

Proposal, will you please accept the following comments in the hearing before your Senate Interior Committee scheduled for February 19th, 1968?

I am the Commissioner of Public Lands and Secretary to the Wyoming State Land Board for the State of Wyoming. Through this office over four million acres of State lands, both surface and minerals, are administered. Our experience is similar to those of the Federal Land Managers in attempting to balance the heavy demand for various uses upon the lands.

The proposed legislation was written, with most recommendations made by the United States Forest Service. The Forest Service held extensive hearings, prior to reaching the conclusions which were written into S. 2630. We know from closely following the Forest Service hearings, that all interests were provided ample opportunity to present their views and recommendations.

The information received has been carefully weighed by competent, professionally trained and experienced land managers. The same people who are entrusted with managing lands under "the greatest good for the greatest number" concept. They are skilled in the balancing of the uses of the natural resources. They have detailed and intimate knowledge of the area in question.

In Wyoming at the testimony of the Forest Service hearings, there were some who advocated enlarging the boundaries of this remarkable wilderness area. Some of this testimony revealed a substantial lack of knowledge of the area. We recognize the sincerity and concern, that these preservationist groups have for the protection of our wilderness areas. We share this same concern and appreciation of nature's gifts. However, we cannot, in all good faith, recommend or agree that a "belt" or protection area be established around the wilderness areas. Nor can we agree that present multiple use areas be placed in a single use status. This is basically what will happen should be boundaries be changed to other than those proposed in S. 2630.

In conclusion, it would appear that your Committee should strongly consider the recommendations of this branch of the Federal Government, that first conceived the idea of setting areas aside in order to preserve their natural state. These are the recommendations in S. 2630. Your extreme caution is urged in making changes that if added, would detract from the true wilderness concept.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your consideration of these comments by the Senate Interior Committee.

Yours very truly,

A. E. KING, *Commissioner of Public Lands.*

Senator CHURCH. Is Mr. Shoemaker here?

Mr. SHOEMAKER. Would it be out of place to ask the nature of the testimony of the Governor of the State of Wyoming, Senator?

Senator HANSEN. Not at all. I can read it, if you would like to have it read. The testimony of the Governor goes along generally with his testimony before the hearings in Riverton. It will be made a part of the record. I don't happen to have a copy of it right in front of me at the moment, but I am sure Mr. Dominick will get it.

STATEMENT OF LESLIE E. SHOEMAKER, ON BEHALF OF THE WYOMING OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION, DUBOIS, WYO.

Mr. SHOEMAKER. May I call your attention to this relief map that shows pretty graphically the things that the citizens' group is proposing in regard to the Washakie Wilderness Area, and the fact that it is in bas relief, I think, gives the perspective between the elevations proposed by the Forest Service line and those for the citizens groups.

I want to leave this here for observation, because I am going to refer to it, possibly.

Senator HANSEN. If I may, let me observe at this point, without reading the Governor's testimony, which will be submitted and made part of the record, that it does support, and I suppose this is a point