

File copy

10658 Winterhawk  
Boise, Idaho 83709  
March 27, 1980

The Honorable Cecil Andrus, Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
C Street Between 18 and 19 Streets NW  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Andrus:

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society would like to express its support for any efforts to purchase the OX Ranch along the Snake River in Washington County, Idaho.

The OX Ranch supports a rich and diverse wildlife population, including mule deer, elk, endangered bald eagles, black bear, and many other species. It has a high-quality trout fishery and offers excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. The area is valuable wildlife habitat and is well worth protecting. It would be tragic if the ranch was purchased by a developer and turned into a recreational subdivision, as has happened to some of the adjacent valleys. Because the land is currently for sale and any sale to a wildlife or other agency would involve a willing seller, we believe it is very timely to investigate possible purchases of the ranch.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concern. Any consideration and assistance you could give in protecting this ranch would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

James F. Gore  
President

cc: Governor John Evans, Boise, ID  
Director, Idaho Fish and Game, Boise, ID  
Senator Frank Church  
Senator James McClure  
Representative Steve Symms  
Representative George Hanson

BRBoccard:tc