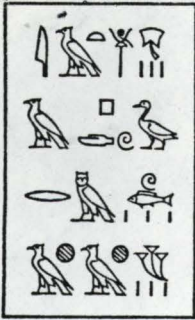


*Tom Leege*



IDAHO CHAPTER

# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

February 3, 1977

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUITE 5176  
3900 WISCONSIN AVE. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

Forest Supervisor  
Clearwater National Forest  
Route 4, Ahsahka Road  
Orofino, ID 83544

Dear Sir:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of wildlife professionals in Idaho, wishes to make the following comments regarding the Draft E.I.S. and Land Use Plan for the Lowell Planning Unit.

Our primary concern is that all management activities in the Unit are done in such a way as to benefit, or not cause detriment to, fish and wildlife habitat. Where there are conflicts, we believe that maintaining and/or improving habitat should receive priority because of the suitability of this area for producing elk and the large demand for them that exists.

A combination of management alternatives 3 and 6 would be our choice as the best method of management. The portion of alternative 6 which excludes all further roading in the Fish Creek drainage is highly desirable. However, we recommend that the entire Unit be managed for the objectives and priorities of alternative 3 -- fish and wildlife habitat. We interpret this to mean that no logging, roading or grazing would be done in the Unit unless it could be determined that there would be a positive impact, or no impact, on fish and wildlife habitat. We also assume that management alternative 3 would provide substantial funding for directly improving wildlife habitat, particularly on elk winter ranges.

Sincerely,

*Orig. Signed by JT 2/3/77*

Jerry Thiessen  
Vice President

JT:as