of Oct. 1975

Information from the Grizzly Bear Research Newsletter put out by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team was even more pessimistic[34]. The study team is made up of six individuals from six agencies; three federal and three state. No independent researchers were included nor permitted to study the grizzly (Denver note). The report from this group states "Unduplicated sightings of bears are down compared to previous years. To date, in 1975 only three sows with cubs and two sows with yearlings have been sighted." The report reads that the bears spent much more time in timber cover than previous years and thus grizzly sightings and signs observed by various agency personnel were down about 1/3 from last year. The lush vegetation resulting from a wet spring and summer is believed to be responsible for this decline. "Observations did not indicate a shift in areas occupied by bears". The reason for not seeing bears tapes the credulity of anyone familiar with the vegetation of the Yellowstone ecosystem. It consists predominately of coniferous forests and such forests do not respond with lush growth from a single season of rain & even if they did it would have little or no effect on visibility within the forests. The open areas such as sagebrush-grass habitat type, alpine meadows would to some extent respond to a single season of rain & so would some understory vegetation. However it is inconceivable that this would have any measurable effect on sighting grizzlies. These animals tower over the open land and counting grizzlies from year to year,

vegetation. No doubt the team members had second thoughts as to whether the grizzly population might not be alarmingly low & still declining as our data indicates. However there was no mention of such a possibility. Biologist like the rest of us are anxious to hold on to their jobs. It is safe to assume that the grizzly bear population did not increase in 1975 and most likely continues to decline.

and recorded grizzly bear mortalities was bad enough. The computer deterministic simulation revealing an ecosystem population of 245 grizzlies in 1967 declined to 136 in 1974.[31] In our first warning to the Park Service resulting from our population analysis we stated that should known mortalities after 1972 drop to ten grizzlies per year, and the reproductive rate depressed, the population would remain essentially static. The National Academy of Science Committee concluded on the basis of known losses that the population could have been as low as 158 grizzlies by 1973.[32] They also recommended that beginning in 1974, the total of man-caused removals should be held to about ten grizzlies to aid the population to recover.[32]

In this same year (1974) male grizzly No. 190 marked at Trout Creek was legally killed by a hunter along Crandall Creek which flows into the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River east of Yellowstone Park. Another marked bear female No. — was also killed legally in the Crandall Creek area and a male translocated from West Yellowstone died in Sunlight Creek drainage of undetermined causes.[33] Two grizzlies were reported killed in Yellowstone National Park, one was No. 101 an aging female 16.5 years old that insisted on returning home after being transplanted several times. According to the Casper Star Tribune of Nov. 16, 1964. "This particular bear was almost beating us back to the capture area after being transplanted," said Cole. "This meant that she was not ever going to stay out in the wild." Cole speculated the aging grizzly may have been forced from prime areas

by younger bears. Our research findings on the cooperative feeding of grizzlies, lack of territoriality and sharing of home ranges and food supplies give no credence to such an interpretation. In earlier years we had tracked 101 by radio. Twelve of the grizzlies we had tracked by radio were however lost one way or another — legal and illegal kills, Park Service control actions the 1974 toll rose to 13 with 16 probable.[33] The recommended man-caused removals had been exceeded. The trend of this ~~endangered~~ threatened population was still down. (add data on 101 + 1975 mortalities).

Also Inter-Agency Team sightings.

She was marked with a yellow-tag in her left ear and tag number 00339 in her right ear & H-1583 in her left ear.

→ Sow grizzly No. 120 was captured in Hayden Valley during the third year of our study. She was a mature bear about 12 or 13 years old at the time. From 1961 ~~throughout our research~~ on she had two litters of cubs over an eleven year period ~~of time~~ and produced four cubs. In ~~1966~~ the fall of 1966 she was captured and instrumented with a radio but we failed to track her to a den. She managed to survive through the traumatic period of 1969–1973 when grizzly bear mortalities were high ~~& we~~ recorded a total of 168 ~~throughout~~ the Yellowstone ecosystem in this five year period. Like many of the other grizzlies, she ~~dispersed widely~~ wandered during this ~~traumatic~~ stressful period in an attempt to adjust to the abrupt removal of long established food sources. She ~~wandered~~ travelled outside of the southern boundary of Yellowstone in her foraging activities and in the fall of 1974 she and her two cubs were roaming in the vicinity of Turpin Meadows — miles from the area where she had been originally tagged & radiotracked. Her mother bear that had remained out of the Park campgrounds was shot illegally by a hunter who wanted a bearskin rug. He also shot one cub and then apparently fearing arrest should he

take the hides he left the dead animals to rot foolishly but mentioned the shooting to an acquaintance who informed the local Conservation Officer Pete Peters. Pete told me that the sow had a square ear tag on left ear numbered H-1583. When Pete arrived on the scene the remaining cub was still hanging around the body of the mother trying to nurse. Another of our radio grizzlies No. 120 was dead. I told Pete that I thought the cub could survive and gave him examples of ones that had including Ignatz. Pete got me the remains of the skull and after cleaning it I shipped it to John at Missoula to be aged. The tooth cementum layer technique revealed that Grizzly No. 120 was 26 and a half years old at time of death. At this advanced age she had two cubs, her third Brown litter. Prior to this the oldest live grizzly captured and aged was 25.5 years old and the oldest productive female one with two cubs was 22.5 years old. How much more valuable information such as this on reproductive viability and longevity was being lost due to the Park Service destruction & appropriation of our long term research program? Also I wondered how many such illegal kills went unrecorded? Only a lucky coincidence brought this to the attention of law enforcement officials. Even a few such losses of mature females if unrecorded would tend to place projected population estimates higher than they actually were. Our population projections based on our accumulated demographic data, a 77 percent census efficiency and known