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If Mr. Conway's statement, dated November 21, 1966, is not among the materials submitted to the Interior Committee by the Forest Service, then I request that it be incorporated in the record of this hearing as a part of my statement.

It is my hope that the committee will act to include the additions recommended by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, establishing an integrated Mount Jefferson Wilderness which will be capable of preservation.

(Mr. Conway's letter follows:)

Mr. J. HERBERT STONE,
Regional Forester,
U.S. Forest Service,
Portland, Oreg.

BROOKMONT, Md., November 21, 1966.

DEAR MR. STONE: Your proposal to reclassify the Mount Jefferson Primitive Areas as the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area and make it a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System is a good one, and you are to be commended for recommending a net increase over the present size of the Primitive Area of 10,417 acres, thereby providing additional protection for the wilderness. However, the question arises as to whether this increase is sufficient to protect this small strip of wilderness in the years ahead.

The Primitive Area has proven too small to protect its wilderness "core." Too easy access has upset the fragile ecological balance around many of the alpine lakes. The proposed Wilderness Area is a small enclave of 95,450 acres—only 12 miles square—in the midst of the vast Cascade Mountains. The reclassification stage is the opportune time to provide buffer zones to help protect this beautiful alpine region in the years to come when the pressure for outdoor recreation from an expanding population with more leisure time will be even greater.

Jefferson Park, an alpine valley hanging from the north side of Mount Jefferson, is a unique scenic and geological attraction. 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. As early as the 1930's, the grassy meadows surrounding Russell and smaller alpine lakes suffered from the easy access by way of the road of Breitenbush Lake. Even in those years the lupine and Indian paint brush were trampled by horses and hikers, and campers left a residue of tin cans and other trash around the campsites. In addition, the scarcity of firewood was beginning to take its toll on the scattering of stunted trees bordering the lakes. In recent years the construction of logging roads up the valley of Whitewater Creek have made it possible to reach Jefferson Park and return in an easy day's walk.

It was my privilege to walk from the Chemeketan Cabin on Whitewater Creek near the Junction with the North Santiam River to Jefferson Park and return before the destructive logging.

For protection of this area's wilderness values, the following actions are recommended:

1. Closing of the logging roads along Whitewater Creek for public use and setting aside a buffer zone for protection and regeneration (a principle proposed by the National Park Service in Great Smoky Mountains National Park) to include the Whitewater Creek watershed, including the tributary of Cheat Creek and its headwaters in Wildcheat Meadow as far west as Route 22 and southward to the Marion Lake Road, and closing to the public other spur roads leading from Route 22.

2. Extending the proposed west boundary at Route 22 and Whitewater Creek northward, following ridges when possible, to Breitenbush Hot Springs on the North Fork of the Breitenbush River, and thence following the Brei-