



The Evolution of Bear Management in the Glacier National Park



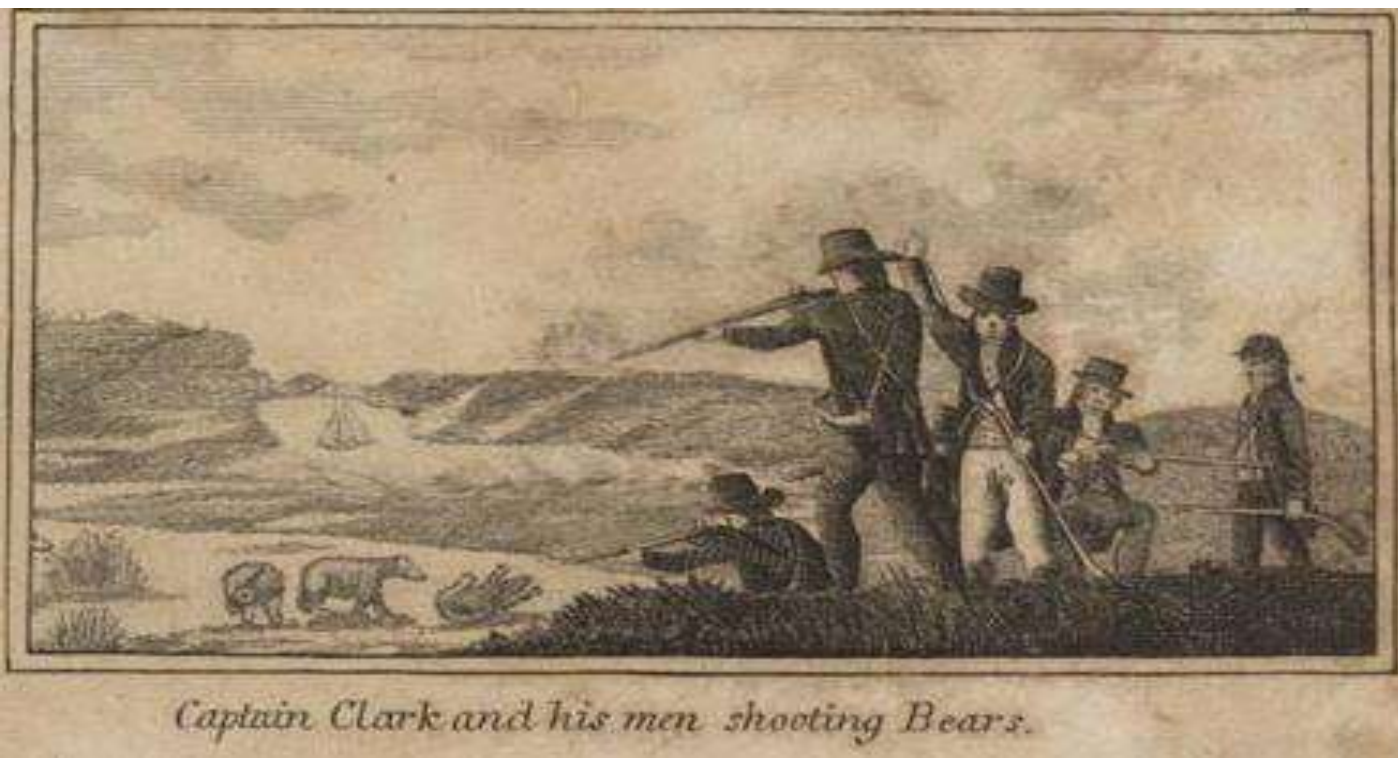
The National Park Service



Bear Mythologies of Scandinavia

In Scandinavia, there was a firm belief in the ability of some people to change into or assume the characteristics of bears. Our English word "berserk" comes from this legend. It was thought that if a warrior was to don a bear-skin shirt (called a bear-sark) which had been treated with oils and herbs, that the warrior would gain the strength, stamina, and power of the animal. These people would be driven into a frenzy in battle and were said to be capable of biting through the enemy's shields or walking through fire without injury. No matter how much of the legend is true, the thought of a group of Vikings made up as bears is sobering.



