

AUG 2 1979

Public Statement Made by
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Boise Area Office

on

Snake River Birds of Prey
National Conservation Area

August 2, 1979

Rodeway Inn, Boise, Idaho

This statement is made on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arch Mehrhoff, Area Manager for Oregon and Idaho. My name is Jay Gore, Team Leader, Endangered Species Section 7 Consultation Team. I request that this statement be included in the permanent record for this hearing. Written, detailed comments on the Draft Environmental Statement will be submitted at a later date.

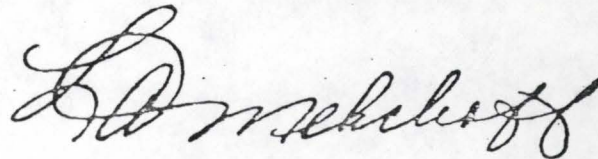
The Fish and Wildlife Service strongly endorses this proposal to manage a unique ecosystem that protects North America's most dense population of raptors. The Bureau of Land Management's initiative in developing an integrated team research project which collected many years of data on this ecosystem is commendable. With this information, sound decisions can be made which will contribute to the wise use of this ecologically significant land and water resource. This professional overall resource

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management approach is to be lauded and can serve as a fine example for the many land management agencies in our country.

If implemented and properly managed, the Draft Environmental Statement proposal to integrate 719,914 acres of Federal, State and private land into a Conservation Area would protect both nesting territory and prey habitat for raptors. It would also conserve habitat for a large number of other wildlife species. We support the proposal to establish the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area by an Act of Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this proposal.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. A. Mehrhoff".

L. A. Mehrhoff

cf: Regional Director, Portland, OR (AE) (AFA-SE) (PA) (ARW)

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