



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Clait E. Braun  
President

September 21, 1997

James Unsworth, President  
Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
ID Dept. Fish & Game  
3101 S. Powerline Road  
Nampa, ID 83686

Dear James:

Teaming With Wildlife, the proposed legislation to secure dedicated funding for nongame wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental education, remains The Wildlife Society's highest policy priority. Momentum is increasing in support of Teaming With Wildlife in Washington, D.C. and across the country. We need the Idaho Chapter's continued help to turn this momentum into new dollars to benefit nongame wildlife.

Efforts are now focused on getting a bill introduced this year. For this to happen, The Wildlife Society and other coalition members are focusing our efforts on building bipartisan Congressional support. To date, some key Senators and Representatives have agreed to sponsor legislation. More are needed.

Teaming With Wildlife will raise about \$350 million annually for state nongame wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and wildlife education programs. The initiative is modeled after the highly successful wildlife (Pittman-Robertson) and sport fish (Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux) restoration programs. America's game species are thriving today because 60 years ago hunters established a user fee system on their equipment to fund conservation efforts. Teaming With Wildlife would operate in a similar manner by imposing a small excise tax (0.25% - 5%) on outdoor recreation equipment (such as tents, backpacks, canoes, binoculars, cameras, feeders, field guides, bird seed, mountain bikes, etc.). Revenues collected would be dedicated to nongame wildlife, outdoor recreation, and environmental education.

The Wildlife Society has been a key player behind Teaming With Wildlife from the start. TWS members, chapters, sections, and our wildlife policy staff have been instrumental in building the Teaming With Wildlife national coalition with over 2,100 conservation organization and business endorsements, the largest in conservation history!

You also have helped with your dollars. Last year, 383 members, 30 chapters, and 3 sections generously contributed over \$22,000 to boost The Wildlife Society's efforts on Teaming With Wildlife! In the previous year, TWS members, chapters, and sections contributed over \$17,000. It is obvious that commitment to Teaming With Wildlife runs deep within TWS. This

funding has allowed us to obtain assistance from a senior-level conservationist to help represent TWS on Capitol Hill. Your assistance also supported the production of a full-color poster for display by businesses, agencies, and conservation organizations that endorse the initiative. This poster provides high visibility and an added inducement for groups to promote Teaming With Wildlife.

The job is far from over. With all the progress that has been made, the coalition is urgently seeking passage of a bill this year. Letters, phone calls, and personal communication with legislators, outdoor recreation equipment retailers, hunting and recreation groups, and the media are needed to spread the word about Teaming With Wildlife. The Idaho Chapter's help is needed with this endeavor.

The Idaho Chapter also can help by sending a donation to TWS. Although contributions of any size are welcome, please consider a donation of \$100, \$250, \$500, or more. Donations of these sizes are needed to reach our funding targets.

Consider the impact that today's federal aid programs have had on wildlife management across the 50 states. Consider the impact that a new program for nongame wildlife could have on future wildlife conservation efforts. The direction is clear. We must succeed on Teaming With Wildlife. Please send your contribution today.

Sincerely,



Clait E. Braun  
President