

Tom Leege, President  
P.O. Box 398  
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

C  
O  
P  
Y  
The Honorable Vern Brassey  
Idaho State Senate  
3200 Treasure Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83703

Dear Senator Brassey:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,

IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Tom Leege  
President

TL:ns

bcc: T. Leege ✓  
M. Zagata

Tom Leege, President  
P.O. Box 398  
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

C  
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The Honorable Larry Jackson  
House of Representatives  
3300 Bogus Basin Road  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Dear Representative Jackson:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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March 30, 1977

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The Honorable Mike Mitchell  
Idaho State Senate  
316 Skyline Drive  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Dear Senator Mitchell:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

C  
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Y  
The Honorable Art Manley  
Idaho State Senate  
1109 - 11th  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Dear Senator Manley:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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March 30, 1977

C  
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Y  
The Honorable Marion Davidson  
House of Representatives  
Route 3  
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805

Dear Representative Davidson:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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M. Zagata

Tom Leege, President  
P.O. Box 398  
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

The Honorable Emery Hedlund  
House of Representatives  
1746 Main Avenue  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861

Dear Representative Hedlund:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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Tom Leege, President  
P.O. Box 398  
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

C  
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Y  
The Honorable Joe Wagner  
House of Representatives  
2828 Sunset Drive  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Dear Representative Wagner:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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M. Zagata

Tom Leege, President  
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Kamiah, Idaho 83536

March 30, 1977

C  
O  
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Y  
The Honorable C. E. Bilyeu  
Idaho State Senate  
Route 1 N, Box 48  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Senator Bilyeu:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, a group of professional wildlife workers, wants to thank you personally for your recent stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services budget. Although the motion passed, your vote that day was a direct display of your intent to fairly represent the people of Idaho in perpetuating the quality of life they favor and enjoy. You are to be commended for your insight and responsible action. Your position did not go unnoticed.

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IDAHO CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Tom Leege  
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bcc: T. Leege ✓  
M. Zagata



Date: 3/21

BUREAU OF GAME  
ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

From the desk of Jerry Thiessen  
Big Game Supervisor

<input type="checkbox"/> Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Comment & return
<input type="checkbox"/> Nielson	<input type="checkbox"/> Your information
<input type="checkbox"/> Oldenburg	<input type="checkbox"/> Return
<input type="checkbox"/> Norma	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary action
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Leese</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Remarks:

Please review the  
attached letter as  
one from the Idaho  
Chpts. Get back  
to me shortly w/  
Changes Thanks Jerry

# Editorials

The comments below represent the opinions of The Idaho Statesman. Columns, commentary, cartoons and letters appearing elsewhere on this page represent the opinions of the authors.

PAGE 10A

Wednesday, January 26, 1977

"A Part of Life in Idaho"

## A GOP Attack on Fish and Game

In recent years it seems that no legislative session is complete without a punitive attack on the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Most of the attackers inevitably are Republican legislators. This year is no exception.

The Finance-Appropriations Committee voted 12 to 8 to chop two positions and \$58,000 out of the Fish and Game Department's environmental services division.

The work of those people is critical to future hunting and fishing in Idaho. If you want fish and wildlife populations to decline, this is a good place to cut. If you want to maintain fish and wildlife in Idaho, you would not cut this budget.

Idaho hunters and fishermen, who pay for most of the department's budget, should be aware that there is a powerful anti-fish and game faction within the Republican Party in Idaho.

There is no mystery about it. The Fish and Game Department, in speaking up for the protection of fish and wildlife, occasionally steps on the toes of development interests. The Republican Party organization and many legislators are inclined to be friendlier to development interests than to fish and wildlife.

So, in 1975 and again in 1976, we see GOP efforts to punish the Fish and Game Department for speaking on behalf of fish and wildlife in Idaho.

Any Idahoan who cares about fish and wildlife should be aware of what's going on. Fish and game should not be a political issue, but many Republicans seem to be intent on making it a political issue.

Among the functions of the environmental services division are:

— To help save salmon and steelhead runs in Idaho. Environmental services works on mitigation of lost salmon and steelhead runs, and on fish passage policies on the Snake and Columbia rivers.

— To comment on proposals of federal agencies that affect fish and wildlife in Idaho. Since 64 per cent of the land in Idaho is administered by federal agencies, it's extremely important that the Idaho Fish and Game Department have something to say about federal decisions.

— To comment on land use decisions that require environmental impact statements. The statement process gives the department a chance to speak up for fish and wildlife before decisions are made that can reduce their numbers.

In short, this division is a first line of defense for the perpetuation of fish and wildlife in Idaho.

The budget submitted by former Gov. Cecil Andrus was a lean one. The Fish and Game Department already had trimmed 25 people since 1973 because of its financial problems.

Twelve members of the Finance-Appropriations committee decided that they knew better than the Fish and Game Commission how sportsmen's money should be spent. In effect, they said the department must do less to protect fish and game populations in Idaho.

The 12 included one Democrat, Sen. Richard Egbert, D-Tetonia, and 11 Republicans:

Sens. Walter Yarbrough, R-Grand View, Richard High, R-Twin Falls, David Little, R-Boise, J. Marsden Williams, R-Idaho Falls, Dean VanEngelen, R-Burley and Reps. Paul Worthen, R-Boise, Kitty Gurnsey, R-Boise, Ralph Oimstead, R-Twin Falls, Doyle Miner, R-St. Anthony, Max Kendell, R-Aberdeen, and Ray Infanger, R-Salmon.

Two Republicans deserve credit for opposing the motion: Sen. Vern Brassey, R-Boise, and Rep. Larry Jackson R-Boise. Democrats voting against it were Sens. Mike Mitchell, D-Lewiston, Art Manley, D-Coeur d'Alene, Marion Davidson, D-Bonnars Ferry, and Reps. Emery Hedlund, D-St. Maries and Joe Wagner, D-Lewiston.

As the loss of most of Idaho's salmon and steelhead shows, maintaining fish and game populations and fish and game habitat is no easy task. If the Fish and Game Department doesn't speak up for fish and wildlife, populations can go downhill fast.

When Idaho sportsmen voted to create the agency, the law specified that it is supposed to help protect fish and wildlife. There is no other agency with that responsibility. If the department is crippled by an anti-fish and game legislature, the people of Idaho who care about fish and wildlife are the losers.

Republican legislators should think twice about adding to their party's anti-fish and game reputation. Idahoans who care about fish and wildlife should remember votes like this one at the next election.

# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

7101 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W.

SUITE 611

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20014



FRED G. EVENDEN

*Executive Director*

MICHAEL D. ZAGATA

*Field Director*

PHONE: (301) 986-8700

April 12, 1977

Tom Leege, President  
Idaho Chapter of TWS  
P.O. Box 398  
Kamiah, ID 83536

Dear Tom:

Congratulations on your letter to the Honorable Vern Brassey thanking him for his stand in opposition to cutting \$58,000 from the Fish and Game Department's Environmental Services Budget. The copies you sent to the Honorable Larry Jackson, the Honorable Mike Mitchell, the Honorable Art Manley, the Honorable Marion Davidson, the Honorable Emery Hedlund, the Honorable Joe Wagner and the Honorable C. E. Bilyeu demonstrate your political astuteness. I am certain that they appreciated your letter and I am glad to see you thank someone for something they did in a positive fashion.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Zagata, Ph.D.  
Field Director

MDZ/ly

*Permaniged*  
PLOVER BOND  
25% COTTON FIBER