



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Dr. Joe Ball
Montana Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit
HS 107, University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

If your TWS chapter or organization decides to join the Idaho Chapter in this petition, please send me a letter addressed to Marvin Plenart (see petition), stating your support of the petition. With the possible supporting groups spread across four states, it will be impossible to get everyone's signature on the actual petition. Supporting groups' names and addresses will be added to the petition along with the letters of support.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Blair".

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



Engineers
Planners
Economists
Scientists

March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Jack Connelly
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

If your TWS chapter or organization decides to join the Idaho Chapter in this petition, please send me a letter addressed to Marvin Plenart (see petition), stating your support of the petition. With the possible supporting groups spread across four states, it will be impossible to get everyone's signature on the actual petition. Supporting groups' names and addresses will be added to the petition along with the letters of support.

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Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure

March 1, 1989

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 N.E. Multnomah Street
Suite 1692
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Plenert:

Subject: Petition to List the Rocky Mountain Population of
Trumpeter Swans (Cygnus buccinator) as a
Threatened Species under the Endangered Species
Act of 1973, as amended.

This is a petition to list the Rocky Mountain Population of
Trumpeter Swans (Cygnus buccinator) as a Threatened Species
and to afford them the protection provided by the Endangered
Species Act of 1973, as amended. It is being submitted on
behalf of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
Page 2
March 2, 1989

Prior to the settlement of North America by Europeans, the trumpeter swan was a migratory species which ranged across most of the United State and Canada. Outside of Alaska, the species was extirpated from almost all of its historic range by 1900. Approximately 200 swans persisted in remnant flocks in western Canada and the Greater Yellowstone area. This represents a range reduction in excess of 99 percent. Beginning about 1919, these swans provided the nucleus for efforts to restore the species in Canada and the lower 48 states.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently recognizes three trumpeter swan populations. The Pacific Coast Population nests primarily in interior and southcentral Alaska, and winters along the Pacific Coast from southern Alaska to Oregon. Through decades of efforts to restore trumpeters to their historic midwestern range, several restoration flocks have been created. These flocks comprise the Interior Population. The Rocky Mountain Population includes all the known breeding flocks of the Greater Yellowstone area (the Tristate Subpopulation), and all breeding flocks of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, southeastern Yukon, and Saskatchewan (the Interior Canada Subpopulation).

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
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March 2, 1989

The attached draft report, "The History, Ecology, and Management of the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans" by R. S. Gale, E. O. Garton, and I. J. Ball summarizes the Population's ecology and past management and documents the factors which threaten this Population.

Although the Rocky Mountain Population faces several serious threats, to varying degrees these threats are symptoms of a much broader underlying problem. During the decline to near extinction, the damage experienced by the Population was broader than merely the severe reduction in numbers. Patterns of habitat use and migratory traditions were severed and have not yet been restored. As a result, the Population has lost the use of the varied southerly winter and spring habitats essential to its longterm security and productivity.

During the past 20 years, the Canadian flocks have expanded in numbers and nesting distributions. As a result, in February 1989 the wintering area of the Rocky Mountain Population contained the highest number of swans (1743) censused since restoration efforts began. Despite these positive aspects of increasing size and breeding distribution, the Population is extremely vulnerable to severe losses due to its vastly diminished winter distributions.

↑ or habitat?

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
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March 2, 1989

All the known Canadian and U.S breeding flocks of the Rocky Mountain Population share a common wintering area: the Greater Yellowstone region of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. During the winter months all flocks are at risk from any common mortality factor. A single event of disease, or adverse environmental conditions at one or more of the limited number of wintering sites could result in severe Population impacts.

Such a scenario occurred at the primary wintering area, Harriman State Park located along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho, in 1989. Hundreds of swans were debilitated by months of curtailed water flows and severe ice conditions when a severe blizzard and extremely cold weather struck the region in early February. Extraordinary measures were required to obtain water to open the frozen feeding areas. Despite these measures, at least 50 birds have already died. Hundreds of weakened swans face a difficult struggle to survive the remaining winter months and the spring migration. In addition to the winter's mortality, diminished productivity within this Population will likely result because of the poor condition of many swans.

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
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March 2, 1989

The Rocky Mountain Population faces several other serious threats:

1. The continued restriction of useable winter habitat due to inadequate water flows. Flows in several of the key wintering areas are controlled by federal dams.
2. The likely future loss of nest sites, spring, summer, and winter habitats due to increasing human activity and loss of wetlands.
3. The present extreme curtailment of its distribution, in particular the Population's limited winter and spring range distribution and poor quality of these limited available habitats.
4. The high potential for significant disease losses among the wintering flocks.
5. ^{The viability of} Existing regulatory mechanisms ~~have not proved able to~~ guarantee essential water flows, ~~nor~~ to protect existing breeding and wintering habitats.

