

the National Wilderness Preservation System (S. 2531). Therefore, I request that this letter be made a part of the hearing record.

Yours very truly,

NEALE E. CREAMER.

MILWAUKIE, OREG., March 10, 1968.

Subject: Mount Jefferson wilderness area—proposals by F.W.O.C.

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

DEAR SIRs: Because we have led Wilderness Camping trips in behalf of the Sierra Club does not mean we concur with all Sierra Club Wilderness proposals. In fact we wish to take issue with one section (14-b West of Mt. Jefferson) for good cause based on actual experience rather than good cause based on (perhaps) a neater looking outline on a map—as some of the FWOC proposals seem to be based.

We have led several ten-family groups in camping on the threshold of the Wilderness areas. Most of the families are inexperienced and are originally from the mid-west, but have been transferred to metropolitan California environments. They've found the Sierra too challenging both by altitude and accessibility, for family enjoyment.

Thus—because of our experiences in Mt. Jefferson area we would like to make the following comments. See attached map and proposals.

Proposal 14-a. Is needed and is a reasonable buffer.

Proposal 14-b. If adding area 14b west of Mt. Jefferson would necessitate closing down the upper part of Whitewater Creek Rd.—*we are opposed*. This would cause much of this Wilderness to be so remote as to be restrictive to the average citizen. It is now possible, because of this road, for a packer to take groups in, deposit them, and get out the same day. A lot of impact damage is due to tethered stock. When the packer can go in and out the same day much damage is prevented. If the upper Whitewater Creek Rd. were not permitted, the buffer area would be too enormous to accomplish by foot and still have energy left to enjoy the loveliness of the Park. The road is strictly a utility road. There are not lakes, streams or possible campsites within sight or sound of it. Use of this road is *essential* for other than hairy-chested professional hikers to be able to enjoy Mt. Jefferson Park.

Proposal 14-c. We would favor. The previous year, 1966, we led a trip into the Eight Lakes Basin just South of Marion Lake. Because of the popularity of Marion Lake we concur with the Forest Service Scenic Areas designation with trail access only. Would suggest a compromise for the question of motors on this Lake, by limiting the number, and the size permitted and issuing 5-year permits.

Proposal 14-d is most important to include. One of the best accesses to the Eight Lakes Basin is from Big Meadows. The first 1½ miles of trail from Big Meadows into this area winds through extraordinarily beautiful huge trees. This is one of the *very* few places where one can get the awesome feeling of Wilderness within a few hundred feet of the end of the road. Please *don't* let this area be spoiled.

Proposal areas "6", "L" and "K" on the map near three Finger Jack.

May I also speak in opposition to not including these areas in the Wilderness?

One main access into the Eight lakes basin ("Mowich Lake" area on the Mt. Jefferson map) is a trail thru this area. To permit logging and roads would only increase the impact on the very fragile present Wilderness Area.

Three Finger Jack dominates the entire Wilderness area south of Marion Lake. Any intrusion on its present wild state by logging or roads, especially on the North, North-east and South-west (areas "6", "L" and "K") could and would damage the remoteness of the entire area.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for these changes.

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS S. COURTNEY
Mrs. John A. Courtney.