

A pioneer road, as you know, will be completed across the final link of the cross-State highway this summer, and construction is proceeding from both the east and west sides of the Cascades. Certainly, every provision should be contained in the legislation finally enacted to provide for this road corridor.

When completed, this route not only will have great scenic value but will also serve as an important transportation facility for commercial, business and recreational travel between the northeastern, central, and northwestern portions of the State. In this connection, I would urge that the legislation provide for the retention of administrative responsibility for the State highways in this area by the State highway commission.

The area under consideration for National Park Service jurisdiction, it seems to me, is too valuable to be placed in such limited categories of use as sightseeing, hiking, skiing, and camping.

These lands always have been under the control of the Forest Service and we have had good multiple usage, including the activities which would be limited under the National Park Service and many other uses not permitted in a national park.

For example, the greatest damage to be done to this area if it is entirely converted into a park is to destroy the hunting and fishing and stop the controlled harvesting of timber and the orderly extraction of minerals.

It has been the receipts from timber sales which have aided in financing the North Cross State Highway. Ask the people of this State if they would rather have this new, modern traffic artery, or 70,000 acres with little or no access. Their vote would be a resounding "yes" in favor of the road and the timber harvest that pays for it.

There are more than 700,000 hunting and fishing licenses sold in the State of Washington. This particular area provides some of the most outstanding fishing and hunting in the Nation. Hundreds of the alpine lakes are planted with trout annually by the State game department in this area.

Working together, the State departments of game and fisheries and the department of natural resources, the land managers of the interspersed State lands, are providing maximum sport and recreation usage, in close cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

These hunting and fishing activities contribute in excess of \$135 million, annually, to the State's economy.

From the standpoint of mineralization, the North Cascades is one of the remaining areas in the United States that has a potential for providing significant amounts of much-needed mineral resources.

Some of the statistics on importation of minerals show that in 1965, more than \$148 million in gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc ores were brought into the United States.

These metals occur in significant amounts in the North Cascades, and in the national interest, management of the area should be such as to permit exploration and development of these resources.

In this respect, I urge that no action be taken on S. 1321 until completion of the present 3-year study authorized by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and being made by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines of the mineral resources of the North Cascades.