

November 12, 1969

FILE
COPY

Mr. Rex M. Corsi
Assistant State Game Warden
Game and Fish Commission
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Dear Rex:

I appreciate your letter requesting that I comment on the Commission's recommendations to have a grizzly bear hunt during the next year. As you know, I am in complete agreement with hunting the grizzly as a trophy animal under special permit hunt, but I very sincerely feel that opening the season on grizzlies this next year will be a mistake. I will set forth my reasons for this conclusion.

Our grizzly bear research work in Yellowstone National Park indicated that the Yellowstone population consists of about 175 grizzlies with perhaps a maximum of 200. Our information on grizzly bear movement and ranges determined by means of radio-tracking and through observation of marked animals revealed that the grizzly population dispersed beyond the borders of Yellowstone. Thus it is a population inhabiting an area of approximately 5,000+ square miles rather than just the Park alone.

One of the reasons that I recommended making a census of grizzly bears in Mid-August, outside of the Park boundaries, was because I felt it was important to definitely establish the relative abundance of grizzly bears in adjacent areas at a time when grizzlies from within the Park and surrounding areas were concentrated at a few sites within the Park. I have gone over the data with Jack Booth obtained from the summer census made by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Forest Service. Actually, I feel, this census was quite successful. The results were what my brother John and I had anticipated on a basis of the information that we had obtained in the course of our 12 year study of the grizzly. Because this census was made at the time of the greatest concentration of grizzlies in Yellowstone, we had not expected that a large number of grizzlies would be counted. Had the same amount of food in the form of garbage been available to

3 grizzlies were counted on census

the grizzlies this summer as has been available in the past, the count may have been even lower. The grizzlies did not concentrate at the open-pit garbage dumps to the extent that they had in previous years, but were much more widely dispersed throughout the Park and probably even beyond.

I believe that most of the grizzlies in the Northern District of the Shoshone National Forest were attracted to the baits that were put out. The fact that there were quite a few black bears on the carcasses and very few grizzlies would indicate that the carcasses served their purpose of attracting bears. There were probably no other grizzlies around as they would have chased the black bears off the carcasses. When grizzlies are around, the black bears do not move in to baits placed in the open. In other words, the results indicate that there are very few grizzlies in the mountainous wilderness country surrounding the Park during the summer months. This supports our findings that the movement of bears is from these outlying areas to the center of Yellowstone National Park.

In May and early June prior to the beginning of the buildup of the bear population in Yellowstone, quite a few grizzlies were observed by different people throughout the forest area (Jack Booth). Apparently more were seen than were later observed on the baits and this was also true in September after the bears had again dispersed throughout Yellowstone National Park and beyond. It appears to me that the census represents a fairly accurate count of the grizzlies in the area at that time and these grizzlies could probably be considered as an addition to the overall Yellowstone population.

I would interpret the results of this census along with our own work to indicate that the total population of grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding areas is not likely to exceed 250 grizzlies and that possibly the very maximum might be 300. The present management practice in Yellowstone National Park of eliminating all so-called bears, "hooked on garbage" and those coming into campgrounds will, if continued, annihilate most of the grizzlies in Yellowstone in a relatively short period of time. It will also critically reduce those ranging far outside the boundaries.

At least 13 grizzlies were destroyed within Yellowstone National Park this year and it is quite possible that more than this were eliminated. It is evident from our data on the grizzly bear and supported by the material that Jack Booth showed me that a cooperative approach to managing the grizzly should be sought. The National Park Service cannot consider that they alone have the grizzlies and can manage them. Grizzlies from far outside the Park are moving in during the summer and out in the fall. Likewise, the

number of grizzlies killed by special permit outside of Park boundaries will affect the total number of grizzlies concentrating within Yellowstone Park in summer.

The young grizzlies, yearlings and two-year-olds, tend to wander more than older bears that become established in their home-ranges. The males mature at four years of age and the females at five years of age. Thus, if an objective of management is to increase the number of grizzlies in the forested areas surrounding Yellowstone so that they may be hunted as trophy animals under special permit, it would seem that the best procedure would be to continue the moratorium on the killing of grizzlies for at least three or four more years. This would enable the younger far-roaming bears to become established outside of the Park and raise families.

The current Park policy of abruptly closing earth-filled dumps for incinerators or a modified policy of phasing them out will both tend to disperse grizzlies in summer, the former more so than the latter. It could result in hunters being more successful than in the past thus resulting in an overkill at a time when the grizzly population is threatened.

If pressure from hunters and outfitters is such that the Commission feels that it is necessary to designate a grizzly bear hunt then I would suggest that the total number of grizzly bear permits be reduced from 30 to not more than 10 for the next year. The present poor management of grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park, will if continued, place the entire grizzly bear population in a critical condition within a very few years. Even some of the relatively small number of mature, productive females are being killed along with young animals and old boars.

