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Encroaching Humans Enrage Grizzly

David Taylor

The rugged peaks of southern Glacier Park rose high above the sparse lodgepole pines growing among the low brush of the isolated river valley. I stooped under a sapling that had fallen across the path and emerged to find my brother, Daniel, frozen in his tracks and fumbling for his camera. He glanced back at me quickly and then peered straight ahead into the brush where some creature moved about noisily. The animal grunted and then ambled parallel to us in a flash of silver brown, stopping in full view about thirty feet away. He turned and seemed to contemplate the two spindly legged, pack bearing, wide eyed intruders into his domain.

A grizzly. Ursus arctos horribilis, fierce endangered king of the last of America's wildernesses, as rare and as beautiful as the untamed land he roams. His terrain once spread from the Artic tundra beyond the Brooks Range of Alaska to as far south as Mexico. They once wandered from the Pacific coast to the buffalo plains that run from Nebraska to Saskatchewan. Now, however, the estimated 500 grizzlies that remain in the lower 48 states are found mainly in Glacier and Yellowstone Parks in Montana, and in parts of Idaho and the northeastern tip of Washington State. Alaska and northern Canada contain the majority of the earth's grizzly population and even there their numbers alarmingly dwindle.

The grizzly did not hesitate to charge us as we stood helplessly in the open

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Peacock Defends Threatened King

Doug Price

The grizzly bear, largest predator in North America who once freely roamed over most of the western United States, now faces probable extinction in the lower 48 states. Doug Peacock, Viet Nam veteran and backcountry ranger, now dedicates his life to preserving the grizzly and the wilderness these bears live in.

Although they have obvious differences, the grizzlies and Peacock have something in common: they are both misunderstood.

Grizzly bears have been the topic of countless fables and folktales which depict the bear as a furosious, dangerous hell-bent killer. At the time when white folks arrived in North America the grizzly was co-dominant with humans, both being at the top of the food chain.

When Lewis and Clark were exploring the continent in 1805, there were from 100,000 to 200,000 grizzlies south of Canada. However once the frontier opened up, the bears' home became exposed to manifest destiny and the grizzly lost its co-dominance to the ax, plow and the gun.

In the years that followed, grizzly populations plumeted as settlers killed them, drove them off their land and into unnatural habitats where bears cannot live. By 1890 the last grizzly was killed on the plains. California, which once had the greatest population of bears and who had adopted the grizzly as the state symbol, had no grizzlies left by 1922.

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Ecobriefs

"No Nukes" Initiative For November Ballot

Whatcom County steps closer to a nuclear free world

.A. "Barney" Goltz, Washington State Senator recently commented: "Anything which will heighten public awareness to the dangers of nuclear proliferation is a service to humanity. Until we can get a nuclear free zone declared for the world, we must work toward that goal one small step at a time." Whatcom County could be one more small step toward a nuclear free world.

Citizens in Whatcom County are petitioning to have an initiative put on the November ballot that would declare Whatcom County a nuclear free zone. With 3000 signatures already collected, a total of 7043 signatures need to be gathered by June 1984 if this issue is to be placed on the ballot. The organization stresses that an active decision by the citizenry about the issue of nuclear arms is their primary goal.

San Juan County, Ashland, Ore., Vancouver, B.C., and over 1000 communities worldwide are declared nuclear free zones. Whatcom's efforts are unique in that citizens will decide through voting on whether or not they wish the county to become declared a nuclear free zone. Pat Milliren, CNFWC spokesperson, explains that the organization chose this option because the citizens should decide about this matter actively through becoming informed and thoughtful about the issue. "We realize that not everyone will agree with our position in this matter but our goal is to further active participation in the decision making process," she stated.

