

Kindly include these remarks as part of any record of hearings held on this subject.

Sincerely,

PHILIP A. DOUGLAS,
Executive Secretary.

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA,
Washington, D.C., March 6, 1968.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This letter is offered on behalf of the Public Lands Committee of the Izaak Walton League of America, in support of a Washakie Wilderness in the State of Wyoming, the general nature of which is described in S. 2630. We request that the statement be included in the Record.

The long interest and support by the League for the Wilderness principle has been established since the first proposals for a National Wilderness Preservation System were made, and need not be reiterated for purposes of this Record. The Public Lands Committee, which includes members from every region of the United States and who have special qualifications or special concern or both in the stewardship of the public estate, is assigned the responsibility of recommending public lands policies to our National organization and of aiding in the implementation of policies which the National organization has adopted. The members of the Committee have been appraised of the Washakie Wilderness proposals, and this letter represents the authorized consensus. I would add that the writer is personally familiar with portions of the present Stratified Primitive Area and the Absaroka Wilderness, particularly in the Wiggins Fork drainage.

The Public Lands Committee strongly supports the combining of these two units into a new, but enlarged Washakie Wilderness. We especially urge the addition of areas on the southern and western boundaries of the present Stratified Primitive area, totaling in excess of 40,000 acres. These areas would include Bear Basin drainage, Upper Wiggins Fork, Caldwell Creek, Parque Creek, the eastern slope of Ramshorn, upper portions of Fivemile and Sixmile Creeks, and at least the eastern portion of the DuNoir Creek basins of some 25,000 acres or more. These recommended additions generally parallel proposals by the Forest Service, but include additional areas which the League's Public Lands Committee believes are worthy of and meet the test of Wilderness. We would also suggest that continued study be given toward possible inclusion of areas in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Wood River and Dundee Creek. The observations of our Committee member John W. Spencer, of Santa Rosa, California, who has special qualifications, would be useful for the Record, and we request that these be included:

"* * * I am quite familiar with the original Stratified Primitive Area. In fact, at the time it was set up I was Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands in the Denver office of the U.S. Forest Service, and participated in the examination of the area on the ground with Bob Marshall and others. The area is outstanding in its scenic, wildlife, and recreational values and merits our wholehearted support. It is true that there are some small areas of possible mineral value that may be used as a base for some opposition. The fact remains that the whole region has been closely prospected during the last 100 years, and so far as I know there are no mineral developments of commercial importance at the present time within actual areas under consideration * * *"

Senator Jackson, in the question of wilderness, the people of the United States are dealing with a vestige of the national estate. We are all too aware that the efforts to implement a national wilderness system are linked with the idea of "locking up" resources. We cannot concur with the validity of such views, when we are considering areas representing about 2% of the land of a nation. It seems to us that we have a great opportunity today—unquestionably a last opportunity—to assure the maximum diversification in outdoor experiences through the most positive implementation of the Wilderness Act. Considering the extent of the public estate and the many and useful purposes which it serves, the wilderness opportunity is the most rare of them all. The maximum area of wilderness that our country can set aside will be little enough to meet the needs of today and the future. From the writer's own personal experiences in as short