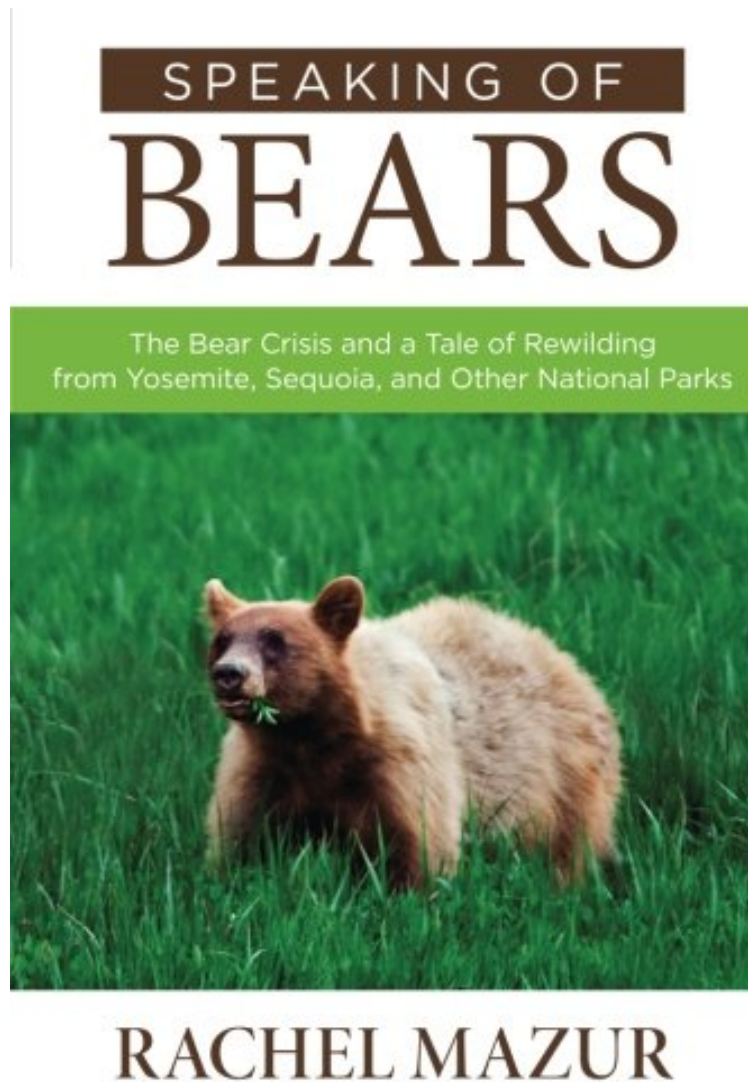


(Download free pdf) Speaking of Bears: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks

Speaking of Bears: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks

Rachel Mazur

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Rachel Mazur : Speaking of Bears: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Speaking of Bears: The Bear Crisis and a Tale of Rewilding from Yosemite, Sequoia, and Other National Parks:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Quintessential Black Bear Management History BookBy Richard

Martin This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in black bears. Ms. Mazur nicely follows the history of black bear management in national parks, primarily the California national parks. It is delightful to read the history of early National Park Service rangers and others struggling with the challenges, some decades ago, of trying to keep park bears wild, while allowing for visitors to observe unconfined bears. The early attempts seem significantly inappropriate given today's knowledge and science. One real eyeball roller was the occasional feeding of bears at evening programs. One of the biggest challenges was how to keep human food and bears separated. It took many years of trial and error and science before the systems used today, which are quite effective, became common practice. Rachel Mazur follows these early challenges up to the present with science and process. By far the most enjoyable parts of this enlightening book was the generous emphasis on quotes from former rangers, wildlife managers, scientists and others. Many of those quoted dedicated years researching and seeking effective means to keep black bears wild in their natural habitat, while affording the public opportunities to observe and enjoy these magnificent animals. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history and current state of knowledge of black bear management in the national parks. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Can't get enough of this book... By K. O'Hearn I haven't dog-eared so many pages in a book for a long time. I immediately want to read this book again. Although I am a Sierra naturalist, Yosemite Interpretive Ranger, educator, and bear lover and protector, this book is for everyone. It reveals many fascinating facts illuminating a long and sordid history from Male bears even have a muscle that pulls their penis up against their body when they are climbing to At Glacier, women rangers were switched to office duty while menstruating. Speaking of Bears contextualizes historic perspectives through oral history and detailed research. I was astonished to learn that as early as the 1930s scientists were investigating human bear interactions and determining some of the same solutions that society and management took much longer to accept, With the exception of a few park employees...who understood the problem...the advice was ignored and seemingly forgotten. As stewards of this planet and these parks we can glean from the lessons learned that are revealed in this book. This book invites the world in on a story that many of us have been telling one campfire program at a time. From the many first person accounts and stories to the current science and successful management strategies, this book delights, intrigues, dismays, incites discussion, and above all provides a voice for bears and their protectors. You will laugh, gasp, smile and tell everyone that you know they need to read this book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Book on our Bear Population in all US National Parks By Judith G. Johnson I loved this book. As someone that has been to many national parks with my family, bears were a big deal. We had many encounters with them stealing our food that we thought was secure and coming around the camp at night. It was a little scary but we gave them a wide berth so we were never in danger. I love animals of all kinds and felt bad when we would see them at the garbage dump etc. looking for food, also see people feeding them. This book certainly was an evolution on how the bear problem was finally solved for the most part. Ms. Mazur wrote a wonderful book that was easy to read and frankly I found it completely fascinating. The next time I go to a national park and browse in the book section of their stores, I certainly hope I will see this book for sale and tell anyone I see in the book section, that is it an easy read and extremely interesting with so much information about our bear friends.