What exactly does "Nuclear Free Zone" imply? A nuclear free zone (NFZ) is any area declared off-limits to the nuclear arms race. No nuclear weapons or their components would be manufactured, assembled, researched or stored in the county. No nuclear energy would be produced for military or commercial purposes. No nuclear weapons could be positioned or tested within the county's boundaries. The NFZ ordinance would not limit use of nuclear isotopes in medicine or non-military research. This county ordinance could not control federal legislation in county. The citizens for the nuclear free zone state that the passage of this ordinance, however, would send a strong message to state and federal representatives that citizens are serious about halting the nuclear arms race. Right now Whatcom County is nuclear free and the ordinance would not affect any current activity.

If enough signatures are collected the group plans to offer films and discussions concerning nuclear armament and our options as citizens toward affecting the arms race. Through the the WWU Peace Resource Center, a table has been set up on campus where registered voters of Whatcom county may sign the petition and pick up information and literature.■

Laurie Stephan

A.S. RECYCLE CENTER YEARLY TOTALS

	1982	1983	JAN.-MAR. 1984
PAPER	165.85 TONS	283.39 TONS	283.39 TONS
CARDBOARD	58.19 TONS	67.75 TONS	23.89 TONS
GLASS	122.25 TONS	155.06 TONS	38.14 TONS
TIN	14.04 TONS	21.34 TONS	5.24 TONS
BEER BOTTLES	3,308 CASES	3,513 CASES	not available
PLASTIC POP BOTTLES	590.3 LBS.	1,055 LBS.	not available
ALUMINUM	4,314 LBS.	6,251 LBS.	2,500 LBS.
OIL	450 GALLONS	2,350 GALLONS	450 GALLONS

*please recycle and do away with waste!

Spring Events At The E.C.

Environmental center brings us whales and activists

WWU's Environmental Center is offering a variety of May activities geared to lure individuals outdoors and interact with Nature.

Go whale watching in the San Juans or enter your favorite nature photo in a contest for a $50 prize. The winning photos will be featured in the next issue of the Monthly Planet. Two well-known environmentalists, Ernst Callenbach and Paul Watson will be visiting our campus, thanks to the E.C. Paul Watson is the controversial captain of the Sea Shepherd, a ship that operates overt as well as covert activities against sealers/whalers. His visit will culminate the Whale of a Weekend which features a trip to the Moclips Whale museum on San Juan Island and a whale watch around Roberts Point. Ernst Callenbach, author of Ecotopia will speak on how environmentalists can and are affecting change in the political process. Two films will also be shown this month - "Return of the Bowhead Whale" and "Down to the Sea." Admission to these films is free.

The Monthly Planet Editor position is open for applications until May 4, 1984. The M.P. Editor is responsible for all aspects of publication of the newsletter. She also must lead the Huxley seminar 499b which forms the M.P. staff. Salary for this position is $500 per quarter. Interested? Please pick up an application in the Associated Students Personnel Office, V.U. 226.

If you have questions regarding any of the Environmental Center activities, please call them at 676-3460, ext. 20. For more information about the photo contest, call Paige at 676-5629 or Karen at 734-5150. HAPPY SPRING!!!

Laurie Stephen

Citizens On Their Knees For Trees

Volunteers replace herbicides

Residents of a rural southwest Oregon area have convinced the Department of Forestry to cancel an aerial herbicide application over a 36-acre reforestation project because they have volunteered to control the weeds by hand. People living around Coleman Creek fear that spraying the herbicides on the 36-acres of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir seedlings would contaminate their water and threaten their health.

For the cost of helicopter spraying, residents will do the work by hand. The Department of Forestry will supply the necessary hand tools and special 3-foot-square paper mats to lay around the bases of the seedlings to stop the growth of grasses that rob the young trees of water.

The cost of the paper mats, said the Department of Forestry, is in excess of $60 an acre which about equals the cost of chemicals and their aerial application.

It would take one person working eight hours a day for 35 days to treat the more than 10,000 trees on the plantation, said a spokesperson for the estimated 90 people living in the rural residential area. Residents figure that with 50 people it might be possible to get this done in one day.

