

STATEMENT OF FRANK C. DANIEL, SECRETARY, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA

Mr. Chairman, the National Rifle Association of America is highly pleased to be given the opportunity to appear before this Committee in support of S. 2630 sponsored by the distinguished Committee Chairman to designate the Stratified Primitive Area as a part of the Washakie Wilderness heretofore known as the South Absaroka Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest, in the state of Wyoming.

Mr. Chairman, numbered among the 900,000 members of the National Rifle Association are many sportsmen who are deeply concerned with the administration, preservation and multiple use of our public domain. We are delighted to add our voice in support of this important legislation which will add to the Stratified Primitive Area established in 1932, added to in 1951 comprising some 203,930 acres and located in the Shoshone National Forest. The proposal that 188,358 acres of this primitive area and 4,768 acres of adjacent unclassified National Forest land, all within the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming, be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and that these 193,126 acres of National Forest land be combined with the existing South Absaroka Wilderness Area is a logical development under the terms of the Wilderness Act. The entire area would be named the Washakie Wilderness Area and encompass some 676,256 acres.

We understand that this wild area of broad, flat-topped mountains and plateaus cut by deep narrow valleys formed of the eruptive material from the volcanic area of Mount Washburn in Yellowstone National Park and Lava Mountain at the head of Wind River, is an area of seclusion and unspoiled charm which naturally abounds in wildlife including all the native Rocky Mountain species, both large and small, including important populations of elk, deer and moose.

We would go further and concur in the recommendations made by the responsible authorities of the state of Wyoming. We too believe that the Washakie Wilderness Area should be forever opened to public hunting and fishing in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations, except during temporary periods when co-operative administrative closures to recreational use may be necessary for the preservation of the area and public safety. Further, that the sovereign and constitutional right of the state of Wyoming to manage, regulate, harvest, and propagate all fish and wildlife species be recognized by the United States Government and agencies thereof. Further, that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission be authorized and allowed to continue all fisheries and game management practices presently carried out under existing state and federal law.

Based on the foregoing, we believe that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's position that the area boundaries be established at the base of the escarpments rather than on the high rims is a sound one.

Possibly the greatest issue at stake regarding wildlife on and adjacent to the proposed Washakie Wilderness is the development of road systems in heretofore undisturbed areas which would occur if logging operations are permitted in the several areas not included in the original bill, but which would be included if the boundaries were placed at the base of the escarpments as proposed by the responsible officials of the state of Wyoming.

Increased vehicular access to the area would seriously reduce the potential for elk habitat by restricting summer distribution at lower elevations and interfering with the herd on their natural calving ground during the summer. For this reason, we ask the Committee to amend the act to include the small additional areas recommended by the state of Wyoming into the Washakie Wilderness.

Again, Mr. Chairman, may I express our appreciation for the opportunity to present this brief statement in support of S. 2630 and ask that my remarks be made part of the official record of proceedings of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Quigley, will you come forward?

STATEMENT OF JAMES M. QUIGLEY, VICE PRESIDENT, SPECIAL  
RELATIONS, U.S. PLYWOOD-CHAMPION PAPERS, INC.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I am James M. Quigley. I am vice president for special relations of U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers. It