

eration. The mature stands of fir being cut were not over thirty feet high and each tree barely six inches in diameter and, moreover, because of the very poor soil and short growing season had taken a hundred to two hundred years to mature.

I know that to a greater or lesser extent the same conditions exist in much of the timber acreage in the 28,000 acres proposed by citizens conservationists for addition to the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness as recommended by the Forest Service.

Forest lands that can not be economically harvested on a sustained yield basis should be spared as vital buffer zones around our few and relatively narrow wilderness areas. This is also true of lower level timber if they become economically productive only because of subsidies paid by the people of the United States at large for the building and maintenance of logging roads, costs of administration and reforestation. Whatever remaining economic values remaining must still be weighed against the higher wilderness values of the land itself and of the precious alpine land these forests protect.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. THOMAS P. McGEHEE.

BOISE, IDAHO, March 5, 1968.

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

GENTLEMEN: I would like to make my views known in regard to the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area Classification.

There are approximately 29,000 additional acres which should be included in this proposal. They are immediately adjacent on the west of the present Mount Jefferson area. With the addition of these acres to the west, it would help to make this a more viable wilderness by making it less narrow and would give the protection of distance to many of the upland fragile areas.

I would like to have this letter included in the hearing records.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE E. McCOWN.

FISH CAMP, CALIF., February 20, 1968.

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
*Subcommittee Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: As we were unable to attend the meeting relative to the San Gabriel Wilderness proposals, we wish to have our statement entered in the hearings record.

We urge that this Wilderness of 33,647 acres be added to the National Wilderness System.

Yours truly,

J. D. and H. P. McClymonds.

MOUNT VERNON, IOWA, February 19, 1968.

SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.*

GENTLEMEN: Although I am in basic agreement with the Forest Service's proposal concerning the Washakie Wilderness, it appears to me to fall far short of the potential wilderness which *should* be included within the official wilderness. It is true that the Service has proposed two additions in the southwestern part of the proposed wilderness and a third in the northeast portion to the present stratified Primitive Area, but a much larger portion especially in the western and southern areas contiguous to the Primitive Area should also be proposed for official protection. Areas H, I, and J, as suggested by several conservation groups, including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, are extremely important for the continued protection of the elk herds which inhabit the area. It is no secret that the elk is essentially a wilderness species and where it is not given this type of protection the herds decline or disappear. These additions appear to be established, or rather the need for their establishment is desirable to protect these