

February 1970

THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
POSITION STATEMENT: RE,
ADDITIONAL DAMS ON THE MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER IN THE
VICINITY OF HELL'S CANYON

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, an organization composed of professional wildlife workers residing in Idaho, offers the following position statement with regard to additional dams on the Middle Snake River in the vicinity of Hell's Canyon.

We oppose construction of any more dams on the Middle Snake River from Hell's Canyon Dam downstream to Lewiston, Idaho. We can no longer afford the serious loss to a livable environment that additional dams would cause. There are several reasons for this position.

1. There would be a serious degradation of the unique scenic and recreational values associated with this portion of the Snake River if it were dammed. Recreational use is already high, as shown by the 50,000 man-days of recreation spent in the area of the High Mountain Sheep and China Gardens dam sites last year.
2. The project could change water quality downstream to such a drastic degree that it would threaten the entire Salmon and Clearwater River runs of anadromous fish.
3. There would be a loss or serious reduction in the fine white sturgeon, small-mouth bass, trout and channel catfish fisheries which now exist on this stretch of the river.
4. Big game numbers estimated at 20-30,000 deer would decline because of the loss of critical big game winter range inundated by the project.
5. The choice partridge, quail and cottontail rabbit production areas in the bottom lands would be inundated.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports Senate Bill 940 sponsored by Senators Church and Jordan prohibiting the licensing of hydroelectric projects on the Middle Snake River below Hell's Canyon Dam for a period of ten years. We feel the ten-year moratorium will allow time to make an equitable analysis of the area in relation to the social and economic needs of our Nation.