

ing to Washington, D.C., I lived for the past 3 years in Seattle, Wash., and had opportunities to visit the Mount Jefferson area. As proposed by the Forest Service, it is indeed an area worthy of inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

This area along with Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas in the heart of the Oregon Cascades needs permanent protection because these beautiful mountain peaks are impressive only from the perspective looking down upon or up from a valley well covered with Douglas-fir and other conifers.

I have hiked near the area where the Santiam River meets the Whitewater Creek and have seen the clear cuts scars there and it strikes me that leaving Mount Jefferson there without the trees surrounding it is like taking a fish out of water.

East of the junction of the Whitewater Creek and the Santiam River, about 6 miles, the Mount Jefferson Primitive Area is only 3 miles wide. It is quite a small area and I would favor extending the borders to the west by approximately 3 miles, as suggested by the conservation groups today, and to include Marion Lake within this area; that is, extend the entire length of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area by approximately 3 miles.

Our contention against including Marion Lake in the wilderness area is that it is overused. It will get a great deal of use either in or out of a wilderness area because of its proximity to a paved road. If, as the Forest Service suggested in its proposal, motorboats will be phased out at Marion Lake, this can be accomplished administratively but not legally if Marion Lake is a scenic area.

The issue of including Marion Lake versus not including it in the wilderness area isn't weighting heavily on two vastly different types of use as for example a tram versus a 15-mile steeply graded trail. We have two different groups of people using it. I think the same people would be using this lake either way, wilderness area or scenic area. The difference is the degree of protection for the lake; administrative protection subject to change as a scenic area or legal protection which is permanent as a wilderness area.

Wilderness preservation system is a great act yet to be institutionalized. Let's have substantial wilderness areas without vulnerable buffer zone outside of the areas. With a major mountaineering, hiking, and general outdoor equipment store in the Northwest expanding from 5,600 members in 1956 to 65,000 members in 1967, I assure you that these areas will be used and the many of us who go to these areas will be thankful that this diversion, or, rather this choice of diversion, exists still.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much, Mrs. Lester.

Mrs. LESTER. Thank you.

Senator HANSEN. Before we conclude, may I call Mr. Helfrich to come forward and present his testimony.

STATEMENT OF PRINCE HELFRICH, BLUE RIVER, OREG.

Mr. HELFRICH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have already prepared a statement and sent it in.

Senator HANSEN. It will be included in full at the end of your remarks.