

STATEMENT OF HON. MARK O. HATFIELD, A U.S. SENATOR
FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am honored to appear before you today in support of S. 2751, to establish the Mount Jefferson Wilderness within the Willamette, Deschutes, and Mount Hood National Forests in Oregon. I am extremely pleased that this 85,000-acre primitive area, protected under regulations of the Department of Agriculture since the early 1930's, is now being considered for wilderness designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act. It will make an outstanding addition to our National Wilderness Preservation System.

The proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness is an area with rushing streams, placid lakes, alpine meadows, volcanic peaks, and active glaciers. It contains nearly 150 lakes and several miles of crystal-clear streams. Nearly 160 miles of trail lead the hiker or horseman through green mountain meadows splashed with the colors of the lupine, Indian paint-brush, asters, and the delicate monkey flower. In early morning or late evening a traveler may surprise a stately bull elk, a feeding deer, or other species of wildlife. Spectacular vistas await those who want to climb the many peaks and buttes. Mount Jefferson with its flanking glaciers and the three spires of Three Fingered Jack offer special challenges to the climbers.

Designation of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness will preserve for all time a portion of the primeval timber heritage out of which the great State of Oregon grew and which is still the mainstay of our growing economy. When the pioneers arrived they found a beautiful land where lush green forests stretched from the shining crests of the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean. Within these forests our forefathers built the cities and towns of which Oregon is so proud today. The forest crops are being harvested and our foresters are carefully husbanding the land to be sure that future generations will have a sustained yield of wood products.

Nearly 90 percent of the proposed wilderness is forested and 70 percent of those forested acres are representative of the high-quality timber that has made our wood products industry so great. However, including this timber in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness will have little effect on the timber supply now available for industry. Most of it has been included in the primitive area since 1930, and has not been included in the allowable cut for the national forests involved.

There have been suggestions that the proposed wilderness be expanded by about 30,000 acres to include lands along its west side and along the Santiam Highway. Many have urged that these additions are needed to provide a greater "buffer" for the primary wilderness attractions such as Jefferson Peak.

I believe accessibility is one of the great assets of this area. It provides unique wilderness opportunities that can be easily approached with a family car over good, standard roads.

Another major consideration is the high timber values in these proposed additional areas. If they are added to the wilderness the amount of timber available to support the important local timber industry would be reduced by nearly 11 million board feet annually. Serious economic hardship could result if the available timber supply