

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

October 30, 1973

TO: Members of the University Committee Supporting the Craighead Research
Activities in Yellowstone National Park

FROM: John J. Craighead, Leader, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit

RE: Notes from the October 27 meeting with the NAS committee

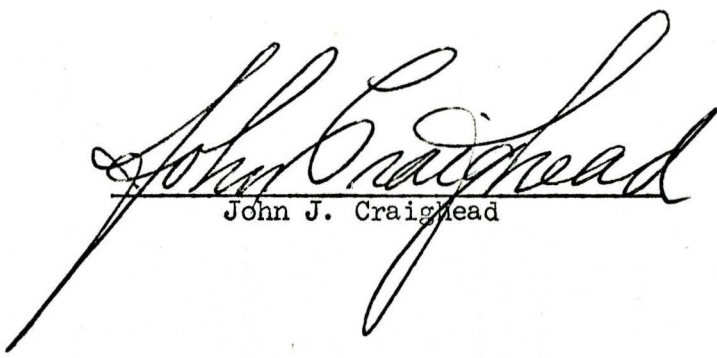
I am enclosing some notes which briefly describe our meeting with the NAS committee.

It is my impression that the meeting progressed very well and that if the committee attempts to make a strictly objective report that our position both in regard to the biological aspects of the problem and the political-bureaucratic and administrative aspects will be vindicated.

The question, as I see it, is whether the committee can be completely objective and just how much political pressure will be exerted on the committee.

I was distressed to learn yesterday, October 29, that Jim White, Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the chairman of the grizzly bear committee of the International Association of Fish and Game Commissioners, has been relieved of his position as chairman. Mr. White strongly supported our position and openly and forcefully challenged the activities and procedures of the National Park Service. Hopefully, his removal is not a political maneuver. In any event, it greatly weakens our position and could mean that the State Fish and Game Directors of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho will not be able to actively oppose the Park Service without fear of political coercion.

I am very certain that we are going to need all of the support we can muster from the academic community. I appreciate sincerely the support of all of the committee members. I will attempt to keep you posted on events as they develop.



John J. Craighead

JJC:nlh

Enclosures

NOTES: October 27, 1973, meeting with members of the NAS Committee on Yellowstone Grizzlies

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present were:

Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, Chairman
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Dr. Douglas G. Chapman
Dean, College of Fisheries
University of Washington
Seattle, Wash. 98105

Dr. Robert S. Hoffmann
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dr. Dale R. McCullough
Associate Professor, Resource Ecology Program
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Dr. Gustav A. Swanson
Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology
Colorado State University
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521

Dr. Robert B. Weeden
Professor of Wildlife Management
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Staff Officer: Harvey E. Sheppard
Division of Biological Sciences
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20418

The guests asked to meet with the committee were:

Dr. John J. Craighead, Leader
Mont. Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, USDI
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Jr., President
Environmental Research Institute
Moose, Wyoming

Dr. Maurice G. Hornocker, Leader
Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, USDI
Moscow, Idaho

Roger S. Bumstead
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Unit
Division of Natural Resources,
U. S. Forest Service, USDA
Missoula, Montana 59801

Clifford J. Martinka
National Park Service, USDI
Glacier National Park, Montana

Robert Phillips
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, USDI
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

Jay Sumner
Wildlife Biologist
Mont. Coop. Wildl. Res. Unit (affiliate)
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

Joel Varney
Electronic Engineer
Mont. Coop. Wildl. Res. Unit (affiliate)
Philco-Ford Corporation
Palo Alto, Calif.

Riley McClellan, Ecologist
Former Employee of the National Park Service, USDI
(18 years in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks)
Graduate School, University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59801

President Bob Pantzer welcomed members of the committee and guests. He made it very clear to the committee that the problem they were investigating was one the University was deeply concerned with and that it was a problem of import and interest to many people in Montana. He remarked that the problems of how to manage and preserve grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem and how to develop better working relationships for research in National Parks were vitally important to the University of

Montana. He stated further that he and members of his staff were solidly behind the work that we had done in Yellowstone and that he hoped that the committee could resolve the problem. He indicated that he did not want to impose on the committee; but suggested that if they had time, there was a campus committee prepared to meet and discuss matters relating to the grizzly bear problem. He also stated that Dr. Nakamura was present and that he would like him to sit in on the meeting if the chairman had no objections. Dr. Cowan expressed his appreciation to President Pantzer, and the meeting began with introductions of all members present.

