

CUPERTINO, CALIF., *February 17, 1968.*

HON. SENATOR CHURCH: On bill S. 2751, Mt. Jefferson Wilderness proposal, please work toward the passage of the Oregon conservationists recommendation of a 125,000 acre area.

Yours,

DR. DANTE SALERA.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., *February 16, 1968.*

Hon. Senator FRANK CHURCH,  
New Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHURCH: I understand the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands will hold hearings soon on the proposed San Gabriel Wilderness (S. 2531), for inclusion in the wilderness system. I feel this is an excellent proposal.

The San Gabriel Wilderness is located only a few miles from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. It is heavily used by organized groups as the Boy Scouts, as well as private citizens. Elevations range from 2000 to 8000 feet, thus the area is rarely closed in the winter due to snow. This wilderness is the only one that is open in the winter, all the other wilderness areas are closed due to snow until late spring. It is excellent for winter wilderness experiences. This area represents one of the few undisturbed areas left that is so close to large populations, yet is easily accessible. State highways (paved) surround the proposed wilderness on three sides.

I personally have spent many hours hiking in the Twin Peaks, and Bear Canyon areas and feel the area is definitely worthy of inclusion in the wilderness system. It is a welcome escape from the smog and congestion associated with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area.

Therefore, I support the U.S. Forest Service recommendation for a 36,647 acre San Gabriel Wilderness with 1200 acres deleted. I also support the Bobcat Canyon addition to the proposed wilderness, and would like to urge rapid passage of the San Gabriel Wilderness through congress. Please place this letter on the official hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD SARETSKY.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE COLLEGE,  
San Francisco, Calif., *February 17, 1968.*

Senator FRANK CHURCH,  
Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular  
Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: I write in regard to the hearings being held on S. 2630 (Washakie Wilderness), S. 2531 (San Gabriel Wilderness) and S. 2751 (Mount Jefferson Wilderness).

I believe it is imperative that, in each of these cases, we aim for the maximum feasible area within the wilderness boundaries.

Let me comment first on the Washakie proposal because there I have first hand knowledge. The Forest Service has proposed an area considerably smaller than that urged by others. They would particularly leave out certain ridge areas and the DuNoir Basin area. The logging of the ridge areas would make a mockery of the Washakie Wilderness. The volcanic soils of the area erode so fast and reproduce mature forest at such a low rate as to ruin the area for a long time. Loss of the DuNoir Basin would be ruinous to the elk herd of the area as this is one of the few remaining wintering areas, which is both protected from the weather and unpopulated, on the entire eastern side of the Wind River-Absaroka complex. One remarkable aspect of the Washakie Wilderness subject is the widespread agreement at the local level. Business interest (with the exception of lumber), housewives, school-teachers, ranchers are united in opposing the Forest Service proposal and in support of the larger unit. This is a new thing in Rocky Mountain State Conservation history and represents a growing awareness of these people both of the delicacy of ecologic systems, and more fundamentally that their economic future is tied to preservation of the land (for study, for tourism, for recreation) rather than to short-term exploitation of the forest. In some areas, this short-term use is aptly described by the term multiple use both because of the types of logging permitted and because of the relatively rapid regrowth