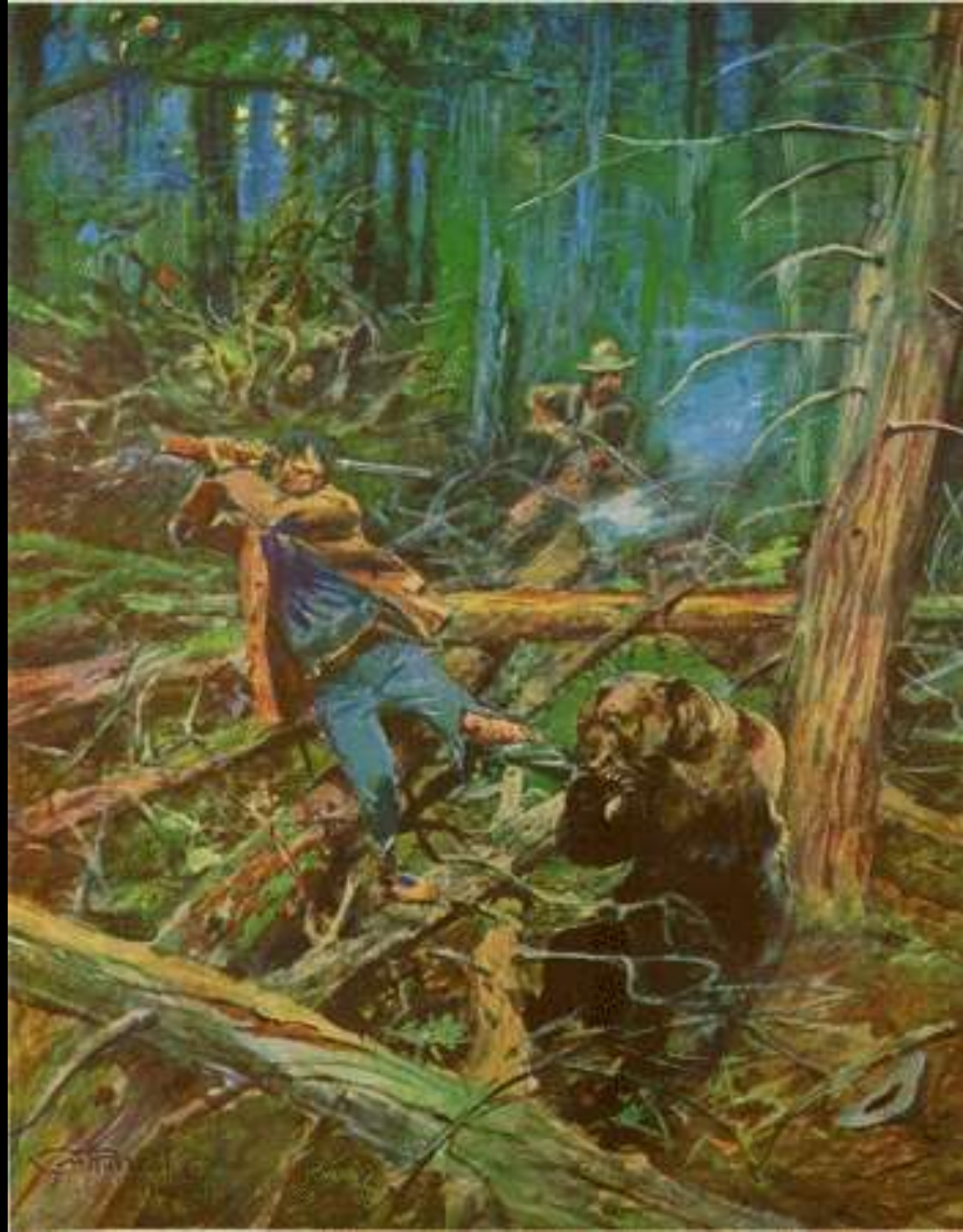


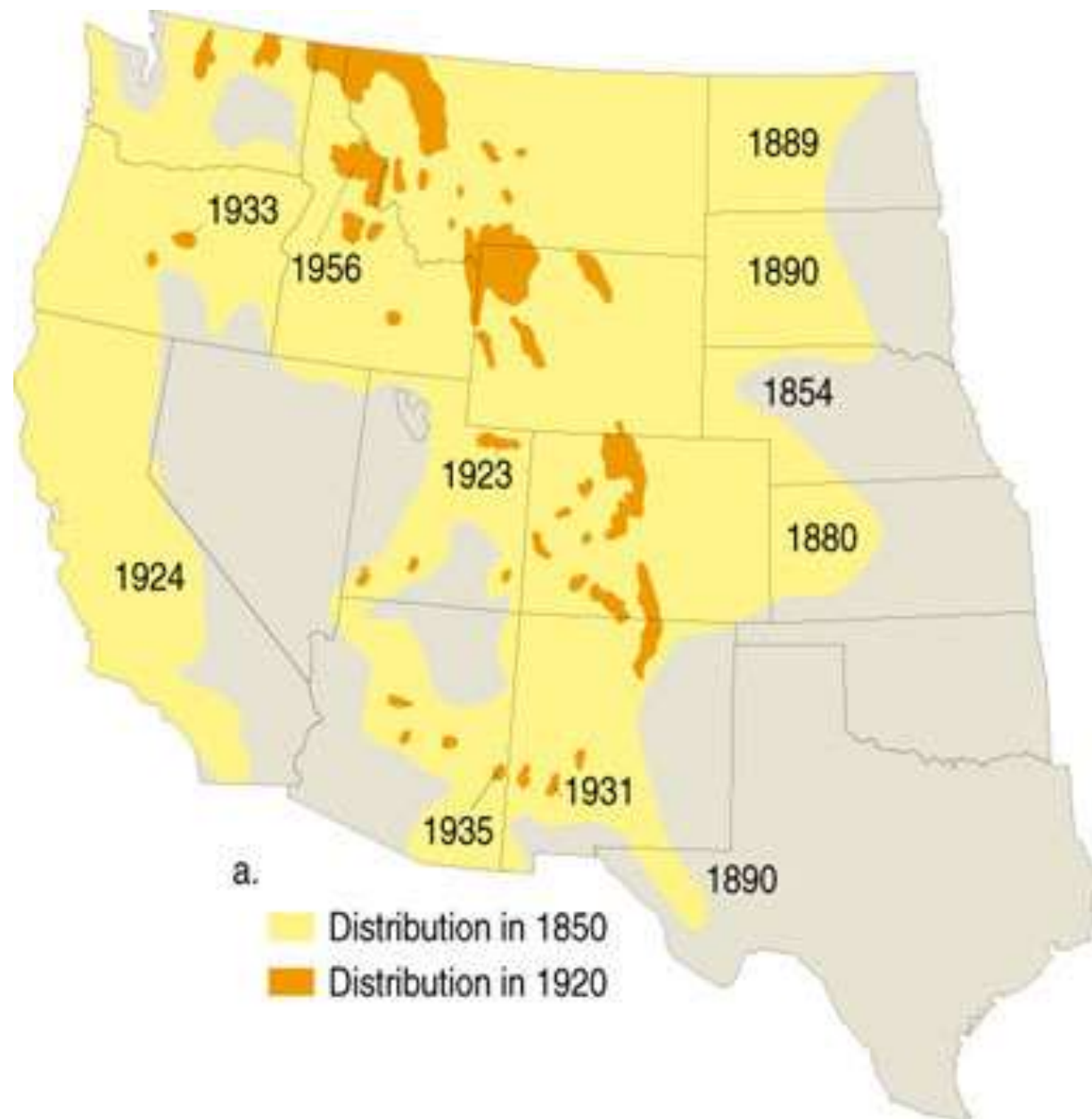
Clark — Sunday, May 5, 1805

"In the evening we saw a Brown or Grisley beare on a sand beech, I went out with one man Geo Drewyer & Killed the bear, which was verry large and a turrible looking animal, which we found verry hard to kill we Shot ten Balls into him before we killed him, & 5 of those Balls through his lights This animal is the largest of the carnivorous kind I ever saw we had nothing that could way him, I think his weight may be stated at 500 pounds [227 kilograms].... we had him skined and divided, the oile tried up & put in Kegs for use."











No. 145 FEEDING THE BEAR - YELLOWSTONE PARK,

HAYNES PHOTO. Printed in Germany

Tourists feeding a bear, 1912, photo by F. Jay Haynes.

















