

10658 Winterhawk Dr. Boise, Idaho 83705

Governor John Evans
State Capitol
Boise, Idaho

Dear Governor Evans,

The Environmental Issues Committee for the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, has reviewed the Idaho Fish and Game Department's recommendation for the U.S. Forest Service Rare II proposal. These comments constitute the official position of the Idaho Chapter and it is our hope that you will adopt our comments when presenting the State's recommendations to the Forest service.

As an organization of concerned and knowledgeable wildlife professionals, we concur with the recommendations made by the Idaho Fish and Game Department, with the following two additions:

1-662 (Scotchman Peaks-10,968 acres) we recommend inclusion of this area in the wilderness proposal. It is unfortunate that the proposed boundary adjustments do not provide adequate protection for Lightning Creek, a major spawning stream, but based on the value of the other resources within the area, particularly its potential habitat for the grizzly bear, we feel its designation as wilderness is justified.

1-148 (Grand Mother Mountain-16,460 acres) this area was not mentioned in the Fish and Game Department recommendations, but we feel it warrants wilderness classification because of its potential gray wolf habitat. An area approximately 15 miles to the east in the Clearwater National Forest has been designated "Essential Wolf Habitat" by the Forest Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

James Gore
Committee Chairman,
Environmental Issues