

August 22, 1975

Mr. Adrian Dalton, Supervisor
Caribou National Forest
P. O. Box 4189
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Mr. Dalton:

On behalf of the members of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of your staff, especially Glenn Bradley and Frank Gunnell, for the excellent program they put together for our summer meeting.

The tour of mining sites was informative and the discussions and route stops assisted a great deal in acquainting the members with the impact of phosphate mining on the environment. The Dutch oven supper was a very pleasant way to wind up a "hard day's ride."

There is a "dark cloud" over what was otherwise a very enjoyable tour. Several of the members present expressed concern with the impression, left by Glenn Bradley, of the Forest Service's official attitude with respect to phosphate mining. To be informed at the very beginning that we were guests of the mining companys, at their pleasure, and must not criticize or express any adverse comments about phosphate mining, did not set well. Additional comments throughout the day stressed that phosphate mining was inevitable and there was little we could or should do to change this basic direction.

Open-pit phosphate mining is single-use land management at its worst. I sincerely hope that the policy of the Forest Service will be to insure (in spite of archaic mining laws) that all possible will be done to preserve and protect other values in the mining area.

Again, I wish to thank you for a very enjoyable summer field trip. Our tentative plans call for our winter meeting to be held in Pocatello with open-pit mining and its effects on the environment as the meeting topic.

Sincerely,

Bill Meiners