

statement he made in his inaugural address in which he said, "We should avoid trying to make Wyoming something it is not."

By reason of our geography and topography, we cannot ever become a great agricultural State. For all practical purposes, we have reached the limit of economically feasible irrigation projects. Lands even now being proposed for reclamation projects are situated at high elevations or upon soils so poor, or both, that the prudence of pursuing them further should be severely questioned. Our grazing lands have nearly reached a limit, with the possible exception of intensive management on available irrigated lands.

I cannot foresee Wyoming becoming a great producer of heavy industry or manufactured goods, at least in the foreseeable future. We do not have adequate water or population centers to support any kind of large industrial complex.

What is left then but the extractive industries and the recreational industry?

Wyoming does have those natural assets and qualities to foster a great recreational industry. The poor lands at high elevations can be turned to our advantage. We are stuck with them. We cannot change their geology, topography, or geography so we should accept them as they are.

The wide open spaces, the serenity of solitude, the beauty and magnificence of austere desert or pristine, alpine lake—all these and more are attributes which we should not demean. Neither should we, for lack of wisdom, fail to protect them and manage them wisely.

Wilderness areas are an integral part of our great recreational resource. In spite of the fact that we already have tremendous areas dedicated to the wilderness system in Wyoming, we need not slight ourselves or our posterity in adding areas into this which round out and complement those we already have.

We could rightly ask: For what significant, higher purposes would you dedicate the hundreds of thousands of acres of bare rock we now embrace in the wilderness system? Is it wrong to embellish outstanding areas with equally outstanding minor additions, if we can show that possible losses to our economic system and to the society are balanced or outweighed by possible gains?

I would like to digress for just a moment to point out that of the 196,390 acres of the Washakie or of the original Stratified Primitive Area, approximately 142,049 acres are barren or grassland. Maybe I should also point out that in this particular area, in reference to the map which was shown yesterday, in reference to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the great primitive areas in Wyoming, that there are States around us which have forests which do not have wilderness areas in them.

I might name a few: The Fish Lake and Dixie Forest in Utah, the Caribou, the Targhee, and the St. Joe in Idaho, the Medicine Bow and the Black Hills in South Dakota.

The proposed Washakie Wilderness Area would comprise some 679,520 acres to be made up of 484,130 acres of the South Absaroka Wilderness Area and 196,390 acres of the original Stratified Primitive Area. To this we ask you to add approximately 42,000 acres in various locations along the southern boundary.