

Senator METCALF. All right.

Mr. BERNAL. First, I testify here to support of H.R. 3306. I am the oldest council member and spokesman for many, many years. This is the place where you give your honest interpretation and respect. This is the place where you give your honest interpretations so people can understand you, and no mixtures of falsifying information is welcome in this room. This room belongs to the U.S. Government. People can be told here knowing about respect in an honest way insofar as testimony that I will give to the best of my ability.

First of all, I want to make a comment here in regard to my friendship with Mr. Anderson, Senator of New Mexico. He and I have been friends for many years, and he and I have been close business relationship experienced in the way of discussing this particular matter.

I am desirous for him to consider my testimony and my presentation, and I will to the best of my ability, and I would expect for him to listen and to do the best part for him and give us a consideration.

Now I shall tell the committee about the Blue Lake and the 48,000 acres and why I say that we are here about this lake, why is it that we have a relationship which is undesirable for us. I have been working on this and I have experience to work with this Blue Lake problem, and I have no desire to do other than to tell you exactly what has gone on. The reason why that we have a misunderstanding with the Forest Service I shall tell you.

The first problem that we have experienced with the Forest Service I will point out to you in a situation in La Junta Canyon, which now shows on the map the blue spot on the southeast corner.

In that area in the year about 1956 and 1957 a lumber operator had been given permission to establish a lumber operation in this canyon in what we call Deer Creek, and he established a lumber mill in there and invited the lumbermen or the loggers to bring in their teams of horses and they have brought in their houses for us by these loggers and they built a corral right on the creek.

This creek is falling into Buffalo Creek. A desecration has been done by these people, tremendous damages have been done, and also the lumber people under these programs have cut a tremendous amount of timber in that area and today no timber now is available for clear-cut. They already have cut that blue spot area in the southeast corner of the map.

This is my objection. This is one of the damages which the Forest Service has failed to correct in this area.

In order for us to prevent further damage in this area, me and my council, the Governor and the staff, went ahead and approached them to find out who is the operator where this permission was coming from. The operator, Mr. Tony Cordova, told us that he got permission from the Forest Service and then also I brought in the U.S. Public Health Service to see and to make a correction and to help us to correct this damage.

In this area the land looks to me to be almost beyond recovery. The watershed is damaged so badly that it is going to take a long time to bring it back to its natural form. Many side of the drainage on the east side of this exclusive use area, parts of the Apache Spring and Bonito Park and Witt Park, the Forest Service let many non-Indians graze their stock in this particular area by permit, and the