The chairman requested that all those who did not have biological information to offer the committee should leave in order to expedite the work of the committee. Dr. Nakamura, Riley McClelland and Clifford Martinka departed with arrangements for Martinka to meet with the committee after lunch.

There was an attempt to determine just what was the mandate to the committee from NAS. Dr. Cowan said that the committee had been asked to study a biological problem - the population status of the Yellowstone grizzly bears, but that they were not to investigate the political and socio-political aspects of the problem. Basically, they were here to examine all of the data gathered by the Craighead team relating to grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park. Dr. Frank Craighead said that it would not be feasible to divorce the political and bureaucratic aspects of the problem from the biological ones. This position was supported by Dr. John Craighead and Dr. Maurice Hornocker. I (JJC) stated that our team was prepared to provide them with all of the information we had; that we had completed "A Computer Analysis of the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Population" and that the conclusions reached in this analysis accurately represented our position with regard to the Yellowstone problem. I further stated that we had worked for 15 years on the problem, that we were prepared to publish, in the near future, on many aspects of grizzly bear ecology, and we hoped that the committee would take this into consideration. I asked if it was the purpose of the committee to judge our research techniques, the validity of our data and the conclusions we had drawn, and if they intended to do the same with the Park Service research team and then make an evaluation of the entire situation? I indicated that we had learned via the grapevine that this was essentially what the committee had been asked to do and would like the chairman to comment on it. Dr. Cowan said that this was essentially what they had in mind; this was further supported by a statement from Dr. Hoffman. The committee indicated that our rights to first interpretation and publication of our own data would be respected. I replied that I was happy to hear this since we had worked for many years and would not wish to be put in the position of having our data interpreted for us before we had the opportunity to do this ourselves.

With this basic understanding, we got down to the meat of the discussion of just what was the situation in Yellowstone with respect to grizzly bears.

We presented information on the movement of marked bears and on the kill records, illustrating that we had been dealing with an ecosystem instead of just a Park situation. We provided evidence to show that there were not two separate populations of bears - those that frequented garbage dumps and those that lived in the backcountry; but that there was a single population displaying different characteristics and behavior depending on where the bears were observed. The computer analysis was made available to all members of the committee. Dr. Cowan had already received a copy, and I indicated that the report had not yet been cleared for distribution but that I had received a call from Washington giving me permission to distribute the report to the committee. Some members expressed surprise that they had not received the report earlier when I mentioned that the report had been submitted to Washington the 3rd of August and that it had been in the hands of the Assistant Secretary of Interior for a number of months. During the course of the morning, we displayed a great deal of information on maps, and the committee asked many searching questions. We provided the committee with data showing:

1. that grizzlies marked at Trout Creek moved throughout the entire 5,000,000 acre ecosystem;
2. that there was little or no evidence to support the theory that large pockets of relatively sedentary bears existed in the backcountry;
3. that the data of Barnes and Bray, and Cole did not support such a theory;
4. that we had computed an ecosystem population for 1970 using ratios of marked bears killed outside the Park to ratios of marked bears counted on the censuses. This population did not exceed 250 animals and was probably closer to 212. The calculations were explained in detail;
5. how we made our censuses and how we recognized both marked and unmarked animals;
6. how the Park personnel had completely destroyed our research by preventing marking, removing identification tags, prohibiting us from capturing and handling grizzlies and failing to provide us with a workable Memo of Understanding.

Dr. Hornocker, Jay Sumner and Joel Varney supported our positions.

We convened for lunch.

Following lunch, the committee met for an hour with Mr. Martinka; after which, we reconvened for the afternoon session.

It was apparent that the committee now realized they could not separate the biological problems from the political and bureaucratic ones. Consequently, questions during the afternoon were directed not only toward the biological problems but also toward the other related ones. I believe it was becoming obvious to some members of the committee that the political situation had a direct bearing on the nature and quality of the data. The subject of detagging of our bears by the Park Service was discussed in greater detail and also the problems we encountered when working in the Park under Mr. Anderson's administration, as well as research methods employed by the Park Service biologists.