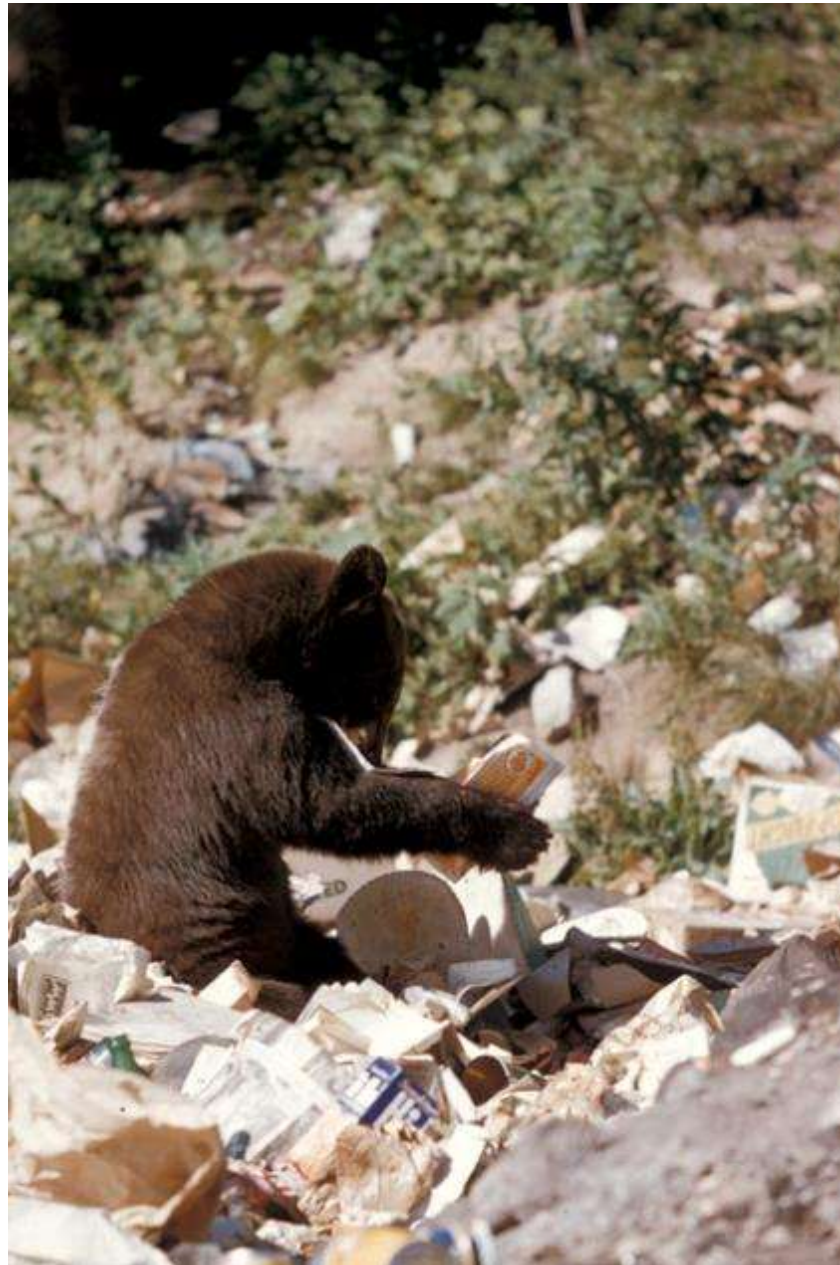




On average, between 1931 and 1959, there were 48 tourists a year being injured in bear conflicts and 138 cases of bear-caused property damage reported each year in Yellowstone National Park. This declined significantly after 1970 when dumps were closed and garbage cans were made bear-proof.











NIGHT OF THE GRIZZLIES

"A breathtaking, thrilling,
fascinating book... suspense
that makes it impossible to
put down." —*Chicago Tribune*



JACK OLSEN

















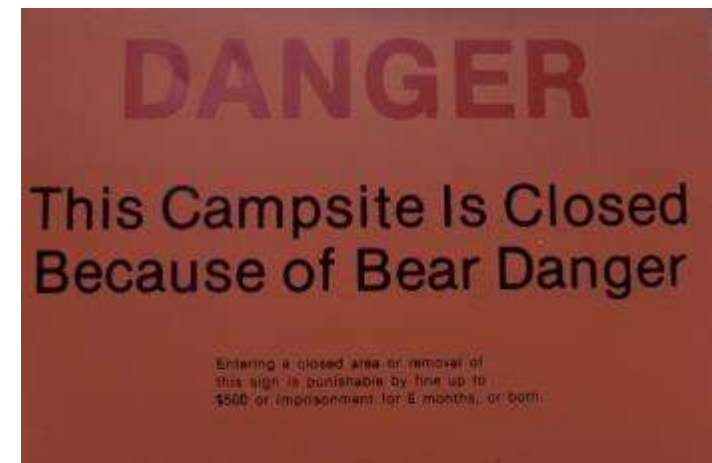
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

