

Could you point out, maybe on the map, the area which you recommend for the North Cascades National Park as separate from the other areas?

Mr. MEEDS. Yes, Mr. Chairman. The areas in light blue on this map are the areas which would be the North Cascades National Park. We will see a little later the Senate proposal made a change in this area.

Mr. TAYLOR. Point out the other areas, as colored there.

Mr. MEEDS. On this map?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. This is the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area almost all of which is presently in and which this bill would add 10,000 acres in. This is all presently wilderness with the exception of this and this (pointing to map). This is the North Cascades Primitive Area, which would be designated a wilderness area by this bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is now a primitive area?

Mr. MEEDS. It is now a primitive area and has been off limits for cutting of timber as have all of the areas that we are looking at in the colors here.

Mr. TAYLOR. Both of these areas are now administered by the National Forest Service?

Mr. MEEDS. All of the areas we are looking at here are administered by the National Forest Service at present; yes sir.

Mr. TAYLOR. The other area, the darker, almost purple area?

Mr. MEEDS. This area is the Ross National Recreation Area and runs from about the town of Marblemount here, across the back of the Cascades, and generally provides a buffer zone for the North Cross-State Highway, which is completed to this point at this time. This will be the northern route across the Cascade Mountains. It also encompasses Ross Lake which starts at this point in the United States and runs to Ross Lake Dam.

Mr. TAYLOR. Will you explain why you recommend that that area be made a recreation area and not part of the park?

Mr. MEEDS. Yes, Mr. Chairman. Along the North Cross-State Highway and particularly down in this area there are some very fine high-density recreation areas, areas which could be utilized for overnight camping, for launching boats on Ross Lake. This is good fishing. There is a particularly good place right along in here—I have forgotten the name of it, although I have been there—which would provide an area for overnight camping and for boat launching, and could retain a large number of people and cars. It is our feeling that this area being near the highway and being near the access of the lake could best be utilized for those purposes.

As I say, the demands for outdoor recreation are increasing very rapidly in the area. We hope to give it this multipurpose concept of utilizing those areas which are best for solitude and for the individual to be by himself, in that respect, but having also something for the person who wants to go for a picnic or who wants to take his trailer and stay overnight. This activity is becoming more and more popular in this area.

In my estimation this is one of the best features of this whole plan, that is, to meet that need.

Mr. TAYLOR. What private uses would be continued in the recreation area?