

An additional factor is the DuNoir Glacier, within area J—the only glacier in Wyoming not already in a designated wilderness, primitive area, or roadless portion of a national park. This is the only opportunity we know of in this general area to make a glacier easily accessible for general public study and enjoyment.

There are no ecological associations or types in area J or any of the proposed expansions which are not already well represented within our proposal or in other nearby designated areas.

Wilderness designation is not necessary for the maintenance of elk herds. Elk do migrate through the DuNoir drainages in the spring and fall, just as they do through many other parts of Wyoming national forests and just as they do through the areas below the proposed expansions. Normal recreation use and roads do not disrupt these migrations. Thousands of elk migrate each year to the Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole. Most of these elk cross a number of roads including at least one oiled highway. If a special circumstance in the DuNoir area is found necessary to justify it, the forest supervisor has authority to close specific roads, trails, and areas to vehicular traffic for the period of the migration or to otherwise modify the management and use of the area.

Our local forest officers have determined that there are no major elk calving areas with area J. Further, even if some elk calving did take place here, wilderness designation is not essential for the management of such areas. Timber harvesting in patches and strips benefit elk by increasing the amount of desirable habitat.

In making our review and recommendations as provided for in the Wilderness Act, we have carefully followed our basic multiple use charter which directs us to manage all the renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination which will best meet the needs of the American people. We urge enactment of S. 2751, S. 2531, and S. 2630.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Ed. I would like to ask this question, first of all: Taking into consideration the additions and deletions that you propose in this last case, what kind of a net reduction is involved in the size of the proposed wilderness area as compared to the former primitive area?

Mr. Cliff. About 7,600 acres, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Out of a total of how many acres?

Mr. CLIFF. A little over 200,000 acres. Our proposal would be 196,000 acres.

Senator CHURCH. I have a letter here that has been sent to me by Senator Carl Hayden, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I want to read you the letter and then ask the questions that he requests me to ask for the purposes of this record. The letter reads:

DEAR FRANK: It has come to my attention that there has been an erroneous interpretation of the intent of Congress by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior with respect to mineral leasing provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, particularly as it is being applied to leasing applications in the Washakie Wilderness area.

I have been advised that the Forest Service will not approve the issuance of oil and gas leases within a wilderness area, or proposed wilderness area. If this is true, in my opinion, their action is contrary to the expressed provisions of the Wilderness Act, and I feel that this situation should be corrected.