

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. Chairman, that it be inserted into the record at this point.

Senator CHURCH. Without objection, it will be so included.  
(The document referred to follows:)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOREST SERVICE,  
Washington, D.C. February 15, 1968.

Hon. CLIFFORD P. HANSEN,  
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR HANSEN: This letter is in response to your request that we provide additional information about the proposed Washakie Wilderness. Specifically, you asked for the Forest Service reasons for not including within the proposal 13,858 acres in the Middle Fork of Wood River identified as Areas 1 and C; 30,240 acres identified as Area J in the headwaters of East and West DuNoir Creeks; Areas 3, 4, and F-1, encompassing 5,443 acres in the Lincoln Point and Wiggins Fork area; and 8,130 acres identified as Area D in the Bear Basin area. The above letter and number designations refer to the map on page 18 of Secretary Freeman's report on the proposal, a copy of which is attached. All of these lands were proposed for inclusion by the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and others at the administrative hearing held in Riverton, Wyoming, on December 8, 1966.

These proposed additions were carefully studied. A discussion of each area including our reasons for not recommending their inclusion in the Wilderness System are as follows.

*Area 1 and C Middle Fork of Wood River*

Area C was never in the Primitive Area. Area 1 is presently in the Primitive Area but is recommended by the President for declassification.

This drainage contains approximately 896 acres of patent mining claims in the Dundee Mountain-Bald Mountain-Smuggler Gulch area of the Stratified Primitive Area.

The studies made by the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines, Department of Interior, during the summer of 1965 revealed that there is exploration potential for copper and molybdenum outside the patent lands in this drainage.

The patent mining claims and the mineralized area lie in the Kirwin Mining District in which there is activity in exploratory work. Mining development on the patents and exploration, with its accompanying access, would be incompatible with wilderness values.

This area is not an essential part of the proposed Wilderness.

The boundaries of the proposed Wilderness have been placed on natural ridges and streams which are readily definable.

*East and West DuNoir Creeks (Area J)*

These areas have never been part of the Primitive Area.

The primary justification given by proponents of this addition was that it is prime, wild habitat for important elk herds, and it also serves as a migration route of these herds and others to and from vital winter-feeding areas such as the East Fork Elk Winter Pasture. They also stressed the scenic beauty of the area. Concern was expressed that timber harvesting in these areas would destroy valuable elk habitat, and the public travel which would occur on access roads would disrupt elk migration.

A principal reason for not recommending the inclusion of Area J in the Wilderness is the fact that nearly all of the mature lodgepole pine stands throughout the drainages of both East DuNoir and West DuNoir Creeks were logged over in the period between 1920 and 1926. These operations involved the cutting of most of the trees which were of a size that could be hewed into railroad ties. Those trees too large or too small for that purpose were left standing. This resulted in the removal of from 30 to 60 percent of the volume, depending on the stand. Some of that early logging also took place within the spruce-fir type. Much of the logging was done in the winter. The ties were skidded to the streambanks and floated out with the high waters from the spring snowmelt. Sled and wagon roads were cut through the timber for access. Most of these roads are still plainly evident, but many are no longer passable because of fallen timber. However, a number of miles of these roads are regularly used each summer with four-wheel-drive vehicles by hunters, fishermen, and other recreationists. The evidence of timber harvesting is still plainly noticeable because of the stumps, chips, campsites, skidways, etc.