

Dr. Frank Craighead
Box 156 Moose, Wyoming
83012

October 28, 1976

Dear Dr. Craighead,

I hope that your trip out East was enjoyable and safe. I took advantage of the three-day weekend to visit Yellowstone Park. My main interest was in finding out more about the grizzly bear news since I had heard that the cubs were still alive and also that several rumors about the sow were being spread. The three cubs were seen by several maintenance employees on October 17 and they were said to have been foraging in the sage meadow just west of Squaw Lake at that time. I saw no cubs there on October 23 so instead I decided to visit with ranger Ross at Lake Ranger Station. As I mentioned to you in an earlier letter, Ross and Mernin were the rangers whom I had helped to check the sow's eartag on September 20. Ross casually mentioned ~~this Weekend that~~ the sow would not have done well this winter because "she only had one tooth in her entire skull" and "she had lost alot of weight." I had heard these rumors from at least a half dozen employees and it seems that Ross and the other rangers have been perpetrating them. I say "rumors" because first no weighing was ever done by the rangers to check for weight changes, and second I can personally attest to the fact that the sow had plenty of teeth. While she was drugged, her mouth hung open loosely as she was gagging on the saliva. I specifically noted two things at that time; her bad breath, and her worn teeth. I could easily see canines and incisors all of which showed considerable wear and I noticed no obvious absence of any teeth. When I questioned Ross on this point he insisted that we had not checked her teeth on that occasion but that after she was killed he had pried her mouth open and only found one tooth (indicating by pointing at his own mouth that it was either an upper molar or a carnassial.) Another point worth mentioning is that before we knew her true identity on September 20 all three of us doubted that it was the same sow (# 7155) because she appeared to be much larger than she was in August. I can not say whether this apparent size difference was due to an actual weight gain or just the thickening of her winter coat, but we were all very surprised to find out it was the same sow.

On October 24 I again visited the meadow west of Squaw Lake and this time sighted the cubs from the road. They were very busy digging around in the sage and only occasionally reared up on their hind legs to check out my scent as I proceeded to shoot several rolls of slides and movies of them. They looked healthy and active then, but up to that time Yellowstone had received very little snow and the fall has been very mild. I was really bothered as I watched them again on the 25th since a heavy snowstorm was beginning to roll in and it had dumped at least four inches on the roads by the time I had reached the south entrance on my way home. (I didn't stop at your home since I figured that you were still out East and because I was hoping to get home before the snow made the roads impassible.)

The whole affair makes me very angry since it is not "in keeping with the national park idea" to put those cubs in a zoo, but it is "in keeping with the park idea" to kill their sow and let them starve to death or freeze. The only reason I have not written my feelings to the superintendant is because its only effect would be a cancelation of my rehire status there for next summer.

I did take the time to write a short story about the whole affair, which I think sums up the situation factually from what might be considered a bear's point of view. I am enclosing a copy of it for you. I may try to pick out a few of the applicable slides I took last summer to illustrate it, but I'm not sure anyone would publish such a story if I sent it anonymously. I'd bet quite a stink would be raised if the truth reached the public though. Well that's about all from here. I'll let you know if I hear any more news.

Sincerely,

Jack

Jack Kirkley

October 15, 1976

Dr. Frank Craighead
Box 156
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Jack Kirtley
149 W Center #2
Logan, Utah 84321

Dear Dr. Craighead

I recently received word from a friend in Yellowstone that sow # 7155 was killed on Sept. 21. Her three cubs were reportedly sighted by plane two or three days later near Pelican Creek, and then later spotted near Fishing Bridge Campground. If you have read the account of these events (Jackson Hole News section 3, p.4, Sept. 29) you undoubtedly share my irritation concerning the implication that the cubs "observed foraging for themselves on natural food" will survive! BULL S---! They are merely dying the slow way through starvation and exposure. To be honest, I believe that the administration did not finish the job so that they would not have to accept responsibility for all FOUR mortalities which will result from the sow's death.

In response to your inquiry concerning the operation of the Pelican Creek fish trap in 1976 I'm afraid that my information is only of a general nature in that I lack the exact dates of events. Before leaving the park, I talked to Sandy Hoskins, one of the Fish and Wildlife personnel who operated the trap this summer. She said that their plans to trap fish on the upstream spawning run had been unsuccessful since the trout had moved upstream when the lake was still iced over, before trapping had begun. So instead the fish were trapped on the way back downstream which caused the majority to be caught in July. In early July I first received word from maintenance employees of the presence of grizzly tracks near the fish trap. I personally observed grizzly tracks to be numerous there during my visits on July 24, July 25, Aug. 7, and Aug. 8, at which times I was making plaster casts of those tracks. Schools of fish (both trout and suckers) were abundant near the trap during this time, as were the tourists who had come to see the bear tracks and to illegally fish there. (N.P.S. signs stating the area to be "Closed to Fishing" and "Closed to Human Travel.... Dangerous Bear" were posted along the Pelican Creek Campground road and also near the trap, but were largely ignored.) During my visits in late July all tracks were of adult grizzlies, whereas on Aug. 7 tracks of grizzly cubs were also present. During all visits from July 24 to Aug. 8, dead fish were common along the creek's banks, some of which consisted of only the head, spine and tail, while others were only missing flesh and entrails from the mid-ventral region. I would estimate that during any of these visits in late July to early Aug. these carcasses may have numbered as many as 20 scattered along the banks within 100 yards either direction of the fish trap. I noticed that the powerful odor of these dead and live groups of fish became noticeably strong as I walked the high ridge that follows the bend of the creek just north of the fish trap. (Prevailing winds off the lake are from the south or southwest which means that on this ridge one is directly down-wind of the trap.) Gulls and Ravens were always present during these July and early Aug. visits, and they were frequently observed scavenging on the fish carcasses. Trapping operations apparently ended sometime around early to mid Aug. since I observed fewer fish at the traps during these later visits. Grizzly tracks and freshly killed fish also became less numerous, and by Aug. 24 we could find only one set of grizzly tracks and a few old fish heads. During this time no gulls or ravens were observed in the area.

