

home range year-round. They are relatively easily managed and hunted compared to migratory herds.

In the Dubois area, several resident herds have already been depleted due to human disturbances on and around their range. Today, there are fewer resident herds left in the area.

5. Large segments of the elk herd wintering on the East Fork Elk Winter Range migrate through the forest in the East and West Fork of DuNoir areas. Some remain in the Basins through the snow-free months. Here, the Game and Fish Department is greatly concerned that human disturbances will cut off this migration and could conceivably shift this herd into the Jackson Hole complex which already has its share of elk harvest problems. In addition, the DuNoir areas are important elk calving grounds, from which the elk then move on to the high summer ranges.

6. Balanced against hunting losses is the amount and value of timber to be "locked up". Forest Service figures indicate the available cut on the DuNoir areas (which would be inside the originally recommended boundaries) would be something around one and a half million board feet a year. The stumpage value on this amount of timber is about \$7,500 a year.

The Teton Stud mill at Dubois has a rated capacity of 160,000 board feet a day; 40 million board feet a year. The yearly cut on the DuNoir areas would amount to about a ten day run through the mill. If the Teton Stud operation were affected by as much as five percent a year by loss of timber in the DuNoir areas, it would affect the annual payroll by only \$70,000. The Teton Stud mill pays about \$7,000 in taxes to Fremont County each year.

The Dubois school board finds itself in deep trouble because of the impact of children whose family pay relatively few taxes.

7. Timbering was done in the DuNoir Basin in the 1920's by tie hacks who selected individual trees and snaked them out with horses. There were no roads, as such, or extensively cut-over areas. Today, there is slight evidence of any of man's activities.

8. There is a unique and distinctive beauty to the southern escarpment of the Absaroka Mountains. All along this ragged rim, from Wiggins Fork to Lincoln Point to Boedeker Butte to The Ramshorn to Coffin Butte and Brooks Lake, the high pinnacles and eroded buttes stand out in a green forested setting. Timbering operations have already crept up the steep slopes of this setting. It is feared that unless these forested slopes are given wilderness protection, most of them will be stripped away. Despite the assurances of the man on the ground today, political expediency might one day undo all good intentions.

The Forest Service arguments on defensible boundaries is unjustified as can be seen from their own description of boundaries for the proposed area.

9. The Forest Service points out how much wilderness there already is in Wyoming. They fail to state how much of it is absolutely worthless for any other purpose. Their own figures of the broad cover types within their Washakie Wilderness proposal shows that of 196,390 acres, 122,049 acres are grassland and *barren*! Of the remainder, 17,560 acres are shrubs, brush, and other, and 19,055 acres are the whitebark, limber, and bristle-cone pines which are generally considered to be unsuitable for timber. This leaves only 37,630 acres of timber producing trees (Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, alpine fir, lodgepole pine) or about 19 percent. But even this is qualified for their report says, "This is an area with only 29 percent (sic) timber cover with the timber confined to small basins, hillsides, and stream bottoms".

It can readily be pointed out that by and large what was reserved as primitive and wilderness areas was mostly confined to the high elevations. Here bare rock, mountain meadow, and scrub timber predominate. The areas are most valuable for watershed protection and the recreational, aesthetic and scenic value.

10. There is grave question in the minds of many Dubois residents concerning the present clear-cutting methods now being employed by the Forest Service. In an area with high elevations, relatively low humidity, and loose volcanic soils these seems to be low success in reestablishment of forest. Even in replanted areas, the survival of young trees is generally very low. It is estimated that it takes 75 years to grow a fence post, and 150-300 years to grow a mature crop.

To these people, it appears to be a case of cut-and-get-out. They are asking what will we have left?