

I am a native Californian and have always lived in the San Gabriel Valley so can perhaps appreciate the need for this wilderness area more than those who have not seen the growth of population in Southern California as I have.

I was first taken into the proposed wilderness area (Bear Canyon) by my father about 35 years ago and have visited it many times since. I am now introducing it to my children and find that they are experiencing the same thrill I did at being alone in the wilderness so close to such an urban area as ours.

Although I cannot see what commercial use could be made of the area I feel certain that in time someone will think of one and I therefore urge passage of S. 2531 before this happens.

Please include this letter in the official hearing record.

Very truly yours,

EARL F. MOODY.

EUGENE, OREG., *February 26, 1968.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Please include the following in the hearing record regarding the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area Classification:

The Mt. Jefferson Area will make a wonderful addition to the Wilderness system. It is a beautiful place to visit and the Federal Government is to be commended for choosing to preserve this area for the American people.

However, one definite improvement could be made in the current Forest Service proposal. This improvement is to include more land in the proposed Wilderness along its western boundary. The Forest Service's proposal will create a long and narrow wilderness lacking any truly isolated areas. This is especially true of the northern portion of the proposed Wilderness where there are already definite signs of overuse.

I hope that you will recommend the establishment of a Mt. Jefferson Wilderness with appropriate additions to the western boundary of the area.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN A. MOEN.

VISALIA, CALIF., *February 15, 1968.*

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: I strongly urge a favorable report on S. 2531 by Senator Kuchel.

The area concerned is fairly close to the large population of Los Angeles, it has no significant value for mining or timbering, it has no private inholdings and has no conflicting uses.

Sincerely,

ROBERT K. MEYERS.

PORTLAND, OREG., *February 22, 1968.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: Regarding the Forest Service proposal for Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, I would like my remarks included in the hearing record.

Over the last few years both my wife and I have been back-packing through many of the "primitive areas" of the west. Last year, we went into the Jefferson Wilderness Area. We were very surprised to see over thirty-five people, either walking or on horseback, during a two day period. This is more people we have ever counted during a hike period, even on trips into the high country of Yosemite National Park.

The "pressure" on the Jefferson area seems very heavy. The campsites are over used. In my opinion, this is because of the narrowness of this primitive area which makes it easy to get in and out of and the closeness of the area to the population centers of the state.