

STATEMENT OF LLOYD TUPLING, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SIERRA CLUB; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT T. IVES, CLAREMONT, CALIF.; SANFORD TEPPER, EUGENE, OREG.; AND ORRIN H. BONNEY, JACKSON HOLE, WYO.

Mr. TUPLING. Yes, I think, in discussing the Sierra Club position, I would like to have Mr. Ives from California and Mr. Bonney from Wyoming and Mr. Tepfer.

Senator METCALF. Will you call them forward and identify them, please?

Mr. TUPLING. I have here Mr. Robert Ives, from California, who will speak on San Gabriel Wilderness; Dr. Sanford Tepfer, of Oregon, to speak on Mount Jefferson Wilderness; and Mr. Orrin Bonney, who will speak on the Washakie Wilderness.

Senator METCALF. Go ahead and present your testimony in any way you see fit, Mr. Tupling.

Mr. TUPLING. Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Lloyd Tupling. I am Washington representative of the Sierra Club, whose 60,000 members make up one of the Nation's largest outing organizations. The Sierra Club has 21 chapters throughout the United States. The Sierra Club was organized in 1892 by John Muir and his associates. The basic objective of the Sierra Club in 1892 was "to explore, enjoy, and protect our Nation's scenic resources." In 1968, the objectives of the Sierra Club are unchanged.

The Sierra Club, by appropriate action of its membership, supports legislation to establish the San Gabriel, Mount Jefferson, and Washakie Wilderness Areas. Our members, with intimate knowledge of these areas, have appeared at the field hearings conducted by the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the land areas to be included within the proposed boundaries. With me today are Sierra Club members who will present statements on each of the wilderness area proposals. They will detail the basis of Sierra Club's case for fixing the content and perimeter of each area. They have relevant, personal knowledge of San Gabriel, Mount Jefferson, and Washakie terrain and resource assets.

The 33,647-acre San Gabriel Wilderness Area proposed by the Forest Service has the full endorsement of the Sierra Club. We commend Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California for his sponsorship of S. 2531, the bill which will designate as wilderness a unique section in southern California which is only a drive of an hour and a half from our Nation's vast population concentration in the Los Angeles vicinity. The San Gabriel Wilderness, when established, will reflect the sincerity of Forest Service officials in fulfilling the protective philosophy of the Wilderness Act.

Field hearings were held by the Forest Service on the San Gabriel proposal in June of 1966. It is interesting to note that support for the proposal was unanimous. This unanimity is significant to the other areas we are discussing today because it brought out that:

1. The San Gabriel area contains no commercial timber;
2. The San Gabriel area has no commercially significant mineralization;
3. The San Gabriel area has no private land holdings within its boundaries;