

comprising approximately 9,000 to 10,000 acres, and the Dundee Creek area of some 4,500 acres should be excluded because of patented mining claims and the obvious intrusion of mining activities that would appear to be inconsistent with wilderness purposes. The Lean-To Creek area of approximately 650 acres and the Parque Creek area of approximately 1,500 acres are also recommended for exclusion.

The recommendations contained in S. 2630, introduced by Senator Hansen, of Wyoming, represent a significant addition to the present primitive area. The south fork of Wood River, 1,472 acres; the east fork and west fork of Six Mile Creek, 3,296 acres; and Horse Creek, 2,598 acres. We subscribe fully to these additions.

Two principal areas of conflict are the East DuNoir Creek and West DuNoir Creek which comprise some 20,240 acres. The principal reason for adding this particular area to the proposal is the importance of the outstanding elk ranges and the significant scenic values. The alternative use of this area appears to be logging of relatively low commercial value timber. If this activity is pursued it would appear that some diminution of elk population would inevitably result. The area of Bear Basin, which comprises some 8,000 acres, appears to be in a similar posture and this unit should also be within the wilderness boundary.

The Wiggins Fork area of approximately 3,200 acres is now protected within the present Stratified Primitive Area. We are unable to understand why this area is recommended to be excluded from the proposed Washakie Wilderness.

There are a few areas, relatively small in size compared to the overall proposal, that might well be included in the wilderness area in order to round out the balance of differing topography as well as facilitate the scenic effect. Such areas would include Lincoln Point, of approximately 325 acres, and the 2,000-acre area just west of Wiggins Fork Creek. Such consideration should also be applied to the headwaters of Five Mile Creek, which contain approximately 700 acres, and the area north along West Fork Six Mile Creek, of approximately 1,300 acres.

The total additions recommended by the Forest Service, of 7,366 acres, to the present Stratified Primitive Area of 189,024 acres, combined with the additions recommended above, would find a total acreage in the proposal of about 242,203 acres. If this area is combined with the Absaroka Wilderness Area which now comprises 483,130 acres, the Washakie Wilderness Area would then total some 725,533 acres.

We are the first to agree that the establishment of wilderness areas within the broad categories of the Wilderness Act is hardly an exact science. If boundaries and areas could be computed on a quantitative basis in each instance, the task would resolve itself quickly. Unfortunately such fast and final calculations are not possible. We are aware, however, that public discussion and the full dialog between technicians presented for public review is essential in effecting an appropriate yet realistic wilderness system.

S. 2751, introduced by Senators Hatfield and Morse, of Oregon, would designate the Mount Jefferson Wilderness in the Willamette, Deschutes, and Mount Hood National Forest as an addition to the national wilderness preservation system. This area, in the Cascade Range of Oregon, has long been looked upon as one of the most majestic areas