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fax t r a n s m i t t a l

to:

fax #:

from:

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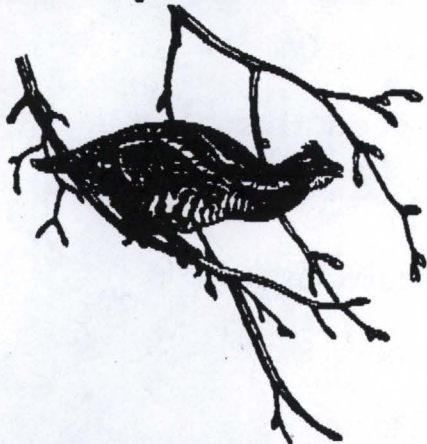
NOTES: We don't have an address for Rep-Elect Chenoweth, so we send her mail c/o Sen. Crapo. Here are the others.

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Larry Craig
United States Senate
302 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
House of Representatives
437 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

University of Wisconsin-Madison



Department of Wildlife Ecology

226 Russell Labs, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison WI 53706-1598
Phone: 608-262-2671 FAX: 608-262-6099

School of Natural Resources

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

December 22, 1994

Dear Colleague:

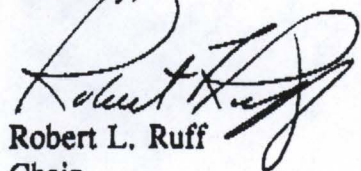
The enclosed letters and notices identify an imminent threat to the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units and to the biological research capability of the State and the Nation. The Units and the National Biological Survey could be dissolved and 1800 research scientists could be terminated as early as mid-January, 1995.

Your letters and calls to your congressional representatives and senators were responsible for saving the Unit Program from the budget axe in the early 1980's, and we desperately need your help again.

Please write or call your congressional representatives and senators as soon as possible to express your views on the Unit System. The names, addresses, faxes and phone numbers of legislators are enclosed. Details of the threatened budget actions and the highlights of the Unit contributions are in the letters from the Wildlife Management Institute and The Wildlife Society. You may wish to stress that the Units are cooperative with State agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations, and that they have existed for 60 years to conduct research rather than surveys. Moreover, the Units do in fact have official congressional authorization in Public Law 86-686.

We deeply appreciate your concern and attention.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Ruff
Chair

/het

Enclosures;

Unit leaders-

This package was sent to more than 400 students, friends, cooperators & associates of the Wisconsin Units. In the 1980's, congressional staffers all said it was grassroots support in letters & calls that saved the Units. We think this threat is equally real and is also imminent. You remember our commitment to exhibit grassroots

INGU DIRECTOR TO REPRESENTATIVES + US SENATORS

We write to seek your immediate help in saving the Cooperative Research Unit Program from Congressional budget recisions. The threat is urgent; recision hearings are scheduled for the first week of January, 1994⁵. In 1993, The Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units were transferred from their 58-year administrative residence in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the newly-created National Biological Survey (NBS). News releases and budget documentation show clear intent to cut NBS because 1) it is listed in the "Contract with America"; 2) its wrongly perceived purpose is to survey endangered species and thereby cause problems for private landowners; and 3) it is not authorized by Congress (some legislators have already announced that no money will be appropriated for unauthorized programs).

We point out: 1) that the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units exist in 37 states and have strong grassroots and congressional support, as evidenced by the successful effort to restore the units to the budget in the 1980s; 2) The Units have a 60-year history of production of useful fish and wildlife research information; have educated fish and wildlife professionals at cooperating universities, and have provided technical assistance to State Fish and Wildlife Agencies; 3) the Cooperative Research Units do have federal Congressional authorization through Public Law 86-686; 4) the Cooperative Research Units are cost effective; three dollars worth of research and technical assistance are produced for every dollar spent by any cooperator.

We hope you will make every effort to save the small but effective Cooperative Research Unit Program from the major budget reductions of the next Congress.