6. Due to the trumpeter swan's social organization and dependence upon migratory traditions, the necessary restoration of migrations and secure distribution is unlikely to occur without significantly increased management intervention. Existing regulatory mechanisms have not provided the necessary management emphasis, budgets, clarity of agency roles, or cohesive direction to affect a successful recovery of this Population.
7. The continued existence of 25 percent of the Population, primarily swans from the Centennial Valley flock, depends upon artificial feeding. These swans have not yet been restored as a viable flock capable of surviving on year-round native habitat.
8. Manmade factors such as lead poisoning, powerline collisions, and accidental shooting are primary sources of mortality.
9. Preliminary data suggest that the Tristate Subpopulation contains an extremely low level of genetic heterozygosity.

*↑ why is this bad?
do we need to spell it out?*

Mr. Marvin L. Plenert
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March 2, 1989

In summary, four of the five criteria for determining endangerment, as specified in the Endangered Species Act, appear to be met by this Population.

Documentation of these threats to the Rocky Mountain Population of Trumpeter Swans is contained in the previously referenced report included with this petition.

Thank you for your consideration of this petition. I look forward to prompt agency response to protect the Rocky Mountain Population ^{of Trumpeter Swans} and complete the restoration effort that began decades ago.

Respectfully submitted,

BOC3/004/bsw



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Bob Oakleaf
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
260 Buena Vista
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

If your TWS chapter or organization decides to join the Idaho Chapter in this petition, please send me a letter addressed to Marvin Plenart (see petition), stating your support of the petition. With the possible supporting groups spread across four states, it will be impossible to get everyone's signature on the actual petition. Supporting groups' names and addresses will be added to the petition along with the letters of support.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Tom Ryder
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
260 Buena Vista
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Dear Tom:

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Sincerely yours,

Chuck Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Dave Lockman
Box 96
Smoot, Wyoming 83126

Dear Dave:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

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Dr. Joe Ball
Montana Cooperative Wildlife
Research Unit
HS 107, University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

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Chuck Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

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March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Dr. Mick Mickleson
460 East Oak
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Mick:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

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Sincerely yours,

Chuck Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Ms. Ruth Gale
3925 E, 97th N
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Dear Ruth:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

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Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Dave Weaver
Trumpeter Swan Society
Hennepin Parks
12615 County Road 9
Box 41320
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Dear Dave:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

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Chuck Blair

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Dr. Oz Garton
Department of Forestry, Wildlife,
and Range Science
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Oz:

Enclosed is a copy of the Idaho Chapter TWS petition to list the Rocky Mountain population of the trumpeter swan as threatened. Please review the petition and return any comments to me by March 14 so that I can get this in the mail by March 17.

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Sincerely yours,

Chuck Blair
Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Mike Adderholt
Montana Department of Fish,
Wildlife, and Parks
Box 67
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Mike:

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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Charles L. Blair'.

Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Matt Monda
Department of Forestry, Wildlife,
and Range Science
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Matt:

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Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

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March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Paul Moroz
Emmett Ranger District
1648 N. Washington
Emmett, Idaho 83617

Dear Paul:

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Jeff Snyder
c/o Harriman State Park
HC66
Ashton, Idaho 83420

Dear Jeff:

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Wayne Melquist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
600 S. Walnut
P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Wayne:

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Charles L. Blair

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Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

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Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Gary Will
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
600 S. Walnut
P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Gary:

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Chuck Blair

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The Wildlife Society

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March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Tom Franklin
The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Tom:

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Charles L. Blair

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Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

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Enclosure



March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Jerome Hansen
Idaho Department of Fish
and Game
600 South Walnut
P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Jerome:

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Sincerely yours,

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

BOP311/029/cas
Enclosure



Engineers
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March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Terry McKinney
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190

Dear Terry:

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Chuck Blair

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March 2, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Jack Connelly
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Dear Jack:

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
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Engineers
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March 3, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Tom Dougherty
National Wildlife Federation
Law School
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80309

Dear Tom:

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
The Wildlife Society

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March 3, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Chuck Griffith
12 Gardner Park Drive
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Chuck:

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Charles L. Blair
Idaho Chapter,
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March 3, 1989

BOI20.34

Mr. Tom Franz
National Wildlife Federation
240 North Higgins
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Tom:

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Mr. Barry Reiswig
P.O. Box 111
Room 308
U.S. Post Office Bldg.
Lake View, Oregon 97630

Dear Barry:

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