Use of vast wilderness areas are largely limited to the outer fringes for typical wilderness users. Only the very hardy, highly skilled, well equipped, or wealthy are able to penetrate to the heart of the wilderness area. Typical costs for guided pack trips are $30.00 to $40.00 per person per day. Thus, this method of entry and use of wilderness is limited to very few individuals and families.

A second example of large contiguous wilderness is the Northeast Yellowstone Park area contiguous with the North Absaroka Wilderness. There is a combined contiguous area of approximately 709,000 acres or about 1,100 square miles. This area is irregular in shape with two valleys which reach into the central area of the wilderness somewhat and with the north end tapering to a narrow, rounded point. Even so, it would be from 27 to 36 miles across in a north-south direction in most places and 6 miles to 60 miles in the east-west direction. Again, a very large area and very large interior portions exist, and must be considered extremely inaccessible by any standards.

A third example in Wyoming, not involving national-park lands, is in the Wind River Mountains. This contiguous area includes the Bridger Wilderness, the Glacier Primitive, Popo Agie Wild area, and a "Wind River Roadless Area" in the Wind River Indian Reservation. The combined area is 813,520 acres, or approximately 1,271 square miles, and is rather elongated and irregular in shape and not oriented in a true north-south direction. Nevertheless, in the long dimension the distance from one boundary to another is from 10 to 40 miles, approximately, and in the shorter dimension the distance across would vary from 12 to 24 miles. Again, a large part of the wilderness area is very inaccessible.

The typical wilderness user requires for reasonable health, safety, and comfort a considerable amount of camping equipment. If the wilderness areas are reasonably accessible from campgrounds reached by motor roads, then many people can use them. Some people can also carry sufficient equipment on their backs to stay a few days in the wilderness in reasonable comfort and safety, and thus can penetrate to the interior portions of small or moderate-sized areas. The type of people who can penetrate many miles into the wilderness and spend many days are extremely few. There is much reason to challenge the logic of maintaining vast wilderness areas inviolate, as is now the case in Wyoming, Idaho, and perhaps some other states.

In conclusion, it would seem to me to be desirable to de-classify wilderness areas, including roadless areas in National Parks, in order to allow some access road construction where it is feasible. Access roads penetrating toward wilderness interiors would allow for use by more people, could distribute use away from fringe areas, and result in more uniform use of the entire area.

NON-WILDERNESS USES—IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL ECONOMIES

A second factor, and undoubtedly a more important consideration than the question of accessibility, is the effect on state and local economies of committing large areas to relatively limited usage. The actual contribution of the wilderness areas to state and local economies at the present time is unknown and would be difficult to determine. The importance to state and local economies of mineral or logging developments, should wilderness areas be open to such developments, is unknown.

Mr. James Boyd, President, Copper Range Company, New York, on behalf of the American Mining Congress presented a statement before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, United States Senate, February 28 and March 1, 1961. He described modern techniques of prospecting including air-borne reconnaissance, ground magnetometer and electromagnetic, induced-polarization, resistivity, and gravity systems, and drilling. These methods of prospecting, with the exception of drilling, leave essentially unmarked the area where the prospecting has been performed. They do, however, require a certain amount of equipment, manpower, and transport facilities. The prohibition of operation of motorized equipment, including aircraft, helicopters, and motor-driven generators, would seem to effectively prevent the prospecting by advanced methods by preventing necessary transportation and power use.

Mineral deposits which have been found in the rugged mountain country of the West are typically small deposits in area, although frequently extremely high in value. The 89 active mines in Idaho occupy an area of 68,500 acres, or approximately 750 acres per active mine on the average. Similarly, active