

Part of J. Craighead's letter
to Sports Illustrated

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grizzly mgt.

To manage grizzlies and people will require some drastic changes in National Park Service management procedures and a willingness to accept new ideas. It will require sufficient funds so that rangers may keep as close a watch on grizzlies as on people and fires and traffic. It will require an expanded ranger and interpretive service, and objective research by qualified personnel. Zoning areas for grizzlies and others for visitors will be necessary. Ultimately visitor use must be regulated if the parks are to be maintained as natural areas. Equally important, the public will have to accept a calculated risk. We must be willing to meet the challenge of co-existence. The grizzly is dangerous -- though it is not normally a man-eater -- but it is a minor hazard to life and limb in national parks compared to traffic, boating, swimming, and climbing.

Learning to co-exist with the grizzly bear is simple compared to co-existing with environmental pollution, population growth, thermonuclear weapons, and other threatening problems of our times. It will help to give the grizzly some uninhabited space, to treat him with respect, and to enforce present National Park Service regulations on feeding bears.

Sincerely,

John J. Craighead
Professor of Zoology and Forestry

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