

normal recreation use and timber management activities will necessarily disrupt these migrations—certainly the existence of roads or timber-harvest areas, in themselves, would not. As you know, there are several thousand elk which migrate each year to the Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole. Most of these elk cross a number of roads including one oiled highway. If a special circumstance in the DuNoir area is found to justify it, the Forest Supervisor has authority under Secretary of Agriculture Regulation U-6 (C.F.R. 251-25) 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. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department could also adjust hunting regulations as necessary to prevent disturbance of migration in the fall. These measures would be worked out in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel and would be included in the Ranger District Multiple-Use Plan.

Local Forest Officers, in cooperation with personnel of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, have determined that there are no major elk-calving areas within the proposed addition. Further, even if some elk-calving did take place within the proposed addition, there is no evidence to support a conclusion that Wilderness designation is essential for the management of such areas. On the contrary, a majority of the elk-calving in Wyoming takes place on lands not of wilderness character. We recognize that there may be a need to modify management and use activities during the calving season. We do this in other National Forest areas. These measures are worked out in cooperation with the personnel of the State Game and Fish Department.

It should be pointed out that elk on the summer range depend upon a combination of open areas for feeding and nearby timber for cover. Thus, timber harvesting in patches and strips benefits the elk by increasing the amount of timber-opening edge available. Forage production is also increased because of better sunlight and moisture conditions.

In regard to the elk-wilderness relationship, it is interesting to note that the Umatilla National Forest in eastern Oregon reports nearly twice as many elk as any other National Forest land in the Nation (an estimated 30,800 head): yet, it has no designated Wilderness and is, in fact, served by a road system; and timber harvesting programs are carried on over most of the Forest. There is one roadless area covering about 100,000 acres in the northern portion of the Forest, but the elk are distributed throughout the Forest. The Umatilla National Forest contains 1,188,882 acres. In contrast, the Teton National Forest, which encompasses 1,729,322 acres with 563,460 acres designated as Wilderness, and the Shoshone National Forest, which encompasses 2,458,648 acres with 1,286,174 acres presently designated for Wilderness purposes report an estimated 13,200 and 12,600 elk respectively. An estimated 5,740 elk were harvested from the Umatilla National Forest in 1966; while in the same year, the combined harvest from the Teton and Shoshone National Forests was 5,910 elk.

Some of those who proposed the addition of the DuNoir Drainages to Wilderness expressed the need to control the use of over-the-snow vehicles in order to prevent the disturbance of wintering elk herds. Such machines are prohibited in Wildernesses. However, while the area recommended for inclusion does offer good snowmobile terrain, it is not used by the elk in winter. Its closure to snowmobiles would, therefore, have the effect of forcing those machines into lower country where they would interfere with wintering elk. Access road development in Area J would increase the value of the DuNoir Drainages as snowmobile terrain.

The Forest Service recognizes the importance of big game on the National Forests. We work closely with the personnel of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in achieving a proper balance between the game animals and their habitats and in coordinating other National Forest uses and activities with wildlife needs. As an aid to this work, we have recently completed a very comprehensive game range analysis for that portion of the Shoshone National Forest which includes the Stratified Primitive Area.

#### *Areas 3, 4, and F-1 (Lincoln Point—Wiggins Fork)*

Areas 3 and 4 are now part of the Stratified Primitive Area but are recommended for declassification by the Forest Service. Area F-1 has never been included in the Primitive Area.

Proponents of these additions suggest that the areas include outstandingly scenic lands, under the escarpment, which should be included for their scenic, esthetic, and natural foreground values. They suggested that the boundary be placed along the foot of the slope and on presently unsurveyed section lines east and south of Lincoln Point.