

I am sure we can handle the watershed aspects. As a matter of fact, we can improve water yields by timber practices. We have demonstrated this. On the other hand we withhold from operation any areas which cannot be managed without watershed damage.

The impact on esthetics is more difficult, but I think this can also be handled. One of the outstanding examples is right in your own Jackson Hole, where we have done this kind of management. Harvesting is fitted into a pattern of natural openings that look very normal and natural from just a little way off. This is the sort of landscape planning that we are trying to do on our timber sale areas everywhere.

Senator HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce at this point in the record a letter from Dr. Cliff written to me the 5th of February, which deals specifically, I think, with some of the points he is now making. Which also includes citations on the appropriate parts of the Federal Code which, as I understand, spell out in detail the grant of authority that you have to do the job that you think is necessary and indicated and adequate in order best to protect the natural resources.

Senator CHURCH. Without objection.
(The letter referred to follows:)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., February 5, 1968.

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

DEAR SENATOR HANSEN: This is in response to your January 18 letter in which you said that it was your understanding that the Forest Service has been working on a classification for some Forest Service lands to be described as "near natural areas".

The term "near natural areas" was once used to describe a broad category of National Forest lands which were specifically designated for management in a near natural condition. We no longer use this term. However, National Forest Wildernesses and Primitive Areas do meet this description. Attached is a map brochure showing the location of all National Forest Wildernesses and Primitive Areas and a copy of the regulations governing their administration and use.

We also have authority under Secretary of Agriculture's regulation U-3 (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 251.22) to classify areas to be managed primarily for recreational use substantially in their near natural condition. Examples of areas set up under this classification are scenic areas, geological areas, archeological areas, historical areas, and botanical areas. Attached for your information is a list dated January 1, 1964, which gives a brief description of all such areas which had been so designated at that time.

Secretary of Agriculture's regulation U-4 (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 251.23) gives the Chief of the Forest Service authority to establish a series of areas to be known as "research natural areas". These areas are to be retained in a virgin or unmodified condition except where measures are required to maintain a plant community which the area is intended to represent. Attached for your information is a list of experimental forests, experimental ranges, and research natural areas.

Your continuing interest in the National Forests is appreciated. If you have additional questions, please call on us again.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD P. CLIFF,
Chief, Forest Service.

Senator HANSEN. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you, Senator.

I have received a letter from Senator McGee from Wyoming, which has been called to my attention this morning. It is directed to me,