As I mentioned to you earlier, the decrease in bear activity at the fish trap in mid-Aug. seemed to be directly related to the increase in bear activity in the Fishing Bridge Campgrounds at that same time. Specifically, I found the first grizzly scat (2.5 to 3" diam.) in Fishing Bridge Campground on Aug. 14, less than 48 hours before the Salt Lake City man was mauled there on Aug. 16.

I hope that the above information will be of help to you. Sandy Hoskins of the Fish and Wildlife Service is located in Mammoth all year and would be one possible source of the actual operation dates of the fish trap. I question whether she would respond to requests coming directly from either you or me, since her husband, who is on the inter-agency bear study, has often expressed his anti-Craighead views to me and knows of my affiliation with you. Perhaps requests made through the Fish and Wildlife channels would be more productive in this regard.

I am send a few slides of the fish trap I took in late Aug. after trapping had ceased. A friend of mine took several shots of the gulls and ravens fighting over fish carcasses, so I'll try to get hold of these for you to use also.

Have a safe trip East, and you needn't worry about my paper as I know the kind of schedule you are battling. Take care.

Sincerely,



Jack Kirkley

GRIZZLY BEAR NOTES, 1976

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY MAULING

The following descriptive material is taken from some notes provided by Jack Kirkly; others obtained through newspaper, radio sources, and my own questioning of various people. Jack's notes are printed in ink here and included.

(# 7/55)

In early June, a grizzly sow and three cubs of the year were sighted in the Lake government area. A fish trap was operating at the mouth of Pelican Creek and the smell could very well have drawn the grizzlies in from long distances. On August 16, a man was mauled by a sow in the Fishing Bridge Campground. This is described in the "Jackson Hole News" of August 18, 1976. On the afternoon of the 16th, the sow and cubs were tranquilized and caged and then on the 17th, the sow and cubs were transplanted by helicopter 32 airline miles away to Mariposa Lake. This is an area where trail crews were working, also where trail riders come through and numerous backpackers. ~~Although~~ It is also close to the forest area. Although this transplant was made into an area frequented by recreationists, there was no mention made ~~to~~ publicly of where this bear was ~~transplanted~~ relocated.

Also understand that some of the trail crew were quite upset when they found out later that the bear had been released and they had not been told. The sow immediately took off, left her cubs as is usually the case when all three are immobilized, (The same thing happened with Grizzly No. 170.) and she returned to the Fishing Bridge area in about 24 hours and was retrapped without her cubs. This was on August 18. On August 19, a helicopter flight was aborted when they determined the identity of the sow as the one with the cubs, and she was then retransplanted on August 20 to Mariposa Lake and her cubs were there. On August 29 or August 30, the sow mauled a camper sleeping in the open in G loop at the Fishing Bridge Area. On August 30, the sow and three cubs were tranquilized and transported to Mammoth and then transplanted to the Buffalo Plateau or only about five miles from Jardine², approximately a thirty mile transplant. On September 4, a grizzly sow and three cubs were sighted in the Tower Campground, and the campground was closed on September 6.

The significance of this incident is that the Park Service, although repeatedly admonished ~~in the~~ by the judge in the Walker Case that the Park had been negligent because they did not let the public know that the Old Faithful Campgrounds were dangerous and had put up no signs. Even though this was emphasized by the judge, the

is
Park Service ~~xxx~~ still not letting the public or even government workers know what is going on. When a sow such as this one with cubs is transplanted and then returns without her cubs, she is a very dangerous animal. She's also dangerous while also looking for the cubs. It may well be that the second camper ~~skipped~~ that was mauled slightly was mauled because the sow was under stress. The ~~up~~ lactating with cubs and ~~when~~ when the cubs are not there to nurse, they get irritable. They also get quite upset when they cannot find their cubs. When a sow and cub are trapped and released in this way, there should be public announcements and warnings, so that people can be alerted. It also appears to be the best procedure to immobilize the animal so that the cubs come out from under the influence of the drug before the mother does.

It seems quite possible that they have not heard the end of this sow, that there will be more trouble, and that eventually she will have to be eliminated. Placing a fish trap and stripping the fish at the mouth of Pelican Creek is asking for real trouble in the Fishing Bridge and Lake Campgrounds by grizzlies. This procedure should certainly be quickly eliminated.

Sow shot by rangers Sept. 28, 1976

1976

Yellowstone Grizzly Wandering

Early June - 1st Sighting of Grizzly Sow + 3-cubs-of-the-year
~10:00 PM near Lake Gort. Anna

Aug 14 - Grizzly Sow found in Fishing Bridge Campground
G & H Loop

Aug 16 - Early A.M. Man Mauled by Sow in F.B. Campground
See J.H. Muz Aug. 18, 1976

Late P.M. Sow + 3 cubs tranquilized + caged

Aug. 17 - Early P.M. (~2:00) Sow + cubs transplanted by helicopter
32 miles to Maniposa Lake

Aug. 18 - Late P.M. Sow retrapped in F.B. Trailer Village (no cubs)

Aug. 19 - Helicopter flight aborted when sow identity established

Aug 20 - Early P.M. Sow transplanted to Maniposa (cubs were there)

Aug 29 - P.M. or Aug 30 A.M. - Sow Mauled camper sleeping in the open
(G Loop)

Aug 30 - P.M. All 4 tranquilized + transported to Mammoth

Aug 31 - A.M. Transplant to Buffalo Plateau (~5 miles from Jardine)
~30 mile transplant

Sept 4 - Grizzly Sow + 3 cubs sighted in ^{Tower} Tower Campground ~~etc~~
(Campground closed ~ Sept. 6)

Fish trap at mouth of Pelican Creek
(very smelly)

Grizzly Bear Prints at Pellican Creek

July 24 - Found Grizzly tracks near Fish Trap
with Gale & Al: no measurements

July 25 - Made plaster casts of 2 tracks 3 Rear ✓
with Gale: Other people looking at tracks 1 Front (too high)

July 26 - Gale & Chuck went back to pick up casts
Rear was ok except claws not complete
Front track not so good

Less fish
obs.

