

This will mean new business and new jobs and a boost to the local economy.

I know you are interested in the question of scenic river boundaries, and our acquisition plans within these boundaries. I would like to describe how these will be determined in the areas managed by our Department.

We do not contemplate that large areas of National Forest land will be designated for scenic river purposes. If amended as suggested in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, H.R. 8416 would limit the area that could be included within boundaries of scenic rivers system components to a total of not more than 320 acres per mile. This would work out to an average width of one-quarter mile on each side of a scenic river. However, we are sure that scenic river area widths will vary—depending on the terrain, existing developments, natural vegetative screens, and needs for access and public use facilities.

For instance, where high, steep banks or dense vegetation adjoin the river, the designated river area would be narrow. It would probably not extend more than a short distance beyond the top of those banks or the dense vegetation because areas beyond would be out of view from the river. A wider area would be needed in flat or continuously rising terrain to protect the view from the river.

We have a unique situation where scenic rivers flow through national forests. Often the bulk of surrounding lands are already in public ownership, and are already being managed in a way that enhances scenic river purposes. Here, the actual chosen width of a scenic rivers system component would have little, if any, effect on management practices.

We will generally restrict fee acquisition for scenic river purposes to those cases where it is necessary to make the areas of greatest use demand accessible to the public, and to provide for public use facilities. In other cases, scenic easements can be used to fully protect scenic river values.

We want to make it clear that many land uses are compatible with scenic river management. Livestock grazing, farming, forestry, and simple, rustic recreation developments are all part of a picturesque rural environment. These kinds of land uses should continue. When viewed from the streams, they will foster an understanding of wise land use—of how man can improve nature's productivity and use its bounty, without impairing its quality.

Mr. Chairman, I believe our time is running out if we want to fully protect some of our remaining free-flowing streams. I strongly urge the establishment of national scenic rivers system to assure unspoiled, unobstructed waterways for all of us, for all time.

As you have so graciously already recognized, Mr. Chairman, Chief Cliff of the Forest Service is here with me. Ed knows all of these proposed rivers quite intimately from personal experience. He knows the rivers in detail. He and I together will be glad to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Cliff, do you have an additional statement?

Mr. CLIFF. No, Mr. Chairman, I do not, but I am ready and willing to answer questions to the best of my ability.

Mr. TAYLOR. The gentleman from Colorado, Mr. Aspinall.