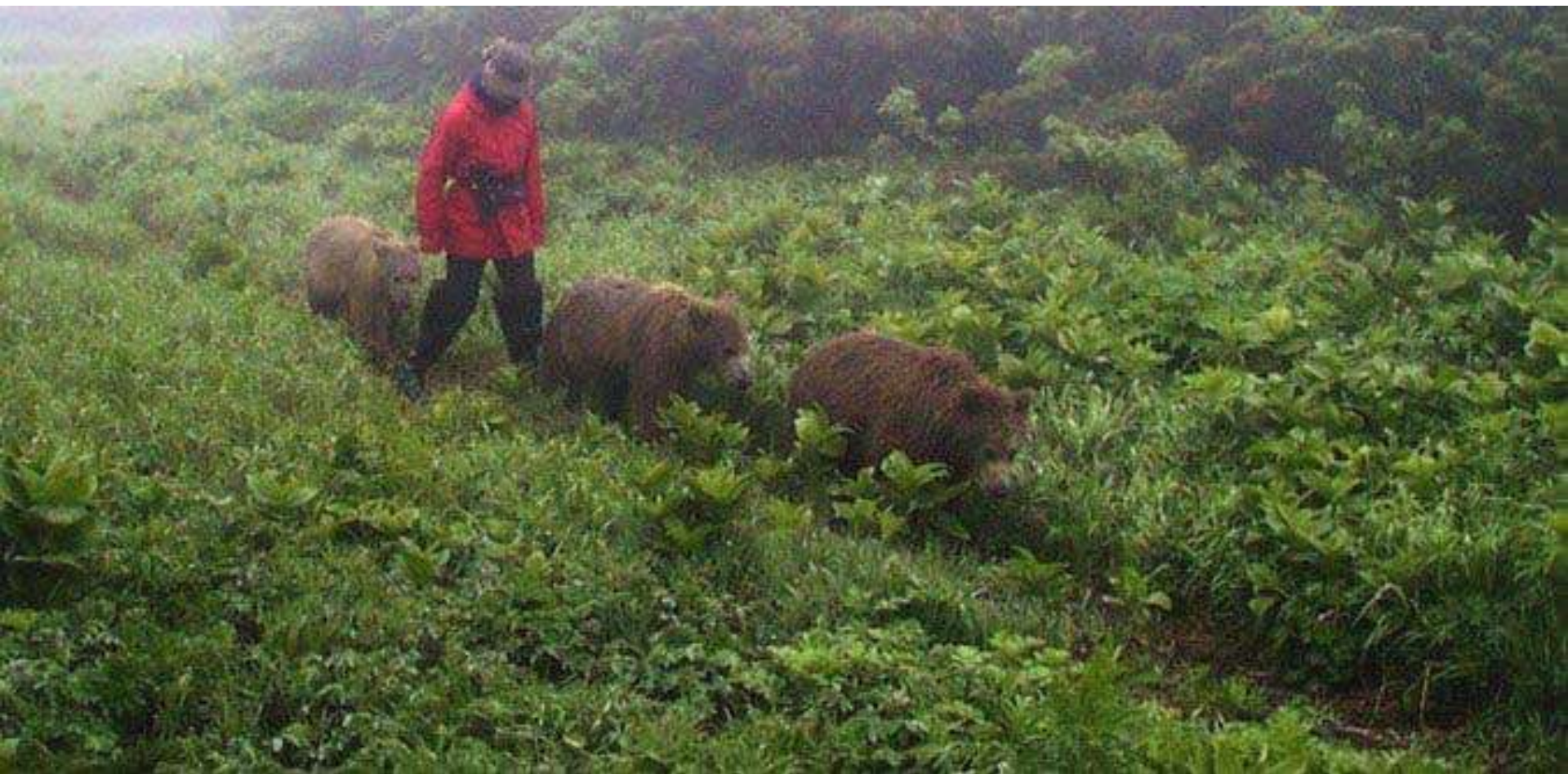
The Endangered Species Act of 1973











A. Russell photo













Challenges:

Hi density of bears

Hi levels of visitation





Education!

(Of bears and people)

From the Plan:

“Glacier’s bear management policy is implemented using individual bear behavior as the basis for management decisions. Natural defensive behavior, including the protection of young and natural foods, will usually result in a management response directed at controlling human activity. Behaviors considered undesirable, including unprovoked, overt aggression and human predation, will result in a management response directed toward bear removal. Bear behavior that reflects habituation to developed areas and/or humans will result in management actions directed toward discouraging the behavior, such as; hazing, aversive conditioning or relocation of the bear. Opportunity for bear/human confrontation will be further minimized through other forms of Park-wide human-use management.”

Hazing helps prevent bears
from becoming overly
habituated or conditioned.

Bears are hazed while in
the act of doing
something 'wrong'.

What bear behaviors are currently considered 'wrong'?

- Frequenting roadsides
 - Causes unsafe traffic conditions (bear jams)
 - Presents opportunities for food conditioning
 - Provides avenue for further habituation
 - Increases chances for bear/vehicle collisions
 - Potential for human injury
 - Presents public view of bears engaged in unnatural activity

- Approaching people too closely
 - Opportunity for food conditioning (mugging)
 - Potential human injury
 - Avenue for further habituation
- Frequenting front-country campgrounds or developed sites
 - Numerous opportunities for food conditioning
 - Potential human injury
 - Potential for property damage
- Any other activity that may lead to the bears demise

What human behaviors are considered wrong?

- Causing or participating in bear jams.
 - Causes unsafe traffic conditions
 - Habituates bears to traffic and crowds
 - Increases risk of bear/vehicle collisions
 - Develops poor public expectations
 - Exposes people to risk of injury
- Feeding bears or making food available to bears
 - Leads to food conditioning

- Approaching bears too closely
 - May displace bears from preferred habitat
 - Unsafe
 - Furthers habituation and food conditioning
- Any other activity that may lead to a bears (or persons) demise.



