

## THE IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

### POSITION STATEMENT: RE.

#### THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREA - NATIONAL PARK STATUS FOR THE SAWTOOTH VALLEY AND ADJACENT MOUNTAINS

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, an organization composed of professional wildlife workers residing in Idaho, offers the following position statement with regard to the legislative proposal of the Idaho congressional delegation for management of the Sawtooth Valley and adjacent mountains.

We request that this statement be incorporated into the official record of the hearing held on August 26, 1970 at Sun Valley, Idaho.

We favor National Recreation Area status for all suitable low elevation terrain in the vicinity of the Sawtooth, White Clouds, Pioneer and Boulder Mountains in order that this area may undergo controlled development and provide for mass outdoor recreational pursuits with least possible damage to the natural environment. The wildlife resources of the recreation area should continue to be managed by the State Fish and Game Commission in consultation with the appropriate public land management agencies involved.

We also favor the national park portion of the proposal if the proposed national park is carefully circumscribed to include only high elevation sectors of the Sawtooth, White Clouds, Boulder and Pioneer Mountains and with the provision that hunting and fishing will be allowed by the National Park Service where it will not interfere with preservation of the area in a natural state. We take the stand that game and fish populations are renewable resources which should be harvested on a sustained yield basis and that controlled harvesting of game and fish is not damaging to the natural environment.

We further wish to give our support to the proposed moratorium against further mining locations and entries within the proposed National Park area.

In view of the abundant data developed by the several previous studies concerning the Sawtooth Valley and vicinity, we feel that there is no further need for economic impact studies and that the time for affirmative action on this proposal is now.

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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 can no longer 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 that the area is now valued for.

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 surely deteriorate 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.