

Senator HANSEN. Yes. And by speaking for the Wyoming Public Land Users Coordinating Committee, you speak both for the Wyoming Stock Growers and the Wyoming Wool Growers Associations?

Mr. VIVION. Yes.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you very much.

Mr. VIVION. I might add that there was indication, and of course, always being concerned about Wyoming, I was concerned about some remarks that were made this morning, about Wyoming not being concerned about its water going to some other States. I think the people in Wyoming, if I might say this, Senator and Mr. Chairman, would be quite concerned about ever losing its water to some other State. I just throw this in because some misunderstanding might have happened this morning.

Thank you.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you, Mr. Vivion.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF VERN VIVION, PRESIDENT, WYOMING WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association, which represents over 1200 sheep-producing families, during its 61st Annual Convention held in Riverton, Wyoming November 13-14, 1964, adopted the following resolution:

"We oppose the further withdrawal of public lands for the extension of wilderness areas and national parks. More than enough wilderness areas exist in the West. The principle of multiple use should apply to all public lands."

Now to be more specific, as the Association's policy and position relates to the proposed Washakie Wilderness in the Shoshone National Forest, we note that grazing of domestic livestock has been permitted in the proposed area since 1902, and as stated in the brochure published by the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, announcing the proposed Washakie Wilderness Area . . . "There has been no apparent conflict between commercial grazing use and the elk, deer, moose, and bighorn sheep which forage here."

We also note from the brochure that nine sheep allotments are located within the proposed boundary and that in 1965, this amounted to 11,900 sheep months.

This is noteworthy because it points up the fact that after some 60 years of other uses the area still passes the qualities that are sought in what we are choosing to call wilderness lands.

We do not oppose the proposed Washakie Wilderness Area Plan as outlined by the U.S. Forest Service, in fact, we recognize its value; however, we would oppose the inclusion of additional lands which would materially enlarge the present primitive area. The Wyoming Wool Growers Association feels enough public land has been designated as Wilderness Area in the West and especially Wyoming.

In addition to this, the Association is deeply concerned, and most justifiably, because regulations will not permit predator control in Wilderness Areas.

If sheepmen are denied, by regulation, the right to protect their livestock, eventually their only alternative is to remove the livestock, which in essence will eliminate sheep grazing in the Wilderness Areas.

The alternative would then be to utilize the foothill private lands more intensively to sustain a profitable livestock operation. What do I mean by more intensive use of private lands? I'm talking about timber extraction. I'm talking about safe-brush spraying. I'm talking about pesticide spraying. I'm talking about plowing the land for greater production. I fear that a more intensive use of these private foothill lands could very well have a detrimental effect on the wild game that depend on these base private lands for their fall, winter and spring grazing.

Now, back to why we are concerned about predator control.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture reported in their annual sheep loss for Wyoming in 1966 that over 118,400 head of sheep were lost to predators.

These sheep were valued at \$1,682,000. The largest loss was from coyotes, which killed 82,200 head valued at slightly over \$1 million. These losses contribute to the increased cost of production and finally effect the cost of meat to the housewife in the market place.