

expand the wilderness as suggested, then we would strongly urge as an alternative that the area under discussion be placed in a southern unit of a new wilderness national park as suggested in S. 1321. But as long as the area is designated for permanent wilderness protection, we see little need for transferring it to the National Park Service. As stated earlier, both the Park Service and the Forest Service, are capable wilderness managers, and there is little to be gained, in our view, by shifting administrative responsibility from one agency to another when the preservation of wilderness is the primary management objective for that land.

With reference to the Glacier Peak Wilderness, it is hoped that the Congress will extend the boundary westward to close off the damaging White Chuck and Suiattle Rivers corridors. Additionally, there are some other needed westward boundary adjustments, north of the Suiattle River. These are described in the statements of the Sierra Club and others, and the Institute fully supports them. Further, we would like to see the Glacier Peak Wilderness extended to the northeast across the Stehekin River—even further than was suggested by the Forest Service in the North Cascades Report. The existing low-grade road up the Stehekin River should be abandoned and naturalized.

Announced plans of the Kennecott Copper Corporation to develop an open pit mine on the claims it holds on 3,000 acres of the Glacier Peak Wilderness are not in the public interest. We hope that the company officials are aware of the adverse national reaction that such a development would stimulate. The Forest Service is powerless to halt this development should the corporation decide to proceed, and we urge the Congress to explore every step possible to prevent mining in the incomparable Glacier Peak Wilderness as well as elsewhere in the designated wilderness of the North Cascades.

We support establishment of the recommended Okanogan or Pasayten Wilderness east of Ross Lake to be administered by the Forest Service. Various groups have recommended certain minor boundary refinements, particularly the inclusion of the Horseshoe Basin on the eastern extremity of the wilderness. We hope that this will be done.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I want to acknowledge that the North Cascades Report covered considerably more area than the bill before the committee. It is believed that the needed expansion of Mt. Rainier National Park should have early priority. The desirability for this expansion has been emphasized by the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. We hope that this will be considered. Unlike the Cascades further to the north, this area is under much greater population pressure, and any delay in making the boundary refinements will serve to make such action more difficult in the future.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, we also urge the committee to consider the establishment of wilderness areas recommended in the North Cascades Report in the vicinity of the Alpine Lakes-Mt. Stuart and Mt. Aix regions.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I wish to acknowledge that all of this sounds like a big order. But it is an order in keeping with the magnificent expanse of the North Cascades country, a fragile country of superb natural character that man has the power to destroy or to preserve. Conservationists hope that the decision is to preserve the wilderness of that incomparable country.

STATEMENT OF ANTHONY WAYNE SMITH, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

My name is Anthony Wayne Smith. I am President and General Counsel of the National Parks Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. I appreciate the invitation to submit this statement.

The National Parks Association is a private, non-profit, educational and scientific Association concerned primarily with the protection of the great national parks of America, but also with the protection and restoration of the natural environment generally. It publishes the monthly National Parks Magazine, received by all members, nearly 40,000 persons.

The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs very kindly invited me to testify on the present matter on April 25, 1967, and my full views are in the Senate record; the viewpoints I expressed at that time still seem to me to be valid, and I would appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to submit them for your consideration here.