

If I may, let me preface several statements and questions I have by reading into the record from a letter that I wrote to one of my constituents not too many days ago.

It may be helpful at this point in setting the stage for the considerations that I would like to share with you, Dr. Cliff:

I am persuaded that we must look at the total picture of the recreational uses and potential recreational uses and abuses in the entire State of Wyoming. I am impressed by the fact, for instance, that 53 percent of the Shoshone National Forest will be either the primitive or wilderness status under the present proposal.

Further, at least 3,717,384 acres, including the Robles area, the Grand Teton the Yellowstone Park, within the immediate vicinity of the proposed wilderness, Washakie Wilderness, are already designated for preservation in the wild state.

This becomes relevant when we look at the extreme pressure which Grand Teton and Yellowstone are getting for recreational uses.

This pressure becomes greater every year, and Park Service and Forest Service planners are rapidly coming to realize that the national forests surrounding these parks must be called upon to bear some of the heavy use burdens that now fall on the parks.

For this reason the Park Service wishes to retain some areas surrounding the boundaries of proposed wilderness for multiple use purposes.

I think this focuses attention upon the timbering that is an important use—but only one of the important uses—to which forest areas are oftentimes put. In this regard, I intend to follow through by exercising continuing legislative oversight in the development of these timbering resources.

I am convinced that some of this area that we are talking about here this morning is very delicate, it is very tender, it can be easily damaged or destroyed, and I am certain that a lot of the people who have seen the timber operations in this part of the Shoshone Forest are deeply disturbed over what they have seen.

They tell me that the erosion has increased very markedly, that there has been much more cutting by some of the thunderstorms and cloud bursts that we have in this area, now that the timber has been removed, than was the case before.

They are concerned also about the fact that, while generally an area of rather heavy snowfall, there are areas, because of the short growing season, and because of the scarcity of moisture during the growing season, that do not bring about the regenerative forces of nature so as to re-timber an area as quickly as might otherwise occur in other parts of the country.

Because of this, I would like to ask you and the Forest Service to keep me apprised, if you will, of your plans for timber sales and timber development in this area, and I would like to know ahead of time, before the fact, rather than after the fact, if I may, so as to be better apprised, to see as best I can, that the Multiple Use Act is indeed being followed.

I say that because there has been widespread concern over the timbering operations in this area. I would like to introduce at this time into the record an eight-page letter that was written to me by M. M. Nelson, the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, wherein he treats in detail a number of questions I have raised, and that have been raised by others as to the justification for the Forest Service's position on the different tracts that are in controversy, either within or outside the area as proposed by the Forest Service.