As majestic as they are powerful, and as timeless as they are current, bears continue to captivate. Speaking of Bears is not your average collection of stories. Rather, it is the history, compiled from interviews with more than 100 individuals, of how Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks, all in California's Sierra Nevada, created a human-bear problem so bad that there were eventually over 2,000 incidents in a single year. It then describes the pivotal moments during which park employees used trial and error, conducted research, invented devices, collaborated with other parks, and found funding to get the crisis back under control. Speaking of Bears is for bear lovers, national park buffs, historians, wildlife managers, biologists, and anyone who wants to know the who, what, where, when, and why of what once was a serious human-bear problem, and the path these parks took to correct it. Although these Sierran parks had some of the worst black bear problems in the country, hosted much of the research, and invented the bulk of the technological solutions, they were not the only ones. For that reason, intertwining stories from several other parks including Yellowstone, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Banff-Canada are included. For anyone seeking solutions to human-wildlife conflicts throughout the world, the lessons-learned are invaluable and widely applicable.

Mazur's oral history Speaking of Bears is at times heartbreaking and tragic yet ultimately a tale of atonement how the National Park Service, concessions, local communities, and visitors all stepped up to right a conservation wrong after collectively acknowledging the real source of human-bear conflicts: ourselves. Beth Pratt, California Director, National Wildlife Federation Bears are an iconic component of the Sierra Nevada experience. In Speaking of Bears, Dr. Mazur uses a diverse collection of oral histories to capture the pervasive challenges, early failures, and eventual successes in our relationship with bears in the Sierra. Speaking of Bears offers an entertaining and engaging approach to telling the complete story. Sean M. Matthews, PhD, Associate Conservationist, Wildlife Conversation Society Speaking of Bears is a fascinating, rare, and eminently readable behind the scenes look at the complex world of bear management. It is filled with the stories behind the stories, all told by the people who lived them. After reading this book, even the casual

bear aficionado will understand why it often takes more than sound science to solve human-wildlife conflict; it also takes curiosity, intelligence, perseverance, and passion. Linda Masterson, Author of *Living With Bears* Speaking of Bears is not only an essential history of bears in the Sierra, but an invaluable roadmap on how to balance wildlife and parks in the years to come. Phil Schiliro, Former Special Advisor and Director of Legislative Affairs to President Barack Obama Rachel Mazur has made a substantial contribution to the behavioral science research with this insightful work, but perhaps more importantly, she brings these stories to life. Sean O'Keefe, Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration; Former Administrator of NASA, Secretary of the Navy, and Deputy Assistant to President George H. W. Bush Until recently, black bears wanting peoples food or edible garbage in Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks broke into cars, ripped into tents, threatened people, and more. Mazur tells the story of how the parks finally became close to bear proof by building her book around quotes from the people who were on the front lines of bear management. What results is a lively, fascinating tale. Stephen Herrero, PhD, Professor Emeritus at the University of Calgary and author of *Bear Attacks: their Causes and Avoidance*. With a collection of stories told by those in the trenches, *Speaking of Bears* exposes the complexities of human-bear conflict. It is a vibrant tale of what has been tried, has and hasnt worked, and may be next. Along the way, the reader discovers that the answers are often not as easy as they initially appear. Marc Kenyon, Human-Wildlife Conflict Program Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Mazur is one of a rare breed of ecologists who write about natural history with ease. In *Speaking of Bears*, every page is both engrossing and informative. By the close of this book, you will know the passion and science behind bear management and you will be richer for the experience. Savannah Boiano, Education Director, Sequoia Natural History Association From the Back Cover As majestic as they are powerful, and as timeless as they are current, bears continue to captivate. *Speaking of Bears* is not your average collection of stories. Rather, it is the history, compiled from interviews with more than 100 individuals, of how Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks, all in Californias Sierra Nevada, created a human-bear problem so bad that there were eventually over 2,000 incidents in a single year. It then describes the pivotal moments during which park employees used trial and error, conducted research, invented devices, collaborated with other parks, and found funding to get the crisis back under control. *Speaking of Bears* is for bear lovers, national park buffs, historians, wildlife managers, biologists, and anyone who wants to know the who, what, where, when, and why of what once was a serious human-bear problem, and the path these parks took to correct it. Although these Sierran parks had some of the worst black bear problems in the country, hosted much of the research, and invented the bulk of the technological solutions, they were not the only ones. For that reason, intertwining stories from several other parks including Yellowstone, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Banff-Canada are included. For anyone seeking solutions to human-wildlife conflicts throughout the world, the lessons-learned are invaluable and widely applicable. About the Author Rachel Mazur, an expert in bear biology and management, ran the bear management program in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks for nine years. Rachel has also worked in many other national parks including Denali, Redwood, Yosemite, and North Cascades. She earned her Ph.D. from U.C. Davis studying black bear ecology, and also holds an M.S. in forest biology from the S.U.N.Y. College of Forestry and an M.P.A in public administration from Syracuse University. Besides publishing several scientific and popular articles on bears, she is the author of a best-selling childrens book called, *If You Were a Bear*, from which all proceeds go to environmental education. Rachel currently lives in El Portal, California with her husband, John, and her two cubs, Max and Wren.