Aug 7 - Found front grizzly track with Tuttle

Aug 8 - Resound tracks: pretty well
- Yawling and? Grizzly tracks also present

Aug 24 - Found tracks with Gale - very few tracks for the last 2 weeks
- less fish available (none at trap) no gulls

June - ^{10 PM} Grizzly Sow with 3 cubs-of-the-year charged antelopes near Cont. Ave.

Aug 14 - Grizzly Scot found in F.B. Campground in G.H. Loop

Aug 16 - Early A.M. Man Mauled by Grizzly Sow in F.B. Campground as he attempted
to chase cubs away from on the chest.

~~Aug 16~~ - Late PM Sow & 3 cubs are tranquilized & caged in traps

Aug 17 - Early PM (~200) Sow & cubs transported by helicopter 32 miles to ^{Maniposa Lake}

Aug 18 - Late P.M. Same Sow retrapped in F.B. Trailer Village (no cubs present)

Aug 19 - Helicopter flight aborted when identity of sow established

Aug 20 - Early PM Sow transported by helicopter to ^(cubs still there) ? Maniposa ~~(see notes)~~

^{Aug 24} Aug 30 - Sow with 3 cubs slightly trampled campers sleeping in open at FB (G.H. Loop)

Aug 30 - P.M. All 4 tranquilized & transported to Mammoth ^(5 miles from Index)

Aug 31 - A.M. Helicopter transport to Buffalo Plateau north of Shoshone Creek ^(~30 mi)

~ Sept 4 - Grizzly Sow & 3 cubs sighted in Town Campground (Campground closed as a result)

Jack Kirkley - 9/76

Stephen Patrick Mealey
Montana State Univ.
Aug. 1975

Annual Report
Antiquary
Biology Bear Study - 1974

GRIZZLY BEAR NOTES, 1976

During late August, I hiked over about 10 miles of Yellowstone country in and around Canyon, and there were absolutely no huckleberries. It was a very, very poor year for them. I also checked for the berries in some of the country of the Teton Forest area, with the same results. On August 10 and 11, I also hiked over at least 10 miles of country in the Teton Wilderness area just south of Yellowstone, and found no huckleberries and no pine nuts. There were golden currants, but not an especially large crop, and in the Huckleberry Mountain area a black bear with three cubs were feeding on these berries. However, the berry crop in general for this year, as well as the pine nut crop, is poor. This is going to cause foraging problems for the grizzlies, and they may very well give quite a bit of trouble throughout the fall period until they go into hibernation.

DGM from Kitting

Send copy to
Frank & Craighead
Montana Shell
Mr. Mrs. Walker

24 The DAILY REPORT, Ontario-Upland, Calif., Thurs., Aug. 19, 1976

Grizzly mauls man

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — A 69-year-old local man who was mauled by a grizzly bear in Yellowstone Park was listed in fair condition Wednesday at the University of Utah Medical Center.

Melvin Ford was camping at Fishing Bridge Campground when he heard a noise around an ice chest outside his pick-up camper. He came out of the camper and saw three bear cubs, but did not see their mother.

The sow grizzly attacked Ford, leaving him with severe head and facial injuries and bruises over most of his body.

Ford was taken to Lake Hospital for emergency treatment, then flown to Salt Lake City.

Rangers said they had seen the bear that attacked Ford near his camp earlier, and asked him to put the ice chest inside his camper.

Park Superintendent John Townsley said rangers are trying to remove the sow and her cubs to a more remote area of the park.

Two boys from Missouri escaped serious injury in an encounter with another bear in the park Sunday. The two came upon a sow grizzly along Pelican Creek. They dropped to the ground and played dead. After rolling the boys around a little, the bear left.

DGM from Rethberg

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GRIZZLY BEAR NOTES, 1976

MORTALITIES

There was one grizzly bear killed in the Huckleberry area by a hunter who mistook it for a black bear. This death was also written up in the "Jackson Hole News".

*About Sept. 1-3
1976*

Grizzle mistaken for black bear

JACKSON — Ken Gayhart, co-owner of Huckleberry Hot Springs Resort, near Rockefeller Parkway, shot and killed a 3 to 4 year old sow grizzle bear at 11 p.m.

Officials said Gayhart apparently mistook the grizzle for a black bear.

The grizzle, wearing a black bear tag, was confiscated at a local taxidermist.

Gayhart was arrested and released on \$200 bond. The charge was hunting after dark, hunting the wrong animal, and hunting in the wrong area.

Aug. 17, 1976 *By Stan Tribune*

Bears maul three

MAMMOTH — A Utah man who ignored orders to put an ice chest inside his camper was mauled by a grizzly bear sow early Monday when he tried to chase away the cubs.

In a separate incident Sunday, two Missouri youths who encountered a sow with cubs escaped serious injury when they laid on the ground and played dead until the sow left after cuffing them around.

John Townsley, superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, said Melvin Ford, 69, of Salt Lake City got out of his camper at 3:30 a.m. Monday to chase away two cubs foraging in an ice chest filled with fruit he had left outside. Townsley said Ford apparently did not see the mother bear and was attacked.

The superintendent said rangers patrolling the Fishing Bridge Auto Campground in the southern portion of the park, heard Ford's yells and frightened away the bears with lights but that Ford had already suffered severe lacerations to his face and neck and scratches on his chest plus multiple bruises.

Townsley said rangers earlier had asked Ford, who was traveling with his daughter and son-in-law, to put the chest of fruit inside the vehicle before going to sleep.

Townsley said Ford was originally taken to Lake Hospital in the park and then transferred by air to a Salt Lake City hospital.

In the Sunday incident, Townsley said David Hausam of Sedalia, and Greg Stober of St. Joseph, both 20, were returning from a fishing expedition in the Pelican Creek area when they encountered a grizzly with her young. Townsley said both men laid on the ground and played dead, a recommended defense against attack, and were

cuffed around by the mother bear which soon left the area. Both men suffered only minor bruises, Townsley said.

