



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 5176
3900 WISCONSIN AVE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Eugene R. Crawford, Ada County Commissioner
Ada County Court House
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Commissioner:

WHEREAS, the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society represents a broad cross-section of professional wildlife specialists in the State of Idaho dedicated to the conservation, management and enhancement of Idaho's Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Snake River Canyon in Elmore, Ada Owyhee and Canyon Counties contains a rare and unique habitat of plants, animals, fish species and birds of prey, many of which are or may be threatened or endangered within the definition of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and also contains archeological sites which require inventory and protection under the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

WHEREAS, in August 1971, the U.S. Department of Interior dedicated 26,255 acres of land along the canyon as the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area is obtaining State, national and international recognition as one of the few remaining habitats of birds of prey in the world due to both the singular and unique geographic characteristics of the area such as precipitation, soil type and texture, elevation, plant and animal life, and basalt cliffs and to the minimal intrusion by man and his activities; and

WHEREAS, the feeding range of these birds is thought to be much wider and more extensive than heretofore determined and is now the subject of detailed study by the Bureau of Land Management, to determine the exact prey base and range of these birds and their tolerance for human activity, such study and review to take at least three years' duration; and

WHEREAS, extensive public land holdings lie within the feeding range of these birds, many of which are being proposed for conversion from public to private ownership, now predominantly unarable and undeveloped land in its natural state, to irrigated and cultivated land which would destroy the prey base for the birds of prey.

RESOLUTION
Page Two

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society hereby petitions the Board of Ada County Commissioners to request Federal and State agencies to declare a moratorium on the converting, selling, trading or otherwise disposing of publicly owned lands within their jurisdiction within a 14 mile area of the Snake River or as far north in Ada County as Kuna Mora Road extended, whichever is less, during the period of the moratorium, not to end before January 1, 1979.

William R. Meiners
President

cc: Vernon Emory, Ada County Commissioner
Philip Kleffner, Ada County Commissioner