

Yellowstone National Park and Lava Mountain at the head of Wind River.

Many steep and narrow valleys, partially clothed with alpine-type forest growth, give this region—only 20 miles north of the town of Dubois and 80 miles southeast of Yellowstone National Park—the qualities of seclusion and unspoiled charm.

It abounds in wildlife, large and small, including not only important populations of elk, but also numbers of deer and moose. One outstanding feature of this area is the great amount of petrified forest remains that are to be found on the gravel bars of nearly all of its streams.

While practically all forest types common to the Rocky Mountain region are found in the stratified area, with the exception of Douglas-fir, the steep sidewalls of nearly all of the valleys do not encourage forest growth.

Because of the frequency of cloudbursts, the existing undisturbed timber cover is of great importance in retarding the torrential runoff, and in protecting the watershed.

Headwaters of the South Fork of Wood River, and the East Fork of Wind River—both tributaries of Yellowstone River—originate here, and this supply of clear, high quality water is in itself a great public value best protected in its natural condition for downstream uses.

Mr. Chairman, I want to offer a personal observation from what I have seen in areas of this high elevation type, where we have had logging of marginal timber, lodgepole, Douglas-fir, at elevations 7,000 to 10,000 feet.

Usually we find timber in these sites growing in unstable soil, such as we have here. We find that the small streams run black or brown with every heavy rain, and with the heavy melt of the winter snows.

I think we want to look very closely at what will result from logging in these marginal sites at high elevations to our priceless watersheds, and to our priceless native fisheries.

Our native fisheries bring many people into most of these mountain canyons, and I think we should not underestimate their importance to the economy of the State and the local communities.

I also want to comment, Mr. Chairman, on this reference that we see today to regional planning.

This involves the displacement of some of the users of Yellowstone National Park, which most of us love very dearly, to contiguous national forest lands.

Most of us, as we have appeared at various hearings over the country, and before the Congress, have urged such regional planning. We have advocated this as a means of relieving the great pressure on our national park wilderness lands, but it seems inconceivable to me that in the face of so much in the way of opportunity for locating alternate camping facilities, that so much will be dependent upon the 45 to 50 thousand acres that we might propose at this time for addition to the Washakie Wilderness Area.

It seems inconceivable, with the lovely drives that we have around the community of Dubois, that we are confined to area J for the placement of five of these camping areas.

The area south of the wilderness area, as we see it proposed by the citizens' groups, is ideally suited for such campgrounds, and other recreational facilities, the facilities that would accommodate the pub-