

## THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

### POSITION STATEMENT: RE. RELOCATION OF STATE HIGHWAY 64

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to file a statement concerning the proposed relocation of State Highway 64. As the professional wildlife organization in Idaho, we oppose any additional unnecessary destruction of wildlife habitat or natural environments within the State.

We oppose the relocation of State Highway 64 between Kamiah and Nezperce through the Lawyer's Creek drainage via either the Suzie Creek route or the Lawyer's Canyon route. We cannot afford the serious damage to our natural environment that this 12 mile highway relocation would cause. There are several reasons for this position.

Lawyer's Creek Canyon is a scenic area enjoyed as a local retreat by many people in the Kamiah vicinity. The new road would scar the landscape and permanently destroy the solitude and beauty for which the area is now valued.

Lawyer's Creek Canyon is unique for its great variety and quantity of wildlife. The construction of a road through this canyon would seriously damage the habitat of many of these wild creatures, both by the physical removal of the natural vegetation and by the destruction that would result from the impending traffic.

Even though precautions would be taken, road construction would damage the fish habitat in Lawyer's Creek, both by siltation and by stream channel alterations.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society recommends that the Idaho Highway Board improve existing Highway 64 rather than relocating it through Lawyer's Creek Canyon.