

Lew,

Here's a copy of my oral testimony from the wilderness hearings. If you want to submit written testimony also it must be received by August 31. As you're likely swamped we could have this typed on letterhead & you sign it for the Chapter. I'll be getting you the VP blurb for the newsletter next week.

Chuck

Senator James McCure  
5229 Dirksen  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

( My name is Chuck Blain and I'm speaking  
on behalf of the Idaho Chapter of  
the Wildlife Society. The Wildlife Society is an  
international organization of professional wildlife biologists  
with about 200 members in the Idaho Chapter.

wants  
return

As the outcome of these proceedings likely represents  
( the last opportunity to make decisions concerning  
the fate of Idaho's remaining 6.5 million acres of  
roadless forest lands we as professional wildlife  
biologists support <sup>the Natl. Wildlife Federation's Proposal</sup> Proposal 4, <sup>from your newsletter</sup> the addition of 4.5  
million acres of Idaho roadless areas to the Wilderness  
Preservation System. I will briefly touch on the  
highlights of our written testimony here.

( A The primary reason for our support of <sup>P</sup> proposal

( 4 is that it encompasses the preservation of entire ecosystems. All the other proposals seek to preserve only disjointed parcels of land. One of the key principles of ecology is that healthy ecosystems function properly only when left intact. <sup>thus,</sup> Proposal 4 seeks to preserve the integrity of entire systems.

(B) The preservation of endangered, <sup>and threatened</sup> species, such as the woodland caribou, is totally dependent on maintaining its habitat as part of a complete, functioning ecosystem. We will eventually lose the caribou and other ~~endangered~~ species in Idaho if preservation of their habitat is not adequate.

(C) Protecting the integrity of entire watersheds also maintains the <sup>excellent</sup> fishery resources and high water quality.

( we have in Idaho.

(D) Tourism is the second most important industry in Idaho. People come from around the world to backpack in the Sawtooths or float down the Salmon River. Tourists can go anywhere in the west to see deficit timber sales and logging roads but they come to Idaho to enjoy a wilderness experience. And, they will continue to ~~come to~~ <sup>visit</sup> Idaho in ever increasing numbers only if we have something unique to offer them.

(E) Finally, we in Idaho have <sup>established</sup> ~~set up~~ a system of values ~~we use~~ to judge our quality of life; a life centered around the enjoyment of vast acreages of unspoiled land. If we do not see ~~fit here and now~~ to

preserve adequate acres of wild lands where man is but a temporary visitor rather than a despoiler of nature, this quality of life we hold so dear will be severely diminished.

Nearly 40 years ago, <sup>conservationist and forester</sup> Aldo Leopold spoke eloquently

of the need to instill within man a land ethic that

"changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it".

Unlike elsewhere, we in Idaho still have the opportunity to live by ~~just~~ such a standard. Our success or failure to embrace a land ethic will be judged by our foresight in maintaining the integrity of Idaho's wilderness.

~~Thank you~~