

For these reasons we wish to go on record as favoring the establishment of the Washakie Wilderness area strictly upon the boundaries of the now existing primitive area. We would necessarily be in opposition to the extension of this original land area in any way.

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Blackburn.

**STATEMENT OF GEORGE F. BLACKBURN, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
METROPOLITAN AREA**

Mr. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, Senator Hansen, I am George F. Blackburn. I live in nearby Maryland. I wish to testify as an individual in support of S. 2630, to establish the Washakie Wilderness.

I think the Forest Service is to be commended for their conscientious effort in carrying out the mandate of Congress to study this and other areas for possible inclusion in the wilderness system. However, I question the validity of certain of their criteria and therefore the wisdom of some of their decisions. I shall illustrate with particular reference to the Washakie proposal.

The statement appears several times that a boundary was located so as to follow readily recognizable topographic features such as ridges, rocky outcrops, water courses, and so forth. I realize that such a location does make for a readily recognizable boundary but I fear that in some cases it may have the results of excluding areas that, under a reasonable interpretation of the Wilderness Act, would qualify as wilderness. In the national forests I am more familiar with, here in the East, the boundary lines go where they have to—that is, where ownership is public on one side and private on the other.

Similarly, I should think it possible, if it is judged that a given area has the characteristics which qualify it for inclusion in a wilderness—granted that a certain amount of arbitrariness will at times be involved in making such a judgment—to determine a line on the ground, whether crooked or straight, following the existing terrain in whatever way the situation requires, that will put the area within such boundary.

It is to be regretted that the bill excludes the upper DuNoir Basin, in view of the importance of this area, according to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, to the well-being of big game, particularly elk. The Forest Service justifies its exclusion on the ground that it will be needed for recreationists who travel by car, and that its timber is needed to sustain a sawmill operation at Dubois, a town of about 600 population.

I have not been in the DuNoir area. Last summer my wife and I attempted to visit it, but failed because a Forest Service trail which we intended to follow from the Brooks Lake Road across Pinnacle Buttes was unmarked and we could not find it. In searching for it we got into an area east of Brooks Lake which had recently been logged. The utter devastation that we saw conveyed a message that was abundantly clear; this is the way the DuNoir Basin will look if it is not protected as wilderness.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I should like to show two photographs which I have here of that logged area east of Brooks Lake. I was at this logged area east of Brooks Lake, Shoshone National Forest, Wyo., September 10, 1967, and the top view is looking north,