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IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

April 3, 1974
7717 Ustick Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83704

The Honorable Rogers Morton
Secretary of the Interior
L.L.M. 320
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Robert M. Henggeler Desert Land Application, I-597
Initial Classification Decision, Bureau of Land Management

Dear Secretary Morton:

The attached materials from the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is pertinent to the consideration of the above referenced Initial Classification Decision and to our letter to you, dated: March 18, 1974. I ask this material be made a part of the official record and respectively restate our request that the Initial Classification be vacated, predicated upon the non-compliance with applicable law.

Sincerely,

William R. Meienrs
President

copies: Fred Evenden, The Wildlife Society
Robert Turner, National Audubon Society
Phillip Schneider, National Wildlife Federation
William Morse, Wildlife Management Institute
Russell Train, Administrator, EPA

IDAHO COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND RANGE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
MOSCOW, ID. 83843

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
COOPERATING

12 March 1974

Via Airmail

Mr. William Meiners, President
Idaho Chapter The Wildlife Society
7717 Ustick Road
Boise, ID 83701

Dear Mr. Meiners:

A few days ago you inquired about the long-billed curlew and asked me to essay an opinion on its status.

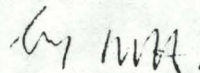
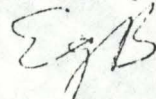
This species is on the "undetermined" list of Threatened and Endangered Species. This means in effect that the biological community is concerned about them but does not have sufficient factual information about their population and habitat status to be able to classify them into a more critical category.

Personally, I feel that this large native shorebird is in a very threatened position by reason of habitat loss. Unfortunately, I have no field data to support that contention; we have never been able to find research monies to mount the much-needed study of the distribution, population status and breeding ecology of the long-billed curlew.

After 20 years of special interest in waterbirds and their habitats in the northwest, I know of only three spots in Idaho and one in adjacent Oregon where there are substantial breeding concentrations of the curlew. One of those places is the Black's Island area between Caldwell and Ontario. That sector may well be one of a very few unique upland areas in the northwest which, for reasons not yet clear, are highly attractive to nesting curlews. These few areas may be extremely important to the population health of this species.

If the Bureau of Land Management is considering disposing of this curlew breeding area, they should give strong consideration to their responsibility for maintaining wildlife on public lands, particularly a species which may well be sinking fast due to disappearance of suitable habitat.

Sincerely,



Elwood G. Bizeau
Assistant Unit Leader

EGB:m1