Bob Phillips briefly described the problems he had met in working during the summer of 1973, as a member of the research team set up by the Assistant Secretary. Essentially, he had little or no cooperation and had not been permitted to work in the Park or to have access to any data obtained by the Park research team. Roger Bumstead explained that the Forest Service was interested not only in the Yellowstone situation but in the larger problem of grizzly bear habitat in National Forests. He briefly outlined the cooperative project we (Montana Wildlife Unit) had undertaken with the Forest Service in the Scapegoat area. He stated that he thought this was a productive effort and that more such work should be done. He felt that it had been a mistake to pull funds from this effort in 1973 and allocate them to the cooperative effort in Yellowstone. Bumstead said the Yellowstone project had not been cooperative, the results of the project were highly questionable, and in no sense of the word had there been an objective and cooperative effort to research the situation which had been the stated objective of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

It was my (JJC) impression that the committee had become extremely concerned about the political and bureaucratic aspects of the situation and probably recognized that this would have to be a major aspect of their investigation. Dr. Cowan admitted this when he turned to Dr. Sheppard, staff officer from NAS and said, "the problem is far more complex than I had been led to believe, and it is possible that the committee might request both more time and more money". Dr. Sheppard replied that money would be made available and that the deadline could be extended.

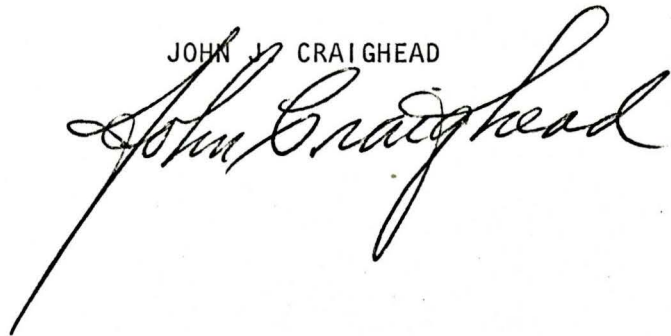
Dr. Hornocker and other members attempted to impress on the committee the difficulty of recognizing and counting grizzly bears without the use of a marking system. Dr. Hornocker said he would have very little

faith in a census that did not employ marked animals and that he thought this would be the reaction of most competent population ecologists.

Dr. Frank Craighead asked Dr. Cowan if it would be possible for us to meet with his committee after they had met with the other parties. This would enable us to confirm or refute statements that might be made concerning our activities in the Park, our research methods, or our data. Dr. Cowan said arrangements would be made for this kind of a meeting or meetings in the future.

The meeting concluded about 5:30 p.m.

JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John J. Craighead". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "JOHN J. CRAIGHEAD". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

JJC:nh

27 29 Oct. 31/73

Notes

MEETING OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, COMMITTEE ON YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES

On October 27, 1973 in Missoula, Montana, John and I met with the Committee on Yellowstone Grizzlies which consisted of: Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, Dr. Douglas G. Chapman, Dr. Robert S. Hoffman, Dr. Dale R. McCullough, Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, and Dr. Robert Weeden. (Addresses and phone numbers on a separate sheet.) The staff officer for the National Academy of Sciences who attended was Harvey E. Sheppard. On the morning of the 27th, the meeting was convened on the campus of the University of Montana. President Panzer gave a short introductory talk to the Committee as well as to others who were present at the time. Some of these included: Dr. Nakamura, Mr. Martinkas, and Mr. Riley McClellan and Dr. Sogandares. President Panzer opened the meeting stating that the University was solidly behind John and me, and that they were not only concerned with the status of the grizzly bear, but with the whole situation, including the political issues involved. Immediately after this Dr. Cowan cut the size of the discussion group by eliminating Riley McClellan, Dr. Nakamura and a few others. He indicated that he could get in touch if he felt he needed some of the information that they could provide. We were particularly prepared to give information on the political and ethical aspects of this whole situation. John then asked Mr. Martinkas from the National Park Service to leave with the others. Dr. Cowan made arrangements for the Committee to meet with Martinkas between 1 and 2 p.m. Unfortunately, the Committee never met with any of the University people who were on stand-by throughout the day hoping to be able to enlighten them on a few matters. The faculty members, including Dr. Frank Sogandares offered to meet with the committee at their convenience.

Dr. Cowan started the meeting by stating that it would not include political issues or policies of State or Federal agencies, but that they would examine all available grizzly bear data, including the status, trends, and management of the grizzlies. I then arose and said that the political and policy issues could not be completely separated from the biological ones. I also mentioned that the facts were being misrepresented in that there was outright lying involved - - that this also concerned the freedom to conduct research and to present findings without harassment if the findings did not jibe with policy. It was then generally agreed that these issues and data relevant to them would be brought up as it effected the biological information. John stated that he thought the Committee's job was to evaluate the grizzly bear situation by making a judgment on all available data. He supplied most of the biological data requested - largely on

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populations and research methods and a considerable amount of his testimony revolved around the Computer Analysis Report and methods of censusing and computing population numbers. Joel Varney contributed from time to time and Maurice Hornocker joined in, often asked questions bringing out relevant information - - so did Jay Sumner.

