

1. That the north, or upper, part of area J be added to the current Forest Service proposal.

This generally would include the area north of a line running east from Brooks Lake to take in Bonneville Pass and DuNoir and Coffin Buttes, but excluding the roaded area along Bonneville Creek and the location for recent timber cutting.

2. That all but the southeastern one-fourth of proposed area D be included with, or added to, the current Forest Service proposal.

Our primary reason for recommending the addition of these areas, Mr. Chairman, other than for the acknowledged scenic and recreational assets, is to protect wildlife habitat. Just as we recognize and respect the Forest Service for its competency in forest management and protection, including fire control, we recognize and respect the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for its competency in the management and protection of elk, moose, bear, and bighorn sheep; species which reside in this area. This State agency has concluded that road development is detrimental to wilderness types of wildlife, especially the highly valued elk, and recommend these additions to the wilderness area. On this we concur.

At this time, we neither recommend nor oppose the other additions which have been suggested by other conservation groups. Hopefully, these other recommendations can be developed within a relatively short time, and, if so, they shall be submitted to the committee, if it has not already acted on S. 2630.

Thank you again for the opportunity of making these observations.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Clapper.

Mr. CLAPPER. Thank you, sir.

Senator HANSEN. The next scheduled witness is Mr. Joseph Penfold. I have not seen him yet. I guess he isn't here. We will have to schedule him later on.

Concerning the history of the development of this proposal, The Wilderness Society has followed closely the development of the proposal for the establishment of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area for several years. We have cooperated since early in the 1960's with Oregon conservation groups and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs in working for its designation as a wilderness area.

Our members and cooperators, together with the Forest Service, early recognized that the Mount Jefferson area has many important wilderness values which are outstanding within both regional and national perspectives.

Mount Jefferson is the second highest peak in Oregon, while Three-Fingered Jack, another volcanic cone, rises to an elevation of 7,841 feet to dominate the landscape in the southern portion of the area.

Lava flows, elongated volcanic plateaus, glistening glaciers, and snowfields are among the outstanding scenic and geologic features of this wilderness country. Some 150 lakes dot the area, with their surrounding subalpine meadows, and beautiful parks and basins.

Leading from the lowlands to this picturesque Oregon high country are outstanding stands of true fir and mountain hemlock, Douglas-fir, lodgepole, ponderosa pine, and white fir forests.

High-quality fish and wildlife populations are important features of this wilderness, which lies only 60 miles southeast of Salem, Oreg., and 105 miles from Portland, and is within a 2- to 3-hour drive of over a million people.

A 52,000-acre Mount Jefferson Primitive Area was established in 1930. In 1933, it was enlarged to 85,033 acres. No boundary or acreage changes have been made since then.

In December of 1961, the Forest Service proposed administrative reclassification of this primitive area to wilderness area status. Citizen conservation groups recommended then that the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area be increased in size to 117,000 acres, which included all of the 85,033 acres of the primitive area plus 32,000 acres of contiguous lands. The Forest Service wild area proposal, made in August, 1963, called for an acreage of 96,944.

At the request of citizen conservationists, the Forest Service conducted a public hearing on June 2, 1964, at which citizen groups recommended establishment of a 117,000-acre wilderness unit. No formal action was taken by the Forest Service or the Department of Agriculture to administratively designate this area as a wilderness area prior to September 3, 1964, when the wilderness act was passed, and the authority to designate wilderness areas was vested in the Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize this point: Since 1961, when the first administrative reclassification proposals were advanced, and the citizen proposals for modest enlargements were submitted, some of the finest virgin forests within these additional areas proposed by conservationists have been logged, and a permanent road system has been built into part of this area, which only a few years ago qualified without question as wilderness.

This road construction and logging by the Forest Service has seriously impaired the heavily forested wilderness within some of the most important proposed additions along the west side of the Mount Jefferson Primitive Area, and appears to have been done in a conscious effort by the Forest Service to prevent the addition of these lands to