

Testimony on H.R. 3734 to the House Subcommittee on National  
Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
Chairman Raúl Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop

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Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop, Members of the Committee, I am happy to have the opportunity to express to you my strong support for H.R. 3734. This legislation renames the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of Morley Nelson, who is seen as nothing less than hero to many Idahoans and countless Americans involved in conservation efforts.

Morley Nelson was an individual who was larger than life. A native of North Dakota, he played professional hockey to pay his college tuition before serving his country in the 10th Mountain Division during World War II. His bravery and leadership during his military service earned him a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and a Silver Star.

Following his distinguished service in the military Morley relocated to Idaho where he became a strong advocate for birds of prey. He worked closely with the Idaho State Legislature to develop innovative techniques to protect birds of prey from common dangers such as electrocution from power lines. His cooperative approach to this matter not only saved power companies costly outages, but saved many of these treasured birds.

Morley's influence was not confined to Idaho. Through his Disney documentaries he introduced America's wildlife to children and adults who otherwise would not have had the chance and inspired a generation of conversationalists. Many who are now engaged in the preservation of endangered raptors can trace their inspiration to Morley's films.

Because of Morley Nelson's passion and insight the State of Idaho is home to the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, which houses one of the largest populations of raptors in the world, and is the home of Peregrine Fund. The Peregrine Fund is responsible for bringing back the Peregrine Falcon from the brink of extinction. To this day the Peregrine recovery is the most successful re-introduction program of a rare and endangered species in history, and cooperative efforts continue to bring other raptor species back from the brink.

Tragically our nation lost this good man on September 21, 2005. In light of Morley Nelson's dedicated pursuit to preserve our nation's majestic raptors, I think it is only fitting that the Conservation Area which continues his life's work bears his name.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, on behalf of the people of Idaho and myself, I appreciate the opportunity express my support for this legislation and welcome any questions you may have.