



Red Book
ERNIE FYI

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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12 April 1994

Kathleen McGinty, Director
Office of Environmental Policy
The White House
Fax (202) 456-2710

Dear Director McGinty:

The Wildlife Society urges you to reject the proposed transfer of Bureau of Land Management property for purposes of establishing an **Idaho Training range** in south-west Idaho. The Wildlife Society is the association of professional wildlife managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

The Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society has studied the Idaho Training Range (ITR) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and has found it to be severely lacking in its analyses concerning impacts to wildlife. While important issues were identified in the DEIS, the document fails to properly analyze many of the impacts. Many of the findings are inconclusive, understated or dismissed on lack of knowledge. Poor scientific rationale and weak conclusions are commonly found within the DEIS regarding impacts to wildlife.

A more extensive analysis of cumulative effects regarding biological resources is needed. Minimal consideration was given to alternative sites that would provide for Air Force training needs while involving less critical wildlife habitats.

We urge you to review the State of Idaho Range Development Recommendations, offered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, to mitigate the potential effects of the proposed training range expansion in Idaho. These recommendations apparently were not incorporated in the proposed action.

The Wildlife Society, its Idaho Chapter, and Northwest Section strongly recommend that you reject the proposal to establish the Idaho Training Range as presently constituted.

The Society would be pleased to help resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Franklin

Thomas M. Franklin
Wildlife Policy Director