

Thank you gentlemen.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Tepfer. Your prepared statement will be printed at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF SANFORD S. TEPPER, THE SIERRA CLUB

I am Sanford S. Tepfer, 2011 Elk Drive, Eugene, Oregon 97403. I am Professor of Biology and Head of the Department of Biology at the University of Oregon. I have just retired as chairman of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Sierra Club. My statement represents not only my own views, but also the consensus of my department, as well as of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of approximately 1550 members, of whom about 1250 reside in Oregon and Washington, about 550 in the Willamette Valley region extending south from Portland.

Speaking for these groups and for myself, I am asking your committee to amend S. 2751 establishing the Mt. Jefferson wilderness, to increase the size of the proposed wilderness from the approximately 95,450 acres in the Bill to about 125,000 acres. I commend the committee for adding two areas now included in the bill but not proposed by the Forest Service. I believe that there are valid arguments for adding several other areas, listed in order of priority,

1. Several areas along the western boundary of the proposed wilderness, including:

- a. The remainder of the Firecamp Lakes region.
- b. The North and South Forks of the Breitenbush River.
- c. The valley of Whitewater Creek.
- d. Woodpecker Ridge, Pamela Creek, Minto Mountain, Bingham Ridge, Big Meadows.

2. The region around Marion Lake, also on the western side.

3. Square and Long Lakes, on the southern boundary. The boundaries that we propose are shown in testimony submitted by many outdoor organization representatives.

Those interested in outdoor recreation and in wilderness preservation have been struggling through hearings for many years in an attempt to convince the Forest Service that recreational and other values, including the economic advantages of a recreation industry, should be deemed paramount in this highly scenic region, with commercial logging restricted to forest lands farther removed from the majestic volcanoes of the Cascade Crest. When reclassification was first proposed by the Forest Service many years ago, we submitted recommendations to add much of the critical area now suggested. The Forest Service responded by logging and road building in the valley of Whitewater Creek, then proposed reclassification essentially as they propose today. We protested the logging of the disputed area to no avail. At the request of outdoor clubs, a formal hearing was held in 1964. Shortly afterwards the Wilderness Act became law, and the study and reclassification procedures had to be repeated. At hearings held in Salem in 1966, proponents of the enlarged wilderness outnumbered opponents four to one.

I would like to give both specific and general arguments for amending the bill to enlarge the area. High mountain wilderness is extremely fragile. It can be destroyed by overuse by people and by pack stock as easily as a meadow can be overgrazed by cattle or sheep, and it is just as difficult to restore it. The scenic grandeur of Mt. Jefferson is traditionally enjoyed by outdoorsmen from camping sites in Jefferson Park, the name given to an area of fine meadows and small lakes located just north of the mountain. At this point the proposed wilderness area is only about 3 miles wide. On the east lies the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The boundary cannot be extended in this direction even though the tribe intends to log their lands shortly. On the west lies the valley of Whitewater Creek, logged and roaded in spite of our protests right up to the boundary proposed in this bill. The Whitewater Road makes the fragile Jefferson Park country accessible for short picnic-like trips, thus increasing its use enormously. We are making the unusual recommendation that this valley, although roaded and logged in part, be included in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. A mistake made earlier need not destroy the wilderness if the Congress acts today. Marion Lake, as well as Square and Long Lakes to the south, can stand rather heavy recreational use, provided motorized access is prevented. If these areas