

private inholdings to the south of Big Meadows. The slopes above the road are virgin primeval forest, still untouched.

6. Square Lake-Long Lake. This is the area marked "F" on the map. Square Lake is located about a mile by trail above the Santiam Highway. Unwise motor vehicle access, now partially blocked off, has resulted in some excessive impact at the lake. Long Lake is almost untouched. These lakes are easily accessible, but off the beaten track and far too small to sustain high capacity outdoor recreation demands. They are well suited to Wilderness type use.

The sum total of all these proposed additions is approximately 30,000 acres, which would make a Mount Jefferson Wilderness of about 125,000 acres. Many of our members feel that this is hardly enough; and they point to the tremendous increase in use of Wilderness in the Oregon Cascades—a use which has about doubled in the past seven years. In the Mount Jefferson Primitive Area alone, over 6,800 persons visited the area in 1966, and stayed an average of 4.2 days, according to Forest Service figures. At page 7 of the Forest Service Proposal for a Mount Jefferson Wilderness, is stated an estimated trend in use indicating an increase of about 20 per cent per year. Such a trend would mean that use of the Mount Jefferson Area will double about every five years. Unless the area is larger, as presently proposed, a serious saturation point will be reached quite soon.

EFFECT ON THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

The primary source of opposition to the creation of a Mount Jefferson Wilderness larger than that area proposed for establishment by S. 2751 has been from groups and individuals who fear the impact of this proposal upon the timber industry. We, on the contrary, believe that the additions we have proposed are not only extremely modest from the standpoint of wilderness opportunities in Oregon, but also insignificant in their impact on the local timber industry.

The great bulk of the areas proposed by us to be added to the Wilderness boundaries set forth in S. 2751 are forested, and do contain commercial stands of timber. We estimate that there would be a reduction in the annual cut of the Detroit and Mill City Ranger Districts of the Willamette National Forest—the districts comprising the wilderness on the west side—of about 10.9 million board feet. This represents about an 11 per cent reduction in the annual cut of 98 million board feet in both of these above mentioned Ranger Districts. This sounds like a significant amount, until it is considered in the context of the entire Willamette National Forest. This forest embraces an area of 1.6 million acres, of which 1.3 million acres are commercial timber land, now open and available for cutting. The Willamette National Forest has an inventory of 48 billion board feet of saw timber. The annual allowable cut of the Willamette National Forest is 615 million board feet per year. This one forest cuts each year almost half the amount of timber that is cut each year in the entire state of Idaho, often though of as a timber producing state. The Willamette National Forest is the largest timber producing forest in the entire United States. A reduction of 10 or 11 million board feet per year in annual cut might be significant in other national forests, but it is not in the Willamette. This reduction would be approximately a 1.8 per cent reduction in the annual allowable cut of that forest. The Forest Service estimates that one million board feet of timber will employ 1.3 loggers or about 3.2 millworkers. If these figures are accurate, all proposals to expand the proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness would affect some 45 to 50 jobs in the forest products industry in the local area.

The effect of this withdrawal of commercial timberland upon these users of the forest should be balanced against the effect on the increasing number of recreation users if the area in question is not put into the Wilderness. As noted above, these users are increasing at the rate of 20 per cent per year. These are people who seek a wilderness experience. They will continue to seek this experience on whatever land is available. It follows that if more land is available, more persons can enjoy a wilderness experience, and the number of persons doing so is far greater already in the Mount Jefferson Area than the number of persons who might be affected by the removal of some timber supply. To be noted also in this context is the fact that there already has been a substantial drop in employment in the timber industry of the local area. In August of 1967, the Simpson Timber Company closed a plywood plant at Lyons, and a veneer plant at Idanha. These two communities are those nearest to the west side of the Mount Jefferson Area, and the total number of jobs lost by these two closures