

We would hope that close scrutiny of the economy of logging in this mountain region, together with a careful examination of its present and future wildlife and wilderness values, will show the necessity of preserving this comparatively small but superbly wild Upper DuNoir Valley as part of the proposed wilderness area.

Where recent logging and logging roads have penetrated this unit of 30,000 acres, it may be necessary to exclude some of these lands. Careful study of this 30,000-acre unit may reveal penetrations of recent logging and logging roads which preclude inclusion of 3,000 to 4,000 acres within the proposed wilderness area boundaries. As much as possible of this undisturbed back country should be included, however.

I would like to say that the early-day logging within area J consisted largely of tie hacking, that the logging was carried out during the winter period, and much of the material was taken out over the snow, with minimal damage to the landscape, to the native vegetation.

Thus, we see that after some 30 years, there is very little evidence of this activity in the area. Except for an occasional stump, it is hard to realize that this is not pristine, that it has ever been destroyed.

There are what are referred to as jeep roads. These are very limited in extent, and it is certain that they could be closed, or that they would very quickly revert to trail status.

2. Bear Basin, area D, 5,000 to 8,000 acres on the southern border of the primitive area.

Conservationists originally recommended the higher acreage figure for inclusion in the proposed wilderness. Later study has resulted in a somewhat reduced recommendation, because of some road penetration in the area.

We strongly urge, however, that the size of this addition not be reduced below the 5,000-acre level, because this acreage is needed to protect critical elk habitat and other wilderness values.

The other citizen-proposed additions along the southern fringes of the Stratified Primitive Area are recommended for inclusion, because they represent important approaches to the wilderness environment which are not only a part of the scenic resource, but have a bearing on the stability of the soil and the prospering of the elk herd.

These valuable fringe areas should not be trimmed away from the wilderness country of which they are an integral part:

3. Caldwell Creek-Wiggins Fork, areas 3, 4, E, and F-1.

Some 4,000 to 6,000 acres of additions are advisable here to protect critical elk habitat and important timbered fringe areas. We are aware that there has been some recent logging within area E, and these tracts would be excluded.

4. Parque Creek, Ramshorn, Fivemile, and Six Mile Creeks, areas 6, G, H, and I.

Some 7,000 acres of worthy additions to the Washakie wilderness are found here, including foreground for the magnificent Ramshorn, which is the dominant scenic feature along the southern boundary of the area. Important elk migration routes would also be protected from disturbance by these small additions.

The Stratified Primitive Area region is a wild country of broad, flat-topped mountains and plateaus cut by deep canyons formed of the eruptive material from the volcanic area of Mount Washburn in