

The original documents are located in Box 62, folder “1976/09/28 - Governor Cecil Andrus” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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9:00 AM - GOVERNOR ANDRUS
JOHN HOUGH

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

Meeting w/ Gov. Andrews Tues. Sept. 28th

When Be in City -

Chewokee Basin

Chamberlain Basin

In work

Tell Steve

A.M. of 28th --

9 AM 9/28 ↑

Business, prev to 9/23



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JMC

~~CHRIS:~~

IN CASE YOU DON'T HAVE THE
ORIGINAL, ATTACHED IS A COPY
OF GOVERNOR ANDRUS' LETTER
TO JMC ON WHAT THEY WILL
DISCUSS AT 9:00 TOMORROW A.M.



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

BOISE 76 SEP 28 AM 8 17

September 1, 1976

James M. Cannon
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jim:

This letter briefly summarizes the proposal I would like to recommend to President Ford in keeping with his pledge at Yellowstone, Sunday, to greatly expand public recreation lands. What I am proposing can be easily accomplished, is cost free in terms of acquisition dollars and would be genuinely significant in our western states in meeting a part of the goal set forth by the President.

I am proposing that President Ford amend his wilderness recommendation for Central Idaho to include the 400,000 acre Chamberlain Basin. The initial Forest Service proposal included Chamberlain Basin. It remained intact throughout the entire Forest Service review process at all levels, including the Chief's office. However, it was dramatically and severely impacted by the Secretary of Agriculture who authorized its exclusion, a decision later sustained by the President and forwarded to Congress.

Presently, the Chamberlain Basin is a part of two contiguous Idaho Primitive Areas adjacent to the Salmon "River of No Return." They were studied as required by the Wilderness Act (PL 88-577) for potential inclusion into the wilderness system. As of this date, no congressional activity has taken place.

The disposition of the Chamberlain Basin is, in my opinion, the single most important wilderness resource decision to be made in Idaho, possibly in the West. Justification for its exclusion was based primarily on mineral and timber values even though the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey describe the mineral potential as "small to modest." In terms of total timber production for Idaho, the timber is less than a pittance.

Nowhere in the Continental United States is there a more ideal blend of habitats for wildlife than Chamberlain and the surrounding canyons. This rolling, unroaded basin is sprinkled with streams, meadows, timbered slopes and spruce bogs providing a high quality summer habitat for 190 species of wildlife.



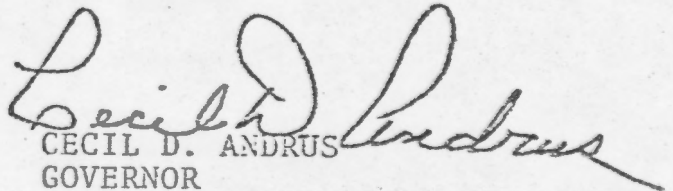
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James M. Cannon
September 1, 1976

It is also a significant natural spawning grounds for salmon and steelhead in the fishery troubled Columbia River System.

In short, Jim, this is a real issue. I am convinced it is a right and timely issue and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the matter with you later in September. To help you get a better perspective of the area involved, Russ Peterson, Nat Reed, John Quarles and Tom Kimball are familiar with the issue and I encourage you to consult them. At the very least, I am hopeful that you can help us obtain a restudy of the decision to exclude the Chamberlain Basin.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

jhb

