

History

Here's how the bear-resistant cooler came to be:



1963

Advisory Board for National Park Service releases, "Wildlife Management in the National Parks: The Leopold Report," which recommends removal of human influence on wildlife populations and return to predator/prey relationships

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Anderson implements recommendations from the Leopold Report

1967

1970

Controversial park closure of open-pit dumps in YNP to wean bears off garbage abruptly rather than slowly, which led to more bear deaths due to underestimating their reliability on the food source

Approx. 140 grizzly bear deaths attributed to human causes after municipal dump closures within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

1968-71

1973

1973: As a direct result, Rogers C. B. Morton of the Department of Interior forms a group of scientists known as the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) to study data collected on the grizzly bear population in Yellowstone

Mid 1970s: 136 grizzly bears were thought to remain in Yellowstone. Prior to dump closures, the population was estimated at 234 bears

MID 1970s

1975

Grizzly bears in the lower 48 states are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act

Research by the IGBST shows continued grizzly population decline

1980

1983

This leads to the forming of Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), which includes administrators from federal and state agencies. Their job? Implement regulations on federal lands that would reduce human-caused grizzly bear mortality—including food-storage orders

IGBC develops the first protocol for defining, testing and recommending minimum design standards for bear-resistant containers (USFS 1989)

1989

1993

Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan is established, which guides management principles when the grizzly is on the threatened species list. Grizzly/human conflict management and bear habitat management are high priorities in the recovery zone

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