

therefore, to the support of two specific additions to S. 2751. These additions, I believe, are vital to the integrity of the wilderness, and their exclusion from the wilderness in its final form, will seriously threaten its wilderness character.

The first of these is the Marion Lake area. Oregon has many lakes which are available to the motorist and the boating enthusiast. There are, on the other hand, few lakes the size of Marion which are, or are likely to be, reserved for wilderness use. Add to this the fact that the lake is virtually surrounded by the proposed wilderness area, and the logical conclusion would seem to be that it should be included within that area. Included, it adds a significant dimension to the wilderness area, while deleting little from the non-wilderness recreational uses of the Oregon Cascades. Excluded, it represents a significant loss to the wilderness recreational possibilities, and drives a wedge of non-wilderness deep into the wilderness area, endangering the qualities it is designed to protect.

The second addition which I wish to urgently support is that portion of the plateau between the valleys of the North and South Forks of the Breitenbush River which is excluded from S. 2751. As I examine the map of the proposed wilderness, the boundary in this area appears to transect this plateau, following no natural boundary of which I am aware, and also divides the Firecamp Lakes basin, excluding Crown Lake from the wilderness. I believe that this plateau is an integral part of the area proposed for wilderness preservation and, indeed, is a physical part of Mt. Jefferson. Any boundary which divides it must be an unnatural one.

The Firecamp Lakes, which are the outstanding feature of the plateau provide an outstanding view of the wilderness, and a jumping off point into it. They are capable of withstanding only limited use, however, and inclusion in the wilderness area would help to protect them against the type of overuse that could bring about their ruin.

To exclude a portion of the lake basin and part of the plateau by drawing an arbitrary line is, as previously stated, to exclude an integral portion of the wilderness to its great detriment. To submit this plateau to "multiple use" can be compared to drawing an imaginary line across the middle of a room, designating one half as a rumpus room and the other half as a bedroom. The argument is that in both cases you have reached the point of having a non-divisible unit which can be used in only one way, that use precluding (or being precluded by) other possible uses. In the case of this plateau, it belongs physically to the wilderness area, not to the canyons which form its natural limits.

As to what the final boundary line should be, I have no specific proposal. I would suggest that a boundary starting below Quitter's Point and following the 4,500 foot level around the plateau would be appropriate and provide adequate protection. At this writing, however, I am more interested in advocating the inclusion of the entire plateau in the wilderness area. The precise boundary can await the decision on this point.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views for the hearing record, and all good wishes to the subcommittee as it endeavors to reach an equitable decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. TANK, M.D.

CHENEY, WASH., February 20, 1968.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: We recently learned of the February 19, 1968, hearing on Senate Bill 2751 to designate a Mt. Jefferson Wilderness area in Oregon. We strongly support this addition to the wilderness system. Further, we feel its east-west dimension is too narrow, and that the addition of the Square and Long Lake areas, the Marion Lake Scenic Area, and the west side wilderness zone will help alleviate this weakness.

We are most familiar with the east side of the area, particularly the portion between the Cascade Crest trail and the eastern boundary between Canyon Creek and Candle Creek. The burned area around Brush Creek would be a valuable addition to the preserve also. One of us (Kenneth Swedberg) did a descriptive study of this area in 1959 and 1960. This burn is now about 25 years old and has a representative stand of young larch, Douglas fir, grand fir, ponderosa and