



# FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

March 2, 1981

Senator James McClure, Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator:

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to go on record in support of the Public Land Order by the former Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, that withdrew 417,775 acres of land surrounding the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area from the jurisdiction of the agricultural land laws and the state selection statutes. We are aware of the opposing position taken by various special interest groups, but feel it is of paramount importance that this unique natural resource be protected. We therefore encourage the reintroduction of legislation to establish this area as the Birds of Prey Conservation Area.

Furthermore, we support the current multiple-use practices implemented by the Bureau of Land Management in the area. Such activities as livestock grazing, military training exercises, outdoor recreation, and oil and gas exploration have been shown not to significantly impact the nesting birds of prey and should be continued. Specifically, we oppose the conversion of this valuable habitat to extensive agricultural croplands, since it would result in the elimination of habitat critical to many prey species important to both nesting and wintering birds of prey.

We strongly urge you to support the creation of the Birds of Prey Conservation Area; it is a unique area supporting a phenomenal number of animals. The loss of habitat already determined as necessary certainly will have deleterious effects on the bird populations. Continued multiple-use appears to be a viable policy and should be continued.

Sincerely,

Dr. I. Jack Stout, President  
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society