

the wilderness area, a procedure not consonant with the intent of the Wilderness Act, which gives to Congress the prerogative to determine wilderness boundaries.

Because of its narrowness, and the proximity of road access to its entire northern section, it is important to include within the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area's boundaries protective buffer zones, and all possible remaining unspoiled stands of timber along this boundary, as shown in area 14 of the Forest Service map which you see before you.

The Forest Service's management of some of these lands, which has permitted intensive road building and logging in this period when reclassification studies were under way, should not go unchallenged, and should not preclude needed extensions of the wilderness area boundaries that will permit full protection of remaining wilderness lands.

In review, then, the 28,000 acres proposed by the Wilderness Society for addition to the Mount Jefferson Wilderness as recommended by the Forest Service are within three main areas.

The Square Lake and Long Lake area in the southeastern corner, and adjacent to the Santiam Highway—U.S. 20:

Estimated to be 1,600 acres in size, it includes two subalpine lakes best suited for wilderness use, rather than intensive recreation development. They offer high quality wilderness experience within convenient walking distance for older people and family groups.

Intensive recreation facilities of the type proposed by the Forest Service for these lakes can be provided on other nearby national forest lands which do not qualify for wilderness status.

*The Marion Lake area.*—This 1,600 acre unit, which the Forest Service has proposed be designated as a scenic area, would become over time a serious intrusion, if not placed within the wilderness area.

This subalpine lake, over a mile in length, is one of the few remaining large bodies of water available in the Cascades for preservation within a wilderness. The approach to Marion Lake from the Big Meadows road also should be included in the wilderness area.

*The west side buffer zone.*—Extending south from the North Fork of Breitenbush River to the southwest corner of the wilderness, it includes portions of firecamp lakes, the north and south forks of Breitenbush River, the valley of Whitewater Creek, Woodpecker Ridge, Pamela Creek, Minto Mountain, Bingham Ridge, and Big Meadows—some 26,000 acres in all.

This unit is a high value buffer zone, essential to this narrow wilderness. It includes the scenic approaches of low level Douglas fir forests, which the Forest Service has excluded because they are classed as high-value commercial forest land.

The Society believes that the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area should include these areas of forest land, because of the importance of having beautiful, representative stands of timber that round out the total ecology of this wilderness environment.

It is within this unit of de facto wilderness, particularly in Whitewater Creek and the north fork of Breitenbush River, that the Forest Service has carried on, since 1961, intensive timber development and timber logging.