

It encompasses 36,137 acres of the rugged and beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, approximately 35 miles northeast of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

Two major canyons cut deeply into this area, which lies on the north side of the west fork of the San Gabriel River. Its live streams are covered by a canopy of hardwood trees of many species. The canyon slopes are covered with impenetrable brush, taller than a man on a horse.

The ridgetops and scattered pockets along the slopes contain mixed conifer stands. From the sharp high peaks a large portion of the Los Angeles Basin is visible.

We believe that this small but significant area will be another good addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

A more detailed description of the proposed wilderness is contained in the Secretary's report.

The proposed wilderness contains extensive stands of dense and highly flammable brush and fire control will be a major consideration in management. The south half of the primitive area was burned over by the gale fire in 1957.

Firebreaks have been constructed outside the west and north boundaries and there is a natural rock barrier along the east side. The area is surrounded by high standard surfaced highways on three sides and a good gravel road on the fourth. Twenty small helicopter landing spots have been developed within the area to permit rapid access by firefighters. These will be retained. Safety zones will also be cleared of excess fuel around the more popular camping spots.

The San Gabriel Wilderness proposal was presented for public consideration at a hearing in Altadena, Calif., on July 27, 1966. The views presented were unanimously in agreement with the Forest Service proposal. Accordingly the area included in S. 2531 is identical with the proposal presented at the hearing.

The proposal includes one area not previously in the primitive area, and recommends that five small areas within the primitive area not be included in the wilderness. These areas are shown on page 9 of the Secretary's report and on the display map before you.

Area A encompassing 2,490 acres in Bobcat Canyon is recommended for addition. It is suitable for wilderness and has a well-defined boundary. There are no important resource uses which would be foregone by wilderness designation and the area has no potential recreation development sites.

Areas 1 and 5, of about 5 acres each, are private land on the edge of the primitive area, and therefore should not be included in the wilderness.

Areas 2 and 3 encompass a 500-foot strip along the Angles Crest Highway and Crystal Lake Highway. The deletions will provide for future highway maintenance and management needs.

Area 4, containing 632 acres along the west fork of the San Gabriel River, is recommended for deletion because it contains an improved road and therefore does not qualify for wilderness. Also a planned area future flood control development will encroach further on this area.

Senator CHURCH. Before we move on to the proposed Washakie Wilderness could we see the map of San Gabriel another moment, please?