

the access into lands for something other than timber, which has broad acceptance by people other than timber users. I think we got a lot of support because of this, and I would be very much concerned about having something in lieu of access roads, because there are some of the areas where it is the only way in which you are going to be able to develop the kind of roads to help the people in the area.

Mr. GASKINS. It is my understanding, sir, this would have no reduction whatsoever. It could in certain areas, where a projected access road might be extremely costly or it might be terribly unstable on certain drainages, where rather than build the road the area will just be locked up until some device or system such as this could be developed to get into the area without destroying the resources.

Representative CLAUSEN. Now, what elevation are we talking of, because some of these higher areas in the more remote sections, you get into some pretty high mountain elevations. Do you have a limitation on what these balloons will function at properly and efficiently?

Mr. GASKINS. I am sure that the research people who are doing this for the Forest Service do have some estimates.

Representative CLAUSEN. What is the highest elevation, to your knowledge, that this kind of system has operated at efficiently, because as you know, with a helicopter they have a limitation as you increase the altitude because of the density of the air which decreases proportionately.

Mr. GASKINS. I just am not sure. It is just above Eugene, for example. I don't recall what the elevation is up there. I would guess 3,000 or 4,000 feet.

Representative CLAUSEN. This is in the Eugene area?

Mr. GASKINS. This is in the Eugene area.

Representative CLAUSEN. To the west.

Mr. GASKINS. And on Vancouver Island, the mountainous country in British Columbia.

Representative CLAUSEN. Fairly low altitude. Is this east or west of Eugene?

Mr. GASKINS. It is east of Eugene, in fairly low elevation. It has been operating both east and southwest of the Eugene area and up in the mountains on the island.

Representative CLAUSEN. Frankly, I am going to look forward to coming out there and visiting your area and I would like to see your operations.

Mr. GASKINS. It is quite a sight.

Senator MORSE. Does that 6,500,000 acres include the wilderness areas?

Mr. GASKINS. I would not expect the Forest Service to include the wilderness areas or lands that might be subject to question for wilderness use.

Senator MORSE. Thank you very much.

Mr. McCRACKEN. Mr. Chairman, we would just ask. Dr. Graves to make one further presentation before we get into questioning.

Dr. Graves, you might turn this around so both the audience and the panel here can see. It is just a chart which describes the concept.

(The chart used by Dr. Graves follows:)