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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 6, 1982

Lewis Nelson, Ph.D. President, Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society 828 Nylarol Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Administration's 1983 Budget proposal to eliminate \$4.4 million from the Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Research Program.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, which I chair, will hold a hearing on Thursday, May 6, 1982, to review the SWS's annual budget proposals.

Because of the importance and outstanding contributions of the program, the subcommittee will, of course, review the proposal carefully. We have already requested additional justification from the Department of the Interior, including a comparison of cooperative research program against the other FWS research programs.

As you know, the current pressures to reduce Federal spending are enormous and we must all be prepared to do our share. Some cuts will undoubtedly be made that will be unpopular. Be assured, however, that this program will receive careful consideration by the subcommittee before any final action is taken.

Once again, thanks for keeping in touch.

Sincerely,

James A. McClure

United States Senator

M: Chera

McC:fc