

JUL 20 1979

Dean Bibles, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Dean,

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society has reviewed the draft environmental statement covering the proposed Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (BPNCA). It is our understanding that 81 miles of the Snake River Canyon between Hammett and Walters Ferry, Idaho including 538,966 acres of public lands, 238,114 acres of private lands, and 55,935 acres of State lands will be included in the BPNCA.

As we interpret the draft E.I.S., the public lands would be exempted from mineral entry and removed from application, entry or patent under the Desert Land Act, the Carey Act, and the State of Idaho Admission Act. Also, none of the current State and private lands would be affected by the proposal. Leases which govern geothermics, National Guard use, livestock use and mineral extraction would be issued, provided that they would not result in a degradation of raptor populations or habitats.

We also understand from the proposal that the management objective is to protect and maintain a complete ecosystem which includes the highest known density of nesting raptors in North America. In pursuing this objective, which includes Congressional legislation for the area, the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports your efforts and the comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

James F. Gore, Chairman
Environmental Issues Committee
10658 Winterhawk
Boise, Idaho 83709