



IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe
Secretary of Interior
C St./18th & 19th St.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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 mining laws of the State of Idaho provide for mineral prospecting permits; and

WHEREAS, once a mineral prospecting permit application is allowed and if a legitimate find is made, a mineral lease by the United States government on public lands is mandatory subject only to certain controls and renewals which must be allowed; and

WHEREAS, the known reserves of phosphate mineral now under lease in the United States, including the western phosphate field, is estimated to supply projected needs well into the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, prospecting permit application acreages in the amount of well over one hundred thousand acres exceed the present phosphate mineral leases significantly; and

WHEREAS, these potential leases are a major environmental threat to southeast Idaho in the long-term future; and

WHEREAS, this environmental threat must be addressed now before the prospecting permit applications are let; and

WHEREAS, there can be no possible advantage to the people of the United States to allow these prospecting permit applications at the present time; and

WHEREAS, the prospecting permit applications are the only lease applications over which the United States government has any real control as to whether or not they should be let,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society implores the Secretary of Interior through the United States Bureau of Land Management not to allow the phosphate prospecting permit applications that have been applied for or may be applied for in the future in southeastern Idaho on the public lands thereof, until comprehensive inventories and impact studies have been accomplished, including environmental impact statements submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality.

William R. Meiners
President

cc: William Mathews, State Director, B.L.M.
Idaho Congressional Delegation
State Lands Department, Idaho