

be established first. Then, the Recreation Area could be logically set up around the Wilderness Area. In order to preserve and enhance the integrity of the total Sawtooth environment, we most assuredly must establish both at the earliest possible time.

In conclusion, The Wilderness Society supports S. 1267 to create a Sawtooth National Recreation Area, providing that it in no way will prevent, interfere with, or impede the prompt establishment of the Sawtooth Wilderness Area of some 200,000 acres, as recommended by The Wilderness Society and other conservation organizations in testimony presented at the Forest Service public hearing in Boise, Idaho on September 4, 1963. A copy of the Society's testimony as presented on that occasion is attached, and we respectfully request that it also be made a part of the record of this hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement.

Sincerely,

CLIFTON R. MERRITT,
Director of Field Services.

[Enclosure]

STATEMENT OF STEWART M. BRANDBOG, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE
WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The Wilderness Society strongly supports the proposal of Regional Forester Floyd Iverson for reclassification of the Sawtooth Primitive Area in Idaho as a Wilderness Area. We urge that this proposal be considered favorably and that the Secretary of Agriculture be encouraged, through expression of broad public support, to establish this area as a National Forest Wilderness Area.

In the anticipation of further consideration of the Regional Forester's proposal, we wish to propose the addition of a small acreage to the area which he has recommended for inclusion in the proposed Sawtooth Wilderness Area. This proposed addition, consisting of an area of less than 13,300 acres, would include the wild lands within the Hanson Lakes section of upper Stanley Lake Creek and Trail Creek (about 10,000 acres) and several smaller additions along the northern and western boundaries of the area encompassed by the Regional Forester's proposal. The smaller areas are recommended for addition to the peripheries of the proposed Wilderness Area because of the opportunity they would afford for a special quality of wilderness experience to those who wish to visit wilderness but who are restricted to "at the edge" penetrations instead of more extensive trips into the heart of the area.

THE SAWTOOTH AREA AS A WILDERNESS ASSET

The Sawtooth Primitive Area was set aside in 1937 under the Regulation L-20. Essentially, it has been preserved intact by the Forest Service and we find it today in almost the same wild state, a vast and beautiful high country. It is because of these special scenic and wildlife values that the proposal for reclassification of this area as a Wilderness Area is so earnestly supported.

This designation, which would provide for full public use and enjoyment of the protected wilderness lands by people here in Idaho and from throughout the nation, is consistent with the multiple-use concept as it is being applied today to National Forest Lands. The "Wilderness Area" classification will permit the preservation and use of these lands as wilderness. Thus future generations will have the privilege of using this wilderness just as we have known and used it within the present Primitive Area. Designation now of this area as a Wilderness Area will not preclude later consideration of any proposals that may be offered in the future for the use and management of this unit. Reclassification of the Sawtooth Primitive Area as a Wilderness Area is an important step for the preservation of the wilderness recreation resources, and the many other values that are found here. We urge that it be taken promptly.

These recommendations are based on studies which have been completed in the Sawtooth Primitive Area by members of The Wilderness Society and the Society's staff. The area has been visited on frequent occasions over the past decade by both Society members and cooperators from other conservation groups who regard it as one of the most outstanding units of National Forest wilderness to be found anywhere in the Nation. A number of these people have been consulted in conjunction with the Society's investigation of the Regional Forester's present proposal for establishment of the Sawtooth Wilderness Area.

The most recent visit to the area, for the purpose of studying the reclassification proposal, was completed during the period July 18 through 25 when a group,