This cooperative effort between state and private citizens sets a precedent that may well serve as a model for future herbicide disputes in Oregon as well as the rest of the nation.■

Sally Toteff

Baker Bill Held Captive By McClure

Roy Fore

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Washington State congressmen reached a compromise on a wilderness bill last month. But whether the bill will become law, and satisfy wilderness advocates is up in the air.

If passed the Washington Wilderness Bill will add 1.05 million acres to the Wilderness Preservation System. Included in the bill is 130,000 acres for a Mount Baker wilderness. An additional 10,000 acres from the 235,000 proposed for Mount Baker will be set aside as a National Recreation Area to appease ORV enthusiasts.

The Washington Wilderness Bill (S.B. 837) was introduced last spring by Senator Slade Gorton. Originally it asked for 350,000 acres of new wilderness and recommended that an additional 500,000 acres be studied for future inclusion in new wilderness and recommended that an additional 500,000 acres be studied for future inclusion in the wilderness system.

In November, 1983 Congressman Mike Lowry introduced another bill in the House of Representatives which sought 1.5 million acres. Although this bill was never considered by the House it may have served to increase the pressure for a larger amount of wildernes than the Senate version. It may also have increased the pressure for a unified stance by this state's representatives.

Before wilderness advocates can truly celebrate a victory the Washington Wilderness Bill must be approved by both houses of Congress and be signed by President Reagan. Because all of the five democrats and five republicans of Washington's delegation support the bill, legislators thought the bill would have no trouble becoming law. However, before the Senate can consider the bill it must clear the Senate Energy Committee where the Chair, James McClure (R) of Idaho, has emerged as a roadblock.

McClure is delaying Senate consideration because he wants to link the Washingon bill with a similar bill in the works for Oregon. But the Oregon congressional delegation has been unable to agree on a bill. Senator Mark Hatfield (R) of Oregon, and Chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, has stated there will be no Oregon Wilderness Bill unless a consensus is reached. Furthermore, McClure is seeking to prohibit further wilderness additions for many years, a proposal winning him few friends among environmental groups.

> ***Most people would probably be unaware of the land use designation change because it is largely administrative...***

The Washington Wilderness Bill is the fruit of many months of haggling between the divergent concerns, such as environmentalists and timber interests, and the state congressional delegation. For all the heated arguments, particularly over Mount Baker, the resulting bill seems to be politically innocuous. A study conducted last quarter by WWU students from Huxley College's Social Impact Assessment class found only small economic impacts associated with the creation of a 235,000 acre Mount Baker wilderness.

The study revealed a loss of up to 60 jobs. However, if Mount Baker's roadless areas were opened to commercial exploitation in the form of timber harvests, jobs which support recreation activities could be lost, or fail to appear as pressures on wilderness areas grow. Most people would probably be unaware of the land use designation change because it is largely administrative, involving no changes in current land use.

In addition to accessing social impacts, the group conducted a random sample attitude survey of Bellingham residents in which 180 questionnaires were completed. Of those stating an opinion, 71 percent favor wilderness protection for Mount Baker. The survey also found only 45 percent of the respondents were aware of the bills involving Mount Baker--even though the battle for wilderness designation has raged since before the RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) studies in 1978. If the results of the survey and study are valid throughout the state, the wilderness bill should prove to be a politically and economically painless piece of legislation.

Does this bill spell the end of the battle over the state's roadless areas? No. Although the bill is meant to be a comprehensive review and wilderness package, environmental groups are not willing to stop now and surrender pristine lands. If groups such as the Mount Baker Wilderness Association can carry out plans to keep pressure on elected representatives, lands may be kept out of forest management until wilderness status can be accorded them in the future. ■

Record Harvests in Palouse Overshadow Severe Erosion Problems

Doug Price

The Palouse country in eastern Washington and northern Idaho looks like a healthy farming area when one drives through it. Agricultural reports indicate record harvests in the last few years. But, in these rolling hills of wheat, barely, peas and lentils, soil erosion is a serious problem.

