

We recommend that this area be included as a part of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area. We realize that in order to place the remaining natural forest lands within the wilderness area, the Forest Service may find it necessary to include small connecting units that have been clear cut or roaded. These contiguous areas are, and should be, a part of this wilderness. These areas can revert back to a near-natural condition, and man's influence will not dominate the landscape for the next generation and those to come.

For example, Mr. Chairman, the Mission Mountains Primitive Area in Northwestern Montana was logged in the mid-1950's because of a severe spruce bark beetle infestation. This logging was done on both private and National Forest lands under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

These lands are slowly reverting back to a natural state, and man's influence there is becoming less apparent.

Another example of lands which in the past have been severely cut, but which are now part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, is the area within the Shining Rock Wilderness Area of North Carolina, where recovery of the vegetation is occurring very rapidly.

If the decision is not made now to include these lands in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area, an intensive road system and clear-cutting pattern will develop over most of this 25,000-acre area within the next 10 years. Therefore, the decision should be made now as to whether these lands are to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Determination of the exact acreage suitable for addition can be done by the Forest Service, at the request of this committee.

The west side buffer zone should include all of the as yet untouched contiguous lands, but would probably exclude most of the permanent roads and clear cuts except where needed to connect units of unspoiled forest.

This concludes our recommendations with regard to the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

THE WASHAKIE WILDERNESS AREA

The Wilderness Society is vitally interested in the establishment of the new Washakie Wilderness, as provided for in S. 2630.

We agree, however, with local conservationists, citizens, and groups such as the Wyoming Outfitters Association, the Dubois Chamber of Commerce, and the Upper Wind River Cattlemen's Association, among others, that the preliminary proposal by the Forest Service does not afford enough protection for the prime elk range and scenic approaches to the wilderness against the encroachments of logging and roads associated with logging operations.

We are happy to join with these local groups, and with other national organizations who have worked with Forest Service personnel, to think through the questions raised by the differences in boundaries between the official agency proposal and the increased acreage advocated by the citizen groups as belonging in this unit of the national wilderness preservation system.

Our purpose here is to describe the activities and findings of wilderness conservationists in the area, to point out the national scope of the