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ISCAC Position Memo on Continuing Resolution FY11 State Wildlife Grant & American Wetlands Conservation Act Programs

To: Honorable Representative Mike Simpson, Honorable Representative Raul Labrador, Honorable Senator Mike Crapo and Honorable Senator Jim Risch

The Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council (ISCAC) urges congressmen to support Idaho wildlife and Idaho's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by sustaining support for the State Wildlife Grant program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program. These programs are currently in jeopardy of being eliminated in the Congressional Continuing Resolution FY11 (CR).

The State Wildlife Grant program is the primary funding mechanism for implementation of the State Wildlife Action plan, which guides the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and its conservation partners toward providing healthy wildlife populations in Idaho. Among the many objectives of this plan is the prevention of species listing under the Endangered Species Act, thereby preserving state authority over wildlife management.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides funding to support the conservation of wetland ecosystems for numerous fish and wildlife species, including waterfowl, and other migratory birds. Funding from this program has been instrumental towards restoration and conservation for thousands of acres of wetlands projects in Idaho.

These programs stimulate matching dollars from non-federal sources, private organizations, and state fish and wildlife agencies. Two to three times the federally appropriated finances are generated by these dynamic wildlife grants in matching funds.

Keeping the State Wildlife Grant Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Program in place ensures the long-term economic support that sportsmen have on the rural parts of Idaho that need it most.

For these reasons, ISCAC does not support the elimination of these wildlife matching grant programs in the current CR appropriations.