

The area, with fantastic scenery and a petrified forest attracting knowledgeable rockhounds, is largely undisturbed by world publicity and tourist throngs. This "Never-heard-of-it-before" aspect adds to the charm of wilderness adventure here.

The study team concluded:

- (1) That the existing Stratified Primitive Area should be classified as a Wilderness Area;
- (2) That the boundaries should be corrected and extended to include the bases of all escarpments and the related scenic features;
- (3) The Wilderness Area should be extended westward to become contiguous with the Teton Wilderness Area in order to protect the still wild DuNoir Valley, and no timbering should be done on the DuNoir extension.

Timbering operations on the DuNoir would jeopardize the established wildlife range and the elk migration route to the East Fork Elk Winter Pasture. The Sierra Club hopes to protect this primeval forest and the elk herd.

The boundary corrections and the DuNoir extension recommended by the Sierra Club hopes to protect this primeval forest and the elk herd.

The Forest Service proposes to combine Stratified Primitive Area with the existing South Absaroka Wilderness, the combined area to be identified as the Washakie Wilderness Area. The Sierra Club believes this will be satisfactory and desirable.

FOREST RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forest Service recommends that 189,024 acres of the original 203,930 acres of the Stratified Primitive Area, and 7,366 contiguous acres, be designated as wilderness by Act of Congress and added to the National Wilderness System.

Area J, East and West DuNoir Creeks, 30,240 acres

The DuNoir Extension.—To include the entire Pinnacle Buttes escarpment Upper West DuNoir Creek, Dundee Meadows, Kisinger Lakes, most of the Wolf Creek drainage, Murray, Clendenning, and Froms Lakes, the entire DuNoir and Coffin Buttes escarpment. The Sierra Club strongly recommends this addition.

This addition would be defined by a line beginning on the Teton Wilderness Area north of Brooks Lake, then going west and south of Bonneville Pass to and below the west side escarpment of Pinnacle Buttes, which will be included within the wilderness; then to the hydrographic divide between Wolf Creek drainage and the Brooks Lake-Long Creek drainage which will be followed to the point designated on the topographical map as VABM Picketts (elevation, 9,544 feet, Section 1, T44N, R109W); thence easterly across the valley.

Local opinion.—The local sentiment in Wyoming also supports the Sierra Club recommendations as to the DuNoir extension.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation recommends that the NuNoir Valley should be included within the wilderness designation and opposes timbering operations there.

Mr. William I. Crump, District Supervisor of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission covering this region, definitely states: "We have been opposed to the DuNoir valley timbering proposal . . . Both drainages of the East and West Forks of DuNoir . . . support resident herds of elk at this time. I feel these herds will be forced into more remote areas leaving a void in this excellent elk habitat if timbering operations are conducted in these drainages."

The ranchers interviewed on the DuNoir favorably support the wilderness designation and are in fact actively opposed to the timbering operations there.

Description of the DuNoir Extension.—The extension starts at Bonneville Pass, a broad, perhaps mile-wide meadow with grazing cattle. Both sides of the pass are heavily wooded and very attractive. Dundee Creek and tributaries descend from the pass to lower meadows in a beautiful network of streams.

There is minimum evidence of a few select trees being taken for saw timber along the ridge above West DuNoir Creek. A jeep road runs south from Murray Lake in Dundee Meadow to Picket Ranch (now managed by Perc Yarborough and called Diamond G). This jeep road could be closed and the forest would soon revert. The upper DuNoir is better forested and the lumbering threat is greater than any other section we saw in the present Stratified Primitive Area. The Forest Service is presently attempting to obtain road rights of way into the West DuNoir. Fast action will be necessary to save this part of the country as wilderness. Present timbering activity is still south on the Long Creek drainage.

About 800 cattle graze on the DuNoir. There is some evidence of old tie-hacking