

a Wilderness area. The average traveler is not equipped physically or financially, to enter such areas on foot or by horseback.

3. One of the few and one of the most important industries in Wyoming is timbering. By co-operative arrangement with the Forest Service, whereby various areas are harvested every thirty, forty or fifty years (depending on rate of growth of the forest) a method stabilizing the use of forest products has been evolved. The DuNoir is an integral and important part of this cycle—without it timber operators will be unable to invest in the area in reliance on a sustained yield.

In addition to these economic factors the Committee should also consider the fact that the DuNoir does not conform to the Wilderness concept. The area was once logged over. There are several roads traversing it. As the Wilderness Act states, "undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence;" this area would not qualify.

It has been stated by some, that DuNoir should be placed in Wilderness to protect the elk calving grounds. This does not seem logical, in view of the fact the area has been managed by the Forest Service since the Forest Reserves were created. If the area were not included in Wilderness, the Forest Service would still control and manage as in the past. As the Forest Service has stated:

"It is not necessary to give Wilderness classification to a piece of country to protect elk calving grounds."

In conclusion may I ask your Committee to set aside the emotionalism that a discussion of Wilderness always evokes. I ask you to consider the needs of the great majority of our people. I ask you to give our State a chance to develop wheat resources it has while at the same time preserving vast acreage for future generations.

Senator HANSEN. The views of the Wyoming Recreation Commission have been made known to me through a letter from Lyle W. Bentzen, president of the commission. I ask that they be included in the hearing record at this point.

Senator CHURCH. Without objection, that may be done.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT BY LYLE W. BENTZEN, PRESIDENT OF THE WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION

In analyzing the question of the inclusion of the DuNoir and Bear Creek Valleys in the proposed Washakie Wilderness Area, we must first determine what a true wilderness area should be.

There are areas in Wyoming that can be classified as Wilderness by virtue of their geographic features alone, with no official designation needed. These are our mountain tops, the high peaks above timberline that are by nature inaccessible to any type of motorized travel and have no potential for commercial development or exploitation. For a few months each summer these areas serve as a home for the big horn sheep and hunters occasionally visit here in search of them. Cattle and sheep interests trail their animals over the area on the way to new range on the other side. Photographers, hikers, horsemen and fishermen visit the fringe of the areas to pursue their particular interests. From time to time a climbing party will attack one of the many peaks. Such is the extent of the use of Wyoming's natural "wilderness" areas. There is no timber to cut and nothing commercially valuable to dig from the barren ground.

Surrounding each of these areas is another type of wilderness. Here lies the timber country, the start of the many river valleys the state claims, the watersheds that support them and the spring, summer and fall home of the several wildlife species Wyoming takes great pride in. Here also are found the bulk of the hunters and the fishermen, the campers and the horseback riders, the photographers and the bird watchers, the hikers and the conservationists, the cattle, sheep and horses grazing on the rich summer grasses. Here, at the fringe of the alpine peaks, is the wilderness that those seeking peace and solitude hope to find and the wilderness that we feel certain Congress intended to preserve.

Here are located the DuNoir and Bear Creek valleys. Here, also, is a stand of 10,000,000 board feet of "merchantable" timber of at least some commercial value.

The problem then is to determine the relative value of this fringe land and decide if it should be preserved in its natural state under the Wilderness Act or if it should be left open for industrial timber harvest.