Sincerely,



Wildlife Management Institute

1101 14th Street, N.W. • Suite 801 • Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone (202) 371-1808 • FAX (202) 408-5059

ROLLIN D. SPARROWE
President

LONNIE L. WILLIAMSON
Vice-President

RICHARD E. McCABE
Secretary

December 19, 1994

Dear Unit Cooperator:

I am writing to alert you that the Cooperative Research Unit Program is again threatened by being cut from the federal budget. The matter is serious and urgent. Your congressional delegation needs to hear from you before January 1 that the Cooperative Unit Program is important, and is nested within the National Biological Survey (NBS) which has become a target for removal from the budget.

Many of you recall that, in the early 1980s, the Cooperative Units were not included in the President's budget for more than three years. It took a determined and prolonged fight by all of the cooperators to get the program back in the budget. Because current budget formulation appears to be moving so rapidly with clear intent to completely remove the NBS (including the Units) from the federal budget, I believe it will be a mistake to wait until appropriation committees actually meet.

Evidence of the threat is widespread. The enclosed portion of the "Contract With America" and other budget documents show clear intent to cut NBS from the budget. This is predicated on the mistaken belief that NBS is an unauthorized agency designed to survey endangered species and make problems for private landowners. Discussions with minority and majority staff during the turmoil of this Congressional turnover confirm that the perception and threat are real. Key legislators have announced publicly that no money will be appropriated for unauthorized programs. While NBS is not authorized as a separate agency, the Cooperative Research Units have Congressional authorization through the Cooperative Units Act (P.L. 86-686).

The urgency of this issue is reflected in the fact that Recision hearings are scheduled for the first week of January in the House to consider cutting budgets already authorized for the current year. This offers an opportunity to try to cut these programs out of the current budget. House staff indicate that specific budget cut proposals for 1996 will be ready by the first or second week of January. If NBS appears on a list of proposed cuts similar to those recently used for military base closures, it will be extremely difficult to recover.

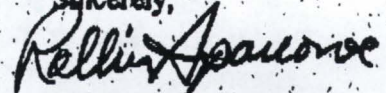
Much more than the Cooperative Units is at stake. A full 85 percent of the staff and money that came to form NBS was the original Fish and Wildlife Service Research organization in fisheries,

contaminants, endangered species, migratory birds and many other important areas. This research, through the Units and other parts of NBS, supports both commercial and sport fishing in the Great Lakes, migratory bird hunting of all kinds, songbird monitoring and research, the contaminant research that began with DDT and led to the recovery of the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, research on marine mammals, studies of the vast fish and wildlife resources of Alaska, and a whole array of other investments. This is not by any means research leading solely to protective and restrictive regulations, but rather, in support of the foundations for harvest and responsible use of renewable resources. Much of this is intact in programs only now being changed in name and geographic structure under NBS. The managers and users of natural resources cannot afford to lose this block of programs to a budget cut that ignores the broader needs of society.

Hopefully, more details will emerge within the next few weeks. It is not clear how much input will occur from outside Congress--these are extraordinary times. Before decisions are made by committees and staffs in the heat of the moment, *they need to hear from you*. The basic premise now should be to save the scientific foundations of management in the Department of Interior. Benefits are not national alone. The Cooperative Units are an integral part of the foundation of natural resource management for the states, well above the needs of the federal government. Such arguments fit well into the current shift in national emphasis.

If our Institute can help with additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Rollin D. Sparrowe
President

RDS:ksl
Enclosure

WILDLIFE RESEARCH THREATENED BY CONGRESS

The research capability of the US Department of the Interior (DOI) is threatened severely by impending Congressional action. The National Biological Survey (NBS), which contains the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units and most of the wildlife-related science and research expertise in the DOI, has been targeted for elimination. The NBS is especially at risk because it has not yet been formally authorized by Congress. The transfer of scientists from Interior agencies and bureaus to NBS was accomplished administratively. Leaders in Congress have stated that they do not intend to appropriate funds in areas that are not authorized.

Wildlife professionals are extremely concerned about this because the House leadership's Contract With America with its associated appendix identifies the National Biological Survey as a target for elimination by tax cut. This Draconian action is rationalized under the false assumption that actions of the agency will lead to increased regulation and loss in private property values due to the location of endangered species and deliniation of wetlands.

The Congress intends to carry out the tax cut through a recision of funds in the current budget. The NBS is one of many bureaus and programs targeted for elimination or severe modification. Budget recision hearings may occur as early as the first week in January 1995. In addition, specific budget cutting proposals for 1996 will be ready by the second week of January.

