

Mr. WILSON. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it would be very desirable. We have quite a problem of administration and access to the lower White Rim, which is halfway down from the top of the high plateau. We have what we call the Shafer Trail, which is access to the White Rim, and we start from the top, out of the park, and go into the park about halfway down the hill and then come out before we get to the bottom. In other words, our road runs in and out of the park and then for 4 miles we are outside the park and then we get back in on the White Rim. It does pose a problem on maintenance and administration and control of a very scenic but strictly jeep trail.

Senator Moss. If the State retained Dead Horse Point State Park, but the rest of the northern acquisition went in, do you foresee any difficulties in administration between the two, between the State continuing to operate the State park and the national park being right adjacent to it?

Mr. WILSON. I certainly don't see any difficulties. Cooperation between the Park Service and the State park commission has worked both ways. We are pretty close neighbors already.

Senator Moss. Do you foresee any appreciable difference in the way the State park area would be administered and taken care of if it were in the national park rather than in the State park?

Mr. WILSON. I think if we did get Dead Horse State Park within Canyonlands, we would probably operate it a little differently than the State park commission does now.

Senator Moss. When I was first drafting these bills and considering this extension, I had some extensive conversations with the officers of the Texas Gulf Sulphur Co., which has some potash leases and actually owns some real property in fee that impinged on Dead Horse. I have a letter of agreement in my file from the president saying that he would convey that land to either the State or to the National Park Service.

This has been in limbo now for some little time because the bill hasn't been moving, and we are just now getting underway again and I haven't reopened my conversations with him. Are you familiar with that situation?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir. What we might call the patented land lies right there, a little indentation, and actually it is owned by Texas Gulf. Also almost all of this area shown in blue is under potash and oil and gas leases. However, the operation of the potash leases and their actual mining is underground.

You first drop about 1,100 feet to the White Rim, and then their operation is 2,800 feet below that to that point. Therefore, unless they put in another shaft right under Dead Horse Point for access or ventilation or something, we don't even see their operation.

Senator Moss. Mr. Fogarty, the president-director of Texas Gulf Sulphur Co., indicated to me that if this went into the national park and if the statute governing uses of a national park would prohibit it, they would forgo their potash leases in this area and possibly try to exchange them for other areas. Is it your understanding that the law would permit the underground mining so long as it didn't surface any place in the park?

Mr. WILSON. I am afraid I will have to call on Mr. Harrison to answer that.

Senator Moss. Mr. Harrison, what is your opinion on that?