

The additions in S. 26 will alleviate these failings in four areas. Even S. 26, however, does not go all the way to the Orange Cliffs, which form the west boundary of the Canyonlands as a geographic entity. The area between The Maze and the Orange Cliffs is covered by S. 27, to establish Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. We shall recommend during deliberations on S. 27 that this area be given the strongest possible protection.

Because Canyonlands National Park is so new and so unimpaired, the progress of master planning for Canyonlands is a matter of concern to everyone interested in conservation of this park. We raise the subject at this time because the National Park Service seems to feel that it lacks any congressional directive to study the wilderness potential of Canyonlands. This is a critical point, because the wilderness of Canyonlands is one of the park's greatest and most widely known features. Even the visitor who never leaves the road appreciates the wilderness values of Canyonlands, for example, in his enjoyment of views from Island in the Sky. This visual access to the wilderness is one of the most important ways people enjoy the park.

The potential for designation of portions of Canyonlands as wilderness should be considered and incorporated into the planning process of the National Park Service. While Canyonlands is still largely wilderness is the time to consider this—to take inventory of what we have, then carefully to plan the means and routes of access, whether by car, jeep, or on foot, so that the wilderness resource will be minimally impaired.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890) provided for mandatory review of wilderness in National Park System units by September 1974. This provision, however, did not specifically mention new parks established subsequent to approval of the Wilderness Act. Canyonlands thus is technically exempt from the 1974 deadline. It is a paradox that this park, in which the wilderness resource is so important and for which initial planning is being done which will set the pattern for development over many years' time, should be thus excluded from receiving high priority attention with respect to wilderness conservation.

The Sierra Club recommends that the wilderness of Canyonlands National Park be studied immediately. In the older parks wilderness studies too often, by necessity, consist of mapping out the patchwork of wild country left between long-established roads, which generally were not planned with wilderness in mind, but rather as a route between two points. In Canyonlands, roads are still sparse, development plans still tentative. Wilderness values should be considered, and their preservation planned, at the same time as other values and plans are considered.

To this end, we suggest an amendment to S. 26 providing 2 years for the Interior Department to review the wilderness opportunity in Canyonlands National Park and directing the Department to report to Congress on what is suitable for designation as wilderness. Congress would then have the option, as is provided under the Wilderness Act, to designate wilderness areas by act of Congress incorporating them into the National Wilderness Preservation System.