Townsley said that no action would be taken against the bear in the Pelican Creek incident but that rangers would try to move the sow and cubs in the Fishing Bridge area to a more remote area of the park, possibly by trapping.

Grizzly mauls man in Yellowstone Park

A 69-year-old man, badly mauled by a grizzly bear Monday in Yellowstone National Park, is in serious condition in a Salt Lake City hospital. Park authorities said that Melvin Ford of Salt Lake City was attacked by a grizzly at 3:30 a.m. in the Fishing Bridge compound.

According to Park officials, Ford, his daughter and son-in-law were asleep in their campers when they heard a "commotion" outside. Ford apparently investigated, found three grizzly cubs trying to get into a freezer chest left outside, and began to chase them away. In so doing, Ford failed to notice the sow grizzly in the background.

Park officials said the grizzly

attacked Ford who sustained severe injuries to the head and face, deep laceration across the chest, and scratches and bruises over his entire body.

Park rangers at the campground heard sounds of the attack and arrived while the bear was still on Ford. By using their lights, rangers were able to drive the bear away. Ford was rushed to Lake hospital for emergency treatment and then flown to Salt Lake City.

Park officials said they were aware of the bear's presence near the campground and had contacted Wolf earlier that evening to suggest that he put the food chest inside the vehicle. "Apparently he

Continued on page 15

J H News Aug 18-1976

Grizzly attacks Utah man

Continued from page 1

forgot or for some reason it wasn't put away," a Park spokesman said.

Monday night the sow and her three cubs were sighted, tranquilized and captured by Park rangers. The four grizzlies were to be

transplanted in the remote back-country on Tuesday.

Monday's incident was the second bear-man confrontation in Yellowstone last weekend. Sunday afternoon two Missouri youths were attacked by a grizzly with two cubs as they returned from a fishing trip to Pelican Creek. Park officials said the grizzly charged David Hausam, 20, Sedalia, Mo., and Greg Stober, 20, St. Joseph, Mo. at about 4 p.m. Sunday. Although both boys laid down and played dead, the grizzly rolled one of them around and then left. As she left, the other youth got up to see if his friend was injured and the bear returned to knock him down. After the bear left, the youths walked out to the highway, were given first aid at a ranger station and released.

Park officials said no action is contemplated for the grizzly involved in the Pelican Creek incident.

Dr. Frank Craighead
Box 156
Moose, Wyoming 83012

October 15, 1976
Jack Kirklog
147 W. Center St. #2
Ligon, Utah 84321

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In response to your inquiry concerning the operation of the Pelican Creek fish trap in 1976 I'm afraid that my information is only of a general nature in that I lack the exact dates of events. Before leaving the park, I talked to Sandy Hoskins, one of the Fish and Wildlife personnel who operated the trap this summer. She said that their plans to trap fish on the upstream spawning run had been unsuccessful since the trout had moved upstream when the lake was still ice over, before trapping had begun. So instead the fish were trapped on the way back downstream which caused the majority to be caught in July. In early July I first received word from maintenance employees of the presence of grizzly tracks near the fish trap. I personally observed grizzly tracks to be numerous there during my visits on July 24, July 25, Aug. 7, and Aug. 8, at which times I was making plaster casts of these tracks. Schools of fish (both trout and suckers) were abundant near the trap during this time, as were the tourists who had come to see the bear tracks and to illegally fish there. (N.P.S. signs stating the area to be "Closed to Fishing" and "Closed to Human Travel.... Dangerous Bear" were posted along the Pelican Creek Campground road and also near the trap, but were largely ignored.) During my visits in late July all tracks were of adult grizzlies, whereas on Aug. 7 tracks of grizzly cubs were also present. During all visits from July 24 to Aug. 8, dead fish were common along the creek's banks, some of which consisted of only the head, spine and tail, while others were only missing flesh and entrails from the mid-ventral region. I would estimate that during any of these visits in late July to early Aug. these carcasses may have numbered as many as 20 scattered along the banks within 100 yards either direction of the fish trap. I noticed that the powerful odor of these dead and live groups of fish became noticeably strong as I walked the high ridge that follows the bend of the creek just north of the fish trap. (Prevailing winds off the lake are from the south or southwest which means that on this ridge one is directly down-wind of the trap.) Gulls and Ravens were always present during these July and early Aug. visits, and they were frequently observed scavenging on the fish carcasses. Trapping operations apparently ended sometime around early to mid Aug. since I observed fewer fish at the traps during these later visits. Grizzly tracks and freshly killed fish also became less numerous, and by Aug. 24 we could find only one set of grizzly tracks and a few old fish heads. During this time no gulls or ravens were observed in the area.

Star Tribune Casper, Wyo Yellowstone bear killed

YELLOWSTONE PARK, Wyo. (UPI) — A female grizzly bear who mauled one man and had become a persistent food scrounger has been shot, park authorities said Thursday.

Although the 12-year-old bear was transported three times to remote areas of the park, she returned each time to the Fishing Bridge Campground, the scene of the Aug. 16 mauling.

Melvin Ford, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was seriously injured while attempting to chase away her three cubs, Townsley said. Apparently the man did not see the mother bear, the superintendent said.

Townsley said she had become accustomed to getting food left by careless campers. It was obvious the bear was going to be a persistent problem, he said, and she had to be killed.

The mother bear had been traveling with her cubs until about a week ago, biologists said. For an unknown reason, she abandoned them in the Pelican Valley area of the park.

On her last trip to the campground, the bear was able to get into several ice chests, despite park rules forbidding food from being left out, Townsley said.

Sept. 24/76

Grizzly kills woman

EAST GLACIER, Mont. (UPI) A woman from Highwood, Ill., was dragged from a tent and mauled to death by a grizzly bear Thursday in a Glacier National Park campground.

Charles Sigler, chief ranger, said the 21-year-old woman, whose identity was not disclosed, was camped with four other women, at Many Glacier Campground north of St. Mary in the eastern portion

of the park. The incident occurred about 6:30 a.m.

