

areas 1, 2, and 6. This decision is based on the presence of mining activities, roads, logging, and difficulties in establishing an easily recognized boundary line. These exclusions are agreeable to us. Similarly, we agree with the inclusions of areas A, B, and F, recommended by the Forest Service.

It is hoped that a decision will be made to retain in the wilderness area the relatively small acreage that has been protected for years under the primitive area designation in the Caldwell Creek and the north fork of Wiggins Creek drainages. These areas, according to the biologists of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, are vitally important to elk. These small areas would be excluded by S. 2630.

Also, we are persuaded by the position of the Wyoming wildlife agency to urge the inclusion within the wilderness of much of the acreage in the Bear Creek Basin and in the east and west forks of the DuNoir River. I will not repeat the strong justification that is made for the inclusion of these two areas in the January 1967 statement of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, which appears on pages 58 and 59 of the Forest Service's Washakie Wilderness proposal. The argument made in behalf of retaining the wilderness character of these areas is compelling. It is realized that the inclusion or the exclusion of certain areas is largely a matter of value judgment. In Bear Creek Basin and the east and west forks of the DuNoir River, it is believed that the recommendations of the Wyoming agency should receive priority consideration.

S. 2751, Mount Jefferson Wilderness.—Again, Mr. Chairman, we do not have firsthand knowledge of the Mount Jefferson area. Some national and regional groups are recommending the extension of the proposed wilderness boundary line to the westward as a means of buffering against civilization's approach on the relatively narrow area.

Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, and I am aware of no serious objections, we would favor inclusion of the Lake Marion area, the Square Lake area, and the Firecamp Lake area in the wilderness.

In addition, we would ask that the committee fully explore with all of the witnesses having on-the-ground knowledge of the area the proposed westward extension of the wilderness boundary beyond that recommended by the Forest Service. From my own long experience with the members of this committee, I am positive that they will want to be assured that the boundary line on the western side complies with the expectations of Congress as expressed in the Wilderness Act.

Thank you very much.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Gutermuth, for your testimony.

I understand from your statement that you favor the three proposals, as the Forest Service has presented them, but would like this committee to examine the possibilities of certain additions that are suggested.

Mr. GUTERMUTH. That is right.

Senator CHURCH. But your organization is not sufficiently familiar in detail with these areas to take a stronger position than that; is that right?

Mr. GUTERMUTH. I have spent considerable time out in that country myself, Mr. Chairman, on Public Land Law Review Commission