Wildlife professionals and others who support scientific research are contacting their congressional delegations and explaining the importance of maintaining a strong research and science capability within the Department of the Interior. They also are contacting the office of Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH) because Mr. Regula chairs the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee that will be considering these budget proposals.

If you require additional information, please contact Tom Franklin at The Wildlife Society headquarters.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 23 1994

To: All Unit Personnel

From: Acting Deputy Chief, DCR

Subject: Facts and True Facts *Jim Fleming*

I have been getting several calls concerning how to interpret the goings-on with regard to the unobligated funds report. The answer is..we don't know. Yes, there are rumors and suspicions circulating around here, but at present there appear to be no certainties. Yesterday, I heard that what Congress really wants to know relates to large construction and land acquisition projects. However, the budget office has requested information from all agencies for all unobligated funds. Many people feel that this report will be updated regularly and that the January 5 report that is due from this office will be treated simply as an interim report to be used in hearings that are scheduled in March or April.

The budget uncertainties that we have faced to date have made the DCR reluctant to issue fund targets to Units and to obligate funds for special projects. We have been provided with only preliminary fiscal advice for FY 95. What this means is that we are showing significant unobligated funds on our books. This is somewhat discomfoting because we know that we are basically a lean organization and there are real needs at the Units to which we must respond. It is simply an issue of fiscal responsibility that has kept us from distributing and obligating funds at this point in time. However, knowing the needs that you have, and the uncertainty of a potential rescission of unobligated funds, it seems programatically responsible to give you some guidance on funds available to your Unit.

In the past few days, we have moved ahead to provide you with information regarding your base funds, funds for special projects and for vehicles. I would suggest that you not be in a rush to spend or obligate these funds, except for things that you have already identified as being important for your program. If you were waiting for fund targets before you obligated funds, wait no more....plan on your fund target as being no more than last year and do not exceed that amount. If any increases in base operating funds are eventually possible, they will be distributed at a later time. When Connie returns from vacation, we will ask her to get fund target advice to you as soon as possible (probably right after she kills me!).

I wish I could give you a better read on what is happening or what is going to happen. I heard Larry Jahn give a talk one time and in that talk he said that from his experience in Washington, he had learned that there are facts, and then there are true facts! The trick is to be able to figure out which are which. When someone figures out the formula for doing so, please let me know.

Happy Holidays to you all from all of us here in the Division Office.



Education,
Research, And
Communications
To Strengthen
Natural Resource
Conservation

Larry A. Nielsen, President
School of Forest Resources, 113 Ferguson Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802-4300
Telephone: 814-863-7093; Fax: 814-865-3725

December 21, 1994

Dear NAUFWPer:

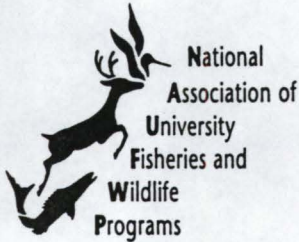
Today has the fewest hours of daylight in the year, so I'll try to be efficient.

1. Happy holidays! I hope that you spend a bit of time smelling the poinsettias. There is always more work. My wish for you is that some of it disappears before you get to it.
2. As you know, the Contract with America is targeting our science, including NBS. Ron Pulliam has asked that we work to protect the science capability of our disciplines. So, I am asking you to write letters to your congressional delegation in support of natural resource research. I have attached a copy of the letter I wrote and some information that Ron Pulliam sent. Getting the letters to your people in very early January is important. Thanks.
3. The RREA funds that were competitively granted last year have been doled out to land grant schools this year on a formula basis. The increase amounts to about 17% more than your school got last year. The increase is supposed to address ecosystem management. Because fisheries and wildlife is covered in this program, you should be getting access to these funds. Please ask about them--and let me know how it goes.
4. Our program at the North American is about international partnerships. We hope for a good turnout, so please plan to attend. We also hope faculty other than you will attend. To help us, please copy and distribute the enclosed notice to your faculty.

