

(3) the recreational areas. I hope that, and I know you will, if you modify the boundaries of it, you will modify them on the basis of the clear proof that you can justify an expansion of the area.

I am more concerned about going the other way. I am more concerned about the proposals that would seek to deny us in perpetuity this area as encompassed in the bill for wilderness area, and deny us the so-called fringe area for scenic areas and recreational areas.

I would be less than honest if I didn't tell this committee quite frankly you are going to have strong and vigorous points of view presented on both sides.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will take your questions.

Senator ANDERSON (presiding). Senator Hansen, do you have any questions?

Senator HANSEN. Let me thank you, Senator Morse, for a very able presentation. I compliment you. I have no questions.

Senator MORSE. Thank you, Senator.

Senator ANDERSON. I heard you say that you were not talking about boundaries. You will have some comments about that later on?

Senator MORSE. That is right.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much, Senator Morse.

Mr. George Alderson.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE ALDERSON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. ALDERSON. I am George Alderson, of 323 Maryland Avenue NE., in Washington, D.C. Having been a resident of Oregon during the early proceedings on the Mount Jefferson Wilderness proposal, I would like to support the proposals of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs which have been made at this hearing.

The Mount Jefferson area, in its proximity to the growing metropolitan area of the Willamette Valley, and in its geographic handicaps, presents special problems in defining a practical boundary. The ease of access to the areas of visitor concentration, such as Jefferson Park, Marion Lake, and Pamela Lake, promotes a high degree of recreational use, but also creates a threat of overuse which could seriously impair the resource. This has already been noted, particularly at Jefferson Park. The narrowness of the wilderness as proposed by the Forest Service, furthermore, tends to favor deterioration of the area's wilderness values through failure to protect the forested approaches.

These principles were supported at the Forest Service field hearing by the distinguished Maryland conservationist and former Oregonian, Grant Conway. Because he was unable to attend this Interior Committee hearing, Mr. Conway asked me to present some of his comments, which are based on several decades' experience with Mount Jefferson. In his statement for the Forest Service hearing record, he said:

Only by extending the wilderness area boundaries can the wilderness qualities of the Mount Jefferson region be protected from the over-use to which it has been subjected.

He remarked that this overuse goes back a long time and has done severe harm to the Jefferson Park area:

The flora and fauna of this narrow valley, spanning the divide of the Cascade Range, has been altered by heavy use by man because of its easy accessibility.