

3,296 acres; Horse Creek, area F, 2,598 acres; and the South Fork of Wood River, area A, 1,472 acres.

We agree with the exclusion of the Lean-To Creek area, area 2.

These areas are included in the wilderness area provided for in S. 2630. Their addition to the wilderness area is supported by conservationists on the basis of the field studies and further reviews of the areas since the time of the administrative field hearing.

However, the same series of posthearing field reviews have brought out more strongly than ever the need for firm protection under the wilderness law for the following contiguous lands not included in the Forest Service proposal:

1. East and West DuNoir Creek, area J, 25,000 to 30,000 acres just west of the Primitive Area.

The visits of study teams and other conservationists to the upper East and West Forks of DuNoir Creek drainages have proved to their satisfaction that some of the most superb wilderness values of this region lie in this area, which includes Kisinger Lakes.

It is high country of truly unspoiled wilderness beauty, with simple but adequate trails. Another very significant reason for saving this wild unit is that it is the home of an important elk herd, and is used as a major migration route of elk as they travel to and from their winter feeding areas.

Mr. Chairman, before coming to Washington some 14 or 15 years ago, I was employed by the wildlife research unit of the University of Idaho, the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and the Montana Fish and Game Department, and the U.S. Forest Service, on a seasonal basis over 4 or 5 years on various big-game and range studies.

I am familiar with what happens to good elk range when we suffer an intrusion of a logging road network. Certainly there are, as a rule, elk that remain in the area, but the quantity of elk that are produced by such roaded and logged areas usually drops severely.

I think we can see this in evidence in many parts of northern Idaho, where in the depression years, with the support of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Forest Service built hundreds of miles of roads.

We can contrast this country, which in the ecological sense is comparable to that of the unroaded sections of the Clearwater, and the production of elk does not compare in any shape or degree.

Yes, you do have elk hunting in the northern roaded areas, but it is not in the quantity nor in the fine quality that we find in the back country of the Clearwater, particularly in the Bitterroot area.

From our experience, and the people in our organization who are biologists concur fully with the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, we were shocked to learn that some of this area J unit has been roaded and logged since the December 8, 1966, field hearing, at which citizen conservationists asked that this area be included in the wilderness, thus practically eliminating the opportunity of the Congress to include some of this area when it decides on the area's boundaries.

We feel strongly that the economic benefits from such logging would in no way justify the destruction of this beautiful region, and the displacement or elimination of a large number of elk and other wildlife.

Scientific studies and experience in Colorado and other areas support the belief that networks of logging roads—even more than logging itself—would cause a large part of the present elk herd to be driven out of this area, which is now prime elk habitat.