

10658 Winterhawk
Boise, ID 83709

Editor, The Statesman
1200 N. Curtis
Boise, ID 83707

Editor, The Statesman:

I recently received a copy of Steve Symms' Reports From Washington, which contained articles on the Central Idaho Wilderness Bill and the BLM Birds of Prey Expansion Proposal. I am very familiar with these issues. I feel obligated to refute the misleading and inaccurate information contained in these two articles. In such an important election as the Symms-Church senatorial race, it is imperative that the voters receive honest and accurate information.

Specifics: 1) Birds of Prey Expansion Proposal - In the article Symms claims the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area would be "off limits to any development and to agriculture", and includes other phrases such as "locking up of 610,000 acres" and "devastating to the local economy and to national security". Fact is that existing crop farms would be unaffected, and livestock grazing, which is considered by most to be a form of agriculture, would continue. In fact, grazing has been found to be beneficial to the raptors by maintaining the vegetative conditions needed by their prey. Since livestock grazing is the predominant economic use of the public lands in the area, it is difficult to see how the proposal will be "devastating to the local economy".

Only conversion of additional acres of public land to cropland would be disallowed. The Conservation Area would not affect private or state lands. Also, Military activities would continue within the area, thereby insuring "national security". Recreational uses such as hunting, fishing and boating are also all compatible. Oil, gas and geothermal resources could be developed, and mineral leasing would continue, but with some stipulations such as curtailment of development activities near nest sites during the nesting season. Symms failed to point this information out.

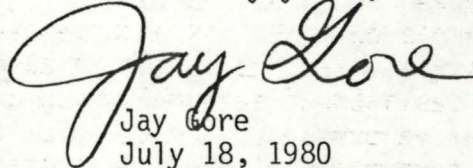
2) Central Idaho Wilderness Bill - This issue, perhaps more than any other recent Congressional activity, demonstrates Symms' (and McClure's) ineffectiveness in getting his colleagues in Congress to listen to him. In the article Symms criticizes the absence of specific language in the Act to release 900,000 acres of land contiguous to the new wilderness area into multiple-use classification. As the joint House-Senate Conference Report (No. 96-1126, June 24, 1980) so clearly explains, the Act insures the non-wilderness status of approximately 1.15 million acres of roadless land outside the new wilderness boundaries. The legislation ended the "wilderness vs. multiple-use" controversy in central Idaho by finalizing the precise location of the wilderness area, thereby permitting multiple uses other than wilderness on adjacent National Forest lands which had been administered as de facto wilderness pending this final legislation.

Symms states in the article that the land is "off limits to everybody, but those who can afford the time to backpack into the area. All development and all vehicles are banned". These exaggerations are at least misleading, and even untrue in part. Fact is the bill provides for continued use of aircraft and landing strips, commercial services can continue and allowances for construction of small hydroelectric generators and domestic water facilities in the Threemile and Jersey Creek drainages are provided. Livestock grazing is to continue, along with the use of line cabins and other livestock management facilities. A strong policy is even outlined in the conference report narrative to permit the use of motorized equipment for certain aspects of livestock management. The use of motorboats on the Salmon River is also to continue, at the 1978 level. With these provisions, it would be difficult for a reasonable person to conclude that only backpackers will be able to use the area.

Another futile point of contention which Symms continues to lament in the article is the inclusion of Panther Creek within the wilderness boundaries, instead of classifying it as multiple-use. Even after the mining industry conceded that the designation of this cobalt-rich area as a 39,000-acre Special Mining Management Zone was acceptable, Symms asserted that the Act "did not achieve a good balance". This assertion is unfounded! Specific language in Section 5(d) of the bill insures that prospecting and exploration for, development and mining of cobalt and associated minerals is to be considered a dominant use of the Zone, and will not be pre-empted. In a rare and sensitive move by Congress, they also specified that this mining would be done with all reasonable measures to insure that the overall habitat of the bighorn sheep located in the area is not significantly impaired. Mining can and will take place, but with proper planning and management.

The Conference report cited above explains Congress' rationale for the legislation they pass. The use of legislative records and conference meetings are major tools our elected officials use in formulating legislation. How embarrassing to Idaho when their representative fails to understand this process or refuses to sign joint House-Senate Conference Report on legislation which is so significant to his state, and which was so painstakingly compromised to gain acceptance by the timber and mining industries as well as the environmentalists! It is unfortunate that Symms cannot accept the bill like most of his constituents have. A man that cannot be any more effective than this in the House of Representatives does not belong in the Senate! And a man who must resort to misleading and inaccurate information to convince his constituency of his worth in Congress does not deserve the honor of being Senator.

Sincerely yours,



Jay Gore

July 18, 1980

Home Phone 362-2325

Work Phone 334-1806

Mr. Gore is president of The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

The need for such a bill is obvious. The current law is antiquated and does not take into account the many changes that have taken place in the industry since it was first enacted. It is particularly true in the case of the oil and gas industry, which has grown to become one of the most important and profitable industries in the United States. The current law is not only outdated but also does not provide for the necessary safeguards to protect the environment and the public interest. It is therefore imperative that the Senate take prompt action to amend the law so that it reflects the current state of the industry and provides for the necessary safeguards. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more comprehensive and modern regulatory framework for the industry, which should take into account the latest scientific and technological developments. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more effective and efficient regulatory process, which should be able to respond quickly to the changing needs of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more transparent and accountable regulatory process, which should be able to provide the public with the necessary information to make informed decisions about the industry. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more balanced and equitable regulatory process, which should take into account the interests of all stakeholders, including the industry, the public, and the environment. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more flexible and adaptable regulatory process, which should be able to respond to the changing needs of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more robust and resilient regulatory process, which should be able to withstand the challenges of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more integrated and coordinated regulatory process, which should be able to address the complex and interconnected issues of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more holistic and comprehensive regulatory process, which should be able to address the full range of issues related to the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more forward-looking and innovative regulatory process, which should be able to anticipate and address the future challenges of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more collaborative and participatory regulatory process, which should be able to involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more transparent and accountable regulatory process, which should be able to provide the public with the necessary information to make informed decisions about the industry. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more balanced and equitable regulatory process, which should take into account the interests of all stakeholders, including the industry, the public, and the environment. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more flexible and adaptable regulatory process, which should be able to respond to the changing needs of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more robust and resilient regulatory process, which should be able to withstand the challenges of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more integrated and coordinated regulatory process, which should be able to address the complex and interconnected issues of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more holistic and comprehensive regulatory process, which should be able to address the full range of issues related to the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more forward-looking and innovative regulatory process, which should be able to anticipate and address the future challenges of the industry and the public. The Senate should also take into account the need for a more collaborative and participatory regulatory process, which should be able to involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process.