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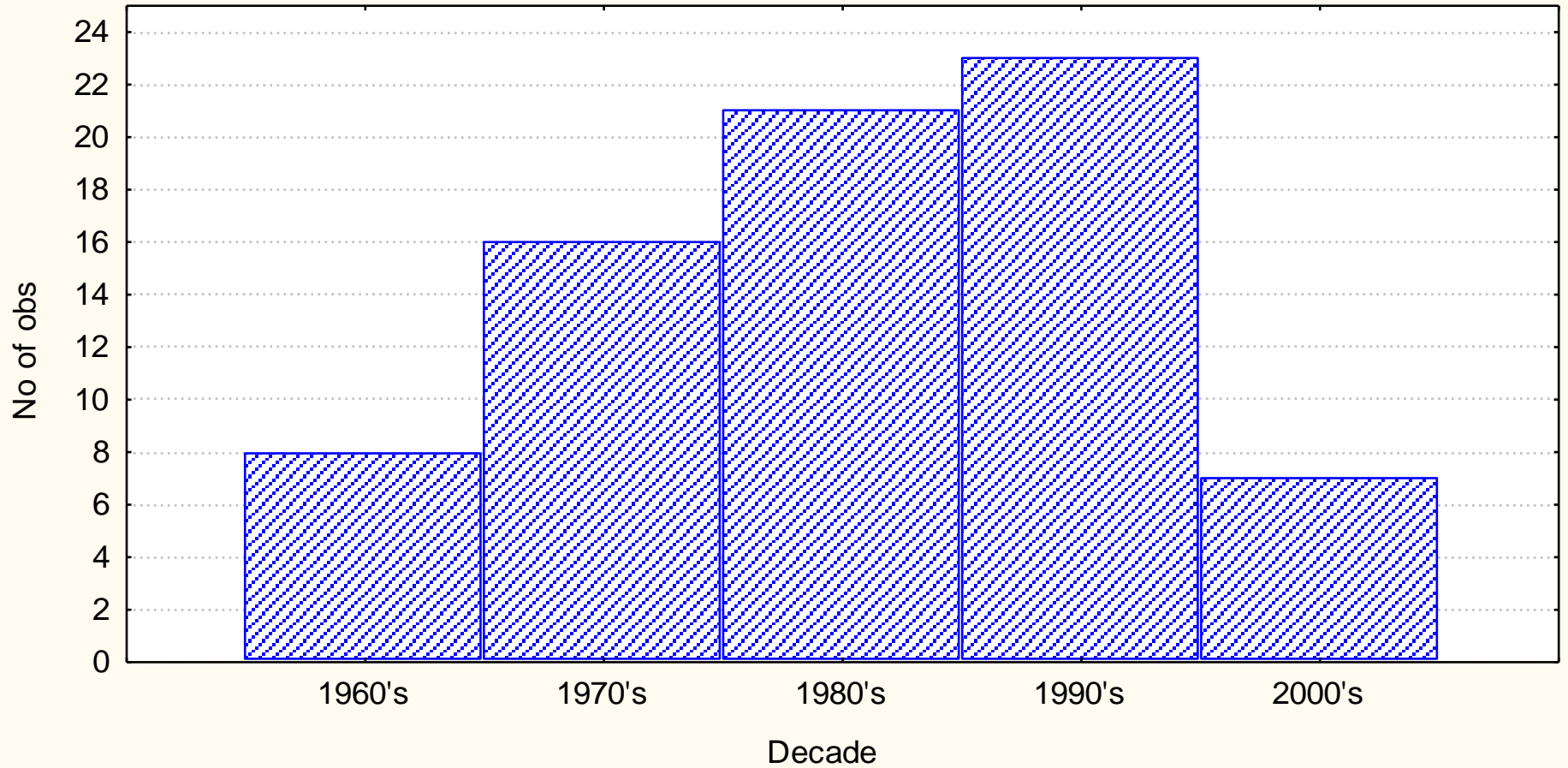




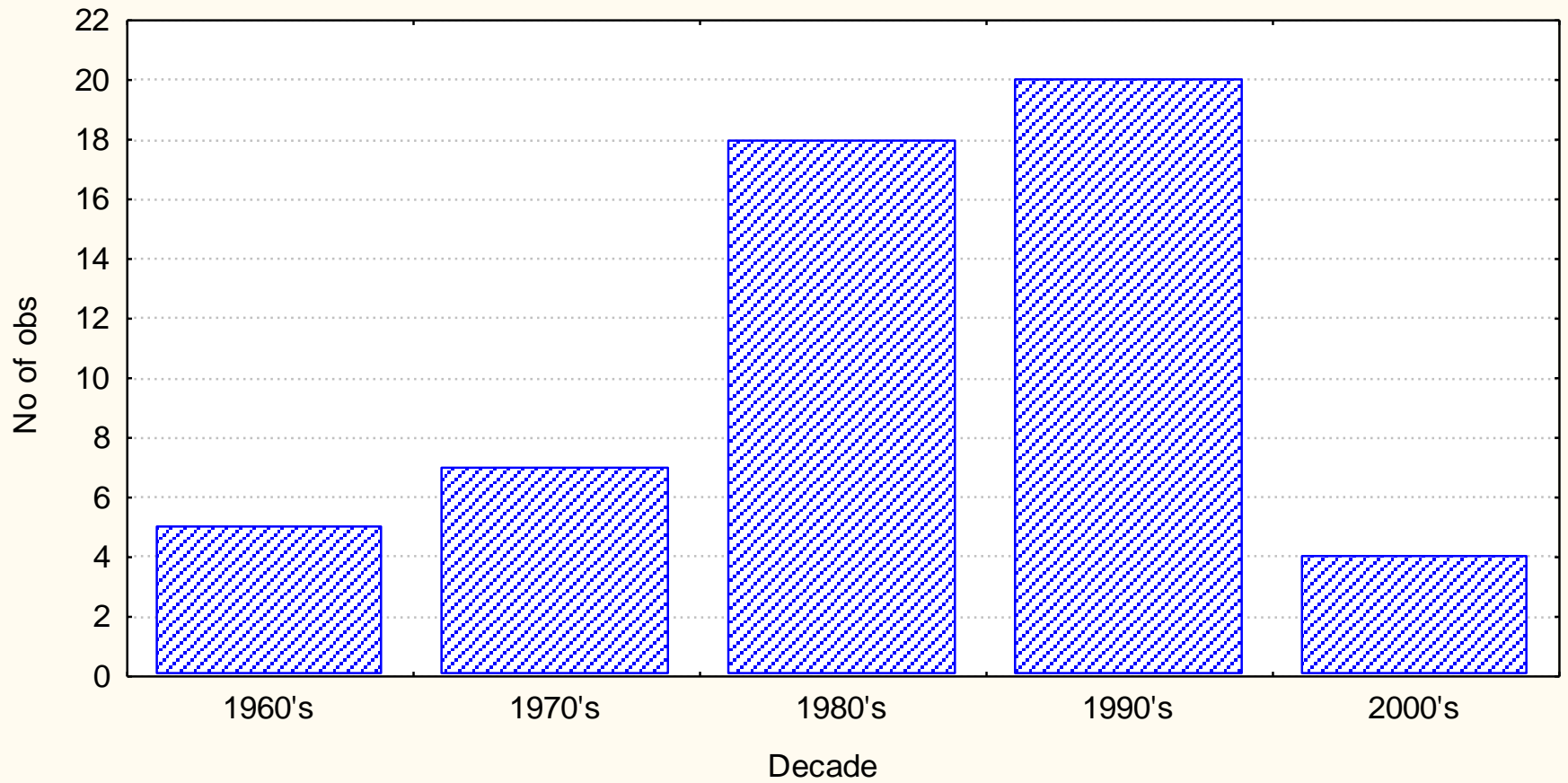
Table 1. Numbers of grizzly bear/human encounters <10' by type, 1970 - 2009, Glacier National Park, Montana.