The campground, Sigler said, was "extremely clean" and in use by other campers at the time. It was evacuated after the mauling and trails in the area were closed, he said.

The most recent previous deaths in the park from grizzly bear maulings occurred in August, 1967, when two girls were killed in separate locations.

Two persons were released from a Kalispell hospital this week where they were treated for serious injuries in a Sept. 9 bear mauling in the park's Waterton Valley.

Glacier Park Buzzly Incident
Bob Campbell

Thurs Sept 23 - bear killed 22 yr. old
woman

Killed 2 bears

Many Glacier Campground

Bob Campbell 733-4059

'Cyclic situation' brings bears

By EMORY J. ANDERSON

JACKSON — A "cyclic situation" describes the reason for greater numbers of black and grizzly bears in Grand Teton National Park.

Joe Shellenbarger, Grand Teton public information officer, said that every "three to four years" the Park has a greater number of bears.

This year he said a bear dispersal program conducted by Yellowstone Park is succeeding and bears are being driven from Yellowstone to take up residence in Grand Teton Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Grizzly bears have been reported in the area with greater frequency this summer than in any summer in recent years.

Shellenbarger said this spring there was a bumper crop of white bark pine nuts. The mature seeds fell on the snow and were available for food just as the bears were coming out of hibernation.

"They simply gorged themselves on the pine seeds," Shellenbarger said and the bears were still in the area when the hikers and campers arrived. By this time, the pine nuts were gone but the bears then developed a taste for camp foods.

"The result was confrontation between black bears and people,"

Shellenbarger said. At one time, bears raided a camp at Surprise Lake and treed campers for several hours. The camp was closed, but has since reopened with a "strong" bear warning.

Other areas in the Park have been designated bear areas and persons wishing to travel there are given warnings to watch out for bears.

A wrangler at the White Grass Ranch was bitten on the hand by a bear as he tried to corral the animal. At 2 a.m., Rusty Long was attempting to drive a 450 pound bear toward a trap. Long was swinging a rope at the bear which turned on him.

Park officials have placed a baited trap at an open garbage dump which the White Grass Ranch maintains. The dump will be closed shortly, Park officials said, by agreement with the Ranch.

Shellenbarger said grizzly sign has been observed almost everywhere in the Park recently, with the main area being in the Rockefeller Parkway in the area between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. There have been a few grizzly sightings but there are fewer grizzlies, Shellenbarger said, and they are shyer than black bears.

Grizzly and black bears compete for food and the larger grizzlies will drive the smaller black bears out of their feeding territory.

Basin Star Tribune 8/29/76

Man mauled by grizzly in Yellowstone

Melvin Ford, 69, of Salt Lake City is being treated in a Salt Lake City hospital after being badly mauled by a grizzly bear in Yellowstone National Park early Monday morning. Ford received injuries to his neck and head and chest lacerations as a result of the incident.

According to park officials, Ford awoke at approximately 3:30 a.m. Monday when he heard a noise outside the camper that he and his daughter and son-in-law were occupying in the Fishing Bridge Campground. He went outside to see what was causing the commotion and saw three bear cubs that he tried to chase away. Apparently, Ford did not see the sow grizzly that was with the cubs which attacked him.

The bears were trying to get into an ice chest left outside the camper by Ford and his family. Park rangers, aware of bears in the area, had earlier asked Ford to put the ice chest containing food in the camper, which he, for some, reason had failed to do.

Park officials arrived at the scene of the mauling and drove the bears away with lights. They later found the sow bear and her cubs, and tranquilized and then transported all four of the bears to a remote part of the park.

This was the second incident of a bear confronting visitors to the park in the past weekend. Sunday afternoon two Missouri men; David Hausam, 20, of Sedalia, Missouri and Greg Stober, 20, of St. Joseph, Missouri were returning from a fishing trip to Pelican

Creek when a grizzly with two cubs tried to attack the youths. Both boys layed down and played dead but the grizzly still rolled one of them before leaving. As the sow left, one of the boys stood up to see if his friend was alright, when the bear returned and knocked him over. The bear left without seriously injuring either of the men who then hiked out of the area to the highway. They were given first aid at a ranger station and released.

Park Official Mac Berg said there have been very few problems with bears in Yellowstone in the last four or five years partly due to the extensive care taken by park officials to warn visitors of the danger, and to take precautions to keep bears out of the campgrounds.

Berg said garbage is collected from the campground areas several times each day, and especially in the evening hours so that food does not sit over night where it might attract bears.

Berg also said park officials patrol the campground areas daily warning campers to put all food away and take other precautions to prevent bears from roaming through the campgrounds. He said however, when people ignore these warnings the possibility of man-bear confrontations are unavoidable. Berg said putting food in ice chest will not deter bears since they can either recognize or smell food in ice chests. Park officials recommend that ice chests be put away inside campers when visitors retire for the night.

Jackson Hole Guide 8/19/76

Sept. 21, 1976

Frank

The Grizzly Sow with 3 cubs that did all the manling in Fishing Bridge was # 7155. She returned to Bridge Bay Campground and was trapped during the night of Sept. 19. Last night (Sept. 20) they took her out to Bridge Bay to wait for the cubs but none were found. She will probably be exterminated now that no cubs are with her. When I left she was still in the culvert trap within the sewer plant complex behind Fishing Bridge Cabins. I was present last night when Rangers Mennin & Ross tranquilized her to read the ear tag. I was told by Mennin to keep quiet about her true identity until it was officially released. The sow was old (had all teeth worn down alot) and, during her first capture in August I photographed her with the remains of a red ear tag in her right ear. This tag was apparently removed since then because it was not present when I saw her up close last night. Another sow with 2 cubs was caught Sept. 19 at Old Faithful but I never found out where she was transplanted. Well, that's about all from here, thanks again for your help on the hawk paper!

