

Not only have the methods been destructive of the scenic and recreational values, but they have been excessively wasteful of the timber resources of our great public domain. No use whatsoever is made of any of the forest products except the largest prime virgin saw timber and this is now being converted into 2 x 4's (elsewhere, usually culled from small logs) rather than being made into top grade dimensional lumber.

Everything else is completely stripped from the timbered sections and destroyed. The use of huge crawler type machines has brought about this deteriorating rather than advancing forest technology. It has resulted in the destruction of all younger tree growth, all shrubs, grasses, erosion of hundreds of years of soil accumulation on the slopes, jeopardizing of water resources, and eliminating wild game.

Instead of following the multiple use principle, this strip timbering has been a single use of the forest and a one-shot use at that. The theory (or wishful thinking) that the timber stands will restore themselves naturally and uniformly has not been demonstrated in actual practice in the Wind River Ranger District.

The Forest Service has put forth extensive Smoky Bear publicity that a forest is harmed and will not restore itself after a fire sweeps through it. Certainly it would be hard to believe the timber would recover from this greater and more complete destruction!

Another result of any timbering operations is the building of roads which end up in jeep trails, the diminishing of game resources, accumulation of litter, and complete loss of wilderness character.

Master plans of management in the Wind River Range District, presumably submitted to and approved by top authority, provide that all roadways and water courses shall be screened and protected from timbering operations. These have not been followed in actual practice.

One need only drive from Dubois to Double Cabin Campground and Recreational Area at the boundary of the Stratified Primitive Area to see the destruction of hundreds of acres down to the very edge of the road and to the last sapling, to know that not even a screening of the roadside has been followed. It would be tragic indeed if this happened to the beautiful DuNoir country.

The timber cutting in the Wind River Ranger District is now on a planned 30 year cycle of complete cutting (on a 200 to 250 year maturing growth cycle) with one dominating company, U.S. Plywood (formerly Teton Studs), whose capital resources give it a practical monopoly and free hand on the designated timber stands.

This small segment—the DuNoir Valley—should be left out of and protected from this complete, vast, and wholesale harvest. Fremont County, as part of our beautiful Wyoming, should have this asset left for its economy after the timber operations have taken their toll, closed their mills, abandoned their unpainted, ramshackled buildings, and moved on.

Area D, Bear Basin Addition, 8,130 acres

The Sierra Club strongly recommends this addition. The so-called road alleged by the Forest Service has been practically obliterated. There was so little trace of it when the area was visited by the Sierra Club study team, it could in no sense be used by any sort of vehicle.

Bear Basin is known as an elk calving area, and would be greatly harmful to big game values if not placed in the wilderness, which it essentially has always been.

The Bear Basin addition would take in the escarpment and steep terrain south and west of Castle Rock, including the three streams which flow into Bear Basin from the east. It also encompasses the Mount Kent escarpment and all those streams flowing into Bear Creek from the Mount Kent area, as well as the headwaters of Bug Creek. This area has little commercial value. The spectacular relief makes it ideal for wilderness enjoyment. There is suitable area outside the recommended wilderness for the recreation needs of campers and hikers.

Forest Service boundary description which excludes, or fails to add, the following areas: Area 3 Exclusion, Wiggins Fork, 3,117 acres; Area 4 Exclusion, Lincoln Point, 326 acres; Area F-1 Addition, Lincoln Point, 2,000 acres; Area 6 Exclusion, Parque Creek, 1,331 acres; Area G Addition; Area H Addition, Headwaters Fivemile Creek, 700 acres; Area I Addition, 1,300 acres.

As the principal reason for these differences, the Forest Service states: "Places boundary on natural topographical features . . ."

The Sierra Club vigorously objects to all of these differences. Essentially the problem of these differences is the means used to define the boundary.