

area. We estimate that by 1975 facilities for camping and picknicking, to accommodate 5,000 persons at one time, will be needed. Present capacity is less than 2,000 at a given time.

We will also need to improve and increase roads and trails to recreational areas, to facilitate enjoyment of the scenic qualities and furnish better access to "jumpoff" points around the wilderness.

We would hope to provide increased visitor information services and interpretive programs to make the stay of users to the area more productive and enjoyable. These are measures that would be undertaken by the Forest Service as part of its program for the national forests. They will need to be advanced in time and increased in quantity to meet the accelerated use the national recreation area will receive.

In summary, the lands proposed for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area are outstanding in scenic beauty and the capacity to provide healthful outdoor recreation. They have many resources supportive of local industries and the economy that can be utilized in ways compatible with recreation use; these lands fully qualify for national recognition as a recreation area. The development of these lands for optimum use can effectively contribute to upgrading the economy of a predominantly rural area which is increasingly dependent upon public use of the surrounding recreation resources.

This is forward-looking legislation and another opportunity to bring the full forces of creative conservation into play. I urge its speedy enactment.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, for a very fine statement.

Let me ask a few questions. Is this the first time that the Department of Agriculture, through its Forest Service, has administered a national recreation area?

Secretary FREEMAN. No, Mr. Chairman. There are three other national recreation areas in which the Forest Service is currently conducting the administration. One is the Shasta-Trinity Area—

Senator BIBLE. That is in the Shasta-Trinity-Whiskeytown Area, which is in the State of the great Senator from California. Isn't that administered jointly with the Department of the Interior?

Secretary FREEMAN. That is correct. And Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks, in West Virginia.

Senator BIBLE. Yes, I am familiar with that.

Secretary FREEMAN. And, third, Mount Rogers, in Virginia. So there are three of them currently which we are administering.

Senator BIBLE. This particular concept here, though, is envisioned as being completely administered by the Forest Service?

Secretary FREEMAN. That is correct.

Senator BIBLE. I note in your statement on page 3 that you say that there are 22,400 acres of privately owned lands. What is the nature of that private ownership? Is it grazing land?

Secretary FREEMAN. It is land, most of which lies in the valley as indicated by the white on the map here. It is used for a number of purposes: commercial, ranching. And there are some subdivisions which give us particular concern at this time.

Senator BIBLE. How many individual private ownerships are there within the 22,400 acres?