Soil erosion is not a new problem, nor is it easy to solve. It began in the 1870s when settlers stared tilling up the grasslands of the Palouse basin. Early pioneers scarcely noticed soil erosion because of other more immediate hardships. Today however, soil erosion threatens the productivity of this fertile region.

Experts from the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) estimate that since 1939 each acre of cropland in the Palouse has lost 360 tons of soil from erosion. Further data indicate that an annual average of 14 tons per acre will be lost if current land management practices continue.

The seriousness of soil loss is overshadowed by increasing crop yields, which have consistently been on the rise for the last 40 years. Most of this growth is a result of advances in technology, increased application of chemical fertilizers, more efficient farming practices and better seeds. If erosion had been controlled in the past, the current average of 50 bushels of wheat per acre could be 20 percent higher, said the SCS report.

Because of its hilly topography and finely textured topsoil, the Palouse is particularly prone to erosion.

Most erosion occurs between November and March. High volumes of water from spring runoff are the main cause of erosion. Runoff from winter rain storms on the impervious, frozen soil of the region also causes topsoil loss.

Besides the obvious effect of topsoil loss, there are other problems associated with erosion. Soil eroded from farmlands fill creeks, rivers and reserviors, lowering their water capacity and increasing the likihood of flooding. Sediment deposits from erosion can destroy fish-spawning habitat and fill in shipping lanes, increasing dredging costs.

High erosion rates are also responsible for the increased levels of nitrates, phosphates and ammonia in local streams such as the Palouse River. These nutrients come from fertilizers injected deep into the soil.

It is estimated that erosion rates can be reduced by 40-60 per cent without lowering the average farm income. Erosion rates could be reduced by as much as 80 percent but would cost over $30 million. Different farming practices can also reduce erosion. One farming method, minimum tillage, lowers the frequency of tillage, leaving dirt clods and crop residues to protect the soil. Other methods alternate crops to prevent erosion. Divided slope farming, for instance, uses the technique of planting wheat on the upper slope and dry peas on the lower slope. Farmers can also build a series of channels across a planted slope to guide run-off to a protected outlet. Another practice is no-till farming which allows seeding a crop directly into crop residue without tilling. This method, though, requires expensive machinery and increased use of fertilizers and herbicides.

Palouse farmland is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the United States. Poor farm management is threatening to reduce yields and increase other problems associated with soil erosion. This vulnerable natural resource must be preserved. If the United States is to continue to produce food for the world, then rapid erosion, in highly productive areas such as the Palouse, needs to be brought under control.■

Speak Out

Politics of Salmon Spawn Conflict

When Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia River in 1805, they found a prosperous, well-established Indian society which was economically dependent on the salmon.

In important respects, the Indian presence on the Columbia has endured. During the past decade, Columbia River tribes have established the greatest legal stake in the Columbia and its tributaries that they have enjoyed since the take-over of the white civilization that followed Lewis and Clark.

Through federal court rulings they have regained a substantial claim to the river's salmon. Cases now before the courts may also give them a substantial voice in the use of some of the water.

Legal battles over the Columbia River fish have attracted much attention. For example is the 1974 Federal Court ruling made by Judge Boldt which interpreted an 1831 (?) treaty to guarantee Columbia River tribes half of the river's salmon. However, the federal ruling did not prevent further bickering over who should get the salmon.

In 1979 a compromise plan was agreed to by the tribes involved, the Washington and Oregon state governments and the federal government. The plan guaranteed Indians various numerical shares of in-river harvests of the spring and fall chinook runs and went into immediate effect. Its first year, however, was a fiasco.

In 1977 the Indian fishing area above Bonneville Dam was closed for conservation reasons before the Indians caught their share of the fish. Under the terms of the agreement, Indian fishermen would be allowed to make up any deficit within the next five years. Tribal leaders were willing to chalk that season up to experience and try to make the plan work—but many of their constituents were not. The trouble is not so much a lack of salmon but rather that most of the fish are caught before they have a chance to reach the Indian fishing sites. Ocean charter fishing, trolling, gillnetting and river sportfishing takes its toll on the migrating numbers of salmon. In addition there is poaching on the lower Columbia by both Indians and whites.

