



IDAHO FISH & GAME

600 South Walnut
P.O. Box 25
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Dirk Kempthorne/Governor
Jerry Mallet/Interim Director

December 29, 1999

Kerry Reese, President
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
2168 Henry Court
Moscow ID 83843

Dear Kerry :

I want to thank you for your efforts in developing the Department's fee increase proposal. Your support and taking the time to write a letter has been very helpful and is greatly appreciated. Your participation and suggestions made this a better proposal and one that can be supported by a broad spectrum of the hunting and fishing public.

The proposal is now on its way in the legislative process. We have met with the Governor's staff to discuss the proposal and how the new revenue will be used. They suggested and we agreed not to spend the entire amount of the additional revenue in the first year. We will hold back \$1.4 million the first year to build an adequate fund balance. This will have the effect of making the fee increase "last longer"; thereby increasing the number of years before another fee increase will be necessary to catch up with inflation.

The regional supervisors, headquarters staff and I have been meeting with legislators around the state to explain the fee increase proposal and answer their questions about Fish and Game activities. The results thus far have been positive. The letters of support from sporting groups have been very helpful in these legislative meetings. In general, legislators are willing to listen and seem concerned about the financial problems the Department and sportsmen face.

Since it is a revenue bill, the legislation will be introduced in the House Resources and Conservation Committee. If it passes out of committee it goes to the House floor for a vote. After passing the House the bill goes to the Senate Resources and Conservation Committee and finally the full Senate. We will keep you posted on the progress of the bill as it makes its way through this process.

Let me close by saying that I am optimistic about our chances with this fee increase proposal. I wouldn't be feeling that way without your help and support. Thank you again and the best to you in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Jerry Mallet
Interim Director