

recommendation that no additional acreage of commercial timber land be included in the finally approved Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

We further urge that the Forest Service make every effort to relieve over-use pressures by recreation, livestock and people by practical wilderness management and recreation, however this may best be done to provide the maximum of wilderness recreational enjoyment and use.

To summarize, the Association commends the U.S. Forest Service on its stewardship of this area to date and on the study which has resulted in this proposal. Western Forestry and Conservation Association generally approves the proposal as it has been made. It most strongly opposes further additions of acreage to the area proposed as the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area.

The Association respectfully requests that these remarks be made a part of the record of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on S. 2751.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR M. ROBERTS,
Forest Counsel.

WESTERN FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,
Portland, Oreg., February 21, 1968.

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: Reference is made to S. 2630, a bill to designate the Stratified Primitive Area as a part of the Washakie Wilderness, heretofore known as the South Absaroka Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest, in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes, upon which hearings were held on February 19, 1968.

During the administrative field hearings on the original Forest Service proposal for the Washakie Wilderness, Western Forestry and Conservation Association submitted the following statement:

"Western Forestry and Conservation Association favors the U.S. Forest Service proposal for the reclassification of the Washakie Primitive Area with its deletions and additions as a part of the newly named Washakie Wilderness Area. This action is taken on advice of local members of the Association with the knowledge that careful study has been given the area under consideration by those charged with its management.

"Further, in light of the studies and evaluations by professional land managers, we must be most emphatic that no additional acreage be recommended for inclusion, roadless or not. One of the greatest needs, next to forest product production, which includes livestock, minerals, water and trees, is for a recreational environment for the many as contrasted to one for the few. This will be more and more true, even in Wyoming, as the years go by and population and leisure increase. For the most part, true wilderness will remain as wilderness whether or not a line is drawn around it on the map and its perpetuation is, in any case, the obligation of the land manager in charge. To hamstring his activity by inclusion of areas whose wilderness value is artificial seems somewhat less than wise.

"In Wyoming, due to the fact that already 25 percent of the forested area is included in wilderness type classification, it is imperative that every effort be made to manage every possible acre for its maximum contribution to the local economy. In other words, the objective should be to find reasons to declassify land rather than to classify it as wilderness.

"Finally, the Association urges adequate management of all forest lands, public or private, for their maximum contribution to the public good. The key word here is *management*. If the land is to be used, it must be managed whether the purpose be livestock or game production, timber yield, watershed or recreation in its various forms. Wilderness management may not be quite as intensive as management for mass recreation or for other uses, but it is essential none the less.

"To summarize, Western Forestry and Conservation Association approves the U.S. Forest Service proposal for the Washakie Wilderness Area with no further extensions."

Subsequent changes in the Forest Service proposal, which have resulted in minor additions to the proposed wilderness, seem to be acceptable and the Association favors the Forest Service proposal as submitted in S. 2630.

We wish to emphasize that the Association does *not* favor any extension to this wilderness area unless and until the administrative agencies charged with