> ***Tribes are primarily interested in wise resource use and don't trust white state governments to insist on such use.***

The 1977 agreement is still in use, but unless the next years go better, tribal leaders may yield to their constituents pleas to scrap the compromise.

The Indians' legal stake in the salmon means they are involved in other decisions which effect the fish such as hydroelectric or irrigation projects. Tribes are primarily interested in wise resource use and don't trust white state governments to insist on such use. Yakima Indians have taken legal steps to establish a right to veto industrial development that would damage salmon populations. The Yakima tribe has already forced Washington state to go back to the drawing board for an environmental impact statement before granting a permit to dredge at the John Day dam. The tribe has gone to court for a guarantee that enough water will be left in the Yakima River, a tributary of the Columbia, to permit the survival of aquatic life.

The form of aquatic life that interests the Yakimas is the salmon. Withdrawls of water from the Yakima River for irrigation have left up to 100 miles of the river bed dry and have wiped out the rivers run of spring chinook. Irrigation has also helped reduce the overall size of the river's salmon run from an estimated 100,000 to 10,000 fish. Although hatchery fish have been raised to resist a lot of diseases, they haven't taught them to walk on rocks.

Politics is mixed up in fisheries, and it may one day spell doom for the salmon. It is a waste of taxpayers' money to run salmon enhancement programs while simultaneously encouraging dredging, dam building, the drying up of rivers and streams for irrigation and other practices that reduce the salmons' chances of survival.

We might look to the people who have lived along the river the longest and use their treaties and law to ensure the future of a Columbia River salmon.■

Kurt Kocher

Truth Spilled About Columbia River Mess

That oil-spill six weeks ago on the Columbia River is no longer front page news. By all outward appearances, the spill has been cleaned up. No more oil-soaked birds or crews shoveling the oil blobs into plastic bags. Why, Mother Nature appears to have swallowed yet another human blunder.

But appearances can be deceiving.

The truth is that only one-fifth of the 165,000 spilled gallons was recovered.

The truth is that despite diligent cleanup efforts most of that oil will permanently pollute the ocean--where most of it has been carried by the river's current.

About $2.5 million is what the Mobil Oil Company expects to spend on efforts to clean up the mess its tanker has caused, said a spokesperson for the firm. Although Mobil seems to be trying it best, mopping-up the state's second-worst oil spill is no easy task.

Containment efforts largely failed because of the Columbia's fairly swift current. Today's techniques for cleaning up spills proved inadequate because most methods are designed for calmer ocean waters.

Fish weren't immediately killed in the Columbia's accident because the oil spilled was the heavy low-toxicity kind. But some of those insects and water bugs that scramble around beaches were poisoned.

The spilled oil is breaking up from big globs into smaller globs. Scientists can only guess where the globs might concentrate or where they might spread out and mix in with the ocean sediment.

Past oil spills show that marine environments can survive major oil catastrophes. Even though oil is not biodegradable, it does evaporate and if it is oxidized by the sun some micro-organisms are able to "eat" a couple of its components. This natural cleansing action has been sufficient to deal with most oil spills--so far.

