

RIVERTON VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Riverton, Wyo., February 12, 1968.

Senator CLIFFORD P. HANSEN,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR HANSEN: On February 19, 1968 there will be a Senate Subcommittee Hearing concerning the Washakie Wilderness area north of Dubois. The present legislation conforms to the Forest Service proposal for setting aside 676 acres of the National Forest land as a permanent wilderness area. It is my understanding that the Bill in its present form includes a multiple use clause. The Riverton Valley Irrigation District is extremely interested in retaining the multiple use concept in this area. Our District as well as the LeClair-Riverton Irrigation District has been exploring possible dam sites for upperstream storage for several years. This wilderness area could possibly provide the two Districts with reservoir sites. For this reason, we feel that the multiple use provision should remain in the Bill.

The three Commissioners for the District have requested that I convey their disapproval of the proposed enlargement of the wilderness area to include the Dunoir and Bear Creek Basin. They feel that the present legislation dedicates a sufficient area as wilderness. The effect of creating a wilderness area is putting these public lands beyond the reach of the average citizen to enjoy. It earmarks the area for enjoyment by a few citizens who can afford to pay for guides and out-fitters in the area. In view of this, we feel that the wilderness area should not be enlarged beyond the limits of the present legislation.

Very truly yours,

J. ARVID ANDERSON, *Manager.*

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