Period	Defensive charge	Non-defensive charge	Non-aggressive approach	Close pass-by	Bear fled
1970 - 1979	17	9	15	5	5
1980 - 1989	24	1	15	4	6
1990 - 1999	25	2	13	12	7
2000 - 2009	12	2	16	21	12

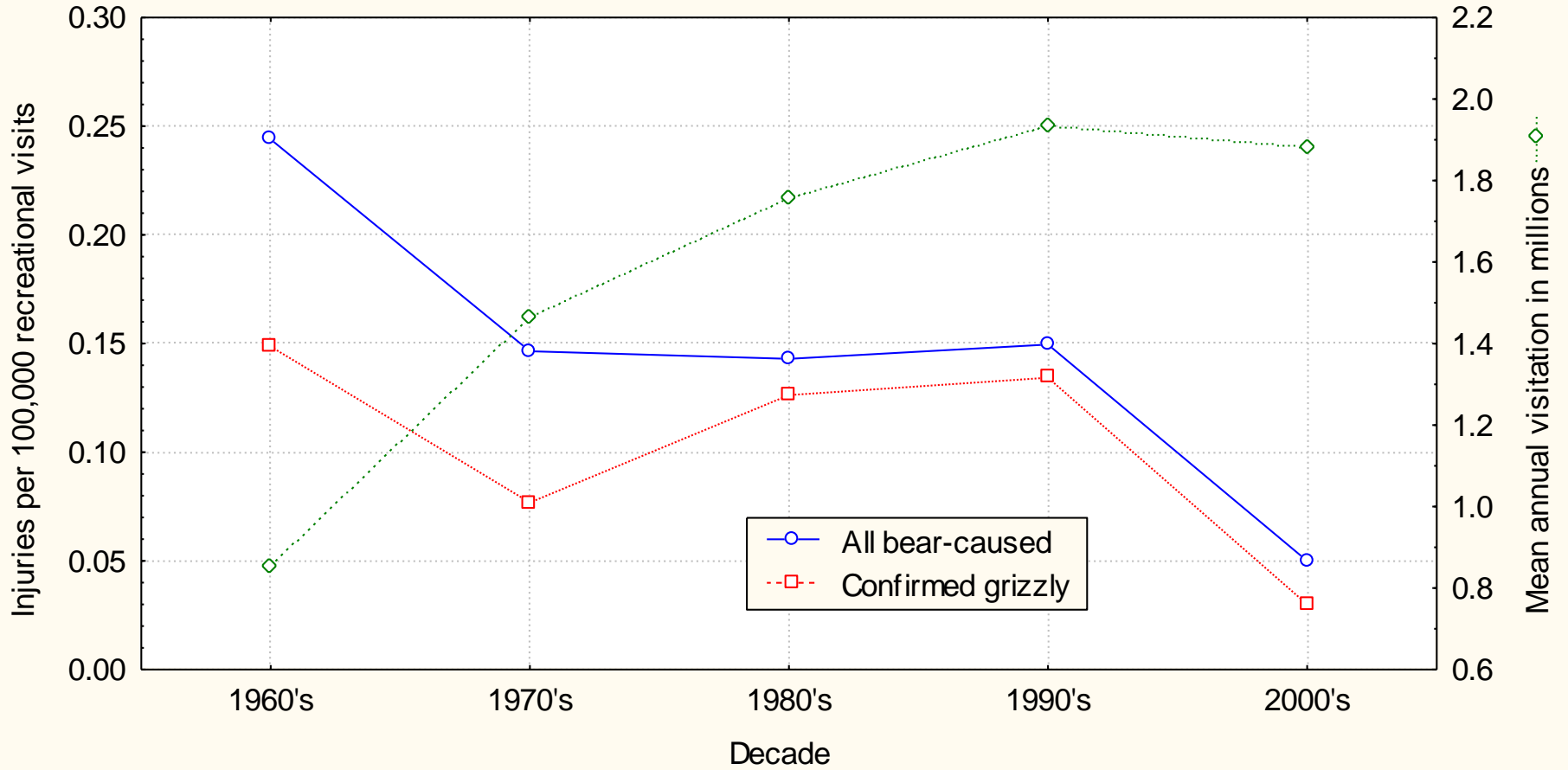
Total bear mauling incidents in GNP by decade



