



IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

March 16, 1971
College of Forestry
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 5176
3900 WISCONSIN AVE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

Representative Jenkin Palmer and
Senator Richard High, Co-Chairman
Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee
Idaho Legislature

Dear Sirs:

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is composed of 165 professionals working primarily in the field of wildlife management. We urge reconsideration of the Committee action which transferred \$500,000 from salaries to operations in the proposed budget of the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

Federal workers have received 47.87 percent (in nine instalments) cost of living increases over the last seven years, while state employees have received only 9 to 14 percent over the same period. Further, Idaho Fish and Game Department employees receive from \$150 to \$200 per month less than employees of other western states in comparable positions.

While the argument of equitable pay for all state employees is good in theory, one significant fact should be recognized. The Department has the money to provide the 10 percent pay increase recommended by the Personnel Commission and the \$200,000 needed to fill the vital new positions recommended by the special consultant team from Utah State University.

If it is not possible to provide the recommended pay increases to all state employees due to insufficient state revenue this year, we urge that the Idaho Fish and Game Department be allowed to provide the pay increases and new positions this year. Other state employee pay schedules could be updated next year, financed by a tax increase.

If this problem is not corrected the morale of Department employees will suffer and we will see a mass exodus of the Department's top workers to other states or the Federal agencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Knight

Richard Knight,
Resolutions Committee Chairman