

throughout Dundee Meadows, and in the area between Spruce Creek, Basin Creek and West DuNoir, principally along the trail from Dundee Meadows to Kisinger Lakes, and in the upper East DuNoir drainage.

Dave Corkran (former field employee of the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon for seven summers, now working to complete his Ph.D. at University of California, Berkeley, and currently teaching at San Francisco State College) reports: "There are about 2,500 acres of potentially valuable timber land in the extension. Logging was done at the end of the last century, and the effects are still evident. The quality of new growth timber is uneven, though the forest here has made a significant beginning toward recovery of its original character. The return of this region to its natural state and its preservation as wilderness are desirable from ecological, scenic, and recreational standpoints. East DuNoir drainage serves as a migration route for elk from the South Absaroka Wilderness Area to the East Fork Elk Winter Pasture on Bear Creek, one of the major reasons for limiting the region to wilderness usage. As the largest timbered area in the contemplated Stratified Primitive Area, the two drainages would be vital to reproducing in microcosm the ecology which once characterized the Rocky Mountains, or to be more exact, the latter day derivative of that ecology."

On September 12, 1966, Orrin and Lorraine Bonney visited Kisinger Lakes via Pinnacle Trail (from Brooks Lake) and reported the following: "The Wolf Creek drainage and region of the Kisinger Lakes is wild and natural, scarcely affected by man. Numerous elk were heard bugling their mating call." Not only is there a small permanent elk herd here, but the elk migrate through this valley from higher elevations to winter pasture at the Wyoming Game and Fish grounds on Bear Creek.

Over in the East DuNoir drainage, Trail Lake would be the ideal end-of-the-road wilderness entrance. The lake area itself could be made into a wildlife refuge. The lake was once an old tie dam and flume used to accumulate water for the spring movement of hand-hacked railroad ties down the creek, giving it a stark attraction that tells the story of the historic past. It now serves no practical use. The study team noted a pair of trumpeter swans and hundreds of ducks on the lake. It could be made accessible for a roadhead. It is a natural as an unimproved recreation site; at a low enough elevation so that fishing could be made attractive there.

Extending the wilderness to include the DuNoir will also make it more accessible as a wilderness experience for more individuals who can see and enjoy its unspoiled nature. The extension will bring the wilderness within hiking distance over existing trails from Brooks Lake, which section has already been developed by the Forest Service as a recreational area, including the extremely popular Brooks Lake and Brooks Falls campgrounds, and the projected Pinnacles Campground.

These trails include: Brooks Lake to Bonneville Pass, 4 miles; Brooks Lake to Dundee Meadows, 6 miles; Brooks Lake via Pinnacle Trail to Kisinger Lakes, 6 miles.

*Circle Trip:* Brooks Lake-Bonneville Pass-Dundee; Meadows-Kisinger Lakes, returning via Pinnacle; Trail to Brooks Lake (or reverse direction), 20 miles.

The wilderness would not be as accessible from any other point except where equalled at Double Cabin. Furthermore, the use of this access point at Brooks Lake would obviate the necessity and tremendous expense of building other access roadheads to give the average visitor a true wilderness experience.

There is little, if any, merchantable timber on the East DuNoir part of the extension. The attached map shows the U.S. Forest Service appraisal of the timber resources on the West DuNoir extension. We have colored in green those patches of timber deemed merchantable by the Forest Service.

While these patches of timber within the recommended extension are valuable, the harvesting of this minor percent certainly does not justify the loss of the wilderness character of the entire area, destroying its recreation and scenic values, diminishing its potentiality for water conservation, and loss of game habitat.

Today, the most valuable part of the Wyoming economy are its scenic attractions and its tourist trade. Teton County comprising Jackson's Hole, with its two and a half million summer visitors, is one of the four most prosperous counties in the state. Other sections of the state need to attract visitors to the scenic attractions.

In the Wind River Ranger District adjacent to the Stratified Primitive Area, the Forest Service has come in for increasing criticism of the timbering methods permitted there, and for its lack of response to public opinion on the matter.