

IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



20 March 2000

McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor Working Group
c/o Sandy Jacobson
US Forest Service
Rt 4, Box 4860
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Dear Sandy and Working Group Members:

The Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society supports the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor Working Group's efforts to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions along Highway 95 between Naples and Pack River. This area has important habitats for numerous species of wildlife, including deer, elk, moose, grizzly and black bears, and forest carnivores such as fisher, Canada lynx, and wolverine. It has been identified in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan as an important corridor, and qualifies as a travel corridor for the Canada lynx, a species currently proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. A recent study indicated it was one of the five most important wildlife corridors in Idaho. Increasing the opportunities for wildlife to cross Highway 95 safely will better our chances of increasing the numbers of rare species, maintaining the numbers of our important common species, and minimizing loss of humans lives and property damage in wildlife related accidents. On behalf of the membership of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society, I encourage you to approve the MLWC Working Group's application for funding crossing structures.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Harris, Ph.D.
President