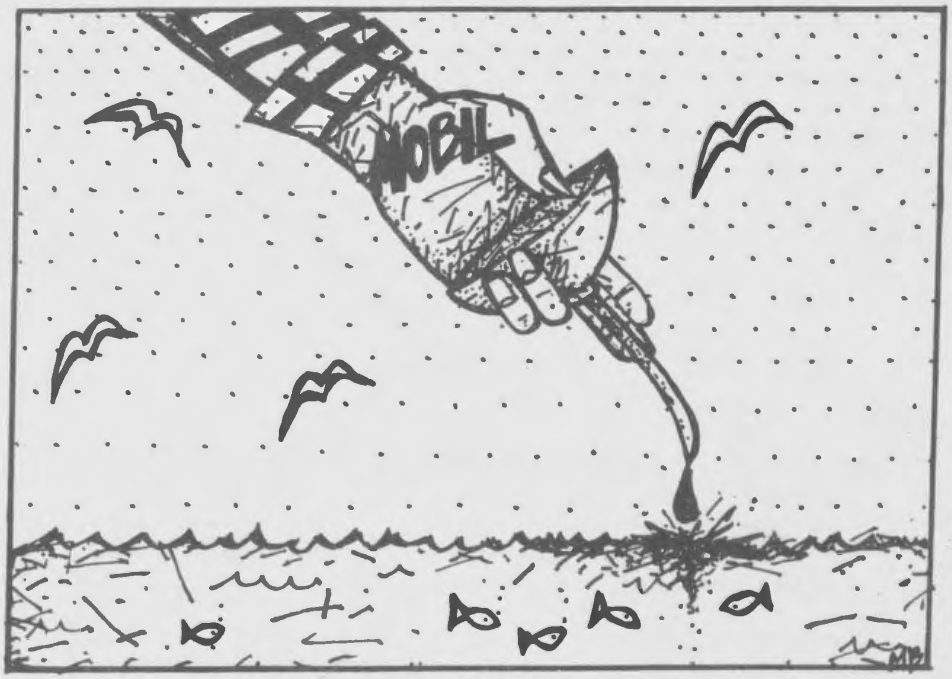
But although dead fish aren't floating belly-up in the river, there are other ways oil might damage marine life. Oil can literally smother clams and oysters and induce a lethargy that affects their eating habits. It can affect the reproductive behavior of water creatures and, in salmon, it can affect their "homing" ability to return to nesting beds.

Oil is also probably responsible for "fin erosion" in certain bottom fish, meaning their fins literally rot away. It even causes tumors in certain fish.

Spectacular improvements in oil tanker construction have been made in the past 20 years, but most efforts have been devoted to building bigger rather than safer vessels. The world's largest ships afloat are oil tankers of more than 750,000 tons. Yet these ships have only single-plated hulls, only one propulsion system and only one rudder. Should engine or steering problems develop there are no safeguards against grounding. Should a vessel's single hull rupture during grounding there is no protection against a spill.

Despite our increasing technology, we haven't been able to do anything about the spills.

In the aftermath of a 1976 oil slick near Nantucket that covered 12,000 square miles, the U. S. government finally took legislative action forcing ship owners to consider the total costs of oil spills. Congress passed the Port Safety and Tank Vessel Safety Act in 1978 which established miminum tanker safety standards for tanker construction. The Coast Guard also stepped up its inspection program checking for violations. At the same time, the House of Representatives passed the Oil Pollution Liability Compensation Act, but the Senate took no action and the bill died at adjournment.



These measures provided an incentive to minimize the chances of an oil spill, yet accidents like the one on the Columbia continue.

Nevertheless, it's "business as usual" on the river. Everything appears to be back to normal. No one hears the time bomb ticking.■

Sally Toteff

Peacock *continued from front page*

After serving in Viet Nam, Doug Peacock bought a jeep and took to wintering in Arizona then migrating north towards Montana and Wyoming as the weather got warmer. This is when he became attached to the great bears. Since then he has spent nine months a year stalking, filming and studying the grizzly, making him one of the leading field experts on these bears.

Peacock came to Western on April 6 to share his experiences and thoughts about grizzlies. He stressed the importance of public participation and awareness of the grizzly problem to help save the bear. He partly blames government agencies, including state fish and wildlife agencies, the National Park Service and the Forest Service, for the decline of the grizzlies numbers.

The fish and wildlife agencies, said Peacock, are in the business of selling valued grizzly hunting licenses which have hindered chances of the bears' survival in the lower 48. The Park Service has not been effective in bear management either. An average life span of a grizzly is about 25 years, he said, but in Yellowstone most bears are under 10 years old. This represents a population that has been tampered with, not protected.

