

with particular interest in the preservation of wilderness. On this occasion, I represent the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee, a group of lay conservationists who reside in metropolitan Washington, D.C., and who are actively interested in the promotion and extension of the National Wilderness Preservation System as founded by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

We support the Forest Service's recommendation for the San Gabriel Wilderness and wish to commend the agency for enlarging the size of the wilderness area beyond that of the existing Devil Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area. It is a real pleasure to support without qualification a Forest Service proposal which contains maximum wilderness acreage.

With respect to the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, we believe that the 28,000 acres of additions sought by Oregon conservationists, mainly within the Forest Service's area 14 on map B, page 14 of brochure, should be approved by this committee, which acreage, when added to the Forest Service proposal of 96,462 acres, will create an outstanding wilderness area of about 125,000 acres.

The Forest Service's exclusion of acreage contiguous to the primitive area which it roaded and logged during a period of wilderness review, when all such activity should have been withheld pending a final determination of this west side buffer zone's best use by the public, must be questioned. Such predetermination of the course of future events as regards wilderness designations gives to the Forest Service an unfair decisionmaking advantage over the Congress and the public—an advantage which Congress probably did not intend it to exercise. With the expertise which they surely possess, Forest Service officers can readily identify potential wilderness system additions and, if unsympathetic, can proceed by management decisions to assure the nonwilderness outcome they desire. If such irreversible decisions are made hastily, without adequate study, the Nation surely will suffer the consequences of the mistakes which can be made in such circumstances.

Turning now to the Washakie Wilderness proposal, we support the additions recommended by Wyoming citizens and conservationists, particularly the upper DuNoir Basin addition of about 29,000 acres. We agree with the view expressed by the Wyoming people that Congress did not intend that the wilderness system be confined solely or even primarily to "goat rock"-type wilderness, and instead that it must surely have been the congressional intent that wilderness areas encompass all ecological types including forested areas. Forested lands have exceptional wilderness value and, as pointed out by the Wyoming citizens, provide needed biological "edge effect" between developed areas and the barren high country. As has been noted, these unroaded forest lands are of extreme importance to the resident elk herds.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on this point, I might digress from my written statement here to mention that I didn't think that this morning's testimony by Dr. Cliff adequately gave very much attention to the resident elk herd problem, vis-a-vis elks in migration.

As I understand it, resident elk herds will leave a roaded and cut area, even though the area may remain on a migration route, and while it is true that they will use the area for that purpose, it does