

A Position Statement By  
IDAHO CHAPTER of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Concerning

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO GRAYS LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a conservation organization whose membership consists of two hundred professional natural resource specialists working in Idaho. The parent Wildlife Society, to which the Idaho Chapter belongs, is an international organization with a membership of 6500 individuals located in all of the 50 states and 17 other countries.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to go on record with the following Position Statement relative to the proposed purchase of 1785 acres of private land by the federal government to enlarge Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, together with surrounding private lands, is a major production area for a variety of waterfowl and associated marsh species, including the following:

1. Geese. A sizeable segment of the Intermountain flock of the Great Basin Canada Goose. This goose population has been declining in numbers in recent years. Acquisition of the proposed lands will provide important nesting and brooding areas.
2. Ducks. At least 11 species of ducks nest at Grays Lake, including the only significant nesting populations in Idaho of the diving ducks—the redhead, canvasback and ruddy.
3. Curlew. The long-billed curlew, a scarce and interesting marsh bird, nests on the proposed acquisition lands in significant numbers.
4. Sand Hill Crane. Grays Lake has the most dense breeding concentration of the Greater sand hill crane to be found anywhere on the North American continent. About two hundred pairs of cranes nested on Grays Lake in 1971. Most of these cranes are produced on the private lands surrounding the marsh. The proposed acquisition is a major step towards assuring needed protection and breeding habitat for this species.

In the interest of providing better management of Idaho wildlife and improved opportunities for public enjoyment of the rich wildlife values of the Grays Lake area, the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to:

1. Support the current proposed land acquisition and
2. Encourage the acquisition of additional private lands adjacent to the meander line of Grays Lake marsh.

Certified By:

RICHARD R. KNIGHT

President, Idaho Chapter

The Wildlife Society

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