

Did you have at your hearings, Ed, any serious dispute about the boundaries of this San Gabriel Wilderness? Was there substantial support for including any other areas that you have not discussed, or was there considerable agreement as to boundaries?

Mr. CLIFF. No, there was unanimous opinion on this one, I am glad to say. There were no proposals for additions, or for deletions.

Senator CHURCH. And you have actually added more than you have deleted in this case, have you not?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, that is true. It amounts to 1,200 acres more, in round numbers.

Senator CHURCH. There is no serious controversy that you are aware of concerning this proposal?

Mr. CLIFF. None whatever. It had the endorsement of the Federal agencies concerned, and of the State and local agencies, as well as of citizen groups.

Senator CHURCH. Fine. Thank you.

PROPOSED WASHAKIE WILDERNESS, SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST, WYO.

Mr. CLIFF. The proposed Washakie Wilderness results from study of the Stratified Primitive Area, Shoshone National Forest, in Wyoming. The proposal recommends (1) that 189,024 acres of the Stratified Primitive Area and 7,366 contiguous acres be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and (2), that primitive area status be lifted from 14,906 acres now included in the primitive area.

We also recommend that the existing 483,130-acre South Absaroka Wilderness lying immediately adjacent to the Stratified Primitive Area be combined with the 196,390 acres of the Stratified Primitive Area recommended for wilderness classification. The combined area, totaling 679,520 acres, would be named the Washakie Wilderness, as a memorial to the great Chief Washakie of the Shoshone Indian Tribe.

The proposed wilderness is part of the Shoshone National Forest in Fremont, Hot Springs, and Park Counties, all in northwestern Wyoming. It is approximately 200 miles northwest of Casper and 80 miles southeast of Yellowstone National Park.

The area offers opportunities for unusual adventure, challenge, and excitement, and experience in self-reliance, initiative, and judgment in human safety and survival. Its unusual geology and the petrified remains of forest, ferns, and animals are its most unusual features. An important consideration in developing our proposal for the Washakie Wilderness is the relation of the Stratified Primitive Area to other wilderness and primitive areas in Wyoming.

Wyoming has a relative abundance of designated wilderness and primitive areas. Only one State, Idaho, has more than Wyoming's 2.4 million acres. Nearly 28 percent of the national forest land in Wyoming is in wilderness or primitive area.

About 29 percent of the proposed wilderness (56,685 acres) is forested, and 62 percent of these forested acres are of commercial quality.

A public hearing on the proposal was held in Riverton, Wyo., on December 8, 1966. Sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of designating the Stratified Primitive Area as wilderness and a number of those who testified recommended a wilderness encompassing over 50,000 acres more than our proposal.