P.O. Box 15057

Aspen, Colo. 81611

November 14, 1975

Mr. Steve R. Bayless, Chief
Bureau of Information
STATE OF MONTANA
Department of Fish & Game
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Bayless:

Thank you for your letter of November 12. We feel that you offered a worthwhile exchange of opinions. Rather than taking your sentiments and opinions point by point for the purpose of refutation, we would rather proceed with something more constructive and beneficial.

For several years, we have been actively involved in attempting (note the word "attempt") to reintroduce endangered species back into Colorado. These have most often been predators due to man's mindless persecution of them throughout America's development. So, rather than us choosing predators to work with, they chose us. Our particular interest has been the Grizzly Bear - and there is a very sound biological reason behind this choice.

The high point (and low point at the same time) of our efforts came almost two years ago. The COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE informed us that none of their \$14,000,000 annual budget could be allocated for work with Endangered Species - and especially not something as controversial as the Grizzly Bear. They also implied that privately raised funds could be used for these purposes and that they would cooperate with our efforts. With this encouragement, we drew up a foundation (the attorney fee alone was \$1500. for drawing up the necessary papers) and raised an initial \$10,000 in pledged support. This sum was to be used solely for the reintroduction into Colorado of one female Grizzly Bear with cubs, completely monitored with satellite-assisted radio telemetry devices.

Stop for a moment to consider the Colorado Division of Wildlife struggling to do something for Non-Game and Endangered Species, but not having the financial support to do so. If only they could come up with the funds! What great things could be accomplished!

Well, we offered them the \$10,000 for the purpose outlined above. They turned it down flat. We notice that you sent a carbon copy of your letter to us to the MONTANA WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION. Obviously, the COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE has similar monetary and political ties. It is sad to us that those who would push all wildlife aside and replace them with their four-legged locusts can be in such a powerful position. We quickly learned that ranchers and other economic interests had total control of the DIVISION'S actions.

Of course, the DIVISION suggested that we donate the money anyway for "other uses". Of course, we refused. Our interest was in helping to replenish some ecosystems in our own state which had been ravaged by man in the past. Dumping the streams full of non-reproducing Rainbow Trout for the worm-fishing tourists from Indiana is not our idea of "conservation" or "sound biology" as you put it.

As we see it, there are several very important natural predators either very low in numbers or extinct which we hoped to replenish. You asked what we meant by the term "natural predators". In Colorado, we include the Wolf, the Mountain Lion, the Grizzly Bear, the Black Bear, the Bobcat, the Lynx, the Wolverine, the Coyote, the several Foxes, the River Otter, the Marten, the Black footed Ferret, and the Weasels. Our primary interest settled with these large mammals rather than with birds, plants, or fishes because it is this segment of the natural world that has been most badly depleted by the destructive nature of man. Naturally, of those listed above, about 50% of them are completely extinct here in Colorado. Several others are just hanging on. None could be considered plentiful, except for isolated populations.

This past summer, we had the wonderful opportunity to spend two months in Alaska. Except for passing through Anchorage and a couple of small communities, the entire time was spent in the bush. One morning on the McNeil River, we had a Wolf, a Red Fox, and a Brown Bear right in camp within about an hour. By comparison, we often hike in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness area. It is rather close to Aspen, but it is also quite a large area. The opportunity of seeing wildlife (except for pika, marmot or small birds) is virtually nil. But an average day will reveal hundreds of domestic sheep.

If you think that I'm strange enough to want wild animals in our wilderness areas and domestic sheep in fenced pastures on private land, then you're correct. And we're doing everything that we can to put some pressure on this destructive and monopolistic usage of that which belongs to all of us. In America, that's a real trick. We all know that money doesn't talk, it screams.

So, you can see that from a very personal standpoint, we have come to feel that we would like to have these large predators back in our state. The COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE does not agree with this sound biological reasoning because of the powerful rancher representation in the Wildlife Commission and in the highest levels of state government. We have personally been responsible for television and newspaper campaigns to rally support for this work with Endangered Species, and we have had personal contact with many people who have contacted the DIVISION on this point. It would seem logical to assume that many more have also expressed their opinions than we are aware of due to the wide-reaching Public Service Announcements on radio and television.

And yet, last night we had traveled to Denver to attend the DIVISION'S Public Hearing on the 1976-1977 budgetary proposals. They firmly state that they have received little or no public support or comments in the field of Endangered Species. In our minds, this can only be the result of some powerful political forces. They are positively not acting in behalf of all the citizens of this state.

With this as background information, perhaps you will begin to realize that we have been attempting to do things more worthwhile than (as you put it) "telling other people what they should be doing". And, believe us, by now we realize that it does take a great deal of personal effort.

Last week we received a letter from Mr. Jean K. Tool, head of the Wildlife Commission here in Colorado. He refuted a letter I had written him regarding these predatory reintroductions with the reasoning that the world population would double before the year 2000 and then double again shortly thereafter. Thus, with this impending surge of humans, he reasoned that we would need every available animal - wild and domestic - that could be eaten just to keep us all from starving. (so that we could struggle on for that glorious goal of reproducing double again, we would presume). Mr. Tool then concluded that all of our efforts should be aimed at domestic food species and wild food species, and that predatory species (endangered or not) had no place in a logical man's consideration or discussion.

With such a pessimistic attitude, it seems strange to us that a man could find a reason for getting out of bed in the morning. Our feeling is that alot of bad has been done and that the destruction is continuing. But it also seems to us, hopefully we're not wrong, that man is finally beginning to open his eyes to the world around him. And on a few fronts, we see hopeful signs for the future. Our theory is that modern man, complete with greed inherent, could easily make the entire planet a garbage dump or a paradise. We feel that he has that amazing capability. His track record isn't too good, but a new wave of awareness has been sweeping in and a new generation of intelligent humans has been growing up fast. Our hope is for the best possible world for every living creature.

