

the Foreign Relations Committee hearings with Secretary of Defense McNamara, and, when I finish my brief testimony, I have to return to a continuation of those hearings this afternoon. I want to thank you very much for helping me make the record, for that is the primary purpose of these hearings, anyway.

I am happy to appear before your committee in support of legislation to designate the Mount Jefferson Wilderness in my State of Oregon. I am particularly pleased that the only remaining national forest primitive area in Oregon is receiving such early consideration under the Wilderness Act.

The proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness will be a superb addition to the national wilderness preservation system. Mount Jefferson itself is one of the outstanding landmarks of the Cascade Range. Rising 10,497 feet above the sea, the peak is one of the many steep-sided volcanic cones that characterize this unique and strikingly scenic mountain range. Mount Jefferson is joined in the proposed wilderness by another remnant of the volcanic age—Three-Fingered Jack. This unusual peak is famous in the Cascade area for its three towering rock spires. The interior of the summit cone is an especially good example of the structure of the ancient, now quiet, volcanoes that dominate this region.

The slopes and valleys that surround Mount Jefferson and Three-Fingered Jack are covered with lush vegetation, rushing streams, gentle, picturesque meadows, and many lakes and ponds. Other attractions include active glaciers, lava flows, rocky cliffs and ledges, and bountiful fish and wildlife.

One feature of the proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness that I especially like is its accessibility. This is a wilderness that many people can easily use and enjoy. Roads suitable for auto travel reach close to its borders. Portland, Salem, Albany, Eugene-Springfield, and Bend are all less than 150 miles away, and are cities whose people will enjoy the wilderness area, once established. This means that one can leave the teeming activity of these bustling cities in early morning and camp on the wild and quiet slopes of Mount Jefferson that same night. There are about 160 miles of hiking and riding trails to get in and about the wilderness. The Oregon Skyline Trail extends its entire length. Because it is so easy to reach, the proposed wilderness is a favorite of Oregon's Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other youth groups.

I commend the administration for its reasonableness in developing recommendations for the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. I know this involved some hard decisions, because much of the Cascade Range region is timber country. Timber is the backbone of the local economy and also is what makes the slopes of Cascade Mountain peaks so wild and beautiful, and worth preserving.

I recognize that the proposed wilderness includes approximately 1.3 billion board feet of commercial timber, and that 61 percent of the area is classed as productive forest land. But the bulk of this timber has been set aside for just about 35 years as a part of the Mount Jefferson Primitive Area. It has not been included in the allowable cut calculations for the national forests involved.

I want to repeat that sentence, Mr. Chairman, because the committee is going to have points of view expressed in regard to this matter