

September 26, 1975  
500 Schmeizer Lane  
Boise, Idaho 83706

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

Dear Mr. Dalton:

The 1975 Summer Meeting of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society was a successful event. In large measure this was due the accommodation, hospitality and hard work of various members of your staff. Particular thanks must go to Glenn Bradley, Frank Gunnell and Walt Hanks for their time and effort in putting it all together.

The tour of some of Eastern Idaho's phosphate mining sites, discussion along the tour route (where mining officials and others explained as best they could the "nuts and bolts" of phosphate mining operations) greatly assisted those in attendance to grasp the magnitude of the mining operation(s) and the potential impact(s) of such operations upon the land and its resources. The catered dutch oven supper at the Mill Canyon Campground was a most pleasant way to close a hard and long first day's activities.

There was however an unfortunate "dark cloud" that was cast over an otherwise very enjoyable tour. We were informed at the very beginning of the tour that we were guests of the mining company's, were at "their pleasure" and although we might adversely react to some of what we might see we were asked not to criticize or express such reactions. Rationale: that such criticism or adverse comments might jeopardize further "cooperation" by the various companies. Additionally, comment were made throughout the day which stressed that phosphate mining was inevitable and there was little we could or should do to change this basic thrust. This "accommodation attitude", this implied lack of honest challenge or exploration of viable alternatives did not set well with those in attendance. Further, it alarms us as a Society of Professional Wildlife Biologists, that such an acquiescent posture is taken by the Forest Service that is contrary to the ethic of "land stewardship" which they are mandated by Congress to uphold.

Open-pit phosphate mining is single-use land management at its very worst! I sincerely hope that the expressed attitude of a Forest Service Official does not represent Forest Service policy. Indeed, I pray the Forest Service policy is and will be a forthright exercise of their trust responsibility, an application of

expertise, analysis, evaluation and management that will assure continuation of a viable environment with protection of basic resource values and the habitats essential to dependent life forms.

Our tentative plans call for our winter meeting to be held at Pocatello to further explore and discuss phosphate mining, energy and other open-pit mining activities and their effect upon the environment. Exact dates have, as yet, not been set but I will keep you posted and hope the Forest Service may attend and participate in the meeting. Thank you again for your participation in our summer meeting and I apologise for being so long in getting this letter written to express this thanks and concern regarding impressions relative to the meeting and tour.

Sincerely,

William R. Meiners, President  
President, Chapter, The Wildlife Society

cc: Vern Hamre, Ogden, Utah