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D 46 **DESOLATION AND VENTANA WILDERNESS
AREAS, CALIFORNIA**

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HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS

Barcode with number: 980007 009114
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FIRST SESSION
ON

S. 713

A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DESOLATION WILDERNESS, EL-DORADO NATIONAL FOREST, IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AND

S. 714

A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE VENTANA WILDERNESS, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 19, 1969



Printed for the use of the
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1969

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REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DESOLATION AND VENTANA WILDERNESS AREAS, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1969

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Lee Metcalf presiding.

Present: Senators Metcalf, Allott, Hatfield, and Fannin.

Senator METCALF. The subcommittee will be in order.

This is the time set for hearing on measures to add to new areas in the national wilderness preservation system under provisions of Public Law 88-577, the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The bills are S. 713, designating the Desolation Wilderness, in the Eldorado National Forest in California, and S. 714, designating the Ventana Wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest, in California.

These bills were introduced by the chairman of the committee, Senator Jackson, by request. And they represent recommendations made to the Congress last year by the President pursuant to the provisions of the Wilderness Act.

At this point in the record, we will insert the texts of both bills and the reports of the Department to the President made last year.

(The data referred to follows:)

[S. 713, 91st Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To designate the Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest, in the State of California

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with subsection 3(b) of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 891), the area classified as the Desolation Valley Primitive Area, with the proposed additions thereto and deletions therefrom as generally depicted on a map entitled "Desolation Wilderness—Proposed", dated April 26, 1967, which is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, is hereby designated as the Desolation Wilderness within and as a part of the Eldorado National Forest, comprising an area of approximately sixty-three thousand five hundred acres.

SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the Desolation Wilderness with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and map may be made.

SEC. 3. The Desolation Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 4. The previous classification of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area is hereby abolished.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT

DESOLATION WILDERNESS, ELDERADO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., January 25, 1968.The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am pleased to give you a report recommending the designation of the Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest, in California as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposed wilderness includes most of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area and 22,725 acres of contiguous national forest land. The total acreage within the proposed wilderness is 63,469 acres.

Notice of intent to recommend designation of the Desolation Wilderness was issued on March 24, 1967. A public hearing was held in Placerville, Calif., on April 26, 1967, and the hearing record was held open for receipt of additional written testimony through May 26, 1967. This public response is summarized in the attached report.

California's Gov. Ronald Reagan, the Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County, and all interested Federal departments and agencies were notified of the proposal. Those comments received as a result of this notification are included in the appendix of the attached report.

In its report on the Wilderness Act, the congressional conference committee stated that it expected the Department of the Interior to explore existing national forest primitive areas to give Congress the benefit of professional technical advice as to the presence or absence of minerals in each area. In accordance with these wishes, the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines have examined the proposed wilderness to determine its mineral values. They found no mineral deposits of commercial importance. However, they did discover some gold-bearing sulfides in one small area which would warrant further exploration.

The proposed Desolation Wilderness is just west of Lake Tahoe and 90 miles east of Sacramento, Calif. It is within 200 miles of the San Francisco Bay area, with a population of over 8 million people. California presently has 13 units in the National Wilderness Preservation System which contain a total of 1,256,884 acres. In addition to the Desolation Valley Primitive Area, seven other national forest primitive areas containing 519,056 acres are currently being considered for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System. Your recommendation for the 142,918-acre San Rafael Wilderness is presently being considered by Congress. On March 29, 1967, I recommended that most of Devil Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area be designated as the San Gabriel Wilderness, and in a separate report I am today recommending that most of the Ventana Primitive Area is suitable for inclusion in the System. Studies under the Wilderness Act on the four remaining national forest primitive areas in California have not been completed.

About 505 acres of the proposed wilderness are utilized by portions of two small existing hydroelectric projects operated under licenses issued by the Federal Power Commission. These are Project No. 2101 of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Project No. 184 of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. The proposed designation of the Desolation Wilderness would not alter the Commission's jurisdiction over these existing projects.

The Desolation area is eminently suitable for designation as wilderness, and I recommend submission of legislation to incorporate it into the national wilderness preservation system. Attached is a draft of legislation which would implement this proposal.

Respectfully yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

[S. 714, 91st Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To designate the Ventana Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest, in the State of California

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with subsection 3(b) of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 891), the area classified as the Ventana Primitive Area, with the proposed additions thereto and deletions therefrom, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Ventana Wilderness—Proposed", dated August 15, 1967, which is on file and available for public inspection in the

office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, is hereby designated as the Ventana Wilderness within and as a part of Los Padres National Forest, comprising an area of approximately ninety-five thousand acres.

SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the Ventana Wilderness with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and topographical errors in such legal description and map may be made.

SEC. 3. The Ventana Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 4. The previous classification of the Ventana Primitive Area is hereby abolished.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT

VENTANA WILDERNESS, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., January 25, 1968.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am pleased to give you the attached report which recommends designation of the Ventana Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest, in California for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The proposed wilderness encompasses 94,728 acres and includes most of the Ventana Primitive Area and some contiguous lands which are predominantly valuable for their wilderness resource.

Notice of our intent to recommend establishment of the Ventana Wilderness was issued May 6, 1967, and a public hearing was held in Salinas, Calif., on June 7, 1967. The hearing record was held open through July 7, 1967, for receipt of additional written submissions. The public response is summarized in the attached report.

California's Gov. Ronald Reagan, the Board of Supervisors, Monterey County, and all interested Federal departments and agencies were notified of the proposal. The comments they submitted are included in the appendix of the attached report.

In its report on the Wilderness Act, the congressional conference committee stated that it expected the Department of the Interior to explore existing national forest primitive areas to give Congress the benefit of professional technical advice as to the presence or absence of minerals in each area. In accordance with these wishes, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines have examined the proposed wilderness to determine its mineral values. They determined there has been no production of minerals from the primitive area, and they found no evidence of commercial mineral deposits within the boundaries of the proposed wilderness. A copy of their report is attached.

The proposed Ventana Wilderness lies near the central California coast 25 miles south of Salinas. It is reasonably accessible to the major population centers in California. California presently has 13 units of the National Wilderness Preservation System which contain a total of 1,256,884 acres. In addition to the Ventana Primitive Area, seven other national forest primitive areas containing 507,630 acres are currently being considered for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System. Your recommendation for the 142,918-acre San Rafael Wilderness is presently being considered by Congress. On March 29, 1967, I recommended that most of the Devil Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area be designated as the San Gabriel Wilderness, and in a separate report I am today recommending that most of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area is suitable for inclusion in the System. Studies under the Wilderness Act on the four remaining national forest primitive areas in California have not been completed.

The Ventana area is eminently suitable for designation as wilderness, and I recommend submission of legislation to incorporate it into the National Wilderness Preservation System. A draft of legislation which would implement this proposal is attached.

Respectfully yours,

ORVILLE L. FREEMAN, *Secretary.*

Senator METCALF. The Desolation Wilderness bill, designated S. 713, embraces a total of 63,469 acres. This is made up of 40,744 acres in the Desolation Valley Primitive Area and 22,725 contiguous acres, all within the El Dorado National Forest. A more detailed description is included in the agenda.

The Ventana Wilderness, designated S. 714, involves a total of 94,728 acres, including 54,474 acres in the Ventana Primitive Area and 48,321 contiguous acres all within the Los Padres National Forest.

Because both of these areas are in California and because some witnesses would like to testify on the two bills in one appearance, we will take them both up at this time.

Senator CRANSTON, junior Senator from California, who was unable to attend, has presented a statement in favor of both bills.

Without objection, I ask they be inserted in the record at this point as if read.

STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN CRANSTON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator CRANSTON. Mr. Chairman, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of two new wilderness areas in California. I have the honor of cosponsoring with the distinguished chairman of the Interior Committee, Senator Jackson, S. 713, which would designate Desolation Wilderness in Eldorado National Forest and S. 714, which would designate Ventana Wilderness in Los Padres National Forest. Both proposals were submitted by the President to the 90th Congress but failed to receive final action. The decision by the Chair to give these proposals early hearing is commendable, and I assure the committee that I wish to cooperate in every possible way to achieve early action.

The lands in question are now wilderness. Their inclusion by congressional sanction in the national wilderness preservation system will make certain that they remain as they are now—virgin lands untouched by the machines of Western civilization. With the Wilderness Act of 1964 we Americans made it our policy that future generations will be able to hike and ride horseback, camp and fish on land as it was before we came, before the imprint of man's works destroyed so much of the wilderness.

Particularly in California, increasing population and travel are putting great pressures on our countryside. Housing developments uproot the citrus groves; orchards grow where but a few years past cattle and sheep grazed on unleveled pastures; subdivisions, no longer tied to the cities, leap far into our foothills and mountains. The very rapidity of this changing land use is a constant threat to sound, long-range planning.

As a Californian, I want to see every acre of our State put to the best possible use for this and future generations. An integral part of that overall planning is the wilderness designation for best suited lands. Such a designation both protects the primitive area and is a necessary factor in planning how best to develop adjacent lands in the region. Therefore, I urge that there be no unnecessary delays in the careful consideration of these wilderness proposals.

There may be some disagreement among those who will testify before the committee about the exact boundaries of one or both of

the proposals. I am confident that the committee will determine the best specific boundaries wisely, after all of the evidence has been weighed. These minor questions should not overshadow the more important consensus that both Ventana and Desolation should be approved as wildernesses. This committee wrote our excellent Wilderness Act. Let us implement that law by protecting these remnants of California as it was when the Indians greeted Junipero Serra.

THE DESOLATION WILDERNESS

The proposed 63,469 acres of Eldorado National Forest to be called Desolation Wilderness begin just west of the Emerald Bay area of Lake Tahoe and rise to span the crest of the Sierra Nevada. Its approximately 100 square miles are accessible by foot trails from U.S. Highway 50 and California State Highway 89.

It is a rugged, rocky land carved out by alpine glaciation, popular with backpacking campers in the summer and cross-country skiers and snowshoers in the winter. Wildlife abounds and the fishing is good. The average altitude is slightly above 8,000 feet. It is a 3- to 4-hour drive for the millions living in the San Francisco Bay area.

I know of no opposition to the proposed wilderness designation.

THE VENTANA WILDERNESS

The Ventana proposal contains 94,728 acres and lies in the Santa Lucia Range on the central California coast in the Big Sur region.

The President's 1968 Report called it an anachronism because in mid-20th century it remains a relatively unexplored primitive area despite its proximity to two major north-south California highways and to the San Francisco Bay area, which is but 100 miles north.

Its elevation varies from near sea level to a peak of 4,965 feet. Its hills are covered by a variety of trees and brush including the southerly limit of the California coast redwoods. A rare conifer, the Santa Lucia fir, also known as the bristlecone fir, grows only in this area. Unlike many California wilderness areas which are closed by winter snows to all but a few hardy skiers, Ventana is most popular during the winter and spring.

I have been informed that some conservation groups will propose to the committee the inclusion of an additional approximately 3,000 acres in the Willow Creek area. The Forest Service proposal of 1967 sets forth the reasons for the exclusion of the Willow Creek drainage. As the committee will hear detailed arguments on both sides of the question, it would be presumptuous for me to make any recommendation. I will support the Ventana Wilderness legislation in either form.

Again, I wish to thank the committee for allowing me to make my endorsement of Desolation and Ventana Wildernesses.

(Subsequent to the hearing the following additional statement was supplied:)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT BY HON. ALAN CRANSTON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Following the hearings herein recorded, I have reviewed the testimony of the representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and of the conservationists who appeared before the Committee on February 19, 1969. I am delighted that there

was so much agreement among the witnesses in support of both wilderness proposals.

While earlier I made no suggestion to the Committee on the question of including the Willow Creek area in the Ventana Wilderness, I now would like to encourage the Committee to accept the proposal that the Willow Creek drainage be included. The good arguments presented for adding Willow Creek plus the agreement by the Forest Service representative that the Service could administer the area either way persuade me that Willow Creek will add substantially to the Ventana Wilderness.

Senator METCALF. Senator Murphy of California is unable to be here today. His letter will be included in the hearing record at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, D.C., February 19, 1969.

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Since I cannot appear in person to testify in behalf of S. 713 to designate the Desolation Wilderness and S. 714 to designate the Ventana Wilderness, I am submitting this letter in support of these bills with my request that it be made a part of the record of your hearings on the measures.

The establishment of both of these areas is highly desirable.

Although within 90 miles of Sacramento in the area immediately west of Lake Tahoe, the proposed Desolation Wilderness area retains its original rugged character, and it is the summer home of deer, bear, and various other wild creatures.

Fishing is popular in the many lakes, and many Californians and others return to the area year after year to hike over the rugged mountains, ridges, and alpine meadows.

The proposed Ventana Wilderness is approximately 120 miles south of San Francisco, and 36 miles south of Monterey.

In this area are peaks which range up to 4,800 feet as well as a vast array of wild animals and trees, including a grove of coast redwood. In fact, the Ventana Wilderness will be the only wilderness area to include specimens of the *Sequoia sempervirens* or the bristlecone fir.

The area will provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping and hunting for some of the 8-million people who live within a radius of 100 miles.

The prompt and favorable action of your subcommittee on these bills would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MURPHY.

Senator METCALF. Congressman Burt L. Talcott of California has sent in a statement in support of S. 714, the Ventana Wilderness proposal. Without objection it will be included in the hearing record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE BURT L. TALCOTT, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, it is a pleasure and privilege for me to appear before this distinguished Subcommittee in support of S. 714, a bill to create the Ventana Wilderness within the confines of the Los Padres National Forest in the State of California.

The nucleus of the proposed Wilderness will be the present Ventana Primitive Area, comprising 54,407 acres, which was previously set aside in the Los Padres National Forest in its natural condition. An additional 40,321 acres in the National Forest would be added to the Ventana Primitive Area to make a total wilderness of 94,728 acres.

The Ventana Wilderness lies on both sides of the Santa Lucia Range of mountains and the east side of the crest of the Coast Range in Monterey County, California. It contains the headwaters of the Carmel, Arroyo Seco, the Little Sur,

and the north and south forks of the Big Sur Rivers—all names synonymous with scenic beauty and recreation in the central coast area of California. Elevations vary from 1,200 feet to 4,800 feet.

The Wilderness area is blessed with a wide variety of flora. A rain forest is located on its western boundaries. Typical southern California brush-type vegetation exists in the easterly portion. Several types of conifers and hardwoods grow in the area, among them the California coast redwood and the Santa Lucia fir, a bristlecone fir. The abundant wildlife of the area is also rich in variety, thus creating a well-balanced ecology worthy of preservation.

The proposed Wilderness is ideally situated between two major population centers. It is within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay region and its 8,000,000 people, and is also readily accessible to the people of the populous Los Angeles area. In addition, the Wilderness is located near one of the country's most beautiful and popular scenic regions—the Monterey Peninsula—and will thus be beneficial and enjoyable to innumerable citizens from throughout the country.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Subcommittee, after years of study and promotion we have achieved mutual agreement among the water conservationists and the natural beauty conservationists—not always an easily soluble task. I therefore urge favorable action on S. 714. This area will be a very valuable addition to the national wilderness preservation system. Your approval of this bill would provide a primitive recreation area for today, while at the same time preserve this unique product of nature for future generations.

Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Our first witness today is an old friend of the committee, and an expert on wilderness and wilderness preservation, Ed Cliff, Chief of the U.S. Forestry Service.

Mr. Cliff, will you come forward and identify yourself?

**STATEMENT OF EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF, U.S. FOREST SERVICE,
ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM A. WOLF, STAFF ASSISTANT**

Mr. CLIFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

I am pleased to speak for the Department of Agriculture this morning in support of S. 713 and S. 714. These bills would designate the Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest, and the Ventana Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest, both in California, as units of the national wilderness preservation system.

The Department of Agriculture has long considered the maintenance of examples of our Nation's wilderness heritage as a vital part of the multiple use program for the national forests. The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of June 12, 1960, and the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, reinforced this philosophy.

The Wilderness Act directs us to study each national forest primitive area “* * * as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness * * *.” Our studies include adjacent areas that may have wilderness potential. Our recommendations are based on analysis of public needs and potential benefits. We have relied heavily on public hearings to provide us with views to guide this analysis.

The national forests in California contain 15 units of the wilderness system with 1,436,227 acres. These are shown in red on the map before you. There are also four other primitive areas which are currently being studied to determine their suitability or nonsuitability for designation as wilderness. These, together with the Desolation and Ventana Primitive Areas, encompass 450,714 acres and are shown in green on the map. The green cross-hatched areas on the map are areas which are also being studied, under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, by the Department of the Interior. The two proposals before you were developed in full recognition of these other existing and potential wilderness areas in California.

Basically the questions on the Desolation and Ventana proposals are simply these: Are these areas suitable for wilderness and, if so, is wilderness designation the best allocation for these lands?

In making our recommendations we have considered the potential impacts of wilderness designation on all resource uses and activities. I will discuss these impacts later in relation to the specific proposals. They are described in detail in the reports you have before you. However, I want to emphasize now the relationship of these two proposals to outdoor recreation opportunities in California.

