

Mr. HELFRICH. My name is Prince Helfrich from the McKenzie River in Oregon. I am here representing 200 professional guides in the State of Oregon. They are guides and packers.

I might say that in the recreational industry I have spent over 40 years guiding in the different western rivers and at present our association guides in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia. So I think I have quite a good picture of the recreational industry.

I would like to point out that in Oregon recreation is our third largest industry, and it is fast gaining on the other two industries of timber and agriculture.

Not long ago Senator Morse made the statement that it is possible that in 10 years recreation will surpass any of the other industries. For that reason I would like to talk for the guides and for the recreation people of Oregon.

Recreation is increasing 20 percent every year by Forest Service figures. In fact, the recreational use of a given area increases 100 percent every 5 years. That is due a great deal to transportation. You could leave here in the morning after breakfast, and fly across the United States, take a car up into the Jefferson area and have your dinner there that evening. So we are not saving this area just for the Oregonians or Californians that come up, we are saving it for the people of the entire United States. We want to see this area increased. We feel that it is far too small for real recreation to last very long.

As you look at that area you see a long, narrow strip the length of the Cascade Mountains and if you were camped there in one place that is 3 miles wide you could hear power saws running on the eastern side and logging equipment on the western side. That is not true wilderness. People who go there wanting the true experience of wilderness won't find that. We would like to see the area enlarged along the lines suggested by the western outdoor clubs, which includes those blue areas on the map there.

Speaking of timber, it has been mentioned quite a number of times this afternoon as to the desirability of timbering in that area. If you will realize that there are almost 900 million feet of timber taken out of Oregon this year and logs shipped to foreign markets, you will see that there is not a great shortage of logs. The second thing is that, in this area we are speaking of, a great deal of the timber is low-quality timber, what we call the high-mountain species. There is not a great deal of Douglas-fir or ponderosa pine.

In summing up, let me urge you to set this area aside now before it is too late, because in the future you have the power here in Congress to enlarge it. You also have the power to cut it down. So if you will set it aside it is like putting something in the bank. It is there and growing and can be used later if there is a necessity for it.

Thank you very much.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Helfrich.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF PRINCE E. HELFRICH

I am Prince E. Helfrich of McKenzie River, Oregon, and I am representing the Oregon Guides and Packers, a group of over two hundred professional guides. I have been actively engaged in guiding for over forty years. I direct a boys' wilderness camp during the summer in the Cascade Mountains and manage my own tree farm in the winter months.