Thanks again for your loyal support of NAUFWP. Best wishes for a great 1995.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Nielsen



Larry A. Nielsen, President
School of Forest Resources, 113 Ferguson Building
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802-4300
Telephone: 814-863-7093; Fax: 814-865-3725

Education,
Research, And
Communications
To Strengthen
Natural Resource
Conservation

December 20, 1994

The Honorable John P. Murtha
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murtha:

I am writing today in my capacity as President of the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs, and also as Director of the School of Forest Resources at Penn State. I wish to comment on the much publicized idea to reduce federal funding for research in the U.S. Department of Interior, particularly the National Biological Survey.

The value of our nation's renewable natural resources cannot be questioned—and I believe that Congress has always been an ardent supporter of conservation (the wise sustained use of resources). These resources—wild plants and animals, soil, air, water, biological diversity—are the basis for our food supply, our wood and fiber supply, and myriad other benefits, both economic and aesthetic. Pressures continue to mount, however, to use these resources in non-sustainable ways and to dilute their capacity to produce the things we need. These pressures invariably cause conflict, fed by lack of information.

Unfortunately, the National Biological Survey is being seen as the culprit—the proposal is to cut off the head of the messenger. The NBS did not create the issues that confront us, and to suggest that eliminating the NBS and other similar research agencies will make our problems disappear is ingenuous at best.

In fact, the only way to help resolve these issues is to support and expand the good science that NBS and other organizations can produce. The absence of good applied research is a major impediment to resolving resource issues appropriately. Without this research, you can expect more problems with environmental contamination, more conflicts among land owners, continuingly lower productivity of forests, range, and waters, less profit for resource industries, unhealthy water and air, less stable employment, and increased litigation.

I urge you, therefore, to look carefully and objectively at the long-term value of scientific research in conservation and environmental areas before taking any action regarding either the size or organization of federal research. These are highly significant programs that deserve your most studied attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Nielsen".

Larry A. Nielsen
President

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The National Biological Survey (NBS) conducts science to support decision making about the Nation's natural resources. NBS scientists:

- o provide **fisheries** information that is used to support both commercial and recreational seasons and catch limits, respond to disease outbreaks, support restoration and reintroduction programs, and ensure that hatcheries are efficient and disease-free. NBS scientists discovered the chemicals that control sea lampreys in the Great Lakes, developed techniques for dealing with salmon disease in the Pacific Northwest, and provide the only FDA-approved source of information on hatchery chemical safety.
- o support **waterfowl** management by gathering data needed by Federal and state regulators to establish harvest levels. These studies include nesting and flight data gathered across the entire continent, and research into the issues such as the effects of predators on nesting success and the effects of contaminants on reproduction.
- o respond to a wide variety of **wildlife health** concerns and crises. NBS runs a world-renowned facility that provides disease diagnosis, field response to disease outbreaks, research, and training to Federal, State and local governments in detecting emerging outbreaks -- such as rabies and avian cholera -- and preventing catastrophic losses. NBS researchers developed a vaccine against avian cholera, affecting waterfowl and sandhill cranes, and are working to reduce the spread of duck plague.
- o have provided major scientific breakthroughs in **contaminants** research, including discovery of the effects of DDT on bald eagle, and of selenium on birds at the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge, and discovery of possible reproductive effects from certain chemicals in a wide range of wildlife. NBS scientists developed a sampling technique that greatly reduced the cost of determining the level of aquatic contamination.
- o provide the biological science expertise for managing the **national parks**. More than 75 NBS biologists are located at field stations in national parks. Their expertise is supplemented by NBS science centers and cooperative units. Activities include managing a vegetation mapping project for 248 national parks, chairing the scientific team advising on restoration of the South Florida ecosystem including Everglades National Park, and discovering the cause of bird die-offs at Gateway National Recreation Area.
- o have been leaders in providing the data that pointed to continent-wide declines in many **migratory songbirds**, often considered the "canary in the coal mine," providing early warning of problems in the environment. These data came from extensive bird banding activities and breeding bird surveys.
- o are working to stop the spread of **exotic invasive species** such as rangeland weeds, in order to protect livestock forage and improve range health, and zebra mussels, which are causing millions of dollars of damage throughout the Midwest.
- o study potential effects of oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on muskoxen, brant and geese, and caribou; study waterfowl populations that breed in **Alaska** and the Arctic; and determine the status of seabirds, polar bears, and marine mammals.

