

enough to live in Wyoming are proud and grateful that we have vast areas available in our State where others may come and enjoy "Wilderness, where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Last July the Public Land Law Review Commission, a body created by the Congress, held hearings in Billings, Montana. My testimony regarding Wilderness at that time is apropos now, when the creation of a Wilderness area is directly under discussion. At that time I said.

"As Governor, I am acutely aware that, if our state is to progress, all available uses of our lands must be encouraged. Some areas are more adapted to a particular use than to another. This I recognize. But I also recognize that uses, not now even contemplated, may arise for lands within our borders at some future date. In this regard I cannot help but think of our uranium industry in central Wyoming and the trona industry in southwest Wyoming. Just a few short years ago these mineral deposits were unknown. Now they are rapidly growing and prospering, and afford a beneficial and long-lasting base for our economy. Had these lands, which are largely on the public domain, been prevented from exploration and development, not only our state, but the entire nation would have been deprived of great resources.

"Let me state here and now that I am not opposed to sound conservation practices. In order that our recreation and conservation needs in Wyoming might be developed and protected, I advocated, in my message to the Legislature, the creation of a Wyoming Recreation Commission. Our Legislature, in its sessions last January and February pursuant to this recommendation, enacted Chapter 187 of the Session Laws of Wyoming, 1967, and set up such a Commission for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities in Wyoming. It is with no thought whatsoever, therefore, of hindering recreational or preservation interests that I have opposed the enlargement of Wilderness Areas in our state.

"As Governor, I feel that the lands within the borders of Wyoming must be used in such a way that the greatest benefit to Wyoming and Wyoming's people will result. With the tremendous land area now controlled by the federal government in Wyoming, further restrictions on the use of the lands within our borders are of vital consequence to all our people.

"The State of Wyoming now contains over 1,700,000 acres of land classified as Wilderness. This land, then, is already set aside and development precluded in it. *I think this is enough.*"

Now, let me be more specific as to the proposed Washakie Wilderness. This is the first of the areas in Wyoming to be re-classified under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and merits careful study. In government, as in law, precedent is often extremely important.

The proposal advanced by the Forest Service and before your Committee actually adds a total of 196,390 acres to the existing Wilderness system. Since a major portion of this addition was already classified as "Primitive," I agreed, last October, to abide by that proposal, even though I had previously objected to additional lands in our State being set aside permanently for a single use.

It is interesting to note that, as of January 1, 1966, Wyoming contained more Wilderness area than any other state—more than six times as much as Colorado, and almost twice as much as Idaho. Utah contained no Wilderness.

If the present proposal is adopted, there will be 679,520 acres of Wilderness in this one block alone. That is almost as large as the State of Rhode Island.

This Committee will, I understand, hear proposals to add still further to the Washakie Wilderness—this acreage being in addition to that proposed by the Forest Service and agreed to by myself.

Much of this present acreage is seldom, if ever, visited by man. No boundary extensions are needed.

The addition of the DuNoir area to the Wilderness would be damaging to our state for the following reasons:

1. The DuNoir is a large and productive water drainage. The development of our water resources, when it does come, will be largely in the headwaters of our various streams—if Wilderness is created here, such development will be forever precluded.

2. Public access to the area will be sharply restricted. Our state must look more and more to the tourist business to sustain our economy. The creation of Wilderness does not bring tourist or recreational development. In fact, it *precludes* this, as only a very limited percentage of the tourist population ever enters