

10658 Winterhawk
Boise, Idaho 83709
February 1, 1980

Senator Frank Church
Russel Office Building
Room 245
Deleware and Constitution Avenues
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Church,

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society is aware that you are proposing an amendment to the Omitted Lands Act of 1962 which would allow the Bureau of Land Management to sell 8,000 acres of public lands along the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake River. We would like to promptly receive a copy of this draft amendment. We would also like information regarding the origin of proposal, and the interests supporting it.

As you are no doubt aware, the riparian corridors of the South Fork and Henry's Fork are biologically very important areas, supporting unusually high fish and wildlife populations. Most of the active bald eagle nests in Idaho are on these two rivers, and the majority are located on BLM lands. The fisheries values of these two rivers are renowned. We believe that any proposal to take these valuable fish and wildlife habitats out of the public domain and open them to possible subdivision, forest clearing, wetland draining, and other forms of destruction needs to be given very thorough and thoughtful consideration. We want to review this admendment and provide specific comments at a later date.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

James F. Gore
President

cf: Governor Evans