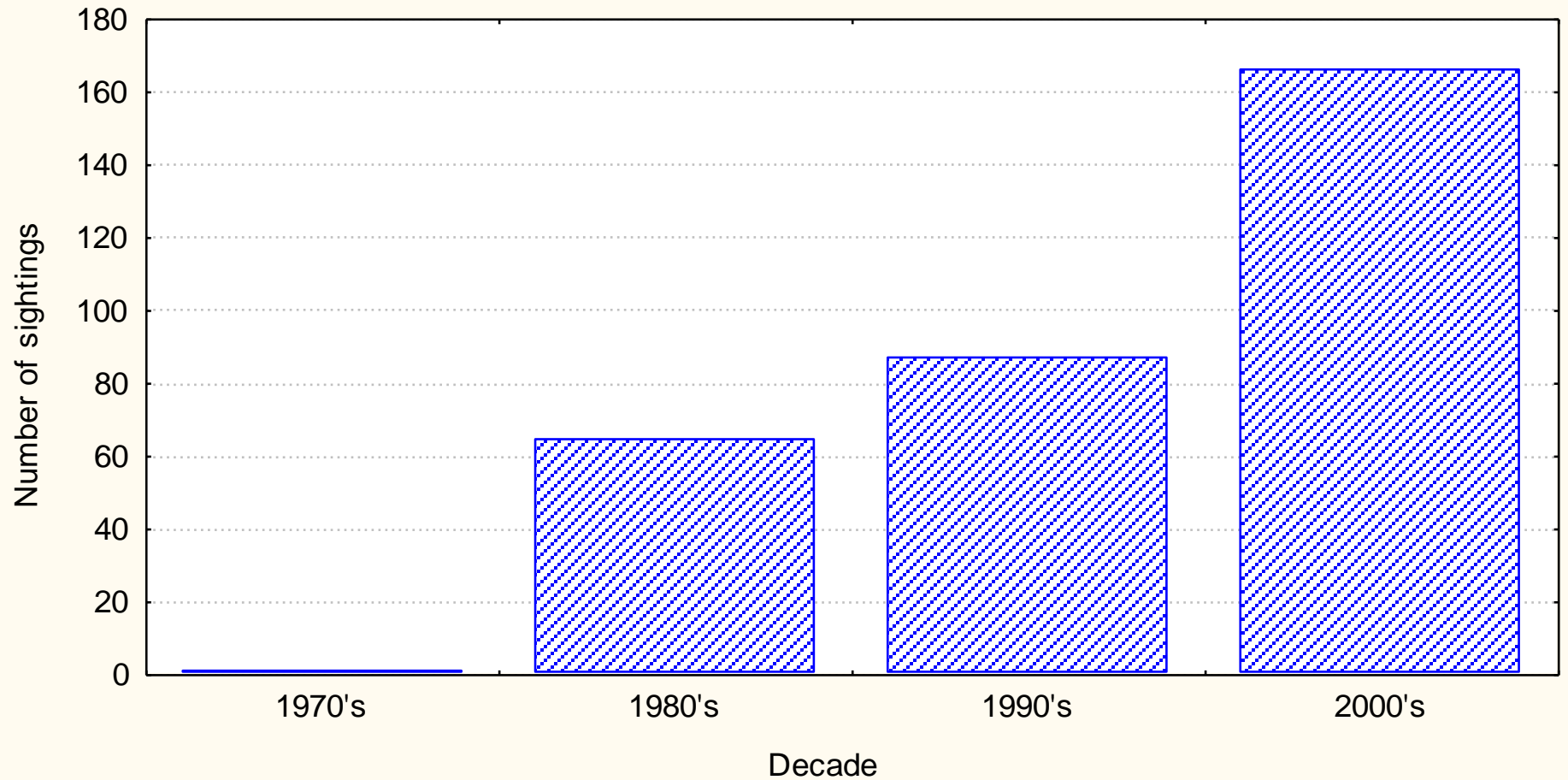
Confirmed grizzly bear mauling incidents in GNP by decade



Average bear-inflicted injury rate by decade against visitation



Human-grizzly encounters within 50 feet on the Iceberg/Ptarmigan trail by decade









HOLE IN THE WALL
CAMPGROUND
NO STOCK ALLOWED BEYOND
THIS POINT

WARNING



BEAR

FREQUENTING AREA
Spur Trail, Campground
and Boulder Pass Trail

There is no guarantee of your safety
while hiking or camping in bear country.

Removal of this sign may result in injury to others
and is prohibited by law.