

Area J, the East and West Forks of DuNoir are large, timbered basins with numerous small streams and lakes, open meadows and bogs, and with every quality which fulfills wilderness definition. Elk and cattle graze its grasslands.

Bighorn sheep descend the promontories, cross the basins and climb to another vantage point. The DuNoir Glacier nestles on the east side of Coffin Butte.

It is through these basins that a large number of elk move on migration through several passes which takes them to the Buffalo, Shoshone, and Thorofare Plateaus.

We originally recommended the inclusion of 30,240 acres in area J. Because of some timbering which has already occurred within the area and for other reasons, we are now recommending the inclusion of only 24,820 acres.

If I may go back for just a moment to areas 6, G, H, I, I would like to emphasize, as I think Mr. Cliff did yesterday, that a mistake was made in the Forest Service proposal as to area H and area I, in which they say there are over 10 million board feet of operable sawtimber. I challenge the Forest Service on this, and Mr. John Lavin, the supervisor for the Forest Service in Wyoming, called me last week to verify that it was a mistake, and said that their timber maps did not show this amount of board feet in this area. The reason for that, if you will look on the map, is that it lies at such high elevations and such steep slopes, and involves only 2,000 acres, that there could not possibly be that many board feet of operable sawtimber.

We believe that Stratified Primitive Area has unique and distinctive qualities which should be recognized. The high escarpment, eroded into buttes, pinnacles, and promontories, is set off by the green, forested fringe around the base. We believe this fringe is an integral part of the bare, rocky cliffs and the high, barren plateaus beyond. They are significant for human ecology as well as elk and bighorn sheep.

The Forest Service indicates it will want large areas of the DuNoir Basin for future recreational development. We believe the areas under consideration would serve a higher recreational purpose by being included in wilderness.

As we have observed it, timbering and recreational development are almost mutually exclusive. These areas are readily accessible by already-existing timber roads. The proposed wilderness boundary comes within 2 miles of Highway 287 at one point.

We believe there is adequate recreational areas available for development of forest lands to serve on all future needs in the overall area. Timbering has already opened up the Wiggins Fork area, the Horse Creek and Parque Creek areas, the Long Creek and Brooks Lake area, and will open up more of the lower reaches of the DuNoir Basin.

South of Highway 287 are more forest lands and a world of opportunity for recreational development.

As a sidelight on recreational development, we believe the prerogatives of private enterprise should obtain first. Accommodations, service areas, and facilities should not be developed on public lands at public expense until all private initiative has been expended. Public campgrounds throughout the area should be established only as need develops. And even this is an area in which private enterprise should