

The fragile character of these focal points is being seriously eroded from high visitor density. Future visitor density will inevitably increase.

The narrow boundaries, 3 miles at the upper end, provide something short of wilderness experience, because of the easy access. I recommend that the shaded portions on map B of the Forest Service proposal, areas 14, 15, and 16, be included in S. 2751.

Thank you.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Reece.

Mr. Lawrence Williams, vice president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Milwaukie, Oreg.

STATEMENT OF LAWRENCE WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS, MILWAUKIE, OREG.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to appear and testify before you today on the very important subject of establishing the boundaries for the Mount Jefferson Wilderness area.

My name is Lawrence Williams, 1465 Southeast 27th Street-206, Milwaukie, Oreg. 97222. I am the Oregon vice president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, in whose behalf I am here today. I am also the chairman of a new committee called the Committee for the Volcanic Cascades Study, a bill Senator Morse introduced for a study of the Oregon Cascades.

I am a hiker, backpacker, and skier. I know the Oregon Cascades, and have covered over 400 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail System with a pack on my back.

For those members of the committee who are not familiar with the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, I would like to explain that the federation, founded in 1932, is an association of conservation and outdoor recreation oriented organizations. Among its purposes is the aim of preservation of the forests, wildlife, and natural features of this country, and the aim of assistance to public and private groups in the conservation of our natural resources. The federation is composed of 46 outdoor clubs in the 11 Western States, and has a membership of over 70,000 people.

If the Federal Government did not already recognize the value of wilderness lands, we would not have seen the Wilderness Act of 1964 come into law, and you would not be holding this hearing today.

The establishment of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area is indeed worthy of our utmost consideration.

The Oregon Cascades contain some of the most superlative scenery in the United States: Nine great volcanoes over 9,000 feet in elevation, 33 peaks over 7,000 feet, and 28 named glaciers.

This beauty is rapidly being encroached upon by men who have other ideas than preservation of the natural beauty of the Cascades. For this reason, the establishment of suitable and proper boundaries for the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area is exceedingly important. We have learned from past experience that what is not firmly protected by Congress will eventually be roaded and logged.