

conservation values involved in the Washakie Wilderness proposal, and to support the recommendations of citizen groups who are urging that the Congress exercise its prerogative of improving upon this proposal in order to assure that the public interest will be served.

During the month of August 1966, a study team supported and led by the Sierra Club, with cooperation and participation of the Wilderness Society, made a thorough reconnaissance of the Stratified Primitive Area and surrounding wilderness lands.

As a result of that study, the Wilderness Society heartily supports the proposal of the Forest Service to reclassify and to include within the national wilderness preservation system most of the acreage of the Stratified Primitive Area.

The society and its cooperators recommend the designation of additional wilderness lands not proposed for inclusion in the wilderness area under the Forest Service proposal.

Strong testimony was presented by Wyoming citizen groups—the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, the Wyoming division of the Izaak Walton League, the Wyoming Outfitters Association, the Dubois Chamber of Commerce, the Upper Wind River Cattlemen's Association, and others—and regional and national conservation organizations at the December 8, 1966, hearing in Riverton, Wyo., on the preliminary Washakie Wilderness proposal of the Forest Service.

These groups urged establishment of the wilderness area with extension of its boundaries to include West DuNoir Creek and East DuNoir Creek, the Bear Basin unit, and other contiguous areas.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge you to carefully study the proposal as submitted by the Forest Service to the President, and then transmitted by the President to the Congress.

We have found that in the effort to appraise public reaction, and we recognize that this at best a very difficult responsibility for any agency to carry out, that the Forest Service has erroneously listed the positions of some organizations.

I speak specifically of the Wildlife Management Institute's position, as listed in this summary, and the fact that the National Sierra Club headquartered in San Francisco, with an office here in Washington, was not listed at all, although it played a very important role at those hearings.

It is very difficult for an agency to go through the volume of testimony that was received in the course of that hearing, and subsequently in the form of written statements and correspondence, and I would urge you to carefully review this record, or ask that your staff review it, because there is much fine detailed information there that cannot possibly appear in the summary as has been presented by the agency.

These recommendations and the principal differences between proposals of conservation groups and those offered by the Forest Service are being discussed in detail by other witnesses.

Summarizing very briefly, and referring to the markings on a map to be presented to the committee by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, the Wilderness Society advocates a Washakie Wilderness unit of approximately 730,000 acres, which includes the present Stratified Primitive Area, 189,024 acres; the present South Absaroka Wilderness, 483,130 acres; and additions contiguous to the Stratified Primitive Area along East and West Forks of Six Mile Creek, area B,