

February 11, 1985

Dr. Chuck Hunter  
Department of Zoology  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for the recent letter related to a Western Riparian Council. From the description, it sounds like a good idea and I wish you luck.

I am uncertain as to how the Idaho Chapter might actively support and participate in such an organization. More specific information would be needed before determining that. We could not help financially because we simply don't have the money

One concern that comes to my mind involves the question of lobbying. It is my understanding that chapters and sections of The Wildlife Society are not allowed this action. Before going too far, I suggest that you check this out.

Good luck in your endeavor. Please keep me informed of your progress.

Sincerely,

Lewis Nelson, Jr., President  
Idaho Chapter  
The Wildlife Society

LN:TW

Local concerns may include passage of riparian tax incentive legislation and struggles over dam construction and water rights within a state. In Arizona, for example, there is mounting concern over Cliff Dam on the Verde River and water rights on the San Pedro.

The council is being incubated in Arizona where key people in conservation organizations, management agencies and research are contacting each other and building a framework. We are aiming for an organizational meeting at the Interagency North American Riparian Conference at the University of Arizona in Tucson, April 16-18. We are collecting ideas from the western states to help build the council. Please contact us and let us know:

Would you actively support and participate in a council of this nature?

What problems concerning riparian areas would you like to see such a council address?

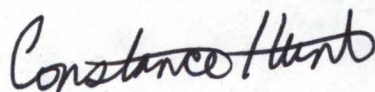
Do you have suggestions for financing or the ability to help finance the council?

Correspondance should be sent to:

Chuck Hunter  
Department of Zoology  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287

Now is the time for us all to pull together and act to preserve western river systems. Your help is desperately needed and gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,



Constance Hunt  
Former member, ASU Student Chapter  
The Wildlife Society

CH/ch

ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85287

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

March 25, 1985

Dr. Lewis Nelson, Jr., President  
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Dept. of Wildlife  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83843

Dear Dr. Nelson:

Thank you for your prompt response to Ms. Hunt's request. I apologize for not responding sooner, but preparation for the upcoming Riparian Systems Conference has kept me occupied. At this time (and unknown to Ms. Hunt when she sent out the inquiry) we are restricting for now our efforts only to Arizona. However, we do wish to encourage and work with other western states to form local councils (or panels) in coordinating review of projects that may impact riparian systems and to organize research among academic, government, and private groups for local management regimes. A possible rallying point for such a council might be to address the proposed admendment to the Endangered Species Act to exempt Western Water and Power Projects from compliance, as mentioned in Ms. Hunt's letter.

Arizona, like your state, has a number of problems confronting riparian systems and, as we have learned, different western states emphasize different priorities when managing for riparian systems. Water management has had the most deleterious effect upon riparian systems in Arizona, though domestic grazing and other land management practices have had serious effects. In contrast, grazing problems have been identified as the most detrimental practice to riparian systems in Oregon and Wyoming; perhaps this is true in Idaho as well. Also, wetlands were identified as deserving consideration in several states, whereas wetlands in Arizona have received substantial attention only recently. We feel that the potential differences may, through a loose confederation, be resolved first on a state level while working slowly towards regional remedies for shared problems. We now feel a regional or national organization, without localized support, may dilute the potential for effectively solving problems on a more local level. However, opening lines of communication such as we have now may speed the formation of an effective regional riparian council.

You are correct about The Wildlife Society's lobbying role and we have no plans for this action. However, local riparian councils can make knowledgeable recommendations on projects impacting riparian systems. This information in turn can be used by environmental lobbying groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, or other appropriate organizations.

Dr. Lewis Nelson, Jr., President  
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We believe state councils should involve scientists conducting research on rivers and associated flora and fauna in an effort to 1) define research objectives, 2) collect information applicable to local management of riparian systems, and 3) coordinate studies to fill gaps in existing knowledge and avoid duplication. We feel conducting yearly forums and opening permanent lines of communication among all concerned groups and citizens is paramount for effective management. The involvement of management agencies and the private sector would increase the value of such forums for overall understanding of the problems associated with riparian systems. Dr. William S. Platts with the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, a strong riparian advocate with the U. S. Forest Service, may be a good person to contact if you feel there is potential for a council in Idaho.

We still hope to have a gathering of concerned individuals at the Riparian Systems Conference to be held in Tucson, AZ in mid-April. If you or a member of your chapter (or anyone you know who might like to discuss ideas) are/is planning to attend this conference it would be a pleasure to get together. Once again, we thank you for your continued interest in riparian as an important wildlife resource.

Sincerely yours,



William C. (Chuck) Hunter  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Center for Environmental Studies