

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1204

January 30, 1995

Mr. Ernest D. Ables
President
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
C/O Fish and Wildlife Dept.
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844

Dear Ernest:

Thank you for letting me know of your support for continued funding of the National Biological Survey (NBS).

The NBS was created two years ago by Secretary of the Interior Babbitt, using existing funding to pull research efforts together under one administrative unit. While legislation was introduced in the 103rd Congress to grant the Secretary authority to officially create such an agency, it never passed.

There is great value in coordinating research efforts to understand and manage our nation's wildlife. Such an organized effort, however, must be structured so as not to encroach on the private property rights of individuals who own land that is habitat. This will be the crucible by which I will test any proposal relating to the NBS that comes before Congress.

In the meantime, it would be helpful to me to learn specifically what role the NBS has played in Idaho over the past two years. I welcome your further suggestions on how to coordinate existing conservation and management research.

Sincerely,



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
United States Senator

DK/jks

BUDGET TOTALS FY94

NBS		
SALARY/BENEFITS	\$226,927	
OPERATING	<u>\$9,000</u>	\$235,927
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO CONTRIBUTIONS		
SECRETARY/OFFICE COORDINATOR	\$20,000	
OVERHEAD WAIVER	<u>\$268,392</u>	\$288,392
TOTAL		<u>\$524,319</u>

ACTIVE GRANTS (G) AND CONTRACTS (C), FY94 MONIES

AGENCY	TOTAL G & C	% OF TOTAL G & C	UI OVERHEAD 31.9%	OVERHEAD PAID (15%)	OVERHEAD WAIVER
USFWS	\$102,231	5%	\$24,725	\$13,334	\$11,390
IDFG	\$243,573	11%	\$58,908	\$0	\$58,908
COE	\$935,200	44%	\$226,178	\$121,983	\$104,195
NBS	\$819,541	39%	\$198,206	\$106,897	\$91,309
FDA/WRAC	\$22,000	1%	\$5,459	\$2,870	\$2,589
TOTALS	\$2,122,545	100%	\$513,475	\$245,083	\$268,392

*Solve present problems
rather than to create problems for
our natural resources in decades*

Idaho Chapter of The
Wildlife Society
c/o Fish & Wildlife Dept.
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83844
February 10, 1995

Senator Dirk Kempthorne
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1204

Dear Senator Kempthorne:

I appreciate very much your response to my letter of concern over the future of the National Biological Survey (now the National Biological Service, NBS). When the NBS was being proposed by the Department of Interior there was much concern among the fish and wildlife community nationally over the future of Interior's research mission. Those of us in the universities were particularly nervous about the future of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units and their potential new role as components of the NBS. These Units have been in existence since 1938 and have been crucial in developing the scientific knowledge base for management of our fish and wildlife resources and in educating and training professional fish and wildlife managers.

The Cooperative Unit at the University of Idaho has been in existence since September 1947 and has been the corner stone of both our fish and wildlife research and graduate programs since its creation. In fact, during most of our Unit's existence it has contributed approximately 40 percent of departmental faculty numbers and has at times supported the critical mass necessary for continual functioning of our fish and wildlife graduate programs. Unit personnel are university faculty members and teach graduate level classes along with supervising students pursuing advanced degrees in fish and wildlife. Graduates of the Unit program have assumed leadership roles in the state and region, including two present regional supervisors for the Idaho Fish and Game Department plus the present Director of the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Therefore, relative to your request for contributions of the NBS to Idaho in the past two years I will confine my comments to the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit since it is the unit within NBS with which I am most familiar. Other units of the NBS in Idaho include the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho and the Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center of the BLM, located in Boise and affiliated with Boise State University.

grants and contracts. Eighty-nine percent of this amount came from outside the State and part of the overhead returns were used to support undergraduate teaching programs through supplementing an inadequate state teaching budget.

In summary, National Biological Service biologists are extremely important contributors to the university, to the State and to its fish and wildlife resources. Perhaps the most important long term contribution is the development of a scientific knowledge base necessary for proper management of our unsurpassed fish and wildlife resources. Research conducted by the Unit over the years in Idaho is used regularly by private, state and federal groups and agencies to more effectively manage our state's resources.

Senator Kempthorne, thanks for allowing me the opportunity to expand on the Coop. Unit of the NBS at the University of Idaho and its contributions to the State. I would like the opportunity to meet with you personally and to respond to any other questions you might have. I also would like to furnish our other congressional delegates the information in this letter but will not do so without your permission. Let me know how I can be of further assistance.

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Dr. Bjornn's contributions to the State and university have been exceptional. He has directed to completion of their degrees more than 50 graduate students during his rich and productive career. His research on trout, steelhead and salmon have been unsurpassed in this state. His early work on the impacts of sedimentation in trout producing streams led to better management practices on the watersheds and enhanced fish productivity. His work on Kelly Creek resulted in restoration of the cutthroat trout fishery of that stream, one of the highest quality trout streams in the West. During the past two years Dr. Bjornn has provided leadership for the salmon recovery efforts on the Snake River drainage and his previous research on salmon has provided the factual foundation for much of the current discussion on salmon recovery. His recovery team recommendations were for continued transport of fish past the dams and did not recommend drawdown of reservoirs as useful solutions to salmon passage problems. He also assists the Idaho Fish and Game Department in supplementing wild salmon and steelhead stocks with hatchery reared fish. As an aside, Dr. Bjornn's spouse brought to the department the largest research project in college history, a \$2.4 million grant from BPA to develop treatment methods for BKD (bacterial kidney disease).

Dr. Jim Congleton has been researching since 1983 better techniques for collecting and barging salmonids past the Snake and Columbia River dams. He is also heavily involved in developing methods for controlling and treating IHN, the number one disease problem in commercial trout hatcheries in Idaho, and BKD the main disease problem of sport hatcheries that produce salmon. His work on IHN is jointly conducted in cooperation with Clear Springs, the state's largest private trout producer, with funds from the Western Regional Aquaculture Consortium of the USDA.

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* Does this tie your hands with respect to providing this information to other delegates?

An alternative would be to rewrite this letter (1st & last ¶) so it no longer is a "Kempthorne" letter and send that version to other delegates.