

SAN GABRIEL, WASHAKIE, AND MOUNT JEFFERSON WILDERNESS AREAS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Frank Church (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Frank Church (Idaho), Clinton P. Anderson (New Mexico), and Clifford P. Hansen (Wyoming).

Staff members present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Porter Ward, professional staff member; and Darryl Hart, assistant minority counsel.

Senator CHURCH. The hearing will come to order. Our first witness this morning is Miss Helen McGinnis, Hyattsville.

STATEMENT OF MISS HELEN MCGINNIS, HYATTSVILLE, MD.

Miss MCGINNIS. My name is Helen McGinnis, and I now live in Hyattsville, but I spent most of my lifetime in the West, and when I lived in the West, I visited as many wilderness areas as my time would allow me to, and one of my favorite places was the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

I have read the proposal that the Forest Service has put out concerning this area, and I am very impressed by the amount of research that has gone, and I am also impressed by their obvious attempts to be fair to everyone who has an interest in the area, but there is one aspect of the proposal which disturbs me very deeply, and that is the idea that cars are always necessary for mass development of recreation areas.

The trouble with most of today's campgrounds—anyone who has gone to a campground, I think, can testify to this—is that campgrounds are built as much or more for the cars as they are for the people who visit them. The cars take up at least half the space allotted in the campground. Roads must be built, they must be graded, and in order to keep down the dust and mud, it is absolutely necessary in heavily used campgrounds that they be graded, gravelled, or paved, and then after you have gone to all this expense of building the roads, you have to construct an elaborate system of posts and guardrails to keep the cars on these roads. Otherwise, they will be all over the campground. I think, in certain cases, it would be interesting to try to build a campground completely for people. Instead of devoting all