

The question is basic. Will a large-scale, short-term logging operation in the DuNoir and Bear Creek areas provide sufficient economical returns to the state and nation over and above those returns that would be made by recreation enterprises over a long period of time?

There can be no workable compromise because the two uses are completely incompatible. In the first place, the timber in the area is, at best, low grade and must be harvested in quantity in order for the harvest to be economically feasible. Without the virgin stands of timber the recreational value of the land drops to zero and the land, due to its thin volcanic soil, over 8,500 feet elevation, and dry climate, grows new timber very slowly. It would take longer than a human lifetime to replace a fence-post sized lodgepole pine in the upper DuNoir valley.

The timber industry can, and no doubt has, placed a dollar and cents value on the timber in the DuNoir and Bear Creek areas. Recreation is not so fortunate. Recreation deals primarily in human values other than money. It can only point to the numbers of people seeking outdoor enjoyment in the state, eight million in 1966, and project this figure on the basis of the current 5% annual growth trend to 16-million by 1986. Economic figures associated with these visitors are a bit vague, ranging from \$11.00 spent per visitor per stay which averaged 1.5 days quoted in the 1961 University of Wyoming Lund survey to the \$20.00 per visitor day figure recently discovered by Howard Baker, Associate Director of the National Park Service.

Whichever figure is chosen, the amount spent by recreation-seeking visitors to Wyoming each year is considerable—at least 88-million dollars now and, based on the low estimate of 5% annual increase, at least 176-million dollars annually in 20 years. And that is assuming each visitor only spends 1.5 days in the state.

Recreation, then, is beyond any question one of Wyoming's vital, growing industries, currently ranked in the top three and growing all the time. Timber, on the other hand, is not. It is a relatively minor industry in Wyoming, has always been and, unless ways are found to grow trees where they will not presently grow, will continue to be. Wyoming can never hope to match timber production with the major producing states of the northwest and south where timber currently stands in quality and quantity that can be harvested without aid of government subsidy, and where trees will grow back in a reasonable length of time.

But what about Wilderness and recreation? Are these interests compatible? Doesn't, in fact, Wilderness designation tend to hinder recreation and recreational development?

The answer to this question can be, and in many cases is, an emphatic yes! The Wyoming Recreation Commission is on record pledged to examine each Wyoming Wilderness proposal in the light of its potential for other public recreational development. The Commission is interested in and responsible for a wide range of recreational interests covering the total population.

So we must ask: Is there a potential here for ski area development? How about snowmobile trails? Can and should recreational roads be built to give public access? What is the potential for campsite development? For tourist courts and resorts? Will Wilderness designation preclude public use?

The Commission has applied these questions and many more to the DuNoir and Bear Creek areas and come up with negative answers. The entire area is located in a region of extremely low annual precipitation and will not support ski area development. The country in question is too steep and rugged for over-snow travel and there are much better locations for both in the surrounding region. Recreational roads would serve little purpose as the closer one gets to the stratified area, the less one can actually see of it and good recreational roads already exist in abundance at such places as Brooks Lake (where over 200 camps have been counted in a single day), Wiggins Fork, Trail Lake, Union Pass and East Fork.

And these roads will serve another purpose, allowing public access to the DuNoir and Bear Creek areas, making these Wilderness areas available to the average citizens, the individuals or families looking for a wilderness experience for a day or a week-end, but who lack the means or desire to hire pack outfits or climb mountain peaks. The Recreation Commission does not yet know how many people are looking for this type of outdoor enjoyment, but we do know that the neighboring and more inaccessible Bridger area logged over 88,000 visitor days use last year.

The potential for commercial recreational development is also limited to this area. The 8,500 to 10,000 foot altitude is the chief deterrent to this type of industry, but, according to the Forest Service report to the President, any disturbance