The subject of grizzly bears counted by the black bear team (Barnes and Bray) was brought up, and we showed how these bears could readily have come from one or two of the nearby dumps. I mentioned that a census of grizzlies has been made outside of Yellowstone by the Forest Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and I left copies of my correspondence on this with Cowan. These included two letters to Rex Corsi, one outlining the procedure for a census and the other helping to interpret the results of Jack Booth's and Larry Mullen's census report.

Prior to the meeting, I gave Dr. Sogandares copies of pertinent correspondence and field notes that related to the situation - that is, notes on Anderson's termination of Marking, Cole's remark on the Glacier report and threat, Anderson's refusal to accept research reports and his letter indicating that they would provide me with not the logs, but summaries of the logs. At the beginning of the meeting, I thought that Sheppard and McCullough were a bit defensive, perhaps due to an earlier briefing. All had received a large packet of information from the National Park Service, including a small list of some of our publications. None of them, other than Cowan, received any information from us, including the Computer Report, as John had not been cleared to distribute it. I felt that Dr. Swanson was currently neutral, but would go the way the tide turned. Weeden seemed knowledgeable, concerned, helpful, unbiased and quite capable. Hoffman asked good questions and seemed objective. Chapman seemed intent on finding flaws in our data and methods. I definitely had the impression that he had been adversely briefed. Phillips, the research man representing the Fish and Wildlife Service, from the Park Service Cooperative Research Project gave an excellent low-key description of present study problems with the Park and his evaluation of the situation. It helped to further alert the Committee to Park Service tactics and methods. At one time during these discussions, I brought up the subject of removal of tags on animals and told the incident where Anderson insisted that this was the decision of the Natural Sciences Advisory Board and my approach to Cain on the subject. This has been outlined in earlier notes. Time and again I felt urged to give them information relative to the policy situation that had a bearing on the grizzly bear management. In most cases I refrained, feeling that perhaps the time to do so was at a later meeting. I did mention that never had we been able to meet face to face with Park people and refute their statements or give a rebuttal to their many false statements. I suggested that it would be good if this could be

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done or that at least we should meet with the Committee after they had met with the Park Service.

By the end of the meeting, I felt the Committee understood the entire situation far better than at the beginning of the meeting, were impressed with our data, methods, and John's presentation. Undoubtedly they realized that there was more of a problem than they had at first suspected. I feel sure that they will give the Park people a searching exam and questioning on their biological data and their methods.

We formally agreed to meet again, perhaps in Seattle around December 6 to 10. I had not been personally contacted by the Committee members prior to this meeting. Mr. Sheppard gave me a travel voucher to fill out and thanked me for appearing and for preparing for the meeting.

Unfortunately the Committee did not meet with Riley McClellan who could have given them considerable information on methods of studying the grizzly in Glacier and also of Park Service methods of handling those who did not fully agree with existing policy regulations. The Committee also did not elect to meet with Dr. Sogandares and there was very little time left for this. I do think that it would have benefited them to have talked with him so that they could have fully understood the type of situation and people they would be dealing with. Cowan has had quite a few problems, both with the Canadian and National Park Services, and it may be that he is sufficiently aware of the situation.

In general, I felt that this meeting went off well and that this Committee may make an objective analysis of the situation. Cowan indicated that the committee report would be due in May, but he said that it may be necessary to extend the time necessary for the study.

After this meeting, I definitely came to the conclusion that we should send in the Computer Study for publication and go right ahead with it so that if possible, it can be published by July. This would mean that we could get well along on it, rather than wait for possible permission at some later date. I would think that we could assume that because the Bureau (as indicated by Sheppard) said that John could release the report to them, that it could also be released to others. At any rate, they have no control over either Joel or myself and the two of us can go ahead pursuing the most rapid means of publishing that might be possible. This I believe would be to put it out as a wildlife monograph.

This only sketchily outlines the many subjects that were raised at the meeting and discussed. I imagine that John

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will go into greater detail, and perhaps Jay who was present at the meeting will be able to help him. Just as Dr. Cowan was leaving, I gave him a copy of a statement on the Public Trust Doctrine, revealing the right of citizens to conduct research and carry out activities on public land.

Frank C. Craighead