Recreation is becoming an increasingly important use of all national forests. This is especially so in California where nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population lives.

In 1968 an estimated 46,184,300 visitor days use occurred in California national forests. The 21 wilderness and primitive areas received about 4½ percent of this use. Our objective in recreation management on the national forest system is to provide opportunities for the full range of recreation experiences from those found in wilderness to those found at intensively developed places, including opportunities for all of the various kinds of experiences in between these two extremes.

We recognize that recreation is only one of the purposes for which the wilderness system is established. But recreation is usually a major use of the system. So our review of primitive areas will give considerable weight to the needs for establishing and maintaining a balance in the opportunities for the various kinds of recreation experiences. These needs were carefully considered in our review of the Desolation and Ventana Primitive Areas.

The proposed Desolation Wilderness encompasses 63,469 acres of Federal land within Eldorado County, including 40,744 acres from the Desolation Valley Primitive Area. The area lies on both sides of the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains immediately west of Lake Tahoe and approximately 90 miles east of Sacramento, Calif.

The area consists of glaciated ridges and valleys with elevations ranging from 6,500 to 10,000 feet. Desolation Valley and Rockbound Valley are central features and are typical segments of this portion of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. These valleys are characterized by very large granite outcroppings that have been heavily glaciated. There are 15 peaks over 9,000 feet in elevation. There are 69 named lakes, and many others yet unnamed, which vary in size from 1 or 2 acres to several hundred acres.

The proposed eastern boundary of the wilderness is located 2 to 3 miles from the shores of Lake Tahoe. The Lake Tahoe area is being intensively developed and is attracting an increasing number of people each year. The result is a marked increase in the number of people who want to backpack, hike, or camp in nearby unroaded mountain areas. The capacity of this area to accommodate such activities would be greater if it were managed primarily for back-country recreation with some structures and facilities rather than for wilderness. It is our conclusion, however—

Senator METCALF. That is the area between the old area—

Mr. CLIFF. I am speaking of the Desolation Area.

Senator METCALF. I see.

Mr. CLIFF. It is our conclusion, however, that the foreseeable demands for such use can be accommodated on other undeveloped national forest lands outside the proposed wilderness.

Cattle have been grazing within the proposed wilderness under four permits since 1909. This use will not be foreclosed because of wilderness designation.

The mineral potential within the proposed wilderness is very low and there are no oil or gas leases within the area. However, there is a small area which contains significant amounts of gold. Insofar as known the deposit is too low in grade, the gold too erratically distributed, and the area of occurrence too difficult of access for this deposit to be commercially exploitable.

I might add, Mr. Chairman, you have before you or available to you a detailed geological report on this area, made by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines, in which they make this conclusion. It is a very good detailed analysis of the mineralogy and geology of the area.

Approximately 24 percent of the proposed wilderness is forested and about one-third of this forested area produces timber that is of commercial diameter and quality. The estimated volume on these timbered lands is about 160 million board feet. This timber is mostly located in scattered patches, and is not economical for harvesting under present market conditions with available equipment. This volume has never been included in calculations of the allowable harvest of the Eldorado National Forest. There would be no immediate economic impact from wilderness designation.

Water will continue to be a very important resource. Wilderness designation will have little or no effect on the present water-production capacity of this area. However, treatment to increase water yield would be precluded.

Past water-management activities have altered the wilderness character of the area somewhat. These activities have resulted in two structures which you should be fully aware of as you consider this wilderness proposal. One, Aloha Lake Dam, was constructed of native rock and mortar in 1865—over 100 years ago—and is today substantially unnoticeable. The other is the Rubicon Reservoir Dam, a more formal concrete structure which diverts water from the Rubicon River to Rockbound Lake. After careful analysis in 1958 the Forest Service agreed to the construction of this facility within the primitive area. It is an indispensable part of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's American River project. The actual structures were designed and constructed in such a manner as to minimize the impact on the wilderness resource.

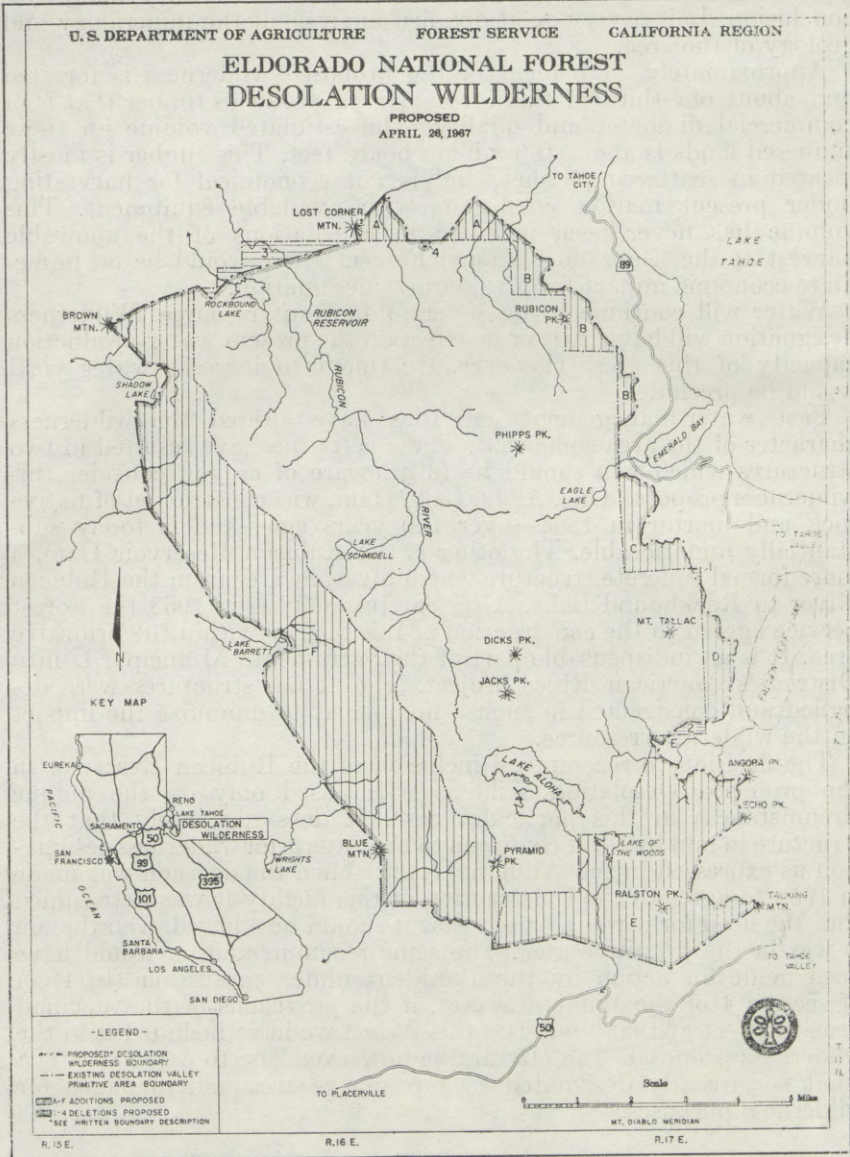
The decision to recommend inclusion of the Rubicon Reservoir in the proposed Desolation Wilderness is based only on the unique circumstances in this particular case. It does not imply that the structure in and by itself conforms to the criteria for wilderness designation as expressed in the Wilderness Act. When the decision was made in 1958 to agree to the construction of this facility it was determined that the need for it was so great that it should be allowed even though it was in the primitive area. The same recommendation would have been made for action by the President under subsection (b)(4)(1) of section 4 of the Wilderness Act, if the provisions of that act had been in effect at that time. For this reason we have included it in the wilderness proposal. The alternative now would be to carve it out of what is currently designated as a primitive area and managed for wilderness purposes.

You will find more detailed information on all resources and on other aspects of the proposed wilderness in the wilderness report. That is the volume which has been furnished to the committee.

Senator METCALF. That is part of the file?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, this is part of the supporting document and contains a great deal more detail of the area.

A public hearing on a proposal to establish the Desolation Wilderness was held in Placerville, Calif., on April 26, 1967. Sentiment was overwhelming in favor of adding the Desolation Valley Primitive Area and contiguous lands to the national wilderness preservation system.



Some of those who testified urged the inclusion of more additions to the area. An analysis of the public reaction is found on page 9 of the report.

I would like to discuss the reasons we have chosen the suggested boundary of our proposal. Each area is shown on the map on page vi of the report and on the large display map before you.

Additions

We have recommended that six separate areas not presently in the primitive area be added for designation as wilderness. They are shown in the map with black vertical lines as areas A through F. Our reasons for suggesting these inclusions are as follows:

Area A (687 acres) General Creek and Meeks Creek.—The vegetative cover and topography are similar to that of the primitive area and inclusion permits placing the boundary in recognizable topographic features.

Areas B (1,148 acres), C (784 acres), and D (654 acres) are lands of similar vegetation and topography which lie on the east slope facing Lake Tahoe. These areas will add additional depth to the wilderness along this side.

Area C (5,748 acres), The Lake of the Woods-Ralston Peak Area, contains picturesque rocky peaks and lakes over 8,000 feet in elevation which are comparable to the quality and character of the lands within the primitive area.

Area A (13,704 acres) is a strip of land approximately 2 miles wide along the full length of the westerly boundary of the primitive area. It contains numerous streams originating in alpine lakes along the crest of the Crystal Range. This extension was made to include both slopes of the range. We believe the lands are an integral part of the basic wilderness unit.

Exclusions

Areas 1 through 4 were recommended for exclusion from the primitive area. They are shown on the map before you with horizontal red lines.

Area 1 (28 acres) and Area 2 (73 acres) are small corners beyond a well-defined topographic boundary.

Area 3 (527 acres) is a strip of land containing a public road to the Buck Island Lake Reservoir. These lands do not qualify for wilderness.

Area 4 (11 acres) is a portion of Duck Lake within the primitive area. It is excluded because of an access road to the north edge of the lake.

Our proposal for the Desolation Wilderness represents a net increase of 22,086 acres in the area dedicated to wilderness purposes.

Inclusions recommended by others

The areas shown in blue on our map were recommended by some who testified at the hearing, as expansions of the Forest Service proposal, but were not recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

The Duck Lake Area (562 acres) was recently acquired by the Forest Service through an exchange of lands. The timber had been harvested just prior to acquisition and it is bisected by a road. It does not, therefore, qualify for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system under the criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act.

The Shadow Lake Area (200 acres) was recommended for inclusion by some to prevent the use of motorized trail vehicles in that area.

We did not recommend that it be included because of the rut roads which have been established by the repeated use of four-wheel-drive motor vehicles.

That concludes my statement on the Desolation Wilderness and if it meets with your approval, Mr. Chairman, I will present the statement on the Ventana Wilderness.

Senator METCALF. Why don't we go into this Desolation Wilderness area first, and I will ask my colleagues for any comments or questions they may want to make, and then we will go into the other one.

The Senator from Colorado.

Senator ALLOTT. Mr. Cliff, first of all, it may have been in your statement—I was trying to watch various things here—what are the official comments of the State of California on this?

Mr. CLIFF. We have correspondence with the State of California, and as I remember, their comment is included in the report and is favorable.

Senator ALLOTT. They are favorable?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes.

Senator ALLOTT. All right, how many acres have now been set aside in California for wilderness?

Mr. CLIFF. We have 1 million—

Senator ALLOTT. I see. It was on the first page of your statement.

Mr. CLIFF. It is 1,436,222 acres.

Senator ALLOTT. And this adds 22,000.

Mr. CLIFF. This would add 63,000 acres.

This 1,436,222, Senator Allott, represents the areas that have already been designated as wilderness and included in the wilderness system.

In addition, we have 450,714 in primitive areas, including this one and the Ventana. This would transfer 63,000 acres to wilderness. It would officially classify 63,000 more as wilderness.

Senator ALLOTT. All right. Now, with respect to what we might call the economic possibilities, in your statement you say that there is some gold in this area but that it is not exploitable. "Insofar as known the deposit is too low in grade, the gold too erratically distributed, and the area of occurrence too difficult of access for this deposit to be commercially exploitable."

What about the future exploitation?

Mr. CLIFF. Well, this—

Senator ALLOTT. For example, at \$70 an ounce.

Mr. CLIFF. This statement was based on the Geological Survey report, and they analyzed this deposit in detail. They say it is fractured, it is in very small areas. They do indicate that it might be worthy of further exploration, but they express doubts that it would be economically exploitable, based on the present information. And a copy of their complete report has been made available to you.

Senator METCALF. Is it a part of this proposal of the Desolation Wilderness?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir, it is located—

Senator METCALF. I mean is the geological report incorporated in your proposals?

Mr. CLIFF. You also have a report—

Senator METCALF. You have quoted from that report, but do we have the complete report in the file?

Mr. CLIFF. I am quite sure that has been furnished to you. It is part of the House document, Senator, which I think your committee has. It is a report of the Department of the Interior entitled "Geological Survey Bulletin 1261A, Mineral Resources of the Desolation Primitive Area of the Sierra Nevada, Calif."

Senator ALLOTT. I didn't have this larger document available to me when you referred to it. I have just now procured it.

I am referring to a document called "A Proposal, Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest."

I read from page 8, which is a quote from the Geological Survey report:

A small area half a mile south from Gilmore Lake in northeast quarter of section 17, township 12 north, range 17 east contains significant amounts of gold that must be regarded as having economic potential for gold.

Now, that doesn't seem to be on all fours with your statement.

Mr. CLIFF. If you go on and read further in that statement, it says:

Insofar as known from surface outcrops, the deposit is too low in grade and the gold is too erratically distributed and the area of occurrence too difficult of access for this deposit to be commercially exploitable; however, the deposit is promising enough in mineral character and dimensions to warrant further exploration.

Of course, under the wilderness bill, further exploration would be permitted for a period of 18 years from the passage of this legislation.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, it seems to me that this is a use of double-talk by the Geological Survey, which doesn't tell us anything. There is always the possibility there might some day be an increase in the price of gold. In some markets the price of gold has gone up a bit; but there is very little gold in this country today, or very few areas where gold can be mined at \$35 an ounce, but this certainly gives us no clue as to the potential for the future of this area.

Wouldn't you agree to that?

Mr. CLIFF. Senator, I think you would have to read the complete report of the Geological Survey, which goes into the complete geology of this area. It describes the basic underlying rocks and the only place where there is any possibility of gold-bearing strata is in this one small area. And it is in several widely separated sections. The complete report, I am sure, would give you better insight to the possibility. We think it was a thorough report. There have been other geological studies made in the area over the years. This area has been open to mining location for many years. It is not actually mother lode country. There have never been any patented claims, or any claims that justified patenting. I think the potential is minimal and, of course, under the Wilderness Act this area would remain open for mineral exploration for an additional 15 years.

Senator ALLOTT. I do want to stress the point I am a little bit confused, though, by the paragraph that is quoted in your document.

Senator METCALF. For the record, the complete report is contained in House Document No. 292, part 5, of the 90th Congress. We do have it here.

Senator ALLOTT. I would like to approach another matter, which we got into last year, Mr. Cliff, with the Great Swamp Wilderness Area in New Jersey. And this is a matter that has been of great concern to me, because while I realize the value of this area for recreation purposes—I am speaking of the New Jersey area—particularly

because of its proximity to great centers of population—I am concerned about the dilution of the criteria of the Wilderness Act. I spoke at some length about this last year and it is still a matter of primary concern. We spent many years hammering out the criteria for the Wilderness Act, as you well know, you know it as well as anybody; and then the first thing we did under that was to dilute the criteria when we dealt with the New Jersey area.

Now, in this one, roughly in the northwestern part of this, you have the dam on the Rubicon River. How can you include it within the wilderness area? There have to be access roads to the dam; certainly it has to be cared for; it has to be maintained; you can't exactly say that big, huge concrete structure blends into the landscape, unscathed and untrammelled by mankind.

Aren't you really diluting the wilderness concept when you put a dam in this wilderness area?

Mr. CLIFF. Senator Allott, I would agree that this structure is a nonconforming use. It is not a massive structure—let me describe it briefly. The height of this dam is 28 feet. It is in a narrow gorge that backs water into a valley which is almost completely rock, with a minimum of drawdown. You can hardly see the effect of the drawdown, because it isn't a dirt-bottom dam. There is a diversion from this reservoir over to Rock Bottom Lake.

There was a very low-standard road built into the dam when it was constructed, with the understanding that the road would be obliterated afterward. The use of the road has been discontinued. It is now nothing more than a wide trail and will be maintained as a trail. The dam is of such a nature that it will require a minimum of maintenance.

The Wilderness Act does provide for the eventuality of water development, if water development is deemed to be absolutely necessary and is authorized by the President.

When we studied this in 1958, we were concerned very much about the same thing you are, and we still are concerned about diluting the wilderness principle. But in this case, after long study and consultation with others, we decided that it was an indispensable part of the Sacramento project and it could be allowed in a primitive area.

