

I would also urge that if these areas are added, narrow access corridors along some of the existing jeep trails should be left open. This would serve not only to avoid one of the common criticisms of the wilderness program, but more importantly to encourage the use of the area by more tourists and decrease the pressure on the national parks. Let me emphasize that I am not advocating additional roads, mererly retention and perhaps eventual improvement of existing roads.

3. The final boundaries of the Wilderness Area should follow, where practicable, established or projected rectangular land lines. This would permit precise legal definition of the boundary and avoid the ambiguity that now exists in some areas.

The attached maps incorporates all of the above-mentioned points and I submit for your consideration the proposed boundary shown by the solid red line.

Respectfully submitted.

BAYARD D. REA.

STATEMENT OF JOE AND MARY BACK, DUBOIS, WYO.

My name is Joe W. Back. I am an artist and an author, and my wife, Mary, is an artist. We live near Dubois.

I am well acquainted with most of the area proposed for the Washakie Wilderness. I support the general Forest Service proposal; and am heartily in favor of adding to it the upper DuNoir Valley, the Bear Creek Basin, and the bases of the cliffs between them.

I first came to the upper Wind River Valley and the Absaroka Mountains in 1920 and worked then as a tie-hack and river-driver. Since 1924 I have lived in the area continuously except for five years studying art and two years during World War II. I have worked in the area under consideration as guide, hunter, packer, dude rancher, and game warden.

The country of the proposed addition to the Forest Service plan for the Washakie Wilderness—that is, the upper parts of the East Fork and West Fork of DuNoir (on the west), Bear Basin (on the east), and the southern slopes of the tall cliffs in between—is a real paradise for game, is easy of access to people, is beautifully though thinly forested, and is mostly characterized by very steep slopes. All this adds up to the fact that it is beautifully situated for recreation and for an approach to the wilderness. Its development as a popular jumping-off point for wilderness experiences calls only for minimum building of graveled roads to its edges, and building of primitive camp grounds.

Its development as a recreational resource is not opposed by cattlemen (who already use it and whose use would continue), or by mining or oil interests. It is supported by all the permanent Dubois Community, who hunt and fish, picnic and rock-hunt and just enjoy this area, and appreciate it as an economic resource on account of its recreational attraction. It is supported by game and wildlife experts. It is strongly supported by water protection specialists.

Who oppose it? U.S. Plywood.

This fact indicates without a doubt that these lands are wanted for the board feet of timber on them.

This is not big timber. It's high mountain growth, largely lodgepole pine and spruce, which U.S. Plywood cuts up into 2x4s and into fine chips for particle board. (None of it is used for plywood).

This timber is of painfully slow growth. A tree a hundred years old may be eight inches diameter at the base. The ashy slopes protected by the timber have got this protection only after hundreds of years of slow growth. Snow lies in here into July, and often returns in September; even if the snow holds off, the growing season is over by September.

Whenever these slopes are cleared, they wash at a terrifying rate.

The Absaroka Mountains are unique in being made up very largely of volcanic ash. They wash away just like an enormous ash heap. All this ash fills the streams and pollutes the water. The protection of this water resource is vital.

The inclusion of all this steeply sloping, lightly timbered southern fringe of the Absaroka Range into the Washakie Wilderness Area is most important in order to keep the timber from being cut off. If these slopes are bared, our water will be polluted, the recreational access to the wilderness destroyed, and the game driven out.