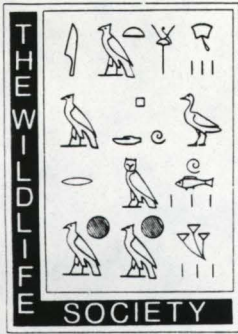


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IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20014

WE BELIEVE - "CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS"

(Letter sent to Richard L. Barrett, Director, Idaho
 Personnel Commission)

~~May 26, 1983~~

Mr. Richard L. Barrett
 State Personnel Director
 Idaho Personnel Commission
 700 W. State
 Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On behalf of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I want to make a few comments regarding the recent changes in the educational requirements for conservation officer, fisheries research biologist, and wildlife research biologist positions with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The original requirement was a Bachelor's Degree for the conservation officer position and a Master's Degree for the fisheries and wildlife research biologist positions. Under the present system, the degree requirements have been replaced with "any combination of education, training, and experience that demonstrates competence."

The fisheries and wildlife professions are two of the most demanding and competition is extreme. Over the years, universities have improved their curricula, thereby providing a better education for students. This combination of better available training and the severe competition among students for jobs has been of great help to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Only the best students are hired, resulting in a noticeable overall increase in quality of employees. That trend will probably continue, and future employees will be even more competitive and well trained.

Entrance requirements are used to insure minimal competence. At a time when the quality of students (potential employees) is increasing and entry-level requirements should be made more stringent, it is sad to see Idaho drop its degree requirements.

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Mr. Richard L. Barrett
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I am aware that the Idaho Personnel Commission did not fully endorse this change and is concerned that only the most qualified people are hired. With that in mind, I am requesting that an in-depth analysis be made of all the candidates for these positions in 1983 to determine how effective people without degrees in appropriate disciplines did in competition with university-educated students. If the data show that "the combination of education, training, and experience that demonstrates competence" is not on the same competitive level with university degrees, then let's return to the original requirements.

Please keep me informed of your actions on this issue and feel free to call on me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

(LN)



Lewis Nelson, Jr.
President
Idaho Chapter
The Wildlife Society

cc: Jerry Conley
Bob Dick

LN:rs