

4. The San Gabriel area has no conflicting uses.

In the context of these arguments, it almost seems that the San Gabriel Wilderness has little to recommend it other than its existence for the enjoyment of humans who can appreciate the intangible assets of wilderness, and for occupancy by the flora and fauna to whom nature has assigned this segment of geography.

I do not mean to depreciate the San Gabriel area as worthy of wilderness status. But I wonder about a viewpoint which achieves unanimity because Nature has not endowed a particular piece of terrain with consumable elements. A parsimonious Nature has made San Gabriel a wilderness area by acclamation.

I raise this point because the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area and the Washakie Wilderness Area which we seek to protect do not evoke unanimous support. Both areas have merchantable timber, there is some mineralization, there are conflicting uses. Yet the 241,000-acre Washakie Wilderness Area and the 124,000-acre Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area—sought by Sierra Club members—are no less cohesive and integrated than the unanimously supported San Gabriel. Are we to penalize the protection of two superb sections of scenic grandeur because Nature was generous in distributing her largesse there? Poverty of consumable assets cannot be the standard for finding total agreement on wilderness boundaries.

Consideration will be given to the value of intangibles—the values that cannot be measured in board feet of dollars per ton. The economic value of these timber and mineral assets is extremely important but they do not completely fulfill the requirements of American society in the last half of the 20th century.

Looking to the future, a noted scientist, Dr. René Dubos, has said that survival of our system may not depend so much on sustaining a minimal standard of living as on the quality and diversity of our urban environment. He points out that besides food, shelter, clothing, and other physical requirements, it is just as important that human life have “an environment in which it is possible to satisfy the longing for quiet, privacy, independence, initiative, and open space. These are not luxuries but constitute real biological necessities.”

When we talk about wilderness, we are talking about man's relationship with his environment. We are dealing with a resource which will determine the quality of life in the United States, now and in the future. For these reasons, we are proposing boundary adjustments which will add to the wilderness protection and the wilderness value of the Mount Jefferson and Washakie Areas. Our proposals will not add to allowable cut or to mineral production, but they will not diminish the quality of life in the United States.

That concludes my statement. I would like to submit for the record some additional material, setting forth information regarding the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

Senator METCALF. Without objection, that material will be incorporated in the record at this point.

(The material referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF THE SIERRA CLUB

This statement is presented on behalf of the Sierra Club, a national conservation organization with a total membership in excess of 60,000 individuals. Many