

STATEMENT OF JON W. LITTLE, PRESIDENT, NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mr. LITTLE. Yes, sir.

Senator METCALF. Staff tells me that Mr. Little does have to get out of town, and so we want to give him an opportunity to testify.

This is a rather lengthy statement. I hope it can be put in the record, and you can summarize it.

Mr. LITTLE. I will do the best I can.

Senator METCALF. We will print the full statement at the end of your remarks.

From now on, many of the statements are bound to be repetitious, and we will put all the statements in the record, but I hope that the witnesses will keep in mind the testimony that has already been given, and not to make it any more repetitious than necessary.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Little, the floor is yours.

Mr. LITTLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do have some information that has not been heard by the committee, and much of my statement is repetitious, and I think you brought out some of the points I was going to bring out about the Forest Service and their role with the Indians.

I am Jon W. Little, president of the New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association, which has its headquarters in Santa Fe, N. Mex.

Ours is a private organization, organized in 1914 to protect and to perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources through educational means. We are the New Mexico affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

At the outset, Mr. Chairman, may I say that my association is opposed to the principle expressed in H.R. 3306. May I say further that the members of our association have no monetary interests at stake, other than those which derive to all citizens through sound conservation practices on public lands.

Nor is it expected that failure to enact this bill will result in any early or appreciable increase in the recreational use of the Blue Lake Area by non-Indians.

Our interests are for the wisest and best possible management of the lands in question for the maximum public benefit, including the citizens of Taos Pueblo.

We wish to make it clear that our opposition to the bill in no way should be construed to demean the Indians' native religion, nor to imply that we are opposed to the Indians' continued freedom to practice their religion in privacy.

I would like to partially repeat some of the testimony in one instance, with regard to access.

Contrary to allegations, the Forest Service has sought to discourage travel to the Blue Lake Area by non-Indians. Permits must be requested at least 1 week in advance. It is only the most insistent persons who are granted a permit.

The Forest Service has built a trail to divert the public via a longer route away from Blue Lake. No overnight camping by non-Indians is permitted. No non-Indians may stay in the area more than 24 hours.