I would like to suggest that in the best interest of preserving the population of grizzlies and in the interest of establishing a good huntable population that the season not be opened this year and that if at all possible a meeting be arranged between personnel of the Fish and Game Commissions of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana with participation by Forest Service and Park Service representatives. All are concerned with some aspects of the grizzly bear population or habitat and it seems almost impossible to adequately manage the grizzly without reaching some kind of agreement between all of the organizations involved.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please give me a call or drop me a line and I'll try to help.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Craighead, Jr.

cc:

John J. Craighead
Jack Booth



Environmental Research Institute

February 6, 1969

Mr. Rex M. Corsi
Assistant State Game Warden
Game and Fish Commission
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

I read with a great deal of interest your letter of January 31 in which you indicated that there was a bill before the Wyoming legislature to create a special grizzly bear license. This would appear to be beneficial to the future management of the grizzly bear. I would be very much interested in receiving a copy of this bill.

I appreciated learning that you thought that my talk to the Commission was informative and that it has prompted the department to proceed with a project of gathering information relative to grizzly bear management.

In order to determine numbers of grizzly bears in the National Forest areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park, it would be best to try to census them sometime during the month of August. My suggestions on doing this would be to place carcasses-horses, elk (if possible), etc., in strategically located spots in the back country. The type of site to select is near a wide open expanse of country in areas where grizzlies are known to exist. The best location for a bait would be either in the open or just within the timber, preferably however in the open where the bears can be counted. Early morning and late evening would be the best time to make a count of the grizzlies coming into these kills unless a night scanner were used. In order to get an accurate count, it would be necessary to put these baits out in preselected locations all at the same time. This could be done by horseback, but would most certainly be facilitated by use of helicopter if possible. If it can be done, shooting an elk for bait would be the most economic and feasible way of securing baits.

Mr. Rex M. Corsi
Assistant State Game Warden

It would be essential, of course, to have an observer nearby for three or four days in order to make counts. It might not be necessary for the observer to be present for the first day or two, but he certainly should be there after this period of time. We had planned such a count ourselves with the Park Service, but then were unable to make it. If manpower is not a problem, it would be wise to have two men at each bait and probably one of them should be armed. Binoculars or spotting scopes should be sufficient to make counts and to determine approximate age and sex.

During August, most of the grizzlies in Yellowstone and surrounding areas will *be concentrated at three or four areas* within the Park. This means that perhaps all grizzlies censused at this time outside the Park would be resident bears.

I have rather hurriedly outlined a census plan to you, but would be glad to elaborate and go into greater detail.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Craighead, Jr.
Frank C. Craighead, Jr.

FCC, Jr/pjf

STANLEY K. HATHAWAY, Governor

CHARLES M. CROWELL, Pres., Casper

JACK O. CORSI, Vice Pres., Etna

FRANK B. CURTIS, Wolf

REGNOLD C. BAFFORD, Lusk

HARRY C. BARKER, JR., Moose

HARRY A. DE BOLT, Torrington

WILLIAM R. KRUEGER, Greybull

State of Wyoming



GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHEYENNE 82001

November 7, 1969

JAMES B. WHITE
State Game and Fish Commissioner
EARL M. THOMAS
Assistant State Game and Fish Commissioner
HOWARD W. ROBINSON
State Game Warden
W. DONALD DEXTER
State Fish Warden
PHIL F. LESLIE
Chief Clerk
GEORGE A. KAMINSKI
Chief I. & E.
CHESTER C. ANDERSON
Chief Research & Development

Dr. Frank Craighead
Environmental Research Institute
Box 156
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Dear Mr. Craighead:

As you have probably heard by now, our attempt at surveying the grizzly bear population within Wyoming immediately surrounding Yellowstone National Park was not too successful. We did count a total of three grizzlies. We are not discouraged, however, because our personnel did observe bear or their sign in many other areas and we feel a moderate population does exist. Rather than wait for another year and attempt another survey, we have recommended and received approval from our Commission to have a grizzly bear hunt during next year. The order will allow the issuing of a total of thirty grizzly bear permits. We designated two hunt areas: one being Park County for 20 permits and Teton County for ten permits. The season will run from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through November 15, 1970. Grizzly bear cubs or females with cubs at side will not be considered as legal game.

Before we finalize this order, I would very much appreciate your comments and, if you have recommendations, those also. This order should be posted at the court houses throughout the state during December. If possible, I would like to hear from you before the 20th of this month. Thank you for any suggestions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Rex M. Corsi

Assistant State Game Warden

RMC:bjh

COPIES TO: JOHN CRAIGHEAD
JOEL VARNEY

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

*Mane
Folder*

*Phoned White
Oct. 5
He was off on vacation*

STAN HATHAWAY
GOVERNOR

Game and Fish Department

P. O. BOX 1589

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82001

JAMES B. WHITE
DIRECTOR

September 18, 1973

MEMO TO: Members of the International Grizzly Bear Committee
and Interested Parties

FROM: James B. White, Chairman

I plan on calling a meeting of the Grizzly Bear Committee on October 12 and 13, in Jackson, Wyoming. Please advise, as soon as possible, if you can attend. If these dates conflict with other activities, I could hold this meeting any date on the following week (October 15-20).