PS. over & Sincerely Jack

P.S. Apparently the guy that was maulled in F.B.
while sleeping out in the open is going to file suit
against the Park Service for a million \$ or so.
I bet he wins since that campground was not
restricted to back sided trailers after the first
mauling or 1st transplant-return of the sow.

R.P.S. Possibly see you later this fall as I think
I miss the Park already & will probably
return to spend a weekend up there with a friend
Some time in early October.

JK 

Sept. 21, 1976

Frank

The Grizzly Sow with 3 cubs that did all the manling in Fishing Bridge was # 7155. She returned to Bridge Bay Campground and was trapped during the night of Sept. 19. Last night (Sept. 20) they took her out to Bridge Bay to wait for the cubs but none were found. She will probably be exterminated now that no cubs are with her. When I left she was still in the culvert trap within the sewer plant complex behind Fishing Bridge Cabins. I was present last night when Rogers Merriam & Ross tranquilized her to read the ear tag. I was told by Merriam to keep quiet about her true identity until it was officially released. The sow was old (had all teeth worn down alot) and, during her first capture in August I photographed her with the remains of a red ear tag in her right ear. This tag was apparently removed since then because it was not present when I saw her up close last night. Another sow with 2 cubs was caught Sept. 19 at Old Faithful but I never found out where she was transplanted. Well, that's about all from here, thanks again for your help on the hawk paper!

PS. over or
Sincerely Jack

P.S. Apparently the guy that was mugged in F.B.
while sleeping out in the open is going to file suit
against the Park Service for a million \$ or so.

I bet he wins since that campground was not
restricted to hard sided trailers after the first
mauling or 1st transplant-tetanus of the sow.

R.P.S. Possibly see you later this fall as I think
I miss the Park already & will probably
return to spend a weekend up there with a friend
Some time in early October.

JK 

The bear was accompanied by her three cubs until about a week ago. Biologists said for some unknown reason she had abandoned the three cubs in Pelican Valley, north of Fishing Bridge where they have been observed foraging for themselves on natural food.

Mr. Townsley said that park regulations require all food and food containers, including ice chests, be stored inside the vehicle when not in use. Visitors violating this regulation can expect to be cited.

The careless practice of the campers in leaving their food chests out has resulted in one grizzly bear having to be destroyed.

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 1976

Press Contact: Hennessey
(307) 344-7381 Ext. 361

YELLOWSTONE PARK RANGERS DESTROY DANGEROUS BEAR

A female grizzly bear that had been a persistent problem to Yellowstone National Park visitors, was shot by park rangers last night after being captured in Bridge Bay Campground.

According to Superintendent John A. Townsley, the bear, approximately 12 years old, had been trapped on three previous occasions in the Bridge Bay - Fishing Bridge area, transported to a remote area of the park, only to return to the area where she had been trapped.

She was also responsible for a serious injury to Mr. Melvin Ford of Salt Lake City, Utah in an attack in the Fishing Bridge Campground on August 16. Mr. Ford was attempting to chase the bear's cubs.

Mr. Townsley said the bear apparently returned to the Bridge Bay - Fishing Bridge area because she had become accustomed to getting food in the campgrounds that had been left out by careless campers. Mr. Townsley said after the bear had returned to the campground for the fourth time it was quite obvious that she had been linked to the source of human food and was going to be a continuing problem to the visitors to the park.

In spite of warnings issued by the Rangers for campers to store their food properly, the bear was still able to get into several ice chests because the campers chose to ignore the warnings, or forgot to store their food properly.

-more-

p.o. box 168 · yellowstone national park, wy 82190

Dear Dr Craighead

Sept. 29

Nice picture you took! It really symbolizes to me the old sow with her three cubs that frequented Fishing Bridge this summer. I was just looking through some of my own slides tonight and realized that I'd given you some incorrect information on that particular bear # 7155. She had a red ear tag, like I'd said, during her first capture Aug 16, but in the photographs that I took on the morning of Aug. 17 you can see that the tag is made of plastic and not cloth as I had first thought. I cannot make out clearly what the numbers on it are since the tag is slanted but



Mountain Graphics 7575 So. State St. Midvale, Utah 84047

perhaps you can narrow it down to a particular number of possible bears & figure out which one it was. Another wrong assumption that I had made was that since her new ^{metal} tag # 7155 was in her left ear, then her original tag must have been in her right ear. But ~~as~~ you can see in the picture (when held correctly with the bear's head to the left) that the red ear tag was also in the left ear, so they must have simply replaced it with their new tag.

As I mentioned before, this sow looked very old to me because of the tooth wear, but since I have nothing to compare it to, I really couldn't guess how old. She was undoubtedly one of your old pals though from all indications. As I was taking these pictures I was getting the typical "tongue - lashing" from my supervisor who said "if these pictures you're taking fall into the wrong hands like Friends of Wildlife or The Craigheads we could all get in real trouble" ect. ect. Well to tell with all the "sneaky" stuff, if you can use the information there's no reason anyone should keep it from you. I also knew that I can trust you with this information since you seem particularly careful about protecting the identity of the persons you're involved with. So if they do you any good you may keep these skulls long as you'll ~~be~~ be needing them. (If you need to keep the originals then perhaps a duplicate of one is all I'd really like to have back.)

School's going fine so far and I finally ~~finished~~ finished the first draft of the Ohio Hawk & Owl paper which I'm enclosing if you'd like to look it over. (Lots of mistakes in it I'm sure.) Well, take care till we meet again. Sincerely
John

A GRIZZLY TALE

GOLDILOCKS AND HER THREE BEARS

OR

THE YELLOWSTONE MAULINGS OF 1976

Once upon a time there lived a bear named Goldilocks. The Indians knew her ancestors as "Great White Bear", the trappers called her "Grizz", and scientists labeled her Ursus horribilus or "horrible bear". But Goldilocks was neither horrible nor huge, in fact she barely tipped the scales at over 300 pounds. She and her brethren, though, stood at the pinnacle of nature's pyramid as a finely honed tool from the evolutionary grindstone. The powerful instincts of motherhood were the guiding force within Goldilocks, as they had been for the sows of ages past, ensuring the survival of their kind. This year she bore three cubs, a large family for a mama grizzly, but her domain was plentifully supplied with food as she was one of a vanishing breed within the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park.

