

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Go ahead.

Mr. DANIEL. The National Rifle Association of America, a sportsmen's organization of close to 950,000 members, speaks for a fairly large segment of the users of the public land. We would like to associate ourselves with the other national conservation organizations that have testified here in support of bill S. 2630.

Our prepared statement is directed solely at S. 2630. However, we would like, for the record, to associate ourselves with Wildlife Management Institute, the National Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League, the Wilderness Society, and others in support of S. 2531 and S. 2751, the other two bills subject of this hearing.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to commend the Forest Service for the excellent planning and the leadership they have given in this area. We think it is a tremendous service to the people of this country. Specifically, in connection with S. 2630, it is our opinion that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission have uncommonly well documented and prepared their recommendations to this committee, recommendations that we feel have a great deal of merit, and which have been supported here by the sportsmen and conservation groups within the State of Wyoming. We urge that the committee give careful consideration to the recommendations of the State of Wyoming.

I would only say in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that we are completely confident that when the record is complete, the committee will make the decisions that will in the long run be best for everybody.

Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity to appear.

Senator ANDERSON. Senator Hansen, any questions?

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. We have your full statement in the record, and is there anything in this bill that worries the present conservation society?

Mr. DANIEL. I beg your pardon, sir?

Senator ANDERSON. If this is classified as wilderness, are you satisfied with the ordinary definition of wilderness?

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. There is wilderness area out there now; is there not?

Mr. DANIEL. I believe that is correct; yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. How would you change it?

Mr. DANIEL. Well, as I understand it, Senator, this bill adds to the wilderness area in certain highly desirable instances. It sets aside an additional area to be preserved as wilderness that is not now preserved.

Senator ANDERSON. Do you understand once it is put in a wilderness area, it is permanently locked up for awhile?

Mr. DANIEL. Yes, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. I just wanted to be real sure about it.

Mr. DANIEL. We feel very strongly that the time to act is now. That if certain of these areas are not preserved now, they can never be preserved, and we feel it is highly to be desired.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. DANIEL. Thank you, sir.

(The statement referred to follows:)