

on which sheep and cattle graze and on which an occasional rustic ranch house can be seen in the distance. The forage resources of these lands are an important adjunct to the livestock raising industry in Custer and Blaine Counties. Under the concept of a National Recreation Area, this use can continue, and the authentic ranching atmosphere of the area can be preserved and would add to the enjoyment of visitors from the outside.

Some timber from the forested slopes outside the Primitive Area is utilized locally and can continue to provide employment and useful products. Timber use can be harmonized with recreational enjoyment and conservation of esthetics.

The area affords outstanding opportunities in a spacious forest and pastoral environment for a wide variety of outdoor recreation ranging from hiking and camping to fishing and other water sports. Hunting, particularly of elk and deer, furnishes healthful outdoor recreation to large numbers of people; and the influx of hunters during the fall substantially extends the business season of resorts and businesses in the area. There are also favorable opportunities in the area for enjoyment of a variety of winter sports.

To conserve the natural resources of the area proposed as the National Recreation Area, protect and enhance its natural beauty, and assure its continued availability for public uses, will require prompt and adequate actions in several respects.

The beauty and western ranching character of the foreground over which the Sawtooth Range is viewed is being threatened in increasing measure by subdivision and development of the meadows and fields immediately adjacent to the highway. These intrusive developments are an immediate threat to the scenic beauty of the valley lands and the backdrop of the Sawtooth Peaks. Their extension would further degrade the esthetic experiences and the enjoyment of visitors to the area. Protection of the integrity and beauty of this scenic foreground to the striking mountain peaks is urgent.

The extensive annual migration of salmon and steelhead trout to the upper reaches of the Salmon River is a significant biological feature and an important recreation and economic resource. Its continuation is dependent, in part at least, on preservation of the spawning grounds, many of which lie within the proposed National Recreation Area. Preservation of the spawning grounds from destruction from dredging, stream alteration, silt deposits, or pollution is essential.

Designation of the proposed area as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area would give national recognition to its scenic, scientific, historic, pastoral, fish and wildlife, and other values and potentials, and provide for adequate and expeditious development of facilities to assure optimum public use and enjoyment of the outdoor recreation resources. It would provide by law for the harmonious and correlated use of all the varied resources, giving primary emphasis to outdoor recreation and wilderness, but endorsing the use outside of the Primitive Area of other resources also in ways compatible with the primary purpose of the area.

The changes we recommend are primarily for clarification.

Section 3 of S. 1267 describes the manner in which the proposed National Recreation Area is to be administered. We recommend that this section be amended by inserting in line 9 on page 2 between "Area" and "in" the words "in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forests". This will assure that authorities relative to the National Forests and appropriations for National Forest purposes will be available to and utilized by the Secretary in administering the area.

On page 3 the word "reservation" in line 1 should be changed to "recreation".

The authority given the Secretary by section 4 should be clarified with respect to the acquisition or conveyance of interests, other than fee title, by exchange. Clear cut authority in this regard would be very helpful in accomplishing the purposes of this bill. Partial interests including scenic easements could then be exchanged. We recommend the insertion of the words "or interests therein" between the words "property" and "located" in line 6 on page 3 and between the words "property" and "within" in line 8 on page 3.

Section 4 also provides for the transfer, with the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, of other Federal lands located within the recreation area to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture. Lands acquired for or transferred to the National Recreation Area should become parts of the National Recreation Area and have National Forest status. This is necessary to assure unit of purpose and objectives and to facilitate administration. We recommend that the following paragraph be added following line 20, on page 3:

"Lands acquired by the Secretary or transferred to his administrative jurisdiction within the recreation area shall become parts of the recreation area and of the national forest within which they are located."