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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 9, 1999

Kerry Paul Reese, Ph.D.
President
Idaho Chapter, The Wildlife Society
2168 Henry Court
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Kerry:

Thank you for contacting me concerning the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with you.

The LWCF was created in 1964 and took effect in 1965. Since its inception, it has been the principle source of funds for acquiring new recreation lands. Four federal agencies – the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service – receive funding through this program. In addition, the Park Service has administered a matching grants program to assist states and localities in acquiring and developing recreation sites and facilities.

The LWCF is a special account that accumulates revenues from federal outdoor recreation user fees, the federal motorboat fuel tax, surplus property sales, and oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. Of the more than \$10 billion appropriated since the inception of the program, approximately one third has gone to states, one third to the Park Service, and one third to the other three participating federal agencies. The state grant program was last funded in Fiscal Year 1995.

Several proposals have been introduced in the 106th Congress to re-establish and fully fund the state and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) introduced H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999. Representative George Miller (D-California) introduced H.R. 798, the Resources 2000 Act. And the Clinton Administration included the Lands Legacy Initiative in the President's Fiscal Year 2000 budget. All three proposals would provide annual funding for the LWCF at its authorized \$900 million level.

I am presently not a co-sponsor of H.R. 701 or H.R. 798. Because of my membership on the House Resources Committee I have attended and participated in hearings concerning both measures. I will continue to carefully monitor and evaluate both bills, along with the

Kerry Paul Reese, Ph.D.

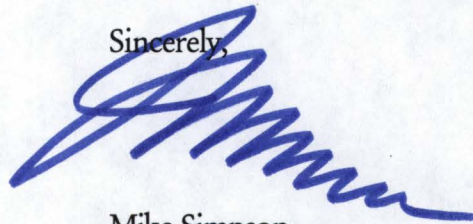
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Administration's proposal, as they move through the legislative process. Rest assured, I will keep your concerns in mind and work to protect the interests of Idaho.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to contact me in the future regarding issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Simpson", written in a cursive style.

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

MS:kea