

STATEMENT OF HON. LEN B. JORDAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE  
STATE OF IDAHO

Senator JORDAN. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my views on wild and scenic rivers. At least six bills in the House of Representatives are being considered here as well as S. 119 which has been passed by the Senate. I will not go into detail on each one, but there are variations in some sections of each bill which I would like to discuss with you.

Mr. Chairman, I have always been a strong believer in the wild rivers concept. I have stated on numerous occasions that I hope every State contributes a river or segment of a river to this great system. This is still my hope. I want to see people enjoy these unspoiled areas.

As evidenced by various bills, there are real differences of opinion as to what constitutes a wild or scenic river and the locations for the designation of such rivers. One bill lists 16 rivers in the reserve category, class 1, with 82 others being recommended in some type of wild or scenic river study. The Senate bill lists seven rivers for designation as wild rivers, five as scenic and 27 proposed for further study.

We have differing views in Idaho. Some people want more rivers included in the system, some want no wild rivers at all. As I have stated before in considering this legislation, I have had serious reservations that we are trying to move too fast too soon. In this country and especially in the State of Idaho we are currently engaged in a mass effort to inventory and assess our water resources and to direct planning to the most comprehensive sorts of consideration about future needs, designation, and uses to insure that we deal wisely with this most precious resource so that we do not penalize coming generations through the failure to exercise every bit of foresight we can.

The whole emphasis in the water resource field is on using such vision as we possess to plan as comprehensively as possible for the future. Congress has certainly been aware of our need for more study on our land and water resources. Public Law 89-80, the River Basin Planning Act, is barely going into operation, but we do have now the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission in its first year of activity in the Pacific Northwest.

Public Law 88-379 authorizes coordinated programs on water research. Under stimulus derived from this law, the University of Idaho Water Resources Research Institute has submitted a research proposal to the Office of Water Resources Research in the U.S. Department of the Interior so that a model or methodology for the evaluation of wild and scenic rivers may be developed. I hope it will be approved. I am sure it will be of help to us in evaluating the various rivers we now have under discussion.

Public Law 88-606 was the basis for the establishment of the Public Land Law Review Commission. It is the purpose of the Commission to review all land and related resource laws and regulations. The life of the Commission has recently been extended by Congress. A water study plan for the use of this Commission is now about ready to be activated.

A weather modification bill, S. 2875, in the 89th Congress has been