

STATEMENT OF RICHARD R. AND LOUISE NOBLE, CORA, WYO.

We are Richard R. and Louise Noble we own and operate a ranch located in Cora Valley. Our living is made by raising cattle and horses.

Even though ranching is our primary interest, we favor the recreation that is in our area. We live at the edge of the Bridger Wilderness area, and we enjoy the out door sports and game hunting that we have just as much as those who come from the outlying communities. With the population growing as fast as it is, we firmly believe that you cannot set aside enough land for the future generations and their posterity. Therefore we wish to give our full support to the addition of East DuNoir Creek and West DuNoir Creek, Bear Basin Wiggins, Fork, Lincoln point, the head waters of Mile creek and Parque Creek to be included in the Bill. The timber that is found in the above mentioned areas are very valuable to the wild life and their existence, also this timber is a very vital water shed, dams cannot do the job nor replace the timber once it is removed from these areas. The beauty of these regions and their usefulness depend on conditions remaining as they are and will be as a wilderness area.

JANUARY 3, 1967.

To : Regional Forester.

From : Roy W. Stickel, Dubois, Wyo.

Subject : Favorable consideration of proposal to maximize acreage included in Wilderness System near Dubois, Wyo. as provided for in the wilderness law of 1964.

SIR : My feelings on this matter are quite simple.

Generally.—Maximize the area covered by the National Wilderness Preservation System in the entire United States.

Specifically.—Approve by Congressional action the proposal made by Orin Bonney which has the effect of meeting the general objective stated above.

The reasons for doing this are equally simple, logical, and most important of all, are in the general interest of the majority of the citizens of our great country :

A Far Seeing President.—In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt told Congress : "Some of the forest reserves should afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora, safe havens of refuge to our rapidly diminishing wild animals * * * and free camping grounds for the ever increasing numbers of men and women who have learned to find rest, health and recreation in the splendid forests and flower-clad meadows of our mountains."

Wilderness Law of 1964.—The need for preservation of our high country is clearly stated : * * * It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness * * * to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States * * * leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition."

All have become painfully aware of the increase in population in the United States. This coupled with a gradually reducing work week is creating pressure on existing areas which can be partially relieved by increasing the wilderness areas for recreational use.

Local Economy—What About the Future?—It has been said that Dubois is deriving its greatest income from the timber industry. Currently this may be true, but what of the future? After the timber interests have clear-cut the marketable timber—and at present rates this will only take several years—then the timber industry will move to other green timberlands and Dubois will be left with tourism as its major source of income. Hardly an impressive forecasts for the future since the tourist will be agonized by the ugly, gaping wounds in the forest and it will be unlikely that he will stay in the area or recommend it to his friends.

Proximity to Yellowstone.—Hordes of tourists continue to increase the pressure on Yellowstone Park. Current estimates of expected visitor totals in the next few years and onward stagger the imagination. Quite naturally, visitors will overflow into adjacent areas as the pressure increases. We certainly have no right to deny them the opportunity of enjoying the beauty and intelligently using the lands their forefathers found and left in their pristine glory for future generations.