The information gathered by the National Biological Survey is used by Federal, State, and local governments, industry, and private landowners in managing natural resources.

- o Programs transferred to NBS were developed by Department of the Interior bureaus such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Minerals Management Service. Their work continues today, and new activities are being developed in close consultation with DOI managers.
- o NBS serves the needs of State fish and wildlife agencies. The keystones of this relationship are the 43 Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Units. These units are jointly managed by State fish and game agencies, a state university, and NBS. Research priorities are established by states, as shown by the \$40 million provided by states to sponsor unit research in FY94. NBS expanded this program by \$3.6 million in FY94.
- o NBS has been approached by major timber firms: Champion, International Paper, and Georgia Pacific, to initiate projects involving their lands. (For example, NBS is working with International Paper Co. to develop solutions that allow timber harvest while protecting a rare (not-yet-listed) pitcher plant.) NBS has worked extensively with private landowners on such efforts as using off-season rice fields for waterfowl, monitoring waterfowl production and studying the effects of predators on waterfowl.

The Nation needs sound science to make critical decisions about natural resources.

- o Current decision making -- both public and private -- must often rely upon incomplete or uncertain information. Frequently, disagreements over basic facts -- such as: *is this species declining or not* -- frustrate discussion of real problems and their solutions.

NBS was created to ensure that the science used in regulatory decisions is sound, unbiased and available to all who are interested.

- o NBS has no regulatory agenda, so its scientific results will not be influenced by regulatory biases. NBS's job is simply to provide better science to those who either make decisions or are affected by them.
- o Finding endangered species is NOT NBS's main objective. In fact, one of the benefits of establishing NBS is to enable scientists to work "up front" with the aim of reducing listings and increase the number of voluntary solutions.
- o Some information NBS gathers will please the development community; for example, removal of species from Endangered Species Act candidate lists. Some will result in identifying problems and solving them before new listings are required. Even if species are listed, NBS information will be useful for developing management solutions that accommodate both landowners and the needs of the species.
 - Additional searching often leads to identification of larger populations, thus avoiding unnecessary conflicts. This occurred with the Nevada Blue Butterfly, a listed species, allowing reduced restrictions on use of off-road vehicles.
 - Had additional information on the distribution of the snail darter been available at the time, the Tellico Dam controversy might have been avoided.

NBS is NOT a single giant survey that will sweep across the Nation, counting every creature, and searching for species that need protection. Only about 12-15% of NBS's budget is devoted to "survey" activities; most of which are not related to endangered species, but to waterfowl, fish stocks, migratory songbirds, and the like. NBS will focus on carefully selected indicator species, and NBS studies are designed to be statistically valid. Contrary to how it has

been presented, most of NBS's time is devoted to research on the cause of environmental change and how management decisions affect biological resources.

North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sunday, March 26, 1995

LEARNING WITHOUT BORDERS: INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

A participative workshop designed to enhance our abilities to work in other nations on fisheries and wildlife problems of local and global significance.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Alan P. Covich, Colorado State Univ.
Dr. Herbert A. Raffaele, Office of International
Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sponsored by: National Association of University Fisheries and
Wildlife Programs

9:00 -9:10 am Introduction to Workshop

9:10 - 9:40 Getting the Agenda Right: Lessons from studying
African fishes

Dr. Melanie L. J. Stiassny
Associate Curator of Fishes
American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York

9:40 - 10:10 Putting the pieces together: Experiences from
Puerto Rico

Ms. Hilda Diaz-Soltero
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Long Beach, California

10:10 - 10:30 Break and preparation for discussions

10:30 - 12 noon Facilitated small-group discussions organized by geographic areas:

Africa (fac: Dr. Eugene Decker, Colorado State Univ.)

Asia (fac: Dr. Francesca Cuthbert, Univ. Minnesota)

Latin America (fac: Dr. Richard Noble, North Carolina State Univ.)

Russia and Eastern Europe (fac: Dr. Bruce W. Menzel, Iowa State Univ.)

Discussions will focus on needs for research and education, opportunities, constraints, and special considerations for each area. (Facilitators will present discussion summaries at the 4 pm meeting of the National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs)