

wilderness concept that entire ecological areas be included, not just bare mountain sides or treeless meadows. It is vitally important that the valleys, side slopes and tops all be included in wilderness areas so that the full range of conditions in the various areas can be protected.

It is necessary therefore that wooded areas, be they on thin soil rocky slopes or in protected valleys, be included, even though the trees might be of merchantable size. It is also necessary to have a proper depth to the wilderness areas so that the full life conditions of vegetation and animal life can be protected and preserved. If the timber is removed from the slopes, then the thin top soil will also be lost, with resultant damage for many years to come.

Thus, I concur with the various local conservation groups and others that recommend that the present S-2630, (H-13560) 189,024 acres be increased by 45,813 acres as proposed by the citizen groups, and the addition of 7,366 acres as suggested by the Forest Service, to make a total of 242,203 acres.

The administration of this area of 242,203 acres should be combined with that of the adjacent Absaroka Wilderness Area of 483,130 acres for a total of 725,533 acres of unquestionable wilderness splendor.

This is respectfully submitted to be included in the official hearings of this Wilderness hearing.

SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The Wilderness law specifically gives congress the right and authority to study the wilderness proposals as submitted by the Department of Interior and Agriculture, and others and to make final decisions on the wilderness proposals.

This is the situation here, the first major test of the power of congress and that of the Forest Service. The Forest Service, as an agency of the government should be more amenable to the wishes of the public and congress, not indifferent, as at present.

The suggested change, namely, a small but important 2200 acres addition should be included in the wilderness areas of the San Rafael proposal for the following and other reasons:

- a. It is scientifically significant,
- b. It is archeologically important,
- c. It is important to aid in preserving the Condor,
- d. It is not needed, as suggested by the Forest Service, for fire protection, as other nearby routes are available, just outside the suggested wilderness area.
- e. The inclusion of this area would aid in keeping the ridge free of major roads and thus more compatible to a wilderness concept.

The statements by the Forest Service that their original plan is the only proper one and no others need to be considered is completely refuted by written and spoken records of knowledgeable people. The Congressional Record, for example, Dec. 5, pages, H-16309 and 10 and also on Dec. 6, H-16396 to 400, records some of the very important reasons for inclusions of this additional 2200 acres to this wilderness area.

I heartily concur and urge that the original 143,000 acres be increased by 2200 acres, S-889, as amended by the House.

If the area is worth preserving at all, it surely is worthy of full and adequate protection. This is as recommended by many, including the Honorable Charles M. Teague, in whose district this area is situated.

Above respectfully submitted to be included in the official hearings for this S-889, as amended by the House.

MOUNT JEFFERSON WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Senators Hatfield and Morse of Oregon and the Forest Service are to be commended for their foresight in S-2751 to establish the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

One of the great problems of our wonderful country is respect to establishing Wilderness Areas, National Parks, preserving our natural heritage of unpolluted streams and lakes, is the inherent slowness of establishing and preserving these features. This need and the problem is admirably stated by Senator Gaylord Nelson, of Wisc. "While it is possible to postpone action in many fields of social responsibility without permanent damage, it is not possible to do so in the field of resource preservation. When any part of this asset is lost it is lost forever."

With the very narrow confines of this proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area it is very necessary at this time, our last chance, to establish as large a