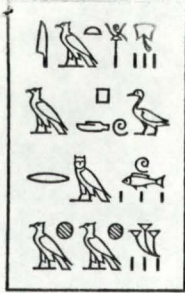


Leege



IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 398
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 16, 1977

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

Mr. Robert Torheim
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Federal Building
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Mr. Torheim:

Our organization is concerned about the extension of the Van Buren Creek timber sale in the Nezperce National Forest, reported in the March 11 issue of the Lewiston Tribune. The sale was originally made in 1969 and does not measure up to present-day standards.

Our major concern is that the sale, as designed, would be extremely detrimental to elk habitat. The large clearcuts with roads going through them would serve to move elk out of the sale area. We think the sale can be substantially improved by decreasing the size of clearcuts to 40 acres or less and by closing all roads immediately after the sale. If some roads need to remain open, buffer strips of uncut timber should be left along both sides for at least 100 yards. Other elk - logging coordination guidelines currently available from studies in Oregon, Idaho and Montana should also be followed.

Your organization should utilize every opportunity to rectify this source of future embarrassment. Surely it is worth the price to bring this timber sale up to standards set forth under the Multiple Use Plan.

Sincerely,

Tom Leege

Thomas A. Leege
President - Idaho Chapter

TAL/cae

*cc: Larry Daniel
Mike Zajack
Mike Brydon*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

FEDERAL BUILDING MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

2450

March 30, 1977



Mr. Thomas A. Leege
President, Idaho Chapter
Wildlife Society
P.O. Box 398
Kamiah, ID 83536

Dear Mr. Leege:

This is in response to your letter of March 16, in which you express concern about the possible extension of the Van Buren Creek Timber Sale on the Nezperce National Forest and established cutting requirements.

The sale is due to expire soon and it is likely to be extended as Supervisor Don Biddison informs us that the purchaser, with the exception of completing some road construction, has met the qualifying extension requirements.

You are correct in stating that the sale was sold in 1969 and differs from present day sale design standards. Cutting units exceed the average size of present day sales. I do want you to know, however, that the sale has had considerable review during the period and changes have been made in road locations in an effort to avoid damage occurring to soil, water, range, and wildlife. Although cutting units are larger than we normally set up under present day standards, it was believed that cutting would not result in irreversible environmental damage.

Supervisor Biddison is currently involved in reviewing the sale to determine if the kind of changes you mention are needed in conjunction with extension action. They anticipate completing the analysis in early May. I am forwarding your letter to him for consideration in extension action that might be taken. If you have not already contacted Supervisor Biddison in Grangeville, I suggest you do so to clear any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,

for Warren G. Davis
ROBERT H. TORHEIM
Regional Forester