

Greatest Good for the Greatest Number.—One of the cornerstones of our democracy is the concept of the greatest good for the greatest number. The greatest number in this case are not the timber industrialists or the mining investors. The greatest number are the other citizen users of those wilderness areas. Their needs should be given maximum weight in considering the size of the wilderness areas.

Will Not Bankrupt the Timber Industry.—The area proposed for addition to the Forest Service proposal can hardly be considered critical as far as the timber industry is concerned. As an illustration, some fifteen years ago, there was harvested in North and Central America some 120,828,000,000 board feet of coniferous trees. With the growth of the timber industry in the U.S. since that date, today's figure would make the same 90,000,000 board feet available in the proposed additional area—a bucket of wood chips indeed.

Mining Industry Not Affected.—Since the law provides for continued prospecting in the wilderness areas over the next twenty five years and permits withdrawal of mineral areas from coverage, the mining interests are not being adversely affected. Certainly the amount of "action" by the mining industry in this area in the past decade hardly is indicative of substantial interest in it. Furthermore, recent reports by government geologists advise that the chance of commercially profitable mineral deposits is slight.

Does "Business" Really Want Land Destruction?—Local spokesmen for the timber industry show a lack of foresight in expressing their views. One cannot help but wonder if their boards of directors really unqualifiedly endorse the positions taken by these spokesmen. There has been evidence in the last few years of the insulation of corporate management from the decisions taken at field level. It is hard to imagine that the broadness of vision so typical of today's top executive would encourage total destruction of natural beauty.

Dubois Community in Substantial Accord.—The objectives of the businessmen in the Dubois community are highly divergent. Yet there is virtual unanimity to endorse increasing the acreage in the National Wilderness System. This has occurred only after detailed, non-partisan examination of the various proposals. One can conclude that the small businessman in the Dubois area has shown commendable consideration for the "greatest number"—this is marked contrast to the opinions expressed by representatives of the timber interests.

Erosion Threatens an Already Dry Country.—Water in the land's blood, and in this area of Wyoming water is scarce. Anything that contributes to a decrease in the water available is not in the general interest. Thus the addition of timbered land to the Forest Service proposal will aid in avoidance of further erosion and through this help to preserve what water is available.

Wildlife Preservation.—No cover—no water—no game. It's as simple as that. No one has conclusively proved that clear-cutting is not harmful to wildlife preservation. So long as clear-cutting is Forest Service policy then it is in the public interest to permit clear-cutting only in areas where preservation of wildlife is not affected.

A Personal View.—After consideration of the needs of the "greatest number", each citizen should voice once his own personal views.

As a career employee in foreign service of one of the world's largest companies, I had no home to go to upon retirement. After frequent pre-retirement visits spanning ten years and careful study of other areas, I chose the Dubois area of Wyoming over all the rest of the United States because here I can enjoy the beauty and grandeur that God created for my forefathers and me. I want it to stay that way forever for the enjoyment of all those who come after me.

Very truly yours,

ROY W. STICKEL.

STATEMENT OF WINNINETTE A. NOYES, EUGENE, OREG.

Although I have not yet been able to visit in the area proposed as the Washakie Wilderness, I have visited somewhat similar areas and have studied carefully the proposal presented here.

The Forest Service is to be complimented on its proposal, but I would like to suggest additions which would make the new Wilderness an even better one. The addition of approximately 46,000 acres, primarily in the DuNoir Creek, Bear Basin, Wiggins Fork, and several smaller areas, as recommended by the Wilderness Society and other organizations would be most helpful in making a well-rounded wilderness area.