Now, the decision is whether it should be included in the formal wilderness designation, or the alternative of drawing the boundary line around it. Our recommendation is that it be included as an exception, and that it be handled as an individual case.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, I want to make my position clear. Over the years—and Congress has to bear an equal responsibility—we have established so many different kinds of monuments, historic sites, bird refuges, wilderness areas, primitive areas, canoe areas, et cetera, et cetera, that it seems to me that we are best serving everyone, including the Government and including the people, if we try to add here to the criteria which we set up with so much sweat and toil in the wilderness system. This is the only point I want to make. We had probably a good reason in the New Jersey situation, the Great Swamp Wilderness there, but now we are coming back the second time and doing it again or being asked to do it within a year. I just feel that if we are going to adhere to the concept that we set forth in the first few paragraphs of the Wilderness Act, that we ought to start doing it.

If we continue to make exceptions to the criteria, start this, then some day I will come along or some other Senator will come along, and he

will want a wilderness area that only happens to have a nice lake and a few boat ramps, and things like that—like the Grand Coulee Dam, maybe, or something of that sort.

I think that is all I have to say. That doesn't call for an answer, but I just feel that this is the time right now for this committee to decide how closely it is going to adhere to these criteria set up.

That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. Thank you. The Senator from Oregon.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Cliff, I would like to pursue a little bit this question on the matter of the Wilderness Act.

Would you point out again to me on the map where this particular dam is located? I understand that it is now part of the primitive area.

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. Would there be administrative or other problems created if you excluded the dams from the proposed wilderness area? What would this do to the whole?

Mr. CLIFF. In order to get a proper boundary it would mean cutting out about 2,500 acres, as I remember, of land that is good wilderness territory. I think the intent of the Congress was that these primitive area classifications be discontinued after 10 years. Congress, when it passed the Wilderness Act, instructed the executive agencies to review the primitive areas and within 10 years to recommend reclassification of wilderness, or declassification.

I think we would have a problem with maintaining a part of this area as a primitive area.

Senator HATFIELD. What would be the classification of the 2,500 acres once that 10-year limitation was up? What would you then do with it?

Mr. CLIFF. If it were declassified it would just be the same as other national forest land, and we could manage it in the primitive conditions without formal classification, if that is the direction it would take.

Senator HATFIELD. But really aren't we talking about a formality here? In actuality, couldn't you maintain that area, even after declassification, on pretty much the basis you wanted to maintain it?

In other words, any purpose to which this land would be used or subjected would have to gain your approval, a permit from you? Wouldn't you be still empowered to control the kind of activity that was to be involved in that area?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, we have full administrative authority to manage that area in a primitive condition, if that were the decision made. But if we are going to manage it that way—except for this problem of maintaining the wilderness standards that are written in the act that are worrying Senator Allott—why not include it in the wilderness? In that way we could put the boundaries on good topographic lines and confirm the action by act of Congress.

Senator HATFIELD. I think the weight of evidence is on the other side. I would disagree with you. I would say the weight of evidence would be to exclude it and make it as you would make it anyway, and maintain the basic integrity of the Wilderness Act concept, because, again, reiterating Senator Allott's view, I can't help but feel every time we make an exception, we build a precedent stronger for future exceptions.

Mr. CLIFF. This has concerned us, too, Senator, and you remember when we testified on other bills here, we have raised this same question.

Senator HATFIELD. I remember the picnic tables in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area that was being redesignated from a primitive area. These were well established and well used and we were removing those, I believe, because we wanted to maintain the integrity of the Wilderness Act.

Well, frankly, I think the picnic tables were far less offensive in terms of the criteria of the Wilderness Act than the dam. I am only speaking now as one member of this committee, but I would like to see us include the 2,500 acres, the area necessary to take the dam and that structure out of this wilderness designation, but then to give you some kind of a sense of the committee as to supporting your administrative program to maintain and to administer this area as if it were part of this wilderness area, which you have the power to do. That way we would maintain the integrity of the Wilderness Act and not set as I think, and as Senator Allott says, an unwise increase in precedent. Would this idea be offensive to you?

Now, I admit that from an administrative view it might make a nicer geographic outline of boundaries, but I am looking now at the integrity of the Wilderness Act.

Mr. CLIFF. As I say, we have been concerned about this matter of maintaining the integrity of the act, because there have been proposals made to include nonconforming uses in some of these proposed wilderness areas. We have resisted them, but in this case we went into it with our eyes open. In 1958 we negotiated with the wilderness organizations when this decision was made. We kind of made a commitment to them that we wouldn't let this interfere with the continued classifications as a primitive area. So there is some background on it that I think needs some consideration.

Senator HATFIELD. While we are dealing with the water resources, which the dam represents, you stated on page 4, "However, treatment to increase water yield would be precluded."

What do you mean by "treatment to increase water yield"?

Mr. CLIFF. We are conducting research and we are actually practicing land-use measures designed to increase water yield. One of the things in the high country is the construction of snow fences to trap the snow and to increase the depth of deposit from snowdrifts inclined to run off. In timbered country—and this is largely nontimbered—we can increase water yield by the pattern of timber harvest, and vegetation manipulation. I don't think that would apply in this area.

The snow fencing, any kind of work of that kind, would be precluded, but there is so much territory in the Sierras to work on water yield improvement that we will be a long time exhausting those possibilities outside the wilderness.

Senator HATFIELD. Would you restate the activity which would be precluded?

Mr. CLIFF. The principal way of increasing water yield or prolonging runoff would be the construction of artificial snow fences in this country and there are other places we can do that that would use all of the resources we have.

Senator HATFIELD. What if you got involved in a situation where there was very serious erosion taking place?

Mr. CLIFF. In this particular area that is a remote possibility, because it is largely rock, granite rock, with little sedimentary soil along the stream bottoms. It is a very barren area by and large. We have some pictures that we can show you to illustrate this. I think the likelihood of having erosion problems in this area are quite remote.

Senator HATFIELD. Also on page 4, you say there would be no immediate economic impact from wilderness designation. Does this preclude the possibility of future economic impact? What do you mean by that?

Mr. CLIFF. I was talking about the timber resources in there. I gave you the figures on the volumes. The timber is very low grade, it is remote, and in isolated patches. In the foreseeable future, I can't conceive that, even if there were no restrictions, we would be harvesting timber in that area. It is just noncommercial, really. It is commercial in size, but it is noncommercial because of location and species. It is mostly high elevation species.

Senator HATFIELD. Really, there is no immediate or future economic impact which you can see?

Mr. CLIFF. In my judgment, the future economic impact would be so low, we would be better served, if we had money to develop timber resources, to do it on better sites, in other places, where we can get more for our investment.

Senator HATFIELD. You indicated that there was general favorable public reaction. Then you indicate today the further inclusion of designated areas. What would be the relationship between those new designated areas and the response of the people in those hearings in California?

Mr. CLIFF. The statement I made included reference to these additional areas. This is the proposal that was reviewed in public hearings.

Senator HATFIELD. Including your new A, B, C, D?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir; and including the proposed exclusions.

Senator HATFIELD. Thank you very much.

Senator METCALF. The Senator from Arizona.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Cliff, in looking over the list of witnesses, I don't see anybody testifying from California that is directly connected with the State government, although I realize that Senator Cranston is a cosponsor of the bill.

I am wondering if you did have any indication from the State of California of their position in respect to this?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir. There is a statement. It is in the report—

Senator FANNIN. In support of this legislation?

Mr. CLIFF. From the Natural Resources Agency. It is on page 16.

Senator FANNIN. In support of the project, no objection to it? I was just wondering because I don't see any witness from the State government of California in that regard.

Mr. Cliff, in considering some of the water and power development programs that are already there and have been mentioned earlier, Chairman D. C. White of the Federal Power Commission, I think, directed attention to some of these problems that might occur and recommended that any legislation authorizing the wilderness proposal should clearly reserve the commission's jurisdiction over these existing

developments. No such provision is contained in S. 713. Would you want to comment on that?

Mr. CLIFF. Of course, the two developments I mentioned, the Aloha Reservoir, the one that has the 100-year-old dam, and the Rubicon Reservoir, are licensed by the FPC. And there is nothing in this proposal which would take away their authority to continue those licenses.

Senator FANNIN. Do you feel that their jurisdictional power in this relationship is preserved?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

Senator FANNIN. There isn't any mention of it but you think it is something that is taken for granted, or is assumed?

Mr. CLIFF. That is my interpretation; yes, sir.

Senator FANNIN. Has the National Forest Products Association taken a position with regard to this proposal?

Mr. CLIFF. I don't know of any adverse position they have taken on it but I haven't heard an affirmative position on it.

Could you enlighten me on that, Mr. Worf?

Mr. WORF. They have taken no adverse position on it. I think they intend to submit a statement to the committee.

Mr. CLIFF. They should speak for themselves, but this is an area in which they had no particularly strong interest.

Senator FANNIN. I was wondering if you had any opposition from the communities—I know there are no communities nearby—in regard to this being considered.

Mr. CLIFF. No, I know of no opposition to it, sir.

Senator FANNIN. Fine. Thank you very much.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Senator.

You suggest that if this had already been created and an application had been made for the dam, in order to provide water for the city of Sacramento, you would have recommended it be granted under the provision of the Wilderness Act, which says that:

The President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as may be deemed desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water projects, power projects and transmission lines and other facilities dealing with the public interest.

I am reading from the section you cited.

Mr. CLIFF. Yes.

Senator METCALF. Now, when that is granted, does that area still remain in the wilderness? Is that your interpretation?

Mr. CLIFF. That is my interpretation, that if that is granted, it would remain in wilderness classification unless the Congress changed the boundary. The only one that can change a boundary of a wilderness is Congress. Congress establishes them and Congress is the only one who can change them. I think there may be some very minor exceptions to that.

My counsel says there are no exceptions. Congress would have to make the change. But in this case, this use is substantially unnoticeable, unless you get right up against the reservoir, or the channel that diverts the water. It isn't a big disruptive thing, and Congress, when they passed the act, clearly recognized there may be cases where water development should be permitted. In my opinion this is one of those cases.

Senator METCALF. So if this has not been built, but application is submitted, it might well be that if we created a wilderness of this size, that the President would authorize the development of the dam and it would remain in the wilderness area, just as you suggested, because it was built for the wilderness as created.

Mr. CLIFF. Under these particular circumstances, I think it could well be justified.

Senator METCALF. I have one more question, Mr. Cliff.

Some of the questions that I had were already covered by my colleagues.

You have a discussion of snow surveys in your report which has been filed with the committee, and the conclusion of that is that if adequate provisions were made for necessary snow measurements in the proposed wilderness, the State of California would support and endorse the Desolation Valley proposal.

What are adequate provisions that would be made for snow surveys? That is on page 17.

Mr. CLIFF. There are snow stakes or snow markers in there, and the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District surveys that course by aerial overflights and photography. We do permit landing the helicopters to make water-gage readings on the streams. This is a practice that was started prior to the recommended action, and this could be continued under the terms of the Wilderness Act. We would permit that to continue.

Senator METCALF. So there is nothing that would prevent continuance.

Mr. CLIFF. I know of nothing at this time that would be troublesome in this respect.

In all candor, though, we haven't permitted landing of aircraft for snow measurement nor the installation of mechanized measuring devices in wilderness areas where that practice was not established prior to the passage of the act.

This is a fine point, it is a troublesome point, but it seems to us the act is clear. Where aircraft is used and has become an established practice, the act says it can be continued. Where it has not been used, the act says it will be precluded. And it is just that way.

Senator METCALF. Thank you.

Senator FANNIN. Mr. Chairman, our staff counsel has just received a call from a representative of the National Forest Products Association, saying they have no objection to either of these projects, and that they will send a letter to you as chairman and so state.

Senator METCALF. I think one of our staff is trying to find a letter from them.

Senator FANNIN. But that letter will then be incorporated in the record and his statement is helpful.

Senator METCALF. Unless there is objection or any more discussion of this area, we will go on to the Ventana Wilderness Area.

You may proceed, Mr. Cliff.

Mr. CLIFF. The proposed Ventana Wilderness is part of Los Padres National Forest in California. It lies on both sides of the Santa Lucia Range of mountains and the east side of the crest of the Coast Range within Monterey County. It is approximately 120 miles south of San Francisco and approximately 36 miles south of Monterey.

We recommend 52,821 acres of the Ventana Primitive Area and 39,396 acres of adjacent national forest lands as an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Our proposal would exclude only 117 acres of the national forest land presently in the Ventana Primitive Area. This represents a net increase of 74.6 percent in the area managed for wilderness purposes.

The proposed Ventana Wilderness has two features which will be unique in the national wilderness preservation system. It is near the southernmost limit of the natural range of the coast redwood and approximately 750 acres of the coast redwood are found here, mostly in narrow stringers along the Little Sur and the Big Sur Rivers. The area also contains the bristlecone fir, otherwise known as the Santa Lucia fir—a rare and beautiful spirelike tree. This species occurs naturally only in the Santa Lucia Mountains.

A public hearing on the proposal was held in Salinas, Calif., on June 7, 1967. The response was overwhelmingly in support of establishment of a Ventana Wilderness. An analysis of the views presented is found on page 8 of the report which you have before you.

A mineral survey of the area conducted by the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines revealed very little in the way of mineral values.

Details concerning the resources included within the wilderness proposal and other aspects of the area can be found in the report you have before you. That is this document which has been furnished to the committee.

I would like now to discuss the boundaries of this proposal. Each area is shown on the map on page 13 of our report and on the large display map before you.

Additions

We recommend that five separate areas, not presently in the primitive area, be added for designation as wilderness. They are shown on the map with black vertical lines as areas A through E. Our reasons for suggesting these inclusions are as follows:

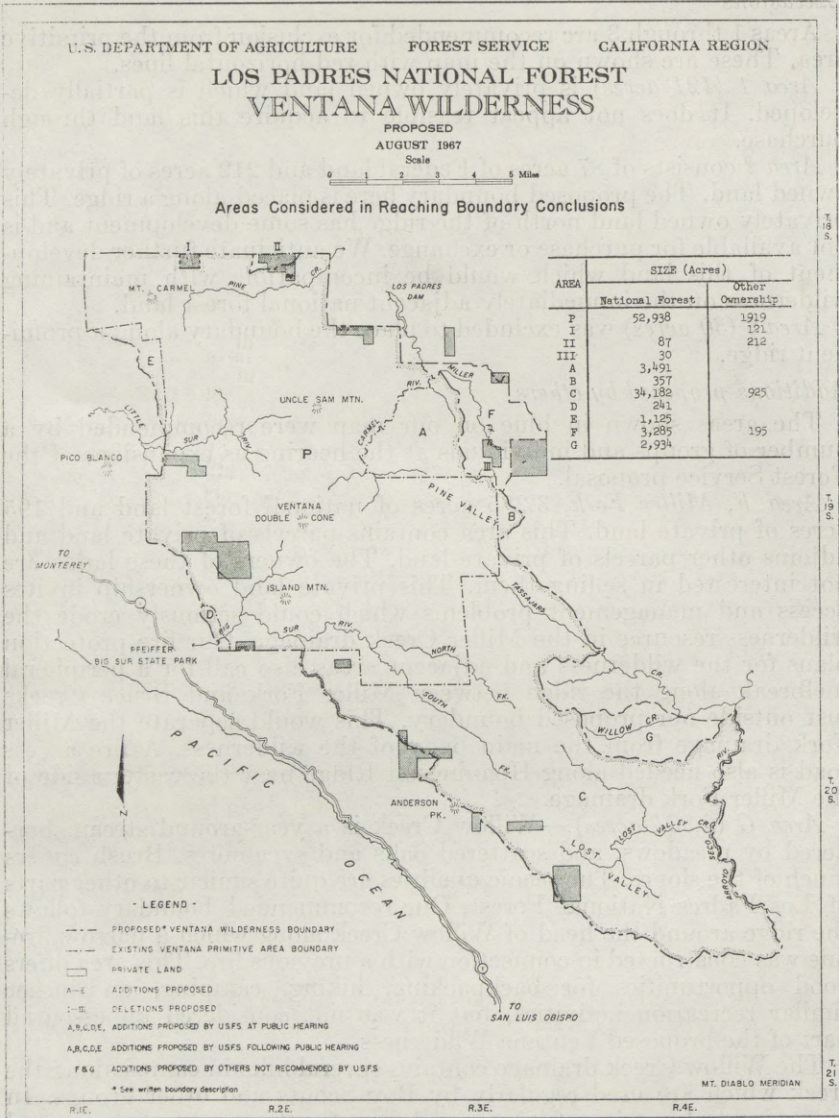
Area A (3,491 acres), east of the Carmel River.—We recommend this addition to include both sides of the Carmel River drainage and to place the boundary on a natural ridge separating Bruce Creek from Miller Ford.

Area B (357 acres), Pine Valley Basin.—This area would include the entire Pine Valley Basin and would place the boundary on a prominent ridge.

