

This proposal further recommends that primitive area status be lifted from 14,906 acres now included in the Stratified Primitive Area. This proposal further recommends that the existing South Absaroka Wilderness, 483,130 acres, which is immediately adjacent to the Stratified Primitive Area, be combined with the 196,390 acres included in this report.

The total added acreage therefore, would be 211,296 acres. It might be mentioned parenthetically that by including these acreages, all of which are in the Shoshone National Forest, we will have some 53 percent of the Shoshone Forest included in wilderness.

I am here today and I will continue to be present at these hearings, so long as they may be in session, to hear from all of those witnesses who are back here.

I know a number of people from Wyoming and other interested individuals as well are present. It is my purpose to listen closely to what is said, and then to try to make up my mind and my judgment independently of anyone else, so as to represent, as best I can, first, the people of the State of Wyoming, and then secondly, the broad national interest.

I will be submitting for inclusion in the record a number of pieces of correspondence, some resolutions and some statements of position, and I ask unanimous consent at this time, Mr. Chairman, that such material as I will submit be included in the record.

Senator CHURCH. Certainly.

Senator HANSEN. I have no further statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Senator Hansen.

Our first witness is Edward P. Cliff, the Chief of the Forest Service. Mr. Cliff, it is always nice to see you.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. CLIFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

Senator CHURCH. If there is anyone, Ed, you would like to have sit with you, feel free to call them.

Mr. CLIFF. Thank you. I have some fellows backing me up here, but I will try to manage by myself.

Senator CHURCH. All right, I am sure you will do well.

Mr. CLIFF. I am pleased to speak for the Department of Agriculture in support of S. 2751, S. 2531, and S. 2630. These bills would designate the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, Willamette, Deschutes, and Mount Hood National Forests in Oregon; the San Gabriel Wilderness, Angeles National Forest in California, and the Washakie Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, as units of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

We in the Department of Agriculture have been working hard to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act. We believe we have made good progress. Regulations and policy guidelines for the administration and use of these areas have been published; field review has been completed and public hearings held on 12 of the 34 National Primitive Areas which must be reviewed by 1974 to determine their suitability or unsuitability for inclusion in the Wilderness System.