One night in early June I met the Goldilocks family as their shining eyes blinked in the glare of my headlights. In that encounter Goldilocks feigned a charge at the pair of threatening objects which pierced into her nocturnal world. Then they dissappeared as quickly as they had come, spending a lazy summer among the grassy meadows and sulfur hills of the Pelican Creek backcountry. Cutthroat trout had completed their yearly spawning run up Pelican Creek, but they and their neighbors, the suckers, found their return route blocked by a wire mesh dam, a fish trap. During the months of June and July thousands of fish were caught in this maze, and their collective numbers produced a sickeningly sweet smell carried by the winds of Yellowstone Lake northward to the Pelican Creek backcountry. Goldilocks and her keen-nosed brethren knew this smell, it spelled FOOD. A grizzly wastes little time in responding to such a clue and soon several bears, including the Goldilocks bunch, were making

nightly tracks to this bountiful Fish & Chips joint, leaving heads and tails strewn along the banks for gulls and ravens to argue over the next morning. Next door two other junk food franchises were also in full production, but pickings there were few and far between, and besides, the throngs of two-legged cooks bustling about was enough to give any bear indigestion. (We will call these places the Fishing Bridge Greasy Spoon Diners.)

After nearly a month of easy pickings for Goldilocks and her three bears the Fish & Chips joint went bankrupt. The trap was opened, Cutthroats and suckers dispersed along the creek, and the bears' midnight snack shop simply went out of business. But the Fishing Bridge Diners were still producing tons of slop, and some of their cooks were enthusiastically advertising their wares by strewing trails of fish entrails and heads from Pelican Creek to their nearby Campground Diners. With hunger pangs growing stronger and three cubs to feed, temptation overcame Goldilocks' repulsion for the Fishing Bridge cooks. It was now mid August and nights were beginning to grow crisp and frosty as the Goldilocks gang rummaged through the Fishing Bridge Greasy Spoon Diners finding here and there the leavings of those sloppy cooks. The smell of FOOD hung thickly within these Campground Diners but little was to be had since most of it was kept tightly locked inside metal bearproof safes. Goldilocks had little chance of becoming a junk-food junkie like her forefathers, but still the aroma and an occasional tidbit lured her back again and again.

One night an unfortunate event occurred. The Goldilocks tikes had chanced upon a food-filled cooler and were in the process of extracting its contents when who should appear but one of those

angry cooks, brandishing a towel and spouting oaths as he advanced toward the curious cubs. Goldilocks, responding to her instincts of MOTHERHOOD, rushed at the frenzied cook and gave him a sound thrashing before retreating from the inhospitable diner with her cubs. The following night the quartet returned, only to find a sort of "tar and feather committee" awaiting their arrival. A sudden twinge of pain in Goldilocks' neck soon left her in a motionless gasping heap, helpless to defend her cubs who were also falling victim to the stunning darts. After a blurry ride in a cold, metal cylinder Goldilocks awoke to the nearby sounds of her cubs, bawling and clawing at the wire mesh doors of their own cylindrical prisons. Daybreak brought numerous peering faces outside the prison bars, and then a second drugged stupor and a nightmareish ride dangling beneath a giant, roaring bird which set them down in an unfamiliar destination, the Thoroughfare. When the giant bird had parted, Goldilocks, still terrified and confused by the intoxicating drug, fled northward instinctively guided toward HOME. The cubs awakened to find her gone and there they remained to bawl helplessly for their mother.

Now separated from her cubs and uncertain as to where she had been Goldilocks followed the familiar shore of Yellowstone Lake back to her Pelican Creek home. The following night she returned to the Fishing Bridge Diner in search of both food and cubs, and as she was exploring the enticing smell within an oddly familiar metal cylinder the wire mesh door crashed down behind her. Again she was the prisoner of the tar and feather crew. Another terrifying ride beneath the giant bird brought Goldilocks back to her waiting cubs, now very hungry from her two day absence. But once again obeying

her homing instincts and this time with her cubs trailing behind, Goldilocks retraced her homeward trail along the lakeshore to Pelican. A week of relative calm prevailed as the foursome avoided detection in their nightly visits to the Fishing Bridge Diner. But again the inevitable occurred. A cook at the diner was sleeping out in the open and awoke with a start when one of the cubs began to root about at the foot of his sleeping bag. His movement set the MOTHER instinct into action as Goldilocks intervened with a few swift blows to the unresisting cook, and then she slipped away with her cubs.

A reenactment of the tar and feather welcome of two weeks previous found all four once more lying within their cylindrical prisons, this time on their way northward to the Buffalo Plateau. By now the Greasy Spoon Diners of Fishing Bridge were closing down, and the throngs of cooks began their fall migration back to their own homes far beyond the mountains. The Goldilocks family were also on the move, heading up the Yellowstone River toward home. They chanced upon another another Campground Diner on their route south but were detained there only briefly since that Campground too was being shut down. From there they passed along the rim of the deep Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and then through the rolling, sage-covered hills of Hayden Valley before finally arriving home to the familiar Pelican Creek domain. The golden color of the grass and the light dusting of snow upon the Absaroka Peaks were signals to Goldilocks that winter was not far off, and that she would need to eat heartily before digging the den in which they would spend the winter. The fish trap where they had feasted in July was still empty as were the Fishing Bridge Diners, so Goldilocks began to

forage with her cubs along the north shore of Yellowstone Lake.