Area C (34,182 acres).—This area includes the headwaters of the Big Sur and Arroyo Seco Rivers and Tassajara, Lost Valley, and Logwood Creeks. The northeasterly boundary of this addition is a prominent ridge just east of Tassajara Creek. The remainder of the easterly boundary includes the Arroyo Seco River and its spectacular gorge. The boundary is 100 feet east of the throat of the channel of the river so that the river, itself, is included. The southwest boundary of the area follows the Coast Range paralleling but excluding a road and planned peripheral fuelbreaks.

Area D (241 acres).—This addition will place the boundary along a prominent ridge.

Area E (1,125 acres), Skinner Ridge.—This places the boundary so that it follows Skinner Ridge.



Senator METCALF. These areas are all national forest lands?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir; except that on this map, you will see some areas colored in brown. Those brown-colored areas are privately owned lands. We have drawn this proposed boundary so as to exclude some of these privately owned tracts, where it should be done. Others were included, and we would expect to try to acquire those, either by exchange or purchase.

Exclusions

Areas 1 through 3 are recommended for exclusion from the primitive area. These are shown on the map with red horizontal lines.

Area 1 (121 acres) is privately owned land which is partially developed. It does not appear feasible to acquire this land through purchase.

Area 2 consists of 87 acres of Federal land and 212 acres of privately owned land. The proposed boundary here is placed along a ridge. This privately owned land north of the ridge has some development and is not available for purchase or exchange. We anticipate further development of this land which would be incompatible with maintaining wilderness on the immediately adjacent national forest land.

Area 3 (30 acres) was excluded to place the boundary along a prominent ridge.

Additions proposed by others

The areas shown in blue on our map were recommended by a number of groups and individuals at the hearing as expansions of the Forest Service proposal.

Area F, Miller Fork, 3,285 acres of national forest land and 195 acres of private land. This area contains parcels of private land and adjoins other parcels of private land. The owners of these lands are not interested in selling them. This private land ownership invites access and management problems which could seriously erode the wilderness resource in the Miller Creek drainage. Our fire protection plans for the wilderness and adjacent areas also call for a peripheral fuelbreak along the ridge between Miller Fork and Bruce Creeks just outside our proposed boundary. This would separate the Miller Fork drainage from the main body of the wilderness. A fire access road is also needed along Henningson Ridge near the eastern side of the Miller Fork drainage.

Area G (2,934 acres).—Willow Creek is a year-around stream bordered by meadows, and scattered oaks and sycamores. Brush covers much of the slopes. The scenic qualities are quite similar to other parts of Los Padres National Forest. Our recommended boundary follows the ridge around the head of Willow Creek along which a narrow fire-line was constructed in connection with a previous fire. This area offers good opportunities for backpacking, hiking, camping, and other similar recreation activities, but it was not considered an essential part of the proposed Ventana Wilderness.

The Willow Creek drainage contains several hike-in camps along the creek which are used regularly by Boy Scouts and other groups. In proposing to leave it out it was our intent for this area to be managed primarily for recreation without public road access and with no motor vehicle use permitted. We did, however, plan to provide toilets and drinking water, and to install other facilities not permitted in wilderness.

Enactment of these bills will make fine additions to the national wilderness preservation system and we strongly recommend them.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Cliff, for your testimony.

Senator HATFIELD.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to understand clearly the exclusion areas. But first I would like to go back to page 8,

in which, in your first paragraph, you say, "Our proposal would exclude only 117 acres of the national forest land presently in the Ventana primitive area."

Could you identify those 117 acres?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir; it is in areas 2 and 3.

Senator HATFIELD. In other words, those 117 acres are explained in your later testimony relating to the exclusion areas and the reasons for the exclusions.

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct. They are now in the primitive area and we propose not to include them in the wilderness.

Senator HATFIELD. Now, the exclusion of the 117 acres in areas 2 and 3, I believe you indicate is primarily on the basis of the commercial and other development activity.

Mr. CLIFF. The reason for exclusion is that the brown-colored area on the map is privately owned land. It is partly developed, and it is not available for purchase.

Senator HATFIELD. We have 87 Federal acres in area 2 of the 117 acres?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes; 87 Federal acres in that block and we just pulled the boundary back to exclude that private land and put the boundary on the ridge in that particular location.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Cliff, would you describe to me what the character of the land is north of area 2?

Mr. CLIFF. That is privately owned land. That horizontal line, running east and west, is the north boundary of the national forest. Now, the land north of there is mountainous and hilly, but it soon runs out into settled country and up to Monterey.

Senator HATFIELD. Are those 87 acres contiguous to other Federal land ownership?

Mr. CLIFF. Only on the south.

Senator HATFIELD. This is what I am getting at. I am curious to know what you are going to do with those 87 acres that are sort of left dangling there.

Mr. CLIFF. I can't tell you precisely, but that is the kind of a situation where we might try to exchange that with a private landowner to acquire some of these inholdings.

Senator HATFIELD. That is what I was going to ask next, if that becomes a good bargaining or marketable—

Mr. CLIFF. Yes; it would be a good addition to that piece of private land there. It is just a little fragment that would be outside the wilderness. It would be hard to manage because it is blocked off by private land. I am just supposing now, but this is the kind of situation where we would use that as trading stock and try to acquire land inside the area.

Senator HATFIELD. Yes, and those 87 acres would not fit into the wilderness area here?

Mr. CLIFF. That is our judgment.

Senator HATFIELD. Now, down in the other area where you have private ownerships that are totally within the boundaries of the proposed wilderness area, do you know what the ownership attitudes are about selling there?

Mr. CLIFF. I can't tell you at this time, but we are hopeful that we can negotiate exchanges or purchases. We have been able to do this in other places. We do know the ownership and I am sure we have

people in the organization that could answer your question. I can't right now.

Senator HATFIELD. Do you have any access and management problems with those lands?

Mr. CLIFF. If they remain in private ownership in the wilderness area, we could have some serious problems, because people are entitled to access to their lands.

Senator HATFIELD. Yes.

Mr. CLIFF. And we couldn't stop the development of those private lands.

Senator HATFIELD. I am asking this series of questions because you indicated that you were excluding the Miller Fork area, area F, that had been proposed by other parties to be included in the wilderness area, on the basis that the private land ownership invites access and management problems and that the owners were not interested in selling.

Mr. CLIFF. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. Now, that seemed to be the criteria for excluding area F from the wilderness area, and yet some of those same problems exist with these private ownerships over here on the other side of the wilderness area according to your testimony.

Mr. CLIFF. They could exist. In this case there was strong support for adding area F by some of the wilderness organizations. So we investigated the attitude of the people who owned land. We also have some other reasons. Namely, we need access for fire control and we wanted to put the line on a ridge where we have a chance to develop a firebreak. But more specifically, we determined that the owners of that land are not interested in selling and they do plan to develop. There is already development started on that bigger block of land adjacent to area F.

Senator HATFIELD. But in addition to that, as compared to the other side of the wilderness area, you do have the fire-control problem, and the natural need there for that area to have access for fire protection, is that right?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. I have no further questions.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Cliff, for a very helpful and thorough presentation.

Mr. CLIFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator METCALF. We have the letter of the National Forest Products Association mentioned by Senator Fannin and without objection it will be included at this point.

(The letter referred to follows:)

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., February 18, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The National Forest Products Association, a federation of 18 regional products and species associations representing the lumber and wood products industry from coast to coast supports and recommends enactment of—

S. 713, to designate the Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest, California, and

S. 714, to designate the Ventana Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest, California.

These areas have been intensively reviewed by the Forest Service, in whose recommendations the forest products industry concurs.

Sincerely,

RALPH D. HODGES, Jr.,
Vice President, Government Relations.

Senator METCALF. Our next witness is Helen J. McGinnis, of the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee. Is it Miss or Mrs.?

Miss MCGINNIS. Miss.

Senator METCALF. Miss McGinnis, we are very glad to have you before us. We have two statements:

STATEMENT OF HELEN MCGINNIS, ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL CAPITAL WILDERNESS STUDY COMMITTEE

Miss MCGINNIS. Yes, I think I will try to combine them into one since I am speaking on both areas at once.

Senator METCALF. Very well.

Miss MCGINNIS. My name is Helen McGinnis. I live at 1511 Madison Street, apartment 201, Hyattsville, Md. I am speaking as a representative of the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee.

I am a native of California, and lived in the San Francisco Bay area until two and a half years ago. I had several opportunities to visit the Desolation Valley region. Although I do not have the figures to prove it, I suspect that the proposed wilderness is one of the most heavily used in northern California.

The splendid, highly glaciated countryside is one reason for its popularity. Even more important is its location—about a 4-hour drive from the urban centers surrounding San Francisco Bay, and half that distance from the rapidly growing communities of the lower Sacramento Valley.

Many people who vacation around the edges of Lake Tahoe and adjacent developed lakes take advantage of the wilderness, which will almost literally be in their backyards in some instances. Boy Scouts at Camp Harvey West and youngsters at other camps also make heavy use of the area.

If anyone here has reservations about wilderness areas, wondering if they are used only by the rugged, hardy few, I would recommend that he visit Lake Aloha within the proposed wilderness anytime in the summer. On just one trip he will have a good chance of encountering at least one Scout group, as well as families with young children, horseback riders, naturalists, mountain climbers, swimmers, and sunbathers. However, the person who seeks solitude can still find it off the beaten trails.

The main access road to the general region, U.S. 50, is kept open in the winter, as is the road along the western shore of Lake Tahoe. It is only a short distance from these roads into the wilderness, which is thus becoming increasingly popular with those people who are reluctant to confine their visits to high-altitude wilderness to the summer months. More and more snowshoers, ski tourers, and winter mountaineers are pitching their tents in the wilderness every year.

There is no reason to doubt that the demand for wilderness recreation will continue to grow in this region. The Forest Service has recognized this fact and has considerably enlarged the old Desolation Valley Primitive Area. I support its proposal for a 64,097-acre wilder-

ness. It is true that it will contain two artificial reservoirs and several check dams, but these are unobtrusive.

I urge you to support the Forest Service's proposal for the Desolation Wilderness.

I will go to my statement on the Ventana.

Senator METCALF. Go right ahead.

Miss MCGINNIS. I lived in the San Francisco Bay area of California for many years. The proposed wilderness was about 4 hours' drive away. I and my friends at the University of California at Berkeley went on many backpacking trips in the area in the winter and spring. Others have already told you of the variety of types of scenery there. I have many memories—huge ferns in shaded stream valley, yuccas and horned lizards on rocky ridges, the tracks of a mountain lion along a once muddy trail, and a herd of wild boar. I and my friends at the University of California at Berkeley took many, many backpacking trips in this.

I am pleased that the Forest Service has decided that wilderness protection should be extended to some of my favorite places, such as Lost Valley with its open meadows and spring wildflower display, Indian Valley with its pine forests, and the whole of Line Valley. The wilderness will certainly not be neglected by central California's ever-growing population. On my first trip there just after Christmas in 1957, our party met only one other person in 4 days—a man who made part of his living hunting and trapping coyotes and mountain lions. The last time I was there, almost 3 years ago, most campsites were filled on weekends. I'm sure the number of visitors has increased since then.

I am sorry that Willow Creek has been left out of the proposed wilderness. A majority of the people who testified at the field hearings agreed that it should be added. The trail up this creek is the main corridor into the heart of the wilderness from the popular and easily accessible Arroyo Seco car campground. There are no roads in it, and it otherwise qualifies as wilderness. As I understand the problem, the reasons for excluding this 3,000-acre canyon are twofold. First, the Forest Service plans to construct a firebreak along the ridge forming the southern boundary of the canyon, and second, the canyon is heavily used by Boy Scouts. The Forest Service wishes to install toilets, fireplaces, and other improvements for their convenience.

The wilderness proposed by the Forest Service already contains fire breaks constructed by mechanized vehicles—such as the so-called Summit Trail leading down into Lost Valley from the west—and jeep trails such as the one along Devils Peak in the northwestern corner. Conservationists do not consider these areas to be disqualified for inclusion into the wilderness. If it is absolutely necessary to build a firebreak on the ridge south of Willow Creek, the valley could still be included.

Campers in Los Padres National Forest, including the proposed wilderness, are already required to build their fires in fireplaces provided by the Forest Service because of the unusually high fire hazard. I believe that pit toilets are already provided in certain campsites in the primitive area. They are essential to insure the maintenance of sanitary conditions in heavily used areas. As our Nation's wilderness areas become increasingly popular, it will be

necessary to install them in many other campsites. If the Forest Service plans developments significantly more extensive than these, the Boy Scouts will be deprived of the wilderness experience which presumably is a main reason for their going on such outings in the first place. If use of Willow Creek is excessive, Scout leaders should be persuaded to take the boys into other, less heavily used portions of the wilderness.

Although I am not prepared to suggest that the top of the ridge paralleling the Pacific coast should be added to the wilderness, I have strong doubts as to the advisability of constructing a scenic highway there. The so-called North Coast Ridge Jeep Trail presently is a splendid place to walk on cool days. One can look all the way down to the surf pounding on the rocks. A highway could not be built there without extensively modifying the ridge top. Conservationists and the Forest Service should carefully consider the consequences of building such a road.

In summary, I support the Forest Service's proposal for the Ventana Wilderness, but hope that Willow Creek will be added.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much for your statement, Miss McGinnis.

Do you have any questions, Senator Hatfield?

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, Miss McGinnis has touched on two things that interest me and I would like to ask Mr. Cliff to comment. I don't think it would be fair to ask Miss McGinnis.

Senator METCALF. Let's get as much information as we can.

Senator HATFIELD. Two points that Miss McGinnis brings up that I think are very pertinent to this, that I don't believe were covered in the testimony before. It has to do with this matter of sanitary facilities being installed in the now primitive area and possibly the wilderness area.

I believe, Mr. Cliff, that the HEW and the Public Health Service recommended adequate sanitary facilities be provided in the Ventana Wilderness area.

Mr. Chairman, this raises in my mind, and perhaps it has been clarified before but I would like to have it clarified again, this aspect of wilderness preservation that has received, in my opinion, very little attention, that is, how do you relate these requirements for this type of facilities to the general Wilderness Act.

Mr. CLIFF. Senator Hatfield—

Senator METCALF. The Senator will recall this came up in the Great Swamp discussion, and it probably will come up from time to time again. So let's have it classified right now.

STATEMENT OF EDWARD P. CLIFF—Resumed

Mr. CLIFF. I would like to compliment Miss McGinnis on her very fine statement. I think she expressed her viewpoint very well.

This matter of fire protection and sanitation in wilderness areas is a problem and I think it will be a growing problem. The Wilderness Act said there would be no structures in the wilderness. We don't construct the usual type of sanitary structures in the wilderness and I don't think we have authority to do that. We do, in the more heavily used areas, where there is a sanitation problem, sometimes construct a very inconspicuous pit toilet, which meets sanitary standards for

that type of location, but doesn't have a structure above ground, above the stool, and we try to hide this so it is not conspicuous at all.

We do permit the use of simple fireplaces made of piling rocks together and that sort of thing, and I guess, in a few places, we have some fire grates, where the fire danger is excessive. But we don't encourage, we discourage the use of fireplaces or anything artificial that we can prevent.

Now, if we get use that demands the construction of more sophisticated types of sanitation facilities, I think we are just going to have to face up to it and restrict the use of these areas, so we won't be building those kinds of facilities.

Senator HATFIELD. Restrict the use of the areas? By what criteria would you restrict the use of the areas?

Mr. CLIFF. By checking people in, by rerouting them, by other devices of administration that we have at our disposal.

Senator HATFIELD. In other words, if you can't dig enough pits, you are going to have to start restricting the number of people. Is that the relationship, pits to people?

Mr. CLIFF. It is the problem of what kind of facilities we can put in wilderness areas. I think the bill itself is quite explicit there be no structures in the wilderness.

Senator HATFIELD. Who gave you the legal counsel on a pit not being a structure?

Mr. CLIFF. I don't know that I asked for an opinion on that. There are some things we don't ask for opinions on.

Senator HATFIELD. You have not been challenged on this. In other words, you feel the precedent is amply well set now to carry on the pit program, within the context and spirit of the act?

Mr. CLIFF. I think we are on the safe side so far.

As a matter of interest, the Public Health Service tells us that the cat method of disposing of human refuse, if it isn't too concentrated, is a pretty good sanitary method of disposal. In other words, burying it, individually. This can get to be a problem in areas of concentration.

Senator HATFIELD. How about this granite area you were telling me about awhile ago, where there is no erosion possibility?

Mr. CLIFF. It would be a problem in some places.

Senator HATFIELD. Miss McGinnis brought up this fire business again. Are you satisfied that this area as a wilderness area can be controlled, with the present climatic conditions and trails that exist or will exist.

Mr. CLIFF. No; I am not satisfied that we can completely control fires in the Ventana area. The fire control is not a serious problem in the desolation area. It is a high mountain area with little inflammable cover. But the Ventana area is largely covered with brush, which gets dry and inflammable. In 1954, we had a 13,000-acre fire in the Arroyo Saco part of that area. I think it actually originated inside of the property posted wilderness and burned on out. This will continue to be a problem. We have marked this land for the people of the United States for nearly 70 years now without roads. We do have some fire breaks on strategic fire lines. But fires will always be a risk.

