

Secretary FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I deviated at this point, because I want to emphasize that this bill is consistent with the standards and the direction in which we seek to move in administering the lands within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.

The proposed Sawtooth National Recreation Area affords a fine example of where this can and must be done with significant benefits nationwide as well as locally.

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area offers a new concept in that primitive lands are combined with areas offering road-access recreation so that each complements the other in an unusual and highly attractive complex of recreational opportunities. It offers a new concept also in that livestock ranching on both private and public lands is now and can continue to be a compatible and desirable use that contributes materially to the interest of the area from the public standpoint.

The old mining and ranch towns of Atlanta and Stanley offer an authentic touch of the Old West and a wealth of historical lore. Their restoration and development will have the dual purpose of providing recreational and educational opportunities and personal services to the visiting public.

Within this area lies one of the major spawning areas of the salmon and steelhead. Protection and enhancement of this great resource and the other wildlife resources of the area in conjunction with the Idaho Fish and Game Department will benefit visitors to the area and sport and commercial fishing all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Elk and deer hunting is enjoyed by many during the fall months and is essential to keep big game herds in balance with their habitat.

Timber operations do not produce large volumes of timber. However, timber cutting will continue to provide some raw materials to sawmills in the area. Some jobs for local residents will continue to be supported. These timber operations will be conducted so as to protect the recreation, scenic, and hunting and fishing values of the area.

Of major importance to the recreation and scientific values of this area is the Sawtooth primitive area. S. 1267 provides that this area of about 200,000 acres and adjacent lands will be reviewed for wilderness consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act. Although this area is not one of the six primitive areas I have already recommended for wilderness status, most of the preparatory work has been completed. We expect to have our recommendations late this year or early in 1968.

Enactment of S. 1267 will give national recognition to the scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife, economic, and other values of the outstanding Sawtooth area. It will provide for adequate and expeditious development to assure optimum public use and enjoyment of a variety of summer and winter outdoor resources and experiences.

If S. 1267 is enacted, we foresee constantly growing use by the public of the national recreation area. In 1965, National Forest lands received 388,000 visitor days of use. In 1966, this use increased to an estimated 420,000 visitor days. With the national recreation area, we estimate that by 1970 the visitor days of use will aggregate about 750,000 and by 1975, about 1,200,000. Private lands in and about the recreation area will receive additional use also.

This acceleration of public use will require a substantial stepup in the timing of development programs to accommodate visitors to the