

patterns. However, in this area the type of logging done and the nature of the soils results in near denudation of the land and in extensive siltation of lakes and streams for miles around. I sincerely hope that your committee will accede to the wishes both of the local people and to those of us in other parts of the country who know and love that land in recommending the larger area and in rejecting the Forest Service proposal.

Although lacking first hand knowledge, I would like to argue on general principles for the San Gabriel Wilderness (S. 2531) and the Mount Jefferson Wilderness (S. 2751).

The maps that I have seen indicate that the Forest Service proposal for the San Gabriel Wilderness is appropriate and the maximum feasible for that area. On the other hand, it appears that some additions are needed to the Forest Service proposal for the Mount Jefferson area. Square and Long Lakes on the southeastern corner, Marion Lake on the west side are all areas which, if excluded, will be extensively commercialized. The result would be to deprive visitors to the area of the few lakes which are fairly accessible, but which retain wilderness character. Surely we have enough commercialized lakes plus enough non-scenic lakes which can become commercial to handle recreation needs of a certain type. I also agree with the Wilderness Society that the west side of the area needs extensive additions. In all, these proposals would add only 27,000 acres. This, I submit, is a very small amount in contrast to the total area now irrevocably lost in the Cascade Range in Oregon and in comparison to projected needs and population growth.

I wish I could express, without getting too verbose about it, the importance of the overall task of your committee. I think we can all clearly see what is coming for us in the way of loss of wild areas and the gradual spreading of our urban and suburban areas. The other figure clearly in the formula, as you know, is the changed meaning of the job—increased leisure. Yet although we can clearly see the need, we know that some individuals and groups will be hurt, or think they will be hurt in the short run. It is unfortunate that some groups take such a proprietary view toward lease rights on public land, but I know this makes your decision the more difficult. I believe that the great majority of people in the country are in support of larger wilderness areas and becoming increasingly sophisticated about their use.

My deep thanks and appreciation for your consideration of my suggestions and more generally for your work on these wilderness areas.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. RYTHER,
Assistant Professor, Sociology.

PORTLAND, OREG., March 7, 1968.

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

DEAR SIR: In your committee's scheduled deliberations on whether to make additions to the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area, I urge you to be mindful that your decision is being made not mainly for ourselves today but for the generations of Oregonians and Oregon visitors of the future. A hundred years ago foresighted citizens and legislators foresaw the future values of Yosemite and Yellowstone; today we reap the bounty of their foresight. And what foresight they had, surrounded as they were then with what must have seemed limitless areas of unspoiled nature.

Today the unspoiled areas are vastly diminished. It does not, it seems to me, require a comparable foresight to recognize that Jefferson Park, already bruised and worn by season's end, will need all the protection we can give it a hundred years from now.

Timber has an easily calculable dollar value so there are the usual economic arguments. But wilderness has a value, too, as vague and psychic as its measurement must be. Moreover, it is a value that is certain to increase as our population increases, as American life becomes more urban and as the unprotected wilderness that we have taken for granted disappears.

The Mt. Jefferson area will be visited and enjoyed by members of countless generations born after the last man who could have made a dollar cutting Jefferson area timber has died. These generations will have to enjoy only what we have saved for them. I urge your committee to foresee what great value this