

Senator HANSEN. I might just ask one or two questions. Having lived in Jackson Hole, and having watched the elk out there for a number of years, I am not sure that I know too much about it. We do find migrations taking place in Jackson Hole that seem to be contrary to your testimony.

For instance, there has been some hunting within Grand Teton Park, worked out cooperatively, under the law, as it must be, between the Park Service and the State game and fish commission, and I know one of the reasons for that is that unless some pressure is applied within the park area, the two agencies, the State Game and Fish Commission, and the Park Service as well, feel that more and more elk might tend to migrate down from Yellowstone and from the Teton Wilderness area, to the refuge just immediately north of the town of Jackson, through Grand Teton National Park. But by keeping some pressure on there, the migration route can be kept further east than the forest land, where open hunting can be permitted.

Now, I call attention to that, because this is an area that is traversed with roads, and it certainly receives the impact of a great many visitors. I think last year, we had over 2½ million visitors in Grand Teton. Would this seem to be at variance with your contention that roads would drive elk out of an area?

Mr. WRIGHT. Well, it would seem so, sir, from what you say. But it seems contrary to what I understand from Wyoming people; that is, that the resident elk herds do not stay in an area which is highly developed, and this is distinguished from the migration situation.

And I understand, too, that this is the way some of the Wyoming Game Commission people feel about it, as well, and I have no expertise in this in my own right, but simply that which I understand from those whose opinions I respect.

Senator HANSEN. If you have been in Jackson Hole, and very probably you have been—

Mr. WRIGHT. Yes, sir.

Senator HANSEN. If you have driven from the Grand Teton Lodge down to Jackson at night, if you have done this in recent years on the east side highway, it is not at all unlikely that you might have run into some elk right on the highway there. Have you?

Mr. WRIGHT. I have seen them from the highway, yes, sir.

Senator HANSEN. These apparently—I like to think of this group of elk as a little group, not excessive in numbers, but they seem to be building up in there—spend the day along the Snake River, in the timber there, in a very narrow little strip of land. I suspect it is not more than a mile, and I am sure in most places it would be much less than a mile in width.

They stay there during the day, and they will come out into the elk ranch meadows and along the highway there at night.

Now, would this be of interest to you?

Mr. WRIGHT. Sir, isn't that par to the area? I mean, would this necessarily pertain in area J, for example? It seems to me that there is very little evidence that elk all act uniformly, or that a resident herd in a comparatively remote area would not be seriously affected by roading and logging. I think this is a possibility.

Senator HANSEN. I wouldn't know. All I can say is that the longer I live there, the less sure I am of what I do know about them.