

alone was 400, or eight to ten times what might be effected by a withdrawal for Wilderness purposes. These plants closed not because of a lack of supply, but because of a weak plywood market.

It is also instructive to compare the effect of this withdrawal upon the timber economy of Oregon as a whole. The State of Oregon has an existing inventory of some 536 billion board feet (international 1/4-inch rule). In 1966, 8.9 billion board feet of timber was cut in Oregon, 3.2 billion of it coming from the national forest. The simple point of all this is that an 11 million board feet annual cut lost by dedication to wilderness recreation is hardly a matter of economic importance to the nation, the State of Oregon, or even to the local economy.

We are greatly concerned that Oregon has been shortchanged in its dedicated lands, and may not be able to provide for the recreation demands of the future. Bonneville Power Administration studies predict that tourism and recreation will replace timber and agriculture as Oregon's primary industry by the year 2000. If Wilderness use continues to increase at the present rate, seven times as many persons will be seeking what remains of wilderness recreation opportunities in Oregon as seek it now. And yet for all this, there is set aside in Wilderness and Primitive Areas in Oregon now only 750,000 acres of national forest land. This is less dedicated land than presently exists in the North Cascades Primitive Area of Washington State alone, not to mention all the other dedicated areas in that state. The State of Oregon, with half again as much total land as the State of Washington (62 million to 43 million acres) has reserved in all national parks, state parks, and Forest Service areas only a total of 970,000 acres, or only about one-third as much as its smaller sister state (2.5 million acres). The State of Washington by contrast has set aside nearly 6 per cent of its total land area, and most persons in that state do not think this is enough. Here in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area proposals, we have a chance to add some small portion to Oregon's inventory of wilderness.

The present proposal for a Mount Jefferson Wilderness, while commendable as far as it goes, does not appear reasonably designed to obtain the preservation of a suitable area as Wilderness. Focal points are too close to roadheads, some scenic corridors are excluded, wilderness valleys are excluded, and alpine lakes are excluded. Precipitous construction of logging roads and timber sales have caused a gross loss in the wilderness resource at the very time that this area has been under consideration for Wilderness classification. Despite these losses, there is still an opportunity to create a viable Wilderness unit.

The additions recommended will add significantly to the Wilderness. Primeval forests, valleys, ridges, rivers, and streams will be added. The additional areas have value not only as wilderness but also as buffers for focal points beyond. While commercial forest lands are involved, the nation, the region, and the State can afford the loss—our commercial forests exceed the foreseeable demands upon them. On the other hand, the area within the boundaries of S. 2751 is not likely to meet, for very long, the foreseeable demands for wilderness recreation. If its present narrow borders are not widened and expanded, overuse will soon make it incapable of offering the type of environment proposed to be created by this bill.

Mr. TUPLING. Now, at my right is Mr. Robert Ives, who is here from California to present the Sierra Club statement on San Gabriel Wilderness.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Ives, we are delighted to have you here, and to hear your testimony on the proposed San Gabriel Wilderness Area.

Mr. IVES. Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert T. Ives and I live at 264 East Green Street, Claremont, Calif. I am appearing on behalf of the Sierra Club, a national conservation organization with some 56,000 members, many of them from southern California. Our main office is at 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. The Sierra Club has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of wilderness for 75 years, ever since the club was organized in 1892 by John Muir.

I am chairman of the club's southern California regional conservation committee. I would like to express the club's support for Senate bill 2531, to designate the San Gabriel Wilderness as an addition to