I don't think, even if this were not a wilderness, that we would be building very many roads in there. We would still have the same problem.

Senator HATFIELD. In other words, for the record, let me emphasize the point here, that the redesignation as a wilderness area is neither going to diminish nor increase your ability to control fires; is that correct?

Mr. CLIFF. That is my judgment; yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. Where is this scenic highway Miss McGinnis mentioned on the ridge?

Miss MCGINNIS. I don't think there are any plans, but there is a fairly good road here [indicating] and down here it is a deep road that goes along the ridge.

Senator METCALF. Miss McGinnis is indicating near the bottom of area C, is it, for the record?

Miss MCGINNIS. It goes right along the southwestern boundary of Anderson Peak.

Senator HATFIELD. Miss McGinnis, you say this is something that has been proposed?

Miss MCGINNIS. Yes; it is. I don't think the plans are definite. All I know is what I read in the documents.

Senator HATFIELD. This would be constructed by the State, county, or whom?

Miss MCGINNIS. Mr. Cliff probably knows more about this than I do.

Mr. CLIFF. This route has been talked about as a possible route for a scenic highway that would be up near the top of the ridge and it overlooks the most spectacular landscape and seascape out to the Pacific Ocean. It has been discussed as a potential route for a scenic highway. It isn't on any scenic highway system plan yet, it is merely in the talking stage.

Senator HATFIELD. Who is talking about it?

Mr. CLIFF. The Forest Service and others that have proposed scenic highways.

Senator HATFIELD. In other words, this would be a Federal program under your jurisdiction?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. But if this wilderness area were adopted as proposed here, what relationship will that then have to this proposed scenic highway?

Mr. CLIFF. It will be outside of the wilderness area.

Of course, I am sure that this proposal, before it might be adopted, would have a lot of discussion and probably some considerable opposition and it is quite problematical whether it will be programed. It is merely a proposal, as I understand it, that has been discussed as a possibility.

Senator HATFIELD. Then it would be independent of this issue today?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. Because the wilderness designation would have nothing to do with that issue and we would have to confront that and make an independent judgment on it; is that correct?

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct. I think some of the people who are sincerely concerned about wilderness in this area would be concerned that this highway might bring more human impact on the wilderness than it should have.

Senator HATFIELD. I have no other questions.

I want to thank Miss McGinnis for her fine testimony.

Senator METCALF. I want to also thank you for your testimony. I have it here that you are representing the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee.

STATEMENT OF HELEN MCGINNIS—Continued

Miss MCGINNIS. Yes.

Senator METCALF. Would you tell me just a little bit about the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee?

Miss MCGINNIS. It is a small group of people who meet once a month and all of us live in the Washington area.

Senator METCALF. How many people are there? How many members do you have?

Miss MCGINNIS. I say there are about 20.

Senator METCALF. About how many?

Miss MCGINNIS. There are 20. Most of them are leaders of various groups, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, National Park Association. I am not one of the leaders for it.

Senator METCALF. Where did you live in California other than attending the university?

Miss MCGINNIS. I lived in Berkeley for 10 years.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much for a fine statement. When I went to Stanford, I used to go down to Monterey, and remember when we drove over to Reno from time to time, so I think both of us are very familiar with the area.

Miss MCGINNIS. You meet a lot of people from Stanford in the Ventana wilderness.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to note today that there are contributions the University of California does make from time to time.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Miss McGinnis.

Our next witness is Mr. Brandborg, executive director of the Wilderness Society, also of Montana.

Stewart, it is very fine to have you again before the committee. Mr. Brandborg has been one of our very dedicated witnesses and a great help to us in the conservation acts.

STATEMENT OF STEWART M. BRANDBORG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, ACCOMPANIED BY M. RUPERT CUTLER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. BRANDBORG. Mr. Chairman, I am Stewart M. Brandborg, executive director of The Wilderness Society. Formed in 1935, the society works through educational means to secure for the American people the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. The society maintains its headquarters at 729 15th Street NW., in Washington, D.C.

I am glad to have Mr. Cutler here with me today because of his knowledge of the wilderness review process over the Nation and because of his special expertise and knowledge of our western wilderness units.

I will summarize my statement, with the request, if I may, that it be placed in full in the record.

Senator METCALF. So ordered.

Mr. BRANDBORG. It is gratifying to be here today as the committee takes an important new step in the implementation of the Wilderness Law of 1964. From the vantage point of 1969 we can see how far the preservation of America's wilderness has come in a few short years, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Congress, of the executive branch, and of citizens throughout the country. We have the milestone policy declaration of the Wilderness Law, we have a fine beginning of the national wilderness preservation system as it applies to national forest lands, and we have a bold start on wilderness preservation in the national wildlife refuges.

The proposed Desolation Wilderness, situated in the bright, glacier-scoured granite country of the Sierra Nevada, exemplifies the constructive cooperation of the Forest Service and citizen groups. A result of studies and consultation over many years' time, the agency's proposal calls for a wilderness of 63,469 acres, comprising the 40,744-acre Desolation Valley Primitive Area in the Eldorado National Forest and lands adjacent which have the same remoteness and wild character.

One of the wilderness tracts in the High Sierras most popular with backpackers and cross-country skiers, the proposed Desolation Wilderness contains more than 100 lakes, many of them unnamed, dotted among the clean granite surfaces and sparsely vegetated peaks west of Lake Tahoe. Much of the area is bare rock, interspersed with scattered stands of fir and alpine meadows which offer a fine display of flowers in summer. Several mountain peaks exceed 9,000 feet in elevation and afford long vistas overlooking many miles of the High Sierra and, on a typical clear day, even as far as the Central Valleys. Wildlife of the area includes deer, black bear, and many species of small mammals and birds. Trout in the lakes and streams are sought by many anglers.

The inclusion by S. 713 of lands not in the existing primitive area will extend wilderness protection to adjoining lands having qualities equally as wild as those of the primitive area and which already are serving the purposes of wilderness. The boundary extends beyond the hydrographic divide on all sides. On the west side of the Crystal Range, the wilderness will include excellent samples of red fir forest, not previously protected by any designation. On the east side, the wilderness will take in the peaks which loom above Lake Tahoe, thus preserving an attractive natural backdrop for the city-like resort developments on the lake. In places there and in the Echo Lakes area, the wilderness boundary comes down from the hydrographic divide—the ridges which encircle the interior valleys—to within a half mile of existing public highways, including slopes exposed to view from outside the wilderness. The Wilderness Society endorses this boundary concept, which was evident also in the San Gabriel Wilderness approved by the 90th Congress. Such an inclusive boundary gives a full measure of protection to the available wild lands and, by implication, stresses the value of wilderness to the many citizens who may never venture within it but who view it from a distance and appreciate it as part of their scenic environment.

The proposed wilderness will protect the headwaters of streams which provide water for cities as far west as Sacramento and for the communities on Lake Tahoe. The intensity of public use in sections of this back country has caused deterioration of some of the better

known campsites. The Forest Service should be encouraged and supported in its efforts to promote dispersion of these concentrations of visitors either by assigning wilderness patrolmen to the area or by restricting the number of persons permitted to camp at certain sites.

We would support the Forest Service fully in applying this kind of management. It may involve remarkably heavy visitor loads which will require the use of wilderness rangers who serve in the manner described by the Chief, where they seek to disperse users, scatter them over the areas that are less heavily utilized.

As has been noted by the Chief, two artificial impoundments exist within the proposed wilderness. One, Lake Aloha, is over 100 years old. The other, Rubicon Reservoir, authorized in 1958, was built by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District over the strong opposition of conservationists, inundating the area known as Onion Flat. Water from Rubicon Reservoir is diverted by tunnel through Rockbound Lake, which retains its natural level, and thence downstream out of the wilderness to power generating plants. No motorized equipment is used in maintaining the dam, and the construction sites have been scarified to promote the restoration of natural vegetative cover. Dedication of the area as wilderness will serve to protect its fragile watershed, thus benefitting downstream water users.

We recall the extensive discussion, the colloquies, within Senate and House committees on this matter of existing reservoirs within both the areas which would be placed initially in the natural wilderness preservation system and subsequently were placed in the natural wilderness system by the 1964 act within primitive areas. We recognize that where reservoirs were in existence as nonconforming uses, we had best accept them, recognizing that they were artificial, many of them have been there within primitive areas and the wilderness areas which are now in the wilderness system for decades. As the Chief of the Forest Service has pointed out, and filled in for the most part, they are not obtrusive scars. If we went about the task of eliminating every artificial reservoir from every area within existing primitive areas, as they were up for review for placement in the wilderness system, or if we went about the task of eliminating reservoirs from wilderness areas now within the national wilderness preservation system, we would sacrifice tens of thousands of acres of fine wilderness quality land that certainly should be protected as wilderness.

Thus, the wilderness law of 1964, in its placement of wilderness areas and wild areas in the initial wild wilderness preservation system that was established by Congress in 1964, has set precedent for this type of nonconforming use, which in this case is recommended for placement in the wilderness by the Forest Service. We concur in that judgment.

Senator METCALF. That concludes your testimony on the Desolation Wilderness proposal.

Do you have any questions on this part? These are two rather separate and distinct areas.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I don't think so.

Senator METCALF. I want to make one comment. I think the highest use of land that we have in the various categories of protection would be our national parks. And from time to time, in the creation of national parks we have recognized that we have manmade

facilities and inholdings, and so forth. For instance as both you and I know and Senator Hatfield knows, the Great Northern Railroad runs through the most scenic area of Glacier National Park. And had we adopted a program of not providing for inclusion of these areas into our parks, as you point out, we would lose many thousands of acres of very valuable wilderness land.

As one Senator, one of the original introducers of the wilderness bill, although I don't think I was the sponsor of the final one, we were prospecting and looking forward to the prevention of further invasion of the wilderness, rather than saying that manmade projects shouldn't be included if they were part of an area that was valuable. So I am glad you brought this point out about these artificial impoundments.

I am one who doesn't want to sacrifice or reduce the standards and the criteria that we have, but it would seem to me that from time to time, whether precedents are established on individual cases, from time to time we have to make decisions as to the quality of the area, and certainly that dam down in the lower part, that has been there 100 years, probably hasn't any effect at all.

I am not familiar with the other dam, but certainly it would seem that if it is an essential part of the water use of Sacramento, it would, as pointed out by Mr. Cliff, then authorize an exception under the act we would anticipate.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

Senator METCALF. Surely.

Senator HATFIELD. I appreciate very much your statement on this subject. The question I raised awhile ago was really not so much on the basis of whether we should amend this proposal as much as to raise the request for the record, that we as a committee recommit ourselves in the strongest language possible, and then through colloquy, to indicate that we are not setting precedents, but we are committed to the basic wording of the Wilderness Act, with all of its implications and interpretations, and that we reluctantly and almost regretfully at this point include these impoundment structures, rather than indicating that they are acceptable because we are just seeking additional acres or that we feel the boundary is an easier boundary to administer.

I think we really have to use every opportunity from time to time, as I am sure the chairman agrees, to reiterate our commitment to the Wilderness Act concept.

Secondly, I am bothered by the interpretation, and I am sure this is not just a unique interpretation, for I think this is very definitely the wording of the law, that empowers the President to set aside the very concept of this Wilderness Act, by Executive action.

Personally, I would like to withdraw that power from the President and force it back into a total congressional review and congressional action to make any exceptions.

It just seems to me we can sort of let these things erode over a period of time, if we don't really reemphasize, every occasion we have, our commitment to the original proposition, which I think is basically a sound one. That is all I raise the question for.

Senator METCALF. I certainly concur with the Senator from Oregon. As I recall, in all of the discussions and debate, all the travail that went into the Wilderness Act over the years, this need for the development of water resources and provision of water was so apparent,

that something had to be done about it, and many of us felt that it should become an act of Congress. I know of no instance when Congress wouldn't have granted such an exception when it was shown. But then we decided it be left up to the executive branch.

I really do feel that we in the Congress have established this wilderness area, and we should keep strict control, and at the same time, have a colloquy such as we have had here, and we will continue to have when this bill comes on the floor or whatever way it comes, that we don't set a precedent on any case, but we decide each of these cases individually as to the structure that we are considering, and the feel of the land and the quality of the area surrounding it, as to its wilderness characteristics.

Senator HATFIELD. Very good.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much.

Now proceed with the second part of your statement, Mr. Brandborg.

Mr. BRANDBORG. Mr. Chairman, may I say I think this discussion on your part and Senator Hatfield's is extremely helpful, that we as a private organization recognize the very difficult job that the wilderness agencies, the Forest Service in this instance, have in administering the law. I think the distinction that you have drawn here between developments that occurred in the past, the reservoirs that have been constructed before the passage of the Wilderness Act, and those reservoirs that might be proposed in the future, is a very valid and very helpful one. Certainly, we don't want to stand by and see the weakening of the wilderness law's protective measures. We don't want to see any weakening on the part of the agency's authority to protect these areas from further serious intrusions, but where it has already occurred, then it becomes a matter, as you put it, of a case-by-case decision, trying to determine what will be the best answer in terms of the total wilderness lands affected.

In this instance, the wilderness lands contiguous to these two reservoirs are very important. The reservoirs blend into the landscape as much as they possibly could. And as I indicated, we subscribe to the Forest Service's judgment as nonconforming uses they should be accepted within the boundaries.

This has been tremendously helpful and certainly reassuring to us, and we wish to see the protective criterion standards of the law satisfied in every respect.

The proposed Ventana Wilderness Area takes in a highly varied region in the Santa Lucia Range, paralleling the Big Sur coast of Monterey County. Lying in the Los Padres National Forest just behind the front line of the Coast Range, the proposed wilderness contains a magnificent system of mountain ridges, peaks, and valleys. The range of climate within even so small an area is indicated by the presence of high-rainfall vegetation in the western section, including redwoods and the Santa Lucia fir, found only here in the Santa Lucia Range, and the contrasting chaparral in the drier eastern sections, in the "rain shadow." Deer, wild boar, golden eagles, and many other birds and small mammals inhabit the area.

The craggy wilderness of the Ventana country and its mild winter weather make the area popular to visit in winter, when most of the Sierra Nevada is covered by snow. Within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay population, yet wild as few places are along the coast,

the Ventana Wilderness has an extraordinary potential and importance among wilderness areas in California.

It has had its influence, too, on the entire English-speaking world through the works of the poet, Robinson Jeffers, who lived on the Big Sur coast, and whose poetry refers often to locations in the proposed wilderness and evokes the spirit of the place.

Three main rivers drain the wilderness—the Big Sur and Little Sur Rivers, the Carmel River, and the Arroyo Seco. Although little of the area is visible from main highways, a glimpse up the Big Sur River, where it cuts through the coastal ridge from the wilderness behind, gives many sightseers a lasting and valued impression of the Coast Range and its remaining wild regions. Wilderness has not fared well in the southern coast ranges; the Ventana Wilderness, the San Rafael Wilderness 140 miles south, and Pinnacles National Monument 40 miles east are the major remnants of the region.

The Ventana Wilderness, as proposed in S. 714, would consist of some 55,000 acres of the existing Ventana primitive area, an administrative designation dating back to 1931, and 39,728 acres adjoining it which are already serving purposes of wilderness.

At the field hearing held by the Forest Service in Salinas on June 7, 1967, and in written comments in the hearing record, most citizen groups and individuals recommended substantial additions to the Forest Service proposal. The preponderant majority of witnesses, including the spokesman for the Wilderness Society, urged inclusion of Miller Canyon and Willow Creek. Miller Canyon, a 3,480-acre tract part of the boundary proposed in S. 714, would include a heavily wooded gorge which offers excellent deer and boar hunting. The problem of private inholdings here is of concern to the Forest Service, but is not an insurmountable problem in view of the realistic acquisition program which the agency has carried forward in other wilderness areas within the national wilderness preservation system.

A 2,934-acre unit on the east side of the proposed wilderness, the Willow Creek area, contains a notably hospitable environment for wilderness camping. Grassy openings on the valley floor and the shade of sycamores and oaks are Willow Creek's distinctive features, which make it stand out even in the striking Ventana region. Boy Scout groups frequently visit Willow Creek on their first backpacking trips. Lying just outside the main hydrographic divide, which can be used as the boundary for much of the proposed wilderness, Willow Creek clearly is a logical part of the Ventana Wilderness just as the slopes above Lake Tahoe are a logical part of the Desolation Wilderness and have been proposed for inclusion in it by the Forest Service.

The existing fire line on the ridge between Willow Creek and the rest of the Ventana Wilderness is not regarded as an excessive intrusion on the wilderness scene, and it is clearly no worse a disturbance than similar fire breaks in the area proposed as wilderness by the Forest Service such as those in the vicinity of Devils Peak and in Lost Valley. Rather than discard any of these units as wilderness, they should be accepted as part of the Ventana Wilderness and the temporary disturbance of a fireline should be allowed to recover by natural processes.

