

a continuing influence to insure proper ethical practices by its members, has been a major factor in soliciting nonresident participants in Wyoming hunting and fishing, and has made a continuing effort to maintain and improve quality hunting opportunities within the State. By quality hunting I refer to the opportunity of a person to exercise his reason to find, stalk, and take an animal in such a way as to compete with the keen senses and instincts of the animal. This is in contrast to the much too common method now existing, where the hunter drives a vehicle over considerable area to locate game, and then approaches as fast as possible to get a shot as the animal flees.

At the time I left the security of civil service and embarked on personal enterprise, quality hunting existed in nearly every part of the Wind River Valley, and was one of the major factors in my decision.

Roads were nominal, forest cover existed through all the altitudinal range of pine and spruce. Jeeps had penetrated many areas, but were used mostly for access to the perimeters of hunting areas.

Three factors have completely changed this situation.

The first is a policy of the Forest Service to extend roads and timber sales to every area of the Wind River Basin. The second is the development of timber industry embodied in the Teton Division of U.S. Plywood Corp. that is so large as to be out of proportion for the resources available.

The third is the continuing pressures of recreation seekers in improved, four-wheel-drive vehicles who use powersaws to extend the possible routes, which, when once established, remain indefinitely.

The results of these factors are a virtual rape of the recreational potential of the whole basin. With the exception of those areas now designated as recommended additions to the Washakie Wilderness Area, within map units D, J, 3, 4, F-1, H, and I by citizen groups, there is no timbered type left intact within the entire area outside the established primitive areas.

The basins of West and East DuNoir are as beautiful and wild as any place in the mountains. The old Wyoming Tie & Timber Co. that first cut at the site of the Triangle C Ranch on the Wind River in 1913, moved into West DuNoir in 1920 and worked there until 1927.

Timber strands were selected for cutting wherever the trees approximated tie size. They were cut by hand and hewed into ties with broad axes. Cutting was limited in all stands to not more than 40 percent of the volume. Logs were skidded by horses and the finished product was moved by wagons and sleds.

Portable mills were introduced at the last of this period and there were a few low-volume mills that accumulated some sawdust and slabs that were burned in place.

The evidence was mostly destroyed. Roadways were mostly natural openings and not constructed. Those roads were used some by four-wheel-drive vehicles, but not enough to establish them as roads.

These facts are used consistently to represent the area as low quality for wilderness. Overlooked is the fact that most of this activity occurred outside the boundaries recommended for inclusion. After 40 years, traces of stumps, chips, slash, sawdust, and cutting activity are nearly gone; are just at the stage of complete deterioration and will be completely gone in another few years.