

have been conducted to determine how these magnificent lands could best be utilized in the public interest.

The most thorough study was completed 2 years ago by a joint Agriculture-Interior study team chaired by Edward C. Crafts, Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. I believe you have copies of the study team's report before you today. The study team considered all the resources prevalent in a much larger area—lumbering, mining, grazing, hunting and fishing, water and recreation—and recognized the North Cascades scenic and recreational values which are unprecedented in any other area in this country.

The team made 21 recommendations, and among these was the conclusion that a national park should be established to include about one-tenth of the region's most spectacular mountain, valley, glacier, meadow, and lake scenery.

In 1966, President Johnson requested that a field inspection be made of the area by Secretary of Agriculture Freeman, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and myself.

As a result of this inspection and the study team report, President Johnson in January 1967 recommended establishment of a national park-wilderness area-recreation area complex, and in March of that year, a proposed bill was submitted to Congress by the administration. This bill was introduced in the House by Representative Meeds as H.R. 8970, and an identical bill was introduced in the Senate.

Extensive field hearings by this committee were held in Seattle and Wenatchee earlier this year in the North Cascades area in the State of Washington.

The details of this bill and the views of the local people are well known to the committee, including—

- (1) The minimal dependency of the timber, grazing, and other resource-based industries of the State on the park and recreation areas;
- (2) The stability provided to the concerned counties through a provision that would not affect distribution of national forest receipts;
- (3) The probable economic benefits flowing from creation of a national park;
- (4) The protection given to the North Cross-State Highway; and
- (5) The opportunity in national recreation areas to fully develop the ski potential, to permit hunting, and to protect present and potential developments of Seattle City Light. There is little point in my attempting at this hearing today to go into details on these matters.

The legislation before you today, in my judgment, will provide management units which recognize the superlative qualities of the entire region as a recreation complex without parallel, and each unit is singularly fitted for the management designation given to it.

Enactment of either the administration or the Senate-passed bill would, in my opinion, be not only acceptable but a great step forward.

Attached to my prepared statement is a summary of H.R. 8970, the administration bill introduced by Representative Meeds, and S. 1321, which the Senate passed in November 1967. This summary shows the few major differences between these measures.

It will be noted that the principal difference between the administration and the Senate-passed bill is that the latter reduces the size of the