

are added to the Wilderness Area they will help take the pressure off of Jefferson Park. The principal specific arguments for the addition of the other west-side areas is to preserve some of the Douglas Fir country.

The proposed Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, like the small Mt. Washington Wilderness, the Diamond Peak Wilderness, and much of the Three Sisters Wilderness, contains relatively little timber of prime economic value—such is the result of conflicts of interest. The great forests of Oregon are the Douglas Fir forests. More of them should be preserved to record for future generations what this grand forest was like.

More general arguments could be applied to the enlargement of other wilderness areas presently ready for reclassification and permanent wilderness status, but I shall confine my remarks to Oregon, with which I am familiar after 13 years of hiking, backpacking, skiing, and paddling down wild rivers. I must remind the committee that most of the former great stretches of wilderness have now been committed to sustained-yield logging by the construction of a nearly complete network of logging roads, and the cutting of various sections along those roads. The former wilderness now has a moth-eaten appearance when viewed from the air, or from nearby mountain tops. Once committed to economic exploitation of its timber, which is indeed a renewable resource if properly managed, it is not available for the kind of recreational values that we are seeking, those of a wilderness. Fifteen years ago, it would have still been possible to make vast extensions of wilderness area boundaries. Today this is no longer possible.

We are able only to ask for pitifully small extensions of areas such as the Mt. Jefferson to include as yet untouched nearby lands within protected boundaries. With the continuation of clear trends for increases in population, and for increased use of wilderness well beyond what the expansion of population would explain, it is now reasonable to make these relatively small extensions that are still possible.

In studying Forest Service figures on the amount of timber that will be preserved if the present bill is enacted, please note that most of this timber is of the less desirable alpine and subalpine types. Only 3100 acres of large, old growth Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine will be preserved. The rest is relatively poor timber, hemlock, subalpine firs, lodgepole pine, and other species. We have calculated that Oregon has reserved only seven-tenths of one percent of all its commercial timber land from cutting (4 billion board feet out of an estimated 536 billion board feet.) Can't we afford to reserve a bit more? We believe that the future economic benefits of the trees in the expanding recreation industries in Oregon greatly outweigh their value as lumber. If a national emergency ever exists that would require great increases in timber usage, it would always be possible, by Act of Congress, to reverse a decision made at this time for increased preservation.

Once land is roaded and logged, it will not ever be wilderness in our lifetime, or the lifetime of our children. The forest will grow back indeed, but in neat packets suited for harvest rather than in wilderness. A negative decision on our request is an irrevocable one; an affirmative decision is only pro tempore. In another ten years the dedicated and protected wilderness areas will be the entire wilderness remaining. Any lands that are to be preserved must be preserved now. Gentlemen, the decision is yours.

Mr. TUPLING. Mr. Orrin Bonney will discuss Washakie.

Senator HANSEN. Before Mr. Bonney starts, may I just take this occasion to say that we were delighted to have him here today. He is well known in Wyoming, and I think certainly deserves commendation for the excellent work he has done on the Wind River Mountain Range. He is probably the most expert in knowing about all of the peaks, the access trails to those important back-country areas up there, Senator Metcalf, and I am very delighted and pleased that he can be here today.

He is a man that has traversed this country, and though not everyone may necessarily agree with him on his conclusions, I can say that