Members of the Forest Service have expressed to us a concern that use of Willow Creek by Scout groups might somehow be curtailed

by wilderness designation. To the contrary, because the experience the Scout groups seek there is a wilderness one aimed at reaching the skills of backpacking and wilderness camping, there should be no conflict. The Forest Service has gained the confidence of the Wilderness Society in its wilderness management and protection programs, and it will have our full support in furtherance of this most appropriate and desirable use of the Willow Creek Area. The statutory protection afforded by the wilderness designation of the drainage is essential to its protection against the development and road threats that inevitably arise. Such intrusions would destroy one of the most popular and important opportunities for youth of nearby urban areas to become acquainted with and fully experience wilderness living.

The Wilderness Society's leaders and cooperators who studied the Ventana proposal observed that several adjacent tracts are also eligible for inclusion in the wilderness area. One area of high value as wilderness lies on the west slope of the front ridge from Anderson Peak southward to Cone Peak. The canyons which dissect that west slope would add a more adequate sample of the dense coastal forest environment. The area would also afford views of the ocean, giving visitors the full impact of the Ventana Wilderness in its coastal setting.

Toward Cone Peak, the wilderness could be expanded on the inland side of the ridge to include the headwaters of Arroyo Seco and part of the San Antonio River drainage. The most noticeable impairment of this area is an old vehicle trail formerly used by military tanks.

With the addition of Willow Creek, the total area of the Ventana Wilderness would be approximately 97,662 acres. The Wilderness Society will strongly support this legislation with such an amendment. We also strongly urge the committee to consider these important additions that have been proposed in the Cone Peak and west slope areas.

The Wilderness Society deeply appreciates this opportunity to appear before the committee and stands ready to provide any additional information the committee would like as these measures are given further consideration. We urge that they be favorably reported for passage by the Senate.

Senator METCALF. Thank you, Mr. Brandborg, for another helpful statement and for your suggestions as to inclusion of other areas. Senator Hatfield.

Senator HATFIELD. Perhaps I have just but one question to ask Mr. Brandborg this morning.

I first want to commend you on a very excellent statement.

On page 7, the bottom of the page, you talk about the inclusion of the Willow Creek Area, in the Wilderness Area and you talk about the existing fireline as not being a serious disturbance. Then you indicate at the end of your statement on that page that you believe that the temporary disturbance of the fireline should be allowed to recover by natural process.

I might be wrong and perhaps Mr. Cliff could correct me, but I gained the impression that this fireline was considered important by the Forest Service, as part of their general fire protection responsibility. And that they intended to maintain the fireline as part of that protective work.

Now, is that a correct interpretation of Mr. Cliff's statement?

Mr. WORF. You are talking about fireline on area G?

Senator HATFIELD. That is right.

Mr. WORF. The fireline was constructed in connection with an older fireline. It was one we would now maintain if the boundary remains the way it is. It is not an extremely critical fireline to us. It is nonconforming—an evidence of man's activity.

Senator HATFIELD. But didn't I understand one of the reasons you did not include that area was because of what you felt to be the necessity of maintaining a fireline there?

Mr. WORF. This was the primary reason up here [indicating].

Senator HATFIELD. Of F, Miller Creek. But not Willow Creek?

Mr. WORF. Not Willow Creek. Willow Creek is the fact it is there, a facility in place, a nonconforming one.

Senator HATFIELD. The fireline?

Mr. WORF. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. Is that the only reason you did not include Willow Creek?

Mr. WORF. Willow Creek is over the divide. It is not an essential part of the wilderness, it is an area that the Forest Service feels should be managed for back country recreation without public roads.

Senator HATFIELD. Is there other contiguous Federal ownership there?

Mr. WORF. Yes. This is all Forest Service owned.

Senator HATFIELD. If I understand it correctly—let me reiterate—area G, Willow Creek, the fireline that is now there, is not suitable to your general overall fire protection and activity of that area; is that correct?

Mr. WORF. It is the understanding I have from the forest supervisor.

Senator HATFIELD. So the request made by the Wilderness Society here would not be in conflict with your general responsibility for fire protection?

Mr. WORF. This is the understanding I have; yes, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. So it is more or less then a natural geographic boundary you are talking about, rather than any fire protection responsibility that you feel would be inhibited.

Mr. WORF. This is correct.

Mr. BRANDBERG. Senator Hatfield.

Senator METCALF. Yes, sir; would you respond?

Mr. BRANDBERG. The local witnesses have some slides that show this fireline. I believe they will be helpful. The Wilderness Act clearly permits construction of these fire protection facilities, including firelines, where these are essential for protection of the area. We would accept this fireline as it exists, hoping that it may revegetate itself. If the Forest Service seeks to maintain it, this would have to be again as the Forest Service has stated, a nonconforming scar on the landscape.

Senator METCALF. Now, as I understand it, the management plan is to use that area G, the Willow Creek area, as a recreation area. So that the Boy Scout camping could put up a little more permanent installations than they could if it were a wilderness area. It would seem to me that from the testimony that we have so far, it would be better to leave that out, as a sort of a buffer zone and a recreation area,

and then permit these nonconforming wilderness uses, but still be used as a place to move from, to go into the wilderness. I wish you would comment on that.

Mr. BRANDBORG. Essentially, as we see it, Mr. Chairman, this area is used extensively by the Boy Scouts, for satisfaction of wilderness-type experiences.

Senator METCALF. They could continue to use it for just exactly the same thing, couldn't they?

Mr. BRANDBORG. We would hope this, but we say that in the process of time, the administrative decisions as to whether this area would be left roadless or not, brings us into a questionable situation.

In other words, the local administrator, with no particular knowledge of the commitments and the discussions of today, could say:

Let's take this portion of the Willow Creek drainage area G out of a roadless status—

This through administrative action—

Let's put a road in there, let's build extensive buildings, let's bring in hundreds of Scouts at a time, rather than to place the area in wilderness now, when we have an opportunity. It is unique, it has very impressive values, it has wilderness, it affords a wonderful opportunity to bring people into wilderness on the first-time basis, and manage it so we get dispersion, perhaps with some of the essential sanitary facilities of the type that the Chief of the Forest Service has described.

These facilities are being used within some other areas in the wilderness system as a matter of necessity. We subscribe fully to the policy of the Forest Service which calls for minimizing this kind of development. We think it should be held in check, and we would again encourage them to disperse this use as much as possible. But to avoid further intrusion in the future, we would think, and we would suggest that this area should be placed in the wilderness area at this time.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Brandborg, again, for your excellent statement.

I do look forward to seeing the slides this afternoon, and I hope that you and your representatives from the Forest Service will be here this afternoon in case we have some other questions. Your full statement will be included at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF STEWART M. BRANDBORG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. Chairman, I am Stewart M. Brandborg, Executive Director of The Wilderness Society. Formed in 1935, the Society works through educational means to secure for the American people the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. The Society maintains its headquarters at 729 Fifteenth Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

It is gratifying to be here today as the Committee takes an important new step in the implementation of the Wilderness Law of 1964. From the vantage point of 1969 we can see how far the preservation of America's wilderness has come in a few short years, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Congress, of the Executive Branch, and of citizens throughout the country. We have the milestone policy declaration of the Wilderness Law, we have a fine beginning of the National Wilderness Preservation System as it applies to national forest lands, and we have a bold start on wilderness preservation in the national wildlife refuges. But indeed "what is past is prologue," because many of the areas which are eligible for inclusion in the Wilderness System still lack the full protection they will receive upon their designation as wilderness and placement in the System by Acts of Congress.

Some of these areas already have been studied by the responsible land-managing agencies and have been the subject of administrative hearings in the field at which citizens presented their recommendations. Some already have been referred to the Congress. We anticipate that reports on a number of others will be submitted to the Congress by the President later this year. Other potential units of the National Wilderness Preservation System have not yet been given study by the agencies but are scheduled for review by 1974, the deadline set by the Wilderness Law for reports to Congress on the results of studies of wilderness in the Primitive Areas of the National Forests and in many units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System. There are, in addition, other tracts of de facto wilderness which will be studied by citizen conservationists as potential additions to the Wilderness System, such as the proposed Lincoln-Sagegoat Wilderness in Montana.

The Wilderness Society, its members and its cooperators have been active throughout the country in conferring with the agencies that administer our nation's wilderness resources, suggesting improvements where we think they are necessary, and supporting the agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under the Wilderness Law. As one would expect of such a new program, the initial efforts by the agencies have had their weaknesses as well as their strengths, but the salient fact is that the wilderness program is steadily moving ahead, unflinching. The cooperation between citizen conservationists and the Forest Service has been productive of agreement on many proposals. In like manner, the desire of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs through the years to take the best from the agencies and the best from citizens has resulted in a history of outstanding conservation legislation.

As we all recognize, there is a tendency in the agencies to rely on general guidelines and on broad policy formulations that sometimes prevent the agency from being sensitive to the requirements of a particular case. Where this happens it is the citizen's role to advocate a remedy. This is true especially in cases affecting wilderness because the qualities of wilderness do not yield to technical analysis as readily as do, say, timber values, yet are far more scarce and more difficult to preserve than the usual commodity resources.

So we find ourselves again before this distinguished Committee to contribute the results of our studies and of our competence in matters affecting wilderness.

DESOLATION WILDERNESS AREA

The proposed Desolation Wilderness, situated in the bright, glacier-scoured granite country of the Sierra Nevada, exemplifies the constructive cooperation of the Forest Service and citizen groups. A result of studies and consultation over many years' time, the agency's proposal calls for a wilderness of 63,469 acres, comprising the 40,744-acre Desolation Valley Primitive Area in the Eldorado National Forest and lands adjacent which have the same remoteness and wild character.

One of the wilderness tracts in the High Sierras most popular with backpackers and cross-country skiers, the proposed Desolation Wilderness contains more than 100 lakes, many of them unnamed, dotted among the clean granite surfaces and sparsely vegetated peaks west of Lake Tahoe. Much of the area is bare rock, interspersed with scattered stands of fir and alpine meadows which offer a fine display of flowers in summer. Several mountain peaks exceed 9,000 feet in elevation and afford long vistas overlooking many miles of the High Sierra and, on a typical clear day, even as far as the Central Valleys. Wildlife of the area includes deer, black bear, and many species of small mammals and birds. Trout in the lakes and streams are sought by many anglers.

The inclusion by S. 713 of lands not in the existing Primitive Area will extend wilderness protection to adjoining lands having qualities equally as wild as those of the Primitive Area and which already are serving the purposes of wilderness. The boundary extends beyond the hydrographic divide on all sides. On the west side of the Crystal Range, the wilderness will include excellent samples of red fir forest, not previously protected by any designation. On the east side, the wilderness will take in the peaks which loom above Lake Tahoe, thus preserving an attractive natural backdrop for the city-like resort developments on the lake. In places there and in the Echo Lakes Area, the wilderness boundary comes down from the hydrographic divide—the ridges which encircle the interior valleys—to within a half-mile of existing public highways, including slopes exposed to view from outside the wilderness. The Wilderness Society endorses this boundary concept, which was evident also in the San Gabriel Wilderness approved by the

90th Congress. Such an inclusive boundary gives a full measure of protection to the available wild lands and, by implication, stresses the value of wilderness to the many citizens who may never venture within it but who view it from a distance and appreciate it as part of their scenic environment.

The proposed wilderness will protect the headwaters of streams which provide water for cities as far west as Sacramento and for the communities on Lake Tahoe. The intensity of public use in sections of this back country has caused deterioration of some of the better known campsites. The Forest Service should be encouraged and supported in its efforts to promote dispersion of these concentrations of visitors either by assigning wilderness patrolmen to the area or by restricting the number of persons permitted to camp at certain sites.

The Desolation Wilderness will be part of the northern Sierra Nevada recreational region. This region offers a spectacular variety of recreation opportunities within 200 miles of the San Francisco Bay area and within 45 miles of Reno, Nevada. In addition to the recreation associated with wilderness, the spectrum includes such outdoor-oriented recreation in nearby areas as auto camping, sight-seeing by car, water sports, hunting and skiing. Overnight facilities in convenient proximity to the proposed wilderness area vary from primitive campsites, auto campgrounds and summer cottages to the more urban accommodations of resorts and motels. The wilderness of Desolation Valley will be an important part of this recreation complex, both for its own unique values as wilderness and for the wild values it contributes indirectly to recreation in the surrounding region.

Two artificial impoundments exist within the proposed wilderness. One, Lake Aloha, is over 100 years old. The other, Rubicon Reservoir, authorized in 1958, was built by the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District over the strong opposition of conservationists, inundating the area known as Onion Flat. Water from Rubicon Reservoir is diverted by tunnel through Rockbound Lake, which retains its natural level, and thence downstream out of the wilderness to power generating plants. No motorized equipment is used in maintaining the dam, and the construction sites have been scarified to promote the restoration of natural vegetative cover. Dedication of the area as wilderness will serve to protect its fragile watershed, thus benefiting downstream water users.

VENTANA WILDERNESS AREA

The proposed Ventana Wilderness Area takes in a highly varied region in the Santa Lucia Range, paralleling the Big Sur coast of Monterey County. Lying in the Los Padres National Forest just behind the front line of the Coast Range, the proposed wilderness contains a magnificent system of mountain ridges, peaks and valleys. The range of climate within even so small an area is indicated by the presence of high-rainfall vegetation in the western section, including redwoods and the Santa Lucia fir (found only here in the Santa Lucia Range), and the contrasting chaparral in the drier eastern sections, in the "rain shadow." Deer, wild boar, golden eagles, and many other birds and small mammals inhabit the area.

The craggy wilderness of the Ventana country and its mild winter weather make the area popular to visit in winter, when most of the Sierra Nevada is covered by snow. Within 100 miles of the San Francisco Bay population, yet wild as few places are along the coast, the Ventana Wilderness has an extraordinary potential and importance among wilderness areas in California.

It has had its influence too on the entire English-speaking world through the works of the poet Robinson Jeffers, who lived on the Big Sur coast, and whose poetry refers often to locations in the proposed wilderness and evokes the spirit of the place.

Three main rivers drain the wilderness—the Big Sur and Little Sur Rivers, the Carmel River, and Arroyo Seco. Although little of the area is visible from main highways, a glimpse up the Big Sur River, where it cuts through the coastal ridge from the wilderness behind, gives many sightseers a lasting and valued impression of the Coast Range, and its remaining wild regions. Wilderness has not fared well in the southern coast ranges; the Ventana Wilderness, the San Rafael Wilderness 140 miles south, and Pinnacles National Monument 40 miles east are the major remnants of the region.

The Ventana Wilderness as proposed in S. 714 would consist of some 55,000 acres of the existing Ventana Primitive Area, an administrative designation dating back to 1931, and 39,728 acres adjoining it which are already serving purposes of wilderness. Forming an integral part of the Ventana Wilderness, the added tract includes the upper portions of the Big Sur River drainage and other smaller

drainages, terminating on the south just beyond Arroyo Seco, a stream which has a spectacular wild gorge, where rock walls rise fifty feet above quiet pools.

At the field hearing held by the Forest Service in Salinas on June 7, 1967, and in written comments in the hearing record, most citizen groups and individuals recommended substantial additions to the Forest Service proposal. The preponderant majority of witnesses, including the spokesman for The Wilderness Society, urged inclusion of Miller Canyon and Willow Creek. Miller Canyon, a 3,480-acre tract part of the boundary proposed in S. 714, would include a heavily wooded gorge which offers excellent deer and boar hunting. The problem of private inholdings here is of concern to the Forest Service, but is not an insurmountable problem in view of the realistic acquisition program which the agency has carried forward in other Wilderness Areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

A 2,934-acre unit on the east side of the proposed wilderness, the Willow Creek area contains a notably hospitable environment for wilderness camping. Grassy openings on the valley floor and the shade of sycamores and oaks are Willow Creek's distinctive features, which make it stand out even in the striking Ventana region. Boy Scout groups frequently visit Willow Creek on their first backpacking trips. Lying just outside the main hydrographic divide, which can be used as the boundary for much of the proposed wilderness, Willow Creek clearly is a logical part of the Ventana Wilderness just as the slopes above Lake Tahoe are a logical part of the Desolation Wilderness and have been proposed for inclusion in it by the Forest Service.

The existing fire line on the ridge between Willow Creek and the rest of the Ventana Wilderness is not regarded as an excessive intrusion on the wilderness scene, and it is clearly no worse a disturbance than similar fire breaks in the area proposed as wilderness by the Forest Service such as those in the vicinity of Devils Peak and in Lost Valley. Rather than discard any of these units as wilderness, they should be accepted as part of the Ventana Wilderness and the temporary disturbance of a fire line should be allowed to recover by natural processes.

Members of the Forest Service have expressed to us a concern that use of Willow Creek by Scout groups might somehow be curtailed by wilderness designation. To the contrary, because the experience the Scout groups seek there is a wilderness one aimed at teaching the skills of backpacking and wilderness camping, there should be no conflict. The Forest Service has gained the confidence of The Wilderness Society in its wilderness management and protection programs, and it will have our full support in furtherance of this most appropriate and desirable use of the Willow Creek area. The statutory protection afforded by the wilderness designation of the drainage is essential to its protection against the development and road threats that inevitably arise. Such intrusions would destroy one of the most popular and important opportunities for youth of nearby urban areas to become acquainted with and fully experience wilderness living.

