

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1204

February 24, 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 you oppose funding of the National Biological Service (NBS).

I understand your frustration that, even though the NBS has not been authorized by Congress, Interior Secretary Babbitt is cobbling together the agency using existing statutory authority. The funding for the NBS has been included in the Department of Interior Appropriations for the past two years, despite opposition to the program.

There may be merit to coordinating and streamlining research efforts. 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 proposals relating to the NBS which may come before Congress.

I am glad to know your thoughts on the NBS, and will keep them in mind as Congress considers the FY 1996 appropriations bills, and related legislation.

Sincerely,



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
United States Senator

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