

and important forest lands, provided, all of its natural resources are left open to development for the benefit of mankind.

Production of Raw Materials

Being handicapped by (1) a small population, and (2) large distances from consumer markets, Wyoming today is still basically a producer of raw materials, even in agriculture, rather than finished goods. Wyoming is a "sleeping giant" that has not yet reached economic maturity to the same degree that older states have.

Agriculture and livestock growing, provide the greatest source of income in Wyoming. However, expansion in farming is limited. High elevations mean relatively short growing seasons. Killing frosts, in the spring prevail as late as May, and even June, and in the fall, late August and early September.

Cutting of timber is still in its infancy in Wyoming, and substantial timber losses are experienced annually from forest fires, insects and diseases.

Production of oil, gas and minerals provides the second largest income source in Wyoming. Oil and gas income has tended to level off in recent years, and coal production is way down compared to past outputs. However, the State has shown growth in total mineral production, because of developments in minerals which were not considered too important just a generation ago, minerals such as uranium, trona, and bentonite.

Thus, if the State's economy is to grow higher in the future, and new job opportunities opened, then much of it is dependent upon wise use of the land in Wyoming and its minerals.

Federal Lands In Wyoming

Approximately one-half of Wyoming's land area is under Federal Government domination, in one form or another.

Consequently, a large segment of the State's economy in general, and the livelihood of many Wyoming people and business firms in particular, are at the mercy of the Federal Government's rulings, as well as bureau and agency administrations, on the use, or nonuse, of Federal lands.

Wilderness Legislation Harmful

The wilderness legislation now proposed, if enacted, will lock up forever ten years hence, the wise use for mankind's benefit of forests and minerals of certain areas. Many new jobs and business opportunities will be lost forever.

Also, this wilderness legislation, if enacted, very likely will result in withdrawing even more important lands in Wyoming from economic development, thereby further stifling the State's future growth, and reducing tax revenues so sorely needed.

Who is so all-wise today to determine what this Nation's natural resource requirements will be tomorrow, for civilian and defense needs?

A half century ago, American encyclopedias defined uranium as a completely worthless white metal. And remember, it's only been 10 years since uranium was discovered in Wyoming!

Discrimination Against Wyoming

A review of the proposed wilderness legislation discloses that care was taken to protect areas within older states—states with more mature economies than Wyoming.

And now, some of the older states are proposing economic handicaps for Wyoming, to their benefit!

It's significant to note that more than whopping one-third of the total proposed wilderness acreage in seven Western States would be in Wyoming.

Existing Laws Adequate

There's no need to curtail job opportunities and bankrupt Wyoming's future economy, and weaken America, through unnecessary shackles, as envisioned by the proposed wilderness legislation.

The multiple-use principle has been in effect over a half-century, and worked well in shaping the economy of the West. There are already adequate Federal statutes to protect America's natural resources and assure their wise use, to guarantee the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

This fact is even recognized in Section 4 of H.R. 9162 which lists nine acts of Congress designed to protect the public domain and promote its wise use.