The Wilderness Society's leaders and cooperators who studied the Ventana proposal observed that several adjacent tracts are also eligible for inclusion in the Wilderness Area. One area of high value as wilderness lies on the west slope of the front ridge from Anderson Peak southward to Cone Peak. The canyons which dissect that west slope would add a more adequate sample of the dense coastal forest environment. The area would also afford views of the ocean, giving visitors the full impact of the Ventana Wilderness in its coastal setting.

Toward Cone Peak, the wilderness could be expanded on the inland side of the ridge to include the headwaters of Arroyo Seco and part of the San Antonio River drainage. The most noticeable impairment of this area is an old vehicle trail formerly used by military tanks.

With the addition of Willow Creek the total area of the Ventana Wilderness would be approximately 97,662 acres. The Wilderness Society will strongly support this legislation with such an amendment. We also strongly urge the Committee to consider these important additions that have been proposed in the Cone Peak and west slope areas.

The Wilderness Society deeply appreciates this opportunity to appear before the Committee and stands ready to provide any additional information the Committee would like as these measures are given further consideration. We urge that they be favorably reported for passage by the Senate.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Timothy V. A. Dillon has filed a statement in behalf of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District regarding the desolation wilderness proposal. Without objection, it will be included in the hearing record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY V. A. DILLON IN BEHALF OF SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District is a public body established pursuant to the provisions of the California Municipal Utility District Act. It supplies electric power to a service area of 656 square miles which includes California's Capital City of Sacramento.

In 1959 the District initiated construction of its \$200 million Upper American River Project. That hydropower project, which was licensed by the Federal Power Commission, now contributes some 600,000 kw of power to the District's system. To satisfy the dramatic growth in power consumption within its service area the District is presently constructing an 800,000 kw nuclear power generating plant on a 2100 acre site it purchased east of the City of Sacramento. Power generated at that facility, which is scheduled for operation early in 1973, will be integrated with the output of the hydrogenerated power at its Upper American River Project.

The District's existing hydropower project consists of a unified scheme of reservoirs, tunnels, and penstocks constructed on the western slope of the high Sierra Mountains. The facilities comprising the project extend from an elevation of nearly 7,000 feet down to approximately 1,000 feet. The water is collected in reservoirs and tunnels at various levels and dropped via penstocks through the powerhouses. The system is designed so that the water is reused many times to generate power.

The highest elevation features of the District's hydroproject are a tunnel and dam located within the boundaries of the Desolation Valley Primitive Area, which S. 713 would designate as the Desolation Wilderness. In fact, one-third of the total water supply for the entire Upper American River Project comes off the proposed Desolation Wilderness. Thus, the facilities within the area are vital components of the entire scheme.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District is anxious to have it made clear in the legislation that (1) the designation of the Desolation Wilderness will not alter the Federal Power Commission's jurisdiction over the District's licensed project and (2) the right of the District to continue present practices relating to the maintenance, inspection and regular and emergency repair procedures will be preserved.

It is suggested that the clarification requested can be accomplished by the addition of a new section as follows at the end of S. 713:

"SEC. 5. The enactment of this Act shall not alter the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission over existing hydroelectric projects within the Desolation Wilderness, or the right of the owners or operators of hydroelectric projects, dams, reservoirs or water systems and related facilities to utilize aircraft and other means of access in emergencies and for inspection, maintenance and repair."

A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture which was included in the Congressional Record by Senator Kuchel when he introduced a bill similar to S. 713 last year contained a statement to the effect that the Commission's jurisdiction would not be altered.

As indicated earlier, one-third of the water supply utilized by this \$200 million hydroelectric project enters the scheme through the features of the Upper American River Project located within the proposed monument. Any damage to those facilities can seriously affect the vital power generating ability of the entire project. For this reason, the District assigns the highest priority to the maintenance of those facilities in top operating condition. This concern is an outgrowth of the District's awareness of its reliance on them in order to continue to fulfill the responsibility of furnishing electricity to a large metropolitan and surrounding rural area in northern California.

The amendment would not authorize construction of new facilities nor the enlargement of existing ones. Neither would it expand the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission. It would, in short, do nothing incompatible with the letter and spirit of the Wilderness Act. Its sole purpose is to make it clear that the jurisdiction of the Federal Power Commission is preserved and assure the electric consumers within the District's service area that their right to reliable electric service will not be imperiled. To put it another way the suggested amendment's primary purpose is to protect the interests of the general public in the District's service area.

Senator METCALF. I am going to recess the hearing right now, and we will reconvene, if we get permission to sit, and I am sure we will, at 2 o'clock.

(Whereupon, at 12:20 p.m., the committee recessed, to reconvene at 2 p.m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator METCALF. The subcommittee will be in order.

We will resume the hearing on S. 713 and S. 714, to include certain lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The first witness this afternoon is Mr. Rudd Crawford of the Sierra Club. Mr. Crawford, we are very pleased to have you here.

Mr. CRAWFORD. I am very pleased to be here and I feel very fortunate.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF RUDD CRAWFORD, VENTANA CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB

Mr. CRAWFORD. I am Rudd Crawford. I live in Pebble Beach, Calif. I represent the Sierra Club and the Ventana chapter whose membership is over 1,100 persons living in Monterey County. I am serving as chapter chairman for the third year, and I have been on the executive committee since the chapter was formed just over 5 years ago.

I have been hiking in the Los Padres National Forest for the last 12 years. I have backpacked into this area for short and extended trips, and have been in 53 of the 70 to 80 Forest Service camps. I have hiked over all the main trails and a majority of the other trails, and have gone, sometimes, cross country. Some of the members of our chapter have been into this area even more than I have, and so I feel that we know the area well.

I have four topics to discuss:

First, I speak for all of us when I say that we endorse the enlarged boundaries, which have been proposed by the Forest Service, to the present primitive area. When you approve this proposal, which we hope you will do, you will have established a wilderness area of 94,729 acres. We have worked with the Forest Service since shortly after the passage of the wilderness bill, to help them where needed. We have never had any major differences of opinion with them, and the minor ones have been settled without difficulty, and so we support this Forest Service proposal.

Second, an area omitted from the original proposal, perhaps inadvertently, is Willow Creek—an area of 2,934 acres. This long, straight valley has many inviting meadows, suitable for camping, with magnificent oaks and sycamores. Inclusion of this drainage provides a more prominent ridge for the boundary. There are no roads there, only trails and a campsite with year-round water. We would be distressed if a road or a manmade development were put in here. There have been no changes made by man in Willow Creek except trails and the campsite, so it is truly in its primitive condition.

Third, the statement in the proposal about the wilderness values in the entire area is excellent. It is a mountainous region with several

steep-walled canyons, mountains as high as 4,800 feet, and several spectacular gorges. There are narrow wooded glens, some with small pools and streams. There are pockets of redwoods, madrones, and ponderosa pines, while up on the ridges are the rare Santa Lucia fir, Coulter pines with their giant cones, Digger pines, incense cedar, and several varieties of deciduous oaks. There are no extensive stands of these trees, and the terrain is so steep and rough that it is not adaptable for logging.

I wish you could see the meadows when the lupine is out, and the ceanothis on the brush-covered mountainsides, and the madrone and toyon berries during the Christmas season, and the Indian paint brush and the yucca in bloom.

There are deer in these mountains and the Russian wild boar were planted there about 1915 and they have thrived. There is also a rare bobcat and mountain lion.

So this area is excellent for hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing, as well as an ideal place to study fauna and flora.

Fourth, there are no competing uses for this land. Timber is not commercially available, but is fine for recreational enjoyment. There is no grazing of cattle or sheep. The meadows are so widely separated and so small that cattle could not be maintained here, so the forage is for wildlife only. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have made a mineral survey and this shows that there are no minerals of any economic possibility. In the early days, homesteaders settled here and there trying to make a living from the land, but all of them have left, leaving a few fruit trees on some hillsides and tumbled-down cabins.

Furthermore, this area containing the Carmel River, is the entire watershed for the more than 100,000 residents of the Monterey Peninsula. It also contains the Arroyo Seco River which is important for the water supply for the Salinas Valley and its irrigation. It is the watershed for the Big Sur and Little Sur Rivers. These watersheds are very important to us because of the long, dry summer seasons.

Eventually a dam will be built on the Arroyo Seco River. The county supervisors had an independent engineering firm study and evaluate possible sites for a dam. This firm recommended a dam far enough downstream so that impounded waters would not touch any of the wilderness area. They studied the only two possible sites—one downstream and the other near the gorge upstream. The downstream site would cost \$11 million, including land acquisition, and the gorge site would cost \$22 million. It is obvious that the downstream site would be purchased. It would have the additional value of fishing and boating on the lake, which the gorge site would not permit because of limited access. So, we do not see this as a competing use.

Gentlemen, I have indicated to you that we support the Forest Service proposal. I have also explained why the Willow Creek area of 2,934 acres should be added.

I hope I have conveyed to you some of our feelings about the outstanding value of this area to people who wish to get into the wilderness and enjoy its beauty. I am not talking only for the people of Monterey County, but also about the San Francisco Bay area with its 4 million people who are heavy users of the Ventana Wilderness. Use of this area during the fire season requires a permit; even so

recreational use of the primitive area has tripled in the last 6 years to an estimated 22,600 visitor-days each year.

Fortunately there are no competing uses for this area—no lumber, no grazing, and no mining interests. I have no doubt you will quickly give your approval to Senate bill 714.

I appreciate the opportunity to make this presentation to you, and I will be glad to answer any questions if you have them. I have some pictures here and some slides as well, if you have a few minutes and care to see them.

Senator METCALF. I want to see the slides and I am very interested on seeing your pictures.

Would you wait just a minute? Senator Hatfield is coming in and I know he would want to see them.

(Slides and pictures of the area were presented by Mr. Crawford.)

Senator METCALF. Now, you have emphasized very dramatically, graphically pointed out the benefits of the Willow Creek area. You have not said anything about the Miller Fork area.

Mr. CRAWFORD. We went into this deeply with the Forest Service and this is one of the areas where we felt they had a strong point, and we would not push for Miller Fork.

Senator HATFIELD. You at least concur?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Right. We concur with them on this. This is one of the major points of argument, but as I say, we resolved this before the bill came up.

Senator METCALF. On the other hand, you feel that the Willow Creek area has sufficient wilderness values that it warrants inclusion in the wilderness?

Mr. CRAWFORD. Very much so. We feel that since fire is not a problem, that ridge on the north border, including Willow Creek, is a more prominent ridge and would be even better for fire protection, and we feel that the Willow Creek itself deserves more wilderness status; yes.

Senator METCALF. Would you leave these pictures with the committee for reference, and if you want them, I will ask the staff to return them to you after action on the bill.

Mr. CRAWFORD. If they will be useful to you as a committee, be our guest. We would be glad for you to have them.

Senator METCALF. I feel other members of the committee, in markup on this bill and discussion, would appreciate seeing the pictures. So I will ask that they be returned when they are no longer needed.

Any questions?

Senator HATFIELD. This Willow Creek inclusion, which seems to be coming to the focus of the decisionmaking for the committee, there were two things I understood from Mr. Cliff's testimony. One was that there was a fire trail there, fire barrier, and then later that was really not an obstacle in the minds of the Forest Service.

Secondly, there was the matter of whether it was easily controlled access in terms of the administration of the Wilderness Act. Would you care to comment on that second point, and again, I am giving you this by recall only, but it did seem to me there was a serious question raised by the Forest Service about whether this really lent itself to inclusion because of it being somewhat separated by the contour and the geography of the area.

Mr. CRAWFORD. May I point to the top of the map?

Senator HATFIELD. Yes.

Mr. CRAWFORD (at the map). There is a Forest Service camp right here and there is a Scout camp there. The trail goes along this area that we have not included in the wilderness proposal. We do not join it until at this point. This area would give whatever control is needed and we feel the ridge along here, as we have proposed, is a more prominent boundary than the one the Forest Service has proposed. So that as far as difficulty of control, there is this much distance in here for the disappearing of the casual Sunday-type picnicker who might litter the area but I cannot see how, being this close, because the Forest Service land extends here. Further down there is at least one more camp. Up the other trail, there are two or three more camps, all on roads well away from the national wilderness area itself.

So as a layman, I cannot see how there would be an administrative or control problem if this area were included in the proposal.

Senator HATFIELD. Because I believe, as Miss McGinnis pointed out, the Boy Scout utilization of this area is certainly not to be frowned upon. In other words, they have an opportunity here for camping and other outdoor sports.

Mr. CRAWFORD. The Scouts do use this area from several points of access.

Senator HATFIELD. But this is not offensive, even to the wilderness idea, is it?

Mr. CRAWFORD. No; in fact it is an addition because we are teaching these young fellows to see the real wilderness. In fact, they want the wilderness and they do respect it.

Senator HATFIELD. I did not understand either, if I might refer back, Mr. Chairman, to the forestry representative.

There was not the problem of private lands acquisition in the Willow Creek area and there was no other great problem except the fireline and the natural boundary. Were those the only reasons why it was not included?

Mr. WOLF. This is correct. We felt this should still be managed as a roadless area, that its primary value was recreation, that we could do a few things in here to increase its capacity for this kind of use. It was a case primarily where we already had this rather small fireline and the other uses that we felt would be made of this area, which would not detract from the wilderness itself.

Senator HATFIELD. Do I detect there is no really strong opposition if it were included, that is, no strong opposition from the forestry department if it were included by action of the committee?

Mr. WOLF. I think it would be safe to say we could administer either way. We felt this was the best use of the land. We have a large photograph here that shows area G, and the fireline.

Senator METCALF. If you will leave that for us, it will be a valuable reference, not only for us but for discussion during the executive committee.

Mr. WOLF. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. One further question. Do you agree that there is also a natural boundary line at the outer most part of that blue area, the Willow Creek area?

Mr. WOLF. Yes; there is a prominent ridge that comes down between Willow Creek and Tassajara Creek here and drops off at the fork of Tassajara Creek.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Senator.

Thank you, Mr. Crawford, for your testimony and your presentation and your pictures. I will see that the ones you filed with the committee are returned.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you very much for letting me appear.

Senator METCALF. Now we have another Sierra Club witness on the other area that is before us—the Desolation Wilderness.

Mr. Gerstung, we are delighted to have you.

STATEMENT OF ERIC G. GERSTUNG, REPRESENTING SIERRA CLUB IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED DESOLATION WILDERNESS

Mr. GERSTUNG. Mr. Chairman, my name is Eric R. Gerstung. I live in Sacramento, Calif. I am speaking on behalf of some 71,000 members of the Sierra Club, the Mother Lode, and also the chapter which covers the area under consideration. An organization founded in 1892 by John Muir for the primary purpose of protecting wilderness and natural values in the Sierra Nevada. Today's hearing involves a portion of the Sierra Nevada Wilderness—the magnificent Desolation Valley Primitive Area.

I feel very fortunate in having had the opportunity to become intimately familiar with the Desolation Valley region. Over the last 15 years I was able to traverse much of the region on foot during summer fishing trips.

While serving as conservation chairman of the Mother Lode chapter of the Sierra Club in 1966, I had the pleasure of participating in a number of fruitful discussions with Forest Service officials and with representatives of jeep and sportsmen organizations. We were able to agree upon mutually acceptable boundaries. During the April 26, 1967, field hearing, when the proposal was presented to the public, the Forest Service announced that it decided to make a minor alteration in the north boundary which involved the deletion of a 562-acre parcel of cutover timberland. This is the area shown in light blue on the Desolation map. Although the Sierra Club declined to take a definite position on the deletion during the hearing, club representatives shortly after the hearing made an on-the-ground examination of the area in question and agreed that it was not suitable for inclusion within the wilderness system.

I am now pleased to report that the Sierra Club completely concurs with the proposed wilderness boundaries recommended by the Forest Service.

The Desolation Wilderness proposal to date has received overwhelming support from a broad spectrum of the general public. The San Francisco regional office of the Forest Service reported that during the 30-day period following the hearing they received 923 letters in favor of the wilderness and only one actually opposed.

Proposed wilderness boundaries were reviewed and accepted by the two largest lumber companies within El Dorado County, according to the Forest Service Office there. The boundaries also received the conditional acceptance of four water and power development agencies. The conditions stipulated appear to have been met.

Support also has come from such diverse groups as the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, the El Dorado-Amador Chapter of the American Society of Foresters, the El Dorado National Forest Grazing Advisory Committee, the Highway 50 Association, the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Tahoe Area Council, the Sacramento-Sierra Sportsmen Council, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, and the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

I would like to add that the latter have two Scout camps located adjacent to the boundaries of the lower area, one, Camp Harvey West, on the upper end of the lake, and the other on Luna Lake. Both of these camps are wilderness training camps and they use the wilderness area specifically as a training area. So this is a very valuable location to have their camps on the edge of this area.

