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CRAIGHEADS ON TV IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIAL FEB. 10

MISSOULA --

Two University of Montana faculty affiliates helped produce the National Geographic Society film special, "Wild River," which will be shown on nationwide television Tuesday Feb. 10.

The third of the National Geographic 1969-70 series was produced in association with affiliates Metromedia Producers Corporation. The two UM faculty / involved in the TV production are Dr. John J. Craighead and Dr. Frank C. Craighead.

Dr. John J. Craighead is the leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and a professor of forestry and zoology at UM. He is also a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Dr. Frank C. Craighead, his brother, is research associate for the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at UM and president of the Environmental Research Institute at Moose, Wyo. He is affiliated with the State University of New York.

"Wild River" according to the Craigheads, is being presented to express the need for river preservation.

Last summer the Craighead families rode rafts down two of Idaho's primitive rivers, the Middle Fork of the Salmon and the Main Salmon. The Craigheads were accompanied by television cameramen who filmed the trip for 'Wild River."

The film shows the contrast between the free-flowing waters of the Salmon and the now-polluted waters of the Hudson and Potomac Rivers.

The special will be shown on TV stations affiliated with CBS. Montana stations scheduled present "Wild River" at :5:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on Feb. 10 include KOOK-TV, Billings; KXLF-TV, Butte; KXGN-TV, Glendive, and KFBB-TV, Great Falls.

(more)

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The Craigheads were instrumental in the massage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which provides that certain free-flowing rivers of outstanding value, or sections of them, will be protected for use by present and future generations.

A river classification system has been established for determining the eligibility of any river for classification as wild, scenic, or recreational. The important part, Dr. John Craighead says, is that the Act delegates the power for river preservation to the American people.

He said that such rivers as the Blackfoot, the Swan and others can be incorporated into the wild river system if the local people organize and express a desire to preserve the water areas.

The Craigheads helped the National Geographic Society produce another TV special, "Grizzly!" in 1967. "Grizzly" dealt with a study of grizzly bear habits in Yellowstone National Park.

They have also written 11 articles for National Geographic Magazine. The most recent article, "White Water Adventure on Wild Rivers of Idaho," appears in the February issue of the magazine.

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