



IDAHO CHAPTER

# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUITE S176  
3900 WISCONSIN AVE. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

September 29, 1978

Mr. Cecil Andrus, Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
18th & C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Andrus:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society has been informed by the Louisiana State Student Chapter of an eminent threat to a large area of extremely valuable and productive wildlife habitat, specifically the Atchafalaya Basin.

From information we have received it appears evident that wildlife and fishery values, including the recreation they provide, have not received the proper consideration in this matter. Too many valuable wildlife ecosystems are being eradicated too fast to assess the over-all effects on wildlife and fish populations, individual species and overall biotic diversity. Can we afford to gamble with the eight-hundred and twenty-thousand acres in the Atchafalaya Basin? We think not, at this period in time.

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society representing professional biologists throughout the State of Idaho wish to go on record as opposing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed flood control project in the Atchafalaya Basin and that the area be managed in a manner so as to:

1. Maintain the natural overflow pattern of the river systems onto the flood plain.
2. Maintain natural vegetative communities, especially swamp forest types.
3. Allow no development inconsistent with fish and wildlife values.
4. Recognize the value of public recreation for this area.

We sincerely hope that you will strongly support the nations needs for wildlife habitat preservation in these areas with as much zeal as you have in the Alaskan lands issue.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

W. Dean Carrier, President  
Idaho Chapter TWS