

the Forest Service has come in with a sound recommendation, and we urge the committee to seriously consider it.

To use Senator Morse's words, I think they have made out a prima facie case in their submission and in their report to this committee. Perhaps I am prejudiced, though I don't believe so, but I don't believe that I heard any persuasive testimony, sitting here yesterday and today, that would cause me to come to a contrary conclusion. But this is not my responsibility; this is the judgment that has to be made by the individual members of this committee.

We are confident that you will make that decision on the record. Whatever that judgment is, as corporate citizens of the State of Wyoming, we will abide by it. And, as individuals, I am sure we and our children will continue to be blessed by the decision to have a wilderness in the Washakie area.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you very much.

Senator Hansen?

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Vern Vivion.

STATEMENT OF VERN VIVION, COCHAIRMAN, WYOMING PUBLIC LAND USERS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. VIVION. Mr. Chairman, I do have two additional pieces of testimony I would like to have entered into the record.

One is from the Wyoming Wool Growers, and one is for the Wyoming Stock Growers. I am going to attempt to combine two of them into one statement.

Senator ANDERSON. You wish to include the other statements in full.

Mr. VIVION. Yes.

Senator ANDERSON. Without objection that will be done.

Mr. VIVION. Thank you very much.

I am Vern Vivion, cochairman of the Wyoming Public Land Users Coordinating Committee. This committee is composed of members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and Wyoming Wool Growers Association using public lands in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Stock Growers and the Wyoming Wool Growers join together in support of S. 2630, which would transfer the status of the Stratified Primitive Area in Shoshone National Forest to the national wilderness preservation system, with full recognition that livestock grazing shall be permitted to continue according to the Wilderness Act.

We feel that grazing is the utilization of a recurring natural resource which would be wasted and become a fire hazard if not used, and it is compatible with recreation and all other beneficial uses in a wilderness area. Let me emphasize here that domestic livestock have been permitted in the proposed area since 1902. It is with pride that we, as livestock producers, can point to the statement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Washakie Wilderness Area, wherein they state, "There has been no apparent conflict between commercial grazing use and the elk, deer, moose, and bighorn sheep which forage here."

This is noteworthy because it points up the fact that after some 60 years of livestock grazing use, the area still possesses the qualities that are sought in what we are choosing to call wilderness lands.