

in the Northwest. The Mount Jefferson Primitive Area was established in 1930, and encompasses 85,033 acres at present. The Forest Service and the Senate measure recommend approximately 11,500 acres of additions to the Mount Jefferson Primitive Area to the east, south, and northwest. If the measure is enacted as proposed, the area would consist of about 97,000 acres.

Many conservation organizations have made recommendations that would add to the proposed area primarily along the western boundary, and the inclusion in the south of Square Lake area. The arguments as to the desirability of these recommendations focus on the uses to which the area should be put. One of the principal reasons for suggesting that the proposal in this area be expanded, primarily to the west, is the shape and size of the proposed wilderness area. While the length of the area is adequate, extending some 25 miles along the Cascade crest, the width varies from 4 to 10 miles in a somewhat irregular fashion. While it may be argued that the western extension is inappropriate for wilderness and that those who recommend its inclusion have abandoned the criteria for establishing wilderness, it should also be considered that wilderness in many areas is not only perishable but fragile.

While such terms are relative concepts, it appears that the proposed Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area will be in some jeopardy unless effective buffers are established on the western side. It has been our experience that buffers outside wilderness areas have been highly ineffective and in reality represent poor protection. We are likewise aware that these areas represent timber resources that are important for commercial purposes. It is our judgment, however, that the inclusion of these western areas may well be the longrun key to maintaining the basic purport of the proposed legislation, which is to protect and maintain the area as wilderness.

Another difference of opinion involves the two major lakes, Square and Long Lakes, which are in the southeastern corner of the proposed area and Marion Lake, which is on the west. The principal conflict in these two instances as to the most appropriate use is essentially the type of recreation activities to be pursued. There is a suggestion that both Marion and Square Lakes have intensive recreation use, and a number of motorboats are in use. The Forest Service has recommended that these two areas be utilized as scenic recreation areas, which would promote, essentially, a more intensive recreation use than wilderness classification would permit.

The scenic area designation is close to the wilderness concept, since the plans of the Forest Service are for no other developments, such as lumbering, and it is their intention to phase out motorboat use. The principal reason for including both of these areas in wilderness rather than separate scenic areas is the juxtaposition of these areas to the proposed wilderness area, especially the subalpine region, which effectively round out the continuity of the area. Also, there is an absence of structures and other manmade intrusions that normally would preclude such an area from wilderness consideration. Additionally, these lakes have a pristine quality that seemed to represent a part of the purpose to establish an area of wilderness.

At the risk of another redundancy, it is apparent that differences do exist in drawing the precise boundaries of the Mount Jefferson Wilder-