

THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

POSITION STATEMENT: RE PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

As the professional wildlife organization in Idaho, The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society issues the following position statement as a policy guide to state and federal agencies concerned with predator management in Idaho and to professional individuals in planning and implementing predator management programs. In doing this we are fostering and promoting an equitable policy of wildlife management as opposed to game management for consumptive use only.

Predators are a natural component of any wildlife community and as such should be recognized in any comprehensive management program. The management of predatory species is just as valid an objective in ecosystem management as is the management of "game" species. Under proper management, predators and traditional game species are inseparable and well founded objectives should be formulated for both. The use of predator control as a panacea in attempts to increase populations of prey species violates the principles of ecosystem management and is not based on sound biological principles.

The Chapter does recognize the need for selective predator control in special instances:

The protection of livestock where justified.

In conjunction with initial re-establishment of native species or introduction of exotic species in suitable areas but not to maintain such species if it cannot maintain itself under natural conditions after introduction or re-establishment.

In intensive management areas where it can be demonstrated that predator control would make a significant contribution to achievement of planned objectives.

We emphasize that selective or local control of predators should be a temporary measure executed as part of a well planned management program.