1. I would like to review actions of the International and plan how we are to carry out the directives and purposes as indicated in the Grizzly Bear Resolutions.
2. Review the status of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population.
3. Discuss the use of satellite technology for mapping grizzly bear habitat.
4. Explore the possibilities of grizzly bear transplants.

If you have other information or material which should be discussed, please advise.

RESOLUTION NO. 30

NATIONAL GRIZZLY BEAR RESEARCH

WHEREAS, the concern for the grizzly bear as a species is of National significance; and

WHEREAS, over 9 million acres of possible grizzly bear habitat exists on National Forest lands where population, quality and quantity are virtually unknown; and

WHEREAS, other grizzly bear ecosystems exist among the several western states; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science is in the process of critically analyzing the research accomplished over the past 13 years; and

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone ecosystem concerns a very narrow spectrum of the Nation's total grizzly bear population and habitat; and

WHEREAS, a study team consisting of members of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the U. S. Forest Service are investigating the grizzly bear populations and habitats within the Yellowstone ecosystem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners requests that sufficient funds be appropriated by the U. S. Congress and allocated to assist the U. S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the concerned State wildlife management agencies in the establishment of a continuing interagency study team charged with making a comprehensive national inventory of preferred habitat, distribution and population of the Nation's grizzly bears and the identification of the influence that might detrimentally

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
HELENA, MONTANA

Office Memorandum

TO : John Craighead

DATE: September 20, 1973

FROM : Wes Woodgerd 

SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding National Grizzly Bear Research

I know you are aware of the resolution presented at the meeting of the International Association of Game and Fish Conservation Commissioners, but did not know whether you have seen a copy. I am therefore attaching a couple of copies of the resolution as approved by that organization. I do not have any new information concerning the study that is going on now.

I have not heard from the committee of the National Academy of Sciences but expect they will be getting in touch with all of us before too long. I will keep you informed of new developments.

WRW:jt

RESOLUTION NO. _____

NATIONAL GRIZZLY BEAR RESEARCH

Adopted By
International Association Game, Fish & Conservation Commissioners

September 11, 1973

WHEREAS, the concern for the grizzly bear as a species is of National significance; and

WHEREAS, over nine million acres of possible grizzly bear habitat exists on National Forest lands where population quality and quantity are virtually unknown, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that information from separate studies being conducted within Yellowstone National Park be incorporated with the information collected by the study team when such information becomes available through reports of the National Academy of Science.

October 4, 1973

Mr. James B. White, Director
State of Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

C
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P
Y
Dear Jim:

John informed me of the grizzly bear meeting that you are calling for October 12 and 13 here in Jackson. I would like very much to attend, but will be lecturing at the State University of New York at that time. I should be returning just prior to the 20th.

I am anxious to discuss the grizzly bear situation with you, as well as the possibility of collaborating on a satellite wildlife monitoring program that is being encouraged by NASA. I would like to discuss the scope of this with you, the potential that it poses for research and management in Wyoming, and the possibilities of collaborating in some aspects of the overall program.

If I miss you at the Jackson meeting, perhaps there will be another opportunity in the not-too-distant future when we can discuss these subjects which I feel are of mutual interest.

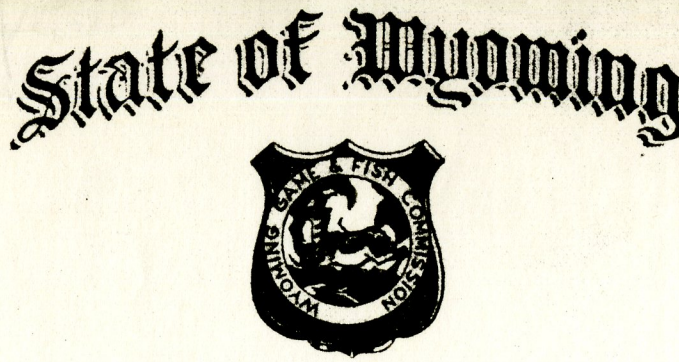
Sincerely,

Frank Craighead

FCC/pw

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State Fish Warden
PHIL F. LESLIE
Chief Clerk
GEORGE A. KAMINSKI
Chief I. & E.
CHESTER C. ANDERSON
Chief Research & Development

GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
CHEYENNE 82001
November 7, 1969

Dr. Frank Craighead
Environmental Research Institute
Box 156
Moose, Wyoming 83012

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Sincerely yours,

Rex M. Corsi

Assistant State Game Warden

RMC:bjh

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JOEL VARNEY