

drated foods, it is an activity no longer limited to the hardy and rugged, but is one which can be participated in by anyone able to walk.

Particularly, the importance of the area as elk range must be emphasized. Studies have indicated that construction of roads is detrimental to resident and migratory elk herds. Elk is a major resource in Wyoming, and anything detrimental to them would be a loss to the State. Unless it can be clearly shown that the benefits that would result from a different course of action are more important and would outweigh this potential loss, this alone would justify inclusion of area J within the wilderness. Here, where any benefit from development of the area is at least questionable, protection of the elk habitat from disturbance is important to the welfare of Wyoming.

Timber values, at best, seem quite marginal, and particularly in this area of steep slopes any potential benefits from timber operations would be overbalanced by the deleterious effects on other values of the region. The Forest Service states in their report that this valuable watershed region contains shallow soils which are easily eroded. I quote:

Due to the steepness of the country and the high percentage of barren land, the area is susceptible to damage from torrential rainstorms.

This, as well as the undesirable side effects of the road network which would be established, suggests that wilderness classification for the DuNoir Basin is desirable. Further, the damaging effect to a good water supply, that increased erosion would create, would tend to lose one of the area's benefits. Again I quote:

A continuous flow of quality water from the drainages under consideration for wilderness represents an important public value. Stability of water supply is the major economic contribution, and public service to the dependent downstream lands and users. Mechanical disturbances that would upset the balance of nature, would be avoided within the proposed wilderness. Wilderness management will not change the water yield or quality.

The devastating, clear-cutting procedures evident below Double Cabin on Wiggins Fork are destructive of both recreational values and watershed values. One of the goals of wilderness classification should be to protect other portions of the Stratified Primitive Area and surrounding area so as to best maintain these values.

The strong statements entered into the record of the agency hearing at Riverton, Wyo., by many of the people most directly affected by this proposal, residents of Dubois, Wyo., indicate a conviction that greater benefits will accrue to the immediately surrounding region from classifying the DuNoir as "wilderness" than by leaving it out, exploiting its few natural resources other than its beauty, and developing the area for mass recreation.

The importance of Bear Basin to the welfare of the elk is alone sufficient reason to include this region within the wilderness boundaries. Big game is one of the major facets of outdoor recreation in Wyoming. A very large portion of the recreational use of the area is based on big game, and outdoor recreation potential is one of the primary resources of Wyoming. Many of the other factors mentioned earlier, such as watershed value, also apply to Bear Basin, and it should be included in wilderness. The resources of water, wildlife,