A couple of years ago, I traveled through some backcountry in Africa, the Near East, and the Far East. Believe me, I know how good we have it in this country. I sometimes feel a trillion miles away from a black man borrowing 50¢ to buy a small wooden box for his 4 year old daughter. It was in Botswana, he was a friend of several months, and she was dead.

If that sort of crowded, disease-ridden situation is what Mr. Jean K. Tool is looking forward to, he can have it. But as long as I'm alive, I plan to use my skills and talents in an attempt to better the only place we have in which to live. Which brings us back to the Grizzly Bear.

From our standpoint, its not the bears themselves that are the important thing. It's the fact that these wild creatures act as a barometric reading of our overall environmental condition. We realize that America can never return to her primitive majesty. We're intelligent enough to see the vision of an army of bulldozers clearing the last stand of trees from the last patches of arable land so that man can grown a few more fields of corn for a few more millions to eat. We're pessimistic enough to envision the ultimate neon plastic chrome world which is evolving. But we're optomistic enough to envision alternatives and solutions.

Our efforts with Colorado's wildlife will not end with the Grizzly Bear. In our view, this first phase will be the hardest. A wilderness area that can support the Grizzly could easily support all the rest on down to the Weasel. That's our reasoning for starting with the hardest one first.

I had an extensive telephone conversation today with Dr. John Craighead on this entire topic. As a matter of fact, we will be utilizing his expertise in the future. His feeling is that public opposition would have made this sort of project totally impossible 10 years ago, but that it would be possible - in his opinion - to receive total support today.

We would sincerely appreciate any input which you would have to offer on this. To us, it seems a simple matter of:

1. Gain public support through comparisons with Yellowstone & Glacier Park and through education as to the value of these large predators in a natural ecosystem.
2. Gain rancher and woolgrower support through the only language which they seem to understand - cash reimbursement for damages.
3. Reintroduce some Grizzly Bears into an area of historical range, less limited than the areas proposed in Colorado, where basic knowledge could be gained about their establishment of home territory, travel from release site, etc.
4. Establish those areas in Colorado which contain suitable Grizzly Habitat and food sources. Dr. Craighead also has work underway that will greatly aid in this area - it deals with computer assisted analyzation of spectral images, and will allow complete and accurate comparison of areas in Colorado with other areas of known Grizzly habitation.
5. LOCATE A SOURCE FOR WILD GRIZZLY BEARS THAT ARE SURPLUS, BUT NOT PROBLEM BEARS THAT SOMEONE JUST WANTS TO GET RID OF.
6. Release bears into carefully selected areas of Colorado only after (3) it has been shown that such long-distance transplants can be successful and (1) & (2) the people of Colorado are ready for them. Follow up bears with satellite assisted radio telemetry devices that would allow researchers to make a "fix" on them every 12 hours for several years.

Of course, the major consideration in this entire effort in #5. Even if everything goes like clockwork, we would imagine that it would be at least a couple, probably several years before the actual release date. But, at that time, it would be critically important to have positive access to the animals. We have mentioned this to Craig Sharpe of your Department on several occasions, but have not proceeded with anything on an official basis due to the time factor.

Much of my criticism aimed at the Montana Department of Fish & Game comes from the fact that even if you do have a surplus of Grizzly Bears (which at this point in time can be no more than a guess with no hard facts to back it up), you are surely skimming it off as fast as it appears.

Thus, looking to the future, we would like to see Montana build up an "exportable" surplus of this species for the purpose of restocking former habitat in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana as well. That in itself seems to us to be one hell of a job and your 25 bears "harvested as trophies" would go a long way toward replenishing this species.

With this in mind and looking toward the future, let me say that we accept your offer to take your surplus Grizzly Bears off of your hands. As a matter of fact, again according to Dr. Craighead, so little is known about the population dynamics of this species that we're uncertain that one or two bears would even be worthwhile. It is Dr. Craighead's opinion that a worthwhile number would be in the vicinity of 20 to 30. With this in mind from America's foremost

authority on this species, your supposed surplus of 25 per annum seems to shrink in significance.

So that we might check #5 (the most important point) off of our list, we would sincerely appreciate some official confirmation from the Director of the Montana Department of Fish & Game and from the Head of the Montana Wildlife Commission that this number of bears would be available to us in the future.

To clarify this proposal, any and all phases of this operation would be coordinated through Dr. John Craighead and through the Colorado Division of Wildlife. We hope to be instrumental in making this a reality, but we plan to rely on the expertise of professionals in this field for the critical decisions.

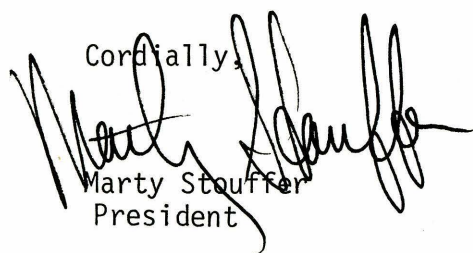
A possible timetable for the shipment of these animals would be 1980, probably in springtime or early summer. Since they are "surplus" to Montana and will only be used for trophies and decorations in your state, it would seem that this would be a most worthwhile opportunity to get these additional animals.

The figures will depend on the final scientific analyzation, but from Dr. Craighead's estimate, it would probably be in the neighborhood of 1 to 2 dozen individuals.

Again, we will be looking forward to receiving official confirmation of this offer.

Thank you for your interest and any suggestions which you care to pass along.

Cordially,


Marty Stouffer
President

MS:ac

xc: to interested parties