The situation in Yellowstone is critical. Potential bear problems escalated in the early 1970s when all the land fill sites in Yellowstone were closed. Instead of taking advice from grizzly experts who advised a gradual shutdown of the dumps, the Park Service chose to close them all at once. Because over the years the bears had become dependent on these dumps for an occational meal, they drifted into nearby towns and campgrounds looking for food when the dumps were immediately closed. A dangerous situation was created and over 150 bears were shot, which dealt a devasting blow to the grizzly population.

Other problems that Peacock identified include sheep herding in national forest land which is in grizzly country, poachers and outfitter camps in Yellowstone. Because grizzly bears eat sheep, a sheepherder will kill one if he sees it. There are plenty of places where you can graze sheep, he said, but there is only a limited amount of land suitable for grizzly bears. It is necessary to get the Forest Service to stop issuing grazing permits in grizzly country, he said.

In some areas of Montana, poaching grizzlys is a socially sanctioned event, said Peacock. The laws protecting the bears have no "teeth"; currently ther is a $300 fine for killing a grizzly. Peacock suggested that the grizzly should be put on the endangered species list which would make killing the great beast punishable by a $10,000 fine or imprisonment.

The outfitter camps in Yellowstone during the fall create additional problems. Hunters don't "know how to act in grizzly country," said Peacock. They typically leave gut piles that attract the bears, "then some greenhorn will blow them away."

The overriding issue, said Peacock, is the mere presence of manin grizzly country. Grizzlies need a lot of open space, wilderness without roads, campgrounds, buildings, and hiking trails. To save the bear in the lower 48 we must designate large stretches of wilderness in which nobody would be allowed to enter, he said.

If Doug Peacock and others that are concerned about the grizzly fight hard enough, maybe a better understanding of the great bear can be achieved. Only with a better understanding can the bear be saved.■

Grizzly *continued from front page*

brush without hope of escape. As the snarling hunk of razor-toothed and needle-clawed grizzly bore down on us, we looked beseechingly at the spindly pines, then turned our stricken gazes toward heaven in a most necessary plea for help...

Montana allows twenty five grizzlies to be killed annually either by hunters or accidental kills. Poachers additionally kill at least twice the allowed take yearly. With grizzly litters averaging only 1.6 - 2 cubs a year, annual hunting significantly decreases the overall population.

The major threat to the grizzly, however, is not hunting but rather habitat destruction caused by human encroachment and fossil fuel exploration. Along the north fork of the Flathead River on the western boarder of Waterton-Glacier International Park(s), endangered wolves, grizzlies, and eagles are being threatened by a Canadian coal mine. Five miles north of the border at Cabin Creek, an entire mountain is being levelled and a giant silt-holding pond is being built on the creek. The corporations building the mine offer no guarantees that the pond will not overflow during flood season. This would allow the toxic coal dust to enter the Flathead River, pollute it and poison the fish and the creatures who feed in and drink from its water.

In 1983 a "plan" was proposed by the James Watt administration to increase grizzly habitat. Their "solution" was to log and then burn thousands of acres of grizzly territory in national forest lands so as to encourage the growth of huckleberry bushes. While the bear, caribou and countless other creatures would be forced north into Canada as fair game or would drift down into human settlements, the government and logging companies would make a fast buck. Such corporate and bureaucratic greed is entirely too typical of our environmentally unconscious government. The only feasible way to ensure the survival of the grizzly bear is to list it as an endangered species so that it will be protected from hunting. Energy resource exploration and other human encroachments into the bears' habitat must also end. Returning these lands to wilderneess and preserving them remains the surest way to coax the grizzly back from the brink of extinction in the lower 48.

With no trees to climb, and no chance to outrun this creature that can run through dense brush at nearly 40 miles per hour, we stood our ground side by side and prayed. Our insides screamed with fear as the slobbering bruin covered the short distance between us in a few brief seconds. Ten feet from us, he suddenly skidded to a stop. Before we could exhale in relief, the bear was off down the hillside and out of sight, leaving only our soiled pants as memory of our encounter with the last of America's truly wild creatures, Ursus arctos horribilis.■