One night a familiar smell attracted Goldilocks' attention. It was the smell of the Bridge Bay Campground Diner. Driven by her curiosity and hunger she persued the possibility of finding food there. The loud crash of a heavy metalic door carried with it the sound of finality, for this time Goldilocks would be granted no reprieve. Her cubs had hightailed it back to Pelican Creek and when they did not come to look for her the following night, the fate of Goldilocks was sealed. "Yep, she's a junkie alright," said one of the tar and feather crew, "and she's abandoned her cubs to boot." On September 21 a shot rang out, echoing across the Pelican Creek backcountry. A trio of cubs may have paused from their busy foraging, anxious about the origin of the far off noise, as they had now been waiting two days for the return of their mother. They had no way of knowing that this sound signified the perminant departure of their sow, Goldilocks, and that their growing hunger pangs were never to be satisfied by her again. Starvation is a slow death for a young cub in the wild. I can only hope that the snows of winter come early to Yellowstone this year.

MORALS TO THE STORY:

- 1.) Fish traps and campgrounds don't mix.
- 2.) Bearproofs are still bear attractants unless empty at night.
- 3.) Cooks who advertise or leave out food should be shot....or at least transplanted out of the park.
- 4.) Cooks should not sleep out in the open when grizzlies are present.
- 5.) Tar and feather committees should move cooks, not bears, in areas of conflict.

Three campers are mauled by bears in Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — One man was seriously injured and two others suffered superficial injuries in two separate grizzly bear maulings in Yellowstone Park Sunday afternoon and early Monday morning.

Melvin Ford, 69, of Salt Lake City suffered severe injuries about the face and neck with lacerations on the chest and scratches and bruises over most of his body about 3:30 a. m. Sunday when he went to investigate noises near an ice chest which he had left on the ground outside his pickup camper in the Fishing Bridge auto campground, Supt. John Townsley said.

The mauling was done by a sow grizzly with three cubs, Townsley said. Ford, who was camping with his daughter and son-in-law, after hearing the noises, came out of his camper and found the cubs. He attempted to chase them away, apparently not seeing the mother, Townsley said.

Park rangers heard the commotion and succeeded in driving the bear away with the use of lights, Townsley said. Ford was taken to the Lake hospital for emergency treatment, and then transferred to a Salt Lake City hospital by plane.

Townsley said that rangers had talked with members of the Ford party Sunday evening about the presence of bears in the park and had asked them to put the food chest inside the vehicle. They also had observed the bear in the campground earlier, and were conducting an intensive patrol in an effort to prevent any incidents.

The other bear mauling occurred about 4 p. m. Sunday in the Pelican Creek area, north and east of Yellowstone Lake, when two Missouri fishermen encountered a sow grizzly with young cubs.

David Hausam, 20, of Sedalia, and Greg Stober, 20, of St. Joseph, were returning from a fishing trip when they met the grizzly about two miles north of the highway. Both lay down and "played dead" when the grizzly attacked, Townsley said, and "the bear rolled them

around a little, inflicting only minor scratches and bruises, and then left."

The Missouri men then hiked out to the road, caught a ride to Lake hospital, and were released after receiving first aid, Townsley said.

He said the two bear incidents were caused by different bears and there was no connection between the incidents.

Townsley said rangers would attempt to remove the Fishing Bridge grizzly and her cubs from the campground and take them to a remote section of the park.

He said no action would be taken with the Pelican Creek grizzly, since that incident occurred in a back-country area.

Townsley said that Hausam had been in Yellowstone Park several times and said he was aware of grizzlies in the area and familiar with the procedure of playing dead. Townsley attributed the fact that the two Missouri men received only minor wounds to Hausam's knowledge of how to conduct himself in bear country.

Townsley said that in both mauling instances, the mother bear was reacting to a natural instinct to protect her young when she charged.

He said that the park has been engaged in an intensive bear management program for the past several years to minimize the potential for bear-human contacts, including bear-proofing of all garbage cans within the park, evening garbage pickup to minimize the amount of garbage left in campgrounds overnight, and removing all dumps.

Additionally, park rangers drive through the campgrounds each evening advising campers to store all foods, including ice chests, inside their cars or high in a tree. A park regulation also makes it unlawful to leave any food on a table or outside a vehicle unless the food is being consumed or being prepared for consumption, Townsley said.

4 - THIRD SECTION JACKSON HOLE NEWS, Wednesday, September 29, 1976

Rangers destroy park grizzly

A female grizzly bear that had been a persistent problem for Yellowstone National Park visitors was shot by park rangers last week after being captured in Bridge Bay Campground.

According to Superintendent John A. Townsley, the bear, approximately 12 years old, had been trapped on three previous occasions in the Bridge Bay - Fishing Bridge area and transported to a remote area of the park, only to return to the area where she had been trapped.

She was also responsible for a serious injury to Melvin Ford of Salt Lake City in an attack in the Fishing Bridge Campground on August 16. Ford was attempting to chase the bear's cubs.

Townsley said the bear apparently returned to the Bridge Bay - Fishing Bridge area because she had become accustomed to getting food in the campgrounds that had been left out by careless campers. Townsley said after the bear had returned to the campground for the

fourth time it was quite obvious that she was going to be a continuing problem to the visitors to the park.

In spite of warnings issued by the Rangers for campers to store their food properly, the bear was still able to get into several ice chests because the campers chose to ignore the warnings, or forgot to store their food properly.

The bear was accompanied by

her three cubs until about a week ago. Biologists said for an unknown reason she had abandoned the three cubs in Pelican Valley, north of Fishing Bridge, where they have been observed foraging for themselves on natural food.

"The careless practice of the campers in leaving their food chests out has resulted in one grizzly bear having to be destroyed," Townsley said.

Dec. 1

Dear Dr. Craighead

Just a quick note on a few slides I have had duplicated for you. The series of four were taken by a friend on August 8 while I was making plaster casts of grizzly tracks. The roven with a dead fish and the tourists fishing along the banks in the fish traps picture give a pretty good idea of the activity taking place in that location. The shots of the grizzly cubs were ones I took on October 24 and 25. I nearly made a trip back to the park over Thanksgiving but the roads became snowed-in just prior to my planned departure, so I called it off.

Apart from the term papers and up-coming exams, all goes well here. Hope your Thanksgiving was enjoyable, and if I don't see you before then, have a nice Christmas too! (I am anxiously looking forward to the break.) Take care.

Sincerely
Jack