

center. It has a narrow waist. It is hemmed in on the east by the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and we can't control the development of that. It is shown up there in the upper right-hand corner of the map.

It is hemmed in on the west by commercial timberland that is already under development and will remain under development.

Well, what is the problem? The problem simply is that one of the most beautiful spots in this wilderness, and one of the most important ones for recreational use, is an area known as Jefferson Park. Jefferson Park is a high mountain meadow, with lakes, located just north of Mount Jefferson, above the headwaters of White Water Creek, flowing to the west. At that point, the wilderness area is something in the neighborhood of 3 miles wide. This has made Jefferson Park now so accessible that it is subject to heavy 1-day use, and it can't stand it.

A fragile mountain meadow in the wilderness is just as subject to overuse as Yosemite Valley is. The same sort of problems can occur. We who believe in preservation foresaw this problem and in 1962, when the Forest Service said it was studying this region for reclassification, we begged them not to log the valley of White Water Creek on the west, that part outside the boundary of the wilderness. Area No. 14 is traversed by road. We asked that that not be logged, that this would open up Jefferson Park to heavy and destructive use.

Before it was possible even to hold the hearings held in 1963, the Forest Service built the road and took out the first logging cuts. Immediately, the use of Jefferson Park has gone up enormously, and the place is simply wearing out.

Therefore, at this time, and this is in reference to your comments on area J in the Washakie, we are asking that the wilderness be put back down the White Water Road, and close the road. Now, that isn't the same kind of wilderness there, but we think it should be included in the area of wilderness to keep out the motor vehicles, to slow down the wearing out of the most magnificent mountain meadow area in there.

It is necessary to protect it, in our opinion. Of course, that compromises the standards of what constitutes wilderness. That has been logged, just a couple of years ago. That is, there are sections logged, not the entire area, and there is this one road in it. It would be a long time before it would be wild again, but it will reduce the usage.

Jefferson Park can stand fairly heavy use, but not as heavy as it is now getting. We have a problem, then, of viability on size and shape that must be considered for a small wilderness area like this which would be less important in some of the larger ones in Wyoming.

I would also like to call your attention to the fact that a point was made this morning that the Forest Service was to be congratulated for paying attention to local hearings, and local opinion. They certainly didn't listen to us on White Water, because we predicted what would happen, and it did happen. The last hearings that were held by the Forest Service in Salem in 1966 had a vast predominance of testimony for the west side enlargements that we are asking for now.

My last point is that the decision is up to the Congress. It is irrevocable in one direction, as far as I am concerned. If you draw that line on the west side, you can never move it westward within our lifetime. If it were necessary, you could still move it eastward.