The Desolation Valley region, despite its forbidding name, is a true wonderland of gemlike lakes, alpine wildflowers, lush meadows, forested areas, rushing streams, and snowcapped peaks. The proposed addition of 23,000 acres of national forest land to the existing 41,000-acre Desolation Valley Primitive Area will round out boundaries along topographical lines and include additional terrain of similar character which the Forest Service has been managing as wilderness.

Proposed new additions to the Desolation Valley Primitive Area include the west slope of the Crystal Range, which has been discussed, the watersheds of Echo Lake and Pyramid Creek, and additional lands on the Lake Tahoe slope.

The west slope of the Crystal Range contains 20 beautiful trout fishing lakes and extensive glaciated granite topography. From the crest of the 9,000-foot range the hiker is greeted with panoramic views of Lake Tahoe, the forests of the Sierra, the Central Valley and even the Coast Range on a clear day.

The proposed additions to the south end of the primitive area will include cascading Pyramid Creek and the beautiful Horsetail Falls and a dozen or more attractive lakes.

I have slides of these areas which I will show in a few minutes.

Proposed additions on the Lake Tahoe slope will complement the adjacent Sugar Pine Point, D. L. Bliss, and Emerald Bay State Parks and thus provide additional watershed protection to the west side of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Emerald Bay and surrounding watershed lands were recently designated as a National Natural Landmark by the Department of the Interior.

This surrounding watershed land is included in the Desolation Valley Wilderness proposal.

The Desolation Valley region, situated adjacent to the popular Lake Tahoe Basin and within a 3-hour drive of the San Francisco metropolitan area, greets the visitor as an island oasis of unspoiled natural beauty and relative solitude despite rather heavy trail use.

Outing leaders within the several Sierra Club chapters are so enthusiastic about the Desolation Valley region that they have scheduled day hikes, peak climbs, or backpack trips nearly every weekend during summer months and occasional ski touring and snowshoeing trips during winter months. Anxious to share wilderness experiences with others, the Sierra Club announces all weekend outings in the local newspapers and invites interested members of the public to participate without charge.

Despite the mountainous terrain within the Desolation Valley region, the trails are well maintained and easily traversed by men, women, and children of all ages. Last summer, while spending a week within the heart of the primitive area, I was amazed by the number of families and scouting and church organizations whose participants had backpacked into the area. Many of the people that I talked to were city people who had never undertaken any activity of this kind before.

The day is rapidly passing when wilderness areas are used solely by the so-called rugged and adventurous few. We seem to be entering a new era where increasing numbers of people are rejecting, as recreation, sedentary motor vehicle travel in favor of more vigorous and healthful activities such as walking, mountain climbing, and swimming.

This condition is confirmed by a recent Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Survey which found walking for pleasure to be the nation's No. 1 outdoor activity, while driving for pleasure had slumped to third place. If this trend continues, we will need more opportunities for back country trail travel in the future. At the present a mere 1.4 percent of California's total land area is preserved in national forest wilderness. The addition of the Desolation Wilderness to the system would increase the percentage to 1.46.

The proposed wilderness classification appears to have little effect on commodity resources, as the Forest Service report indicates, since timber and minerals do not appear to be present in sufficient quantity to warrant commercial extraction.

I might add here, too, there are several million acres of Sierra Valley terrain bearing ores of fairly higher quality than that found in the wilderness area, but because of the present economic situation in these areas, and the inaccessibility to roads, they are not commercially extractable.

There are a small diversion dam and a number of small check dams within the proposed wilderness area which are relatively inconspicuous and have a minimal impact on the wilderness value of the region. We have no objection to their continued operation.

We have also no objection to the continuation of the California Department of Fish and Game's annual aerial fish planting operations or to the continued use of snow and water measuring devices provided that they do not become any more conspicuous than they are now.

In conclusion we enthusiastically support the Forest Service proposal for a Desolation Wilderness and urge its early adoption.

Thank you.

I have a few slides here if you would like to look at them.

Senator METCALF. Please.

(Slides of the area were presented by Mr. Gerstung.)

Mr. GERSTUNG. That is all the slides I have. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Senator METCALF. Do you agree that the area in the north, where there is that 28-foot concrete dam, should be included in the wilderness area, or do you feel that it would be a precedent against wilderness standards if it were included?

Mr. GERSTUNG. Well, I feel it was rather unfortunate that the dam was built in the primitive area. We tried to discourage it at the time

it came up but there was already a Federal power withdrawal and there was not any way we could block it.

As far as precedent being established, I am not really sure it would establish a precedent, since we already have areas within the wilderness system and even within the national park system that have concrete dams. For example, in the Olympic National Park there is one quite conspicuous dam on one of the rivers in the national park and, of course, the Yosemite National Park has several large dams. So I am really not sure it would establish precedent.

Senator METCALF. You would feel the same way, of course, about that 100-year-old dam? What is the name of that lake?

Mr. GERSTUNG. The old dam at Lake Aloho, particularly, I feel is not an intrusion, because it is so inconspicuous and such a very small dam. It is a Lockwell dam and when you are standing on it you would hardly know you are on a dam. It is just a pile of rocks there and almost looks like a natural rockslide. Of course, there are many others, something like 22 of these small check dams scattered throughout the wilderness area, quite inconspicuous. They were built by hand out of native rock.

Senator METCALF. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Gerstung. You have made a very able statement. Your pictures are as traditionally so, even more eloquent than the description that you have made, and you have been very helpful to the committee.

Mr. GERSTUNG. Thank you. I have some black and white pictures if you would like to include them with the hearing record.

Senator METCALF. We will, and if you want them returned, we will try to get them returned.

Mr. GERSTUNG. I will donate them because they are extra copies.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much. They will be very valuable at the time this is taken up with the whole committee at the executive session.

We now have Mr. Francis Walcott of San Francisco.

STATEMENT OF FRANCIS J. WALCOTT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Mr. WALCOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I was requested to bring with me two additional statements from people who could not attend, one from Dr. Richard Sill, of Reno, Nev., and a letter from Mr. Kent Williams of Saratoga, Calif. Both of these support the establishment of the Ventana Wilderness Area and request also inclusion of Miller Canyon and Willow Creek. And beyond that, an area which was mentioned earlier today, extending down from Anderson Peak on the west slope of the Coast Ridge to and including Cone Peak. I would like to have those inserted in the record, if you would, please.

Senator METCALF. Without objection, they will be introduced in the record and appear at the conclusion of your remarks.

Thank you very much. Go right ahead.

Mr. WALCOTT. Mr. Chairman, I am Francis J. Walcott, of 3500 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Calif. I am the chairman of the Wilderness Classification Study Committee of the Sierra Club Council, and have aided in the study of the resources of these two areas, as well as many other such regions. Over the past several years I have spent a great deal of time hiking and camping in the Ventana, and backpack-

ing, climbing, skiing, and snowshoeing in Desolation Valley. I know these areas well, and am delighted to be able to come here and testify in favor of their addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Forest Service proposal to establish the Desolation Wilderness is excellent. It makes a few minor necessary deletions from the Desolation Valley Primitive Area, and substantial important and welcome additions. Desolation Valley and the surrounding area is fairly close to the San Francisco Bay area—within easy driving distance—and it offers an easily accessible high mountain wilderness experience to the people of northern California. In winter cross-country skiing of all levels of ability and other winter mountaineering activities are possible. In summer the area is available for hiking, backpacking, fishing, climbing, and related activities, and it receives heavy use. This kind of use has been going on for at least 75 years. Registers were placed on the summits of the mountains in 1894 and 1895, and route for backpacking across the region were published at about the same time. The easy access by good highway to the vicinity, and by good trail into the back country makes for this long-standing popularity, and emphasizes the importance of this addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The proposed additions are all highly desirable. Area A, including portions of General Creek and Meek's Creek, unfortunately had to be revised, even to the extent of an 11-acre deletion from the present primitive area boundary, immediately prior to the agency hearing at Placerville, because of logging activity just before the land had been acquired by the Forest Service. It still includes much land important to the wilderness boundary.

Areas B, C, and D improve the eastern boundary by using contour lines rather than section lines, and by placing the wilderness boundary lower on the slopes above Lake Tahoe, assuring better protection of the natural characteristics of the area.

Area E adds some very attractive area above Upper Echo Lake including Ralston Peak, Ralston Lake and Tamarack Lake, and Haypress Meadows, and the very beautiful stretch of Pyramid Creek near to and including Horsetail Falls.

Area F brings the boundary down from the top of the Crystal Range to include the numerous granite slopes and benches, lakes, streams, and wooded portions of the western side of the Range, filling in the wilderness to a more satisfactory and complete unit.

I heartily and enthusiastically support this proposal as a worthwhile addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System, without any change from that as suggested by the Forest Service.

The Ventana Area is quite different from the Desolation unit, but is equally worthy of inclusion in the National Wilderness System. It lies even closer to the San Francisco Bay area, and can be easily reached in 2 hours' driving time. With its relatively low altitude, it can be, and is, used heavily in winter and spring when most other wilderness areas are covered by snow. Vegetation is primarily chaparral and live oak, although the region does include some conifers, including the coast redwood. Deep canyons are characteristic of the area.

I wish to support the proposal of the Forest Service, but I believe that additional area should also be included in order to create the best

possible wilderness area here. I am grateful that the Forest Service has added a considerable amount of land to the south in addition C. This will add much important wild country to the Ventana, including Lost Valley, Indian Valley, the headwaters of the Big Sur River, Logwood Creek, and the incomparably spectacular and unique Arroyo Seco Gorge. The other additions substantially improve the present boundaries, by adding important topographic units.

Although addition A, which will include the ridge to the east of the Carmel River and Bruce Fork, is welcome, a still more satisfactory extension would include much of Miller Canyon. Area G, not recommended by the Forest Service suggests the addition of the Willow Creek drainage, an attractive stretch of wilderness. If included, it would substantially improve the proposal by adding desirable country and providing a prominent ridge boundary.

There is also a substantial area of wild country further to the south, along both sides of the ridge of the Coast Range. This was proposed by several student groups at California universities and colleges as a possible addition. Although there has been some slight disturbance of this region, if it is left alone to recover, it would soon revert to wilderness. This portion, extending to just beyond Cone Peak, should not be overlooked.

A majority of those testifying at the Forest Service hearing in Salinas spoke in favor of this suggested addition of approximately 23,000 acres which calls for a boundary running southwest from the vicinity of Anderson Peak to include the upper portion of the western slope of the Coast Range. This would follow the 2,500 foot contour line and western boundary of the forest to just south of Cone Peak, then north along identifiable points to Arroyo Seco. The proposed boundary rejoins the Forest Service proposal just above the Escondido campground. The included area is undeveloped and deserves protection to keep the slopes, which afford spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, in their present beautiful condition.

Just this afternoon, before I spoke, I was handed a statement from the student group which originally proposed this, Active Conservation Tactics of the University of California, and I would like to include this in the record. It describes in detail four areas which would be included in this, as presented to the Forest Service at the hearing in Salinas.

One is the true left bank of Logwood Creek to just north of Anderson Peak. The second one would be a little further to the south. The third, Pick Creek, is in the same general area, and the fourth is the detailed description of the area I have just mentioned. From the radar station at Anderson Peak, which should be excluded, the boundary would drop along the southwest ridge to the 2,500-foot level, following this southward until a point is reached directly north of Paul Peak. It would then follow the Forest Service boundary to the west ridge of Twin Peaks, from here up to the saddle nearest the southwest corner of section 34, which is identified on the top of the topographic map; then across into Hare Canyon above the Vincente Camp.

Senator METCALF. Those statements will be incorporated in the record immediately after your statement.

Mr. WALCOTT. Thank you.

These two very different but both very attractive and important regions should both become portions of the National Wilderness

Preservation System, and I urge passage of both of these bills, S. 713 as it now reads, and S. 714 with the suggested amendments.

Thank you.

Senator METCALF. You heard the testimony this morning. While there is a proposed road, it is outside of the wilderness area?

Mr. WALCOTT. That is right.

Senator METCALF. That is probably another matter hearings will be held on and it will have to be considered.

Mr. WALCOTT. That is right. This additional area that has been suggested would cover that ridge.

Senator METCALF. If this additional area were added, then that would become a part of the wilderness area?

Mr. WALCOTT. That is right.

Senator METCALF. Thank you.

Mr. WALCOTT. There is a road now just south of Cone Peak which would afford access to those people who would wish to get this kind of view from an automobile.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much.

We have had some very able testimony this afternoon and very good statements. We will have considerable discussions of these suggestions that were made and additions and deletions that have been made, both by the Forest Service and by the other suggestions brought in by the witnesses today.

So thank you, Mr. Walcott.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF RICHARD C. SILL, RENO, NEV.

Mr. Chairman, I am Richard C. Sill of 720 Brookfield Drive, Reno, Nevada, a professor of Physics at the University of Nevada. I wish to support the establishment of the Ventana Wilderness Area plus certain additions as suggested below.

I have been visiting the area over the past fifteen years and believe the area to be an important addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System because of its many unique characteristics—its availability in winter, the stands of Coast redwood, Santa Lucia fir, and other plant types, and its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, with many superb views.

Several important additions should be made to the proposal of the Forest Service. Miller Canyon, noted as Area F in the Forest Service Proposal, would protect a tributary of the Carmel River. Area G, the Willow Creek region, would furnish a better ridge boundary. Also, the true left bank drainage of Logwood Creek should be added, to insure preservation of the character of the Creek. The true right bank drainage of upper Pick Creek should be included, in spite of private inholdings, to protect the new additions suggested by the Forest Service. South from Anderson Peak considerable outstanding country is in unspoiled condition and should be included. This would include part of the west slope of the Coast Range south to the vicinity of the Coast Range. This inclusion would guarantee the preservation of the region in its present condition, rather than subjecting it to the destructive overuse the proposed Coast Ridge Road would create.

All these additions were specifically suggested by Active Conservation Tactics of the University of California at Berkeley, at the Forest Service hearing at Salinas, California on June 7, 1967, and indicated on a map submitted then as Exhibit F, and I urge their inclusion in the Ventana Wilderness Area.

Thank you.

FEBRUARY 14, 1969.

The CHAIRMAN,
Senate Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: As an individual seriously interested in any proposal which would lead to the further protection of our primitive and defacto wilderness areas, I

would like to applaud the Forest Service's current proposal to enlarge the existing Ventana Wilderness in California. I'm sure that my sentiments are echoed by conservation organizations and private individuals interested in the preservation of our natural heritage.

I might suggest that the Committee in its deliberations on the Ventana Proposal also consider the inclusion of the two areas indicated as (F) and (G) in the proposal text and map. Area (F) is the Miller Creek drainage and (G) is the Willow Creek area. I have personally made two rather lengthy surveys of these two areas, once in the Spring of 1968 and previously in the Fall of 1967, and have found both to be up to the standards of areas already protected within the wilderness boundaries. Therefore, I recommend the Committee seriously consider inclusion of these two areas.

Another area which should also seriously be considered for inclusion into the existing wilderness is the area immediately around Cone Peak near the SW corner of the existing boundary. I propose that the area from the ridge below Twin Peak, across and around the north corner of Cone Peak and the area immediately to the NE of Cone Peak, be considered for inclusion as wilderness quality terrain. It has much interesting evidence of glacial activity. On the map this area is shown in Section 2, Townships 21-S and 22-S, Range 4-E. I am particularly interested in the area between the wilderness boundary and the road in Township 21-S.

I hope you will give these additional proposals serious consideration.

Sincerely,

KENT WILLIAMS, *Saratoga, Calif.*

Senator METCALF. Thomas L. Kimball of the National Wildlife Federation is next.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS L. KIMBALL ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. KIMBALL. Mr. Chairman, I am Thomas L. Kimball, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation which has national headquarters here in Washington, D.C., at 1412 16th Street NW.

The National Wildlife Federation is a private organization which seeks to attain conservation goals through educational means. The federation has affiliates in 49 States. These affiliates, in turn, are composed of local groups and individuals who, when combined with associate members and other supporters number an estimated 2½ million persons.

We welcome the invitation to appear here today.

The National Wildlife Federation was one of the original supporters of the preservation of wilderness. Our organization continues to believe that significant amounts of wilderness should be set aside for public recreational and educational purposes. We feel that wilderness preservation is in complete accord with the multiple-use concept—that lands held undeveloped in wilderness also have valuable public benefits for water production, watershed protection, preservation of ecological units necessary for education and for research, and for recreation.

It is in this context that we endorse the principles set out by S. 713, proposing designation of the Desolation Wilderness in the Eldorado National Forest, Calif., and S. 714, designating the Ventana Wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest, Calif.

Mr. Chairman, we have been in contact with Mr. A. V. Schiavon, president of the California Wildlife Federation, and learn that this State affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation has investigated the area concerned and we are in accord generally with the proposal to set aside the Desolation Wilderness dated April 26, 1967.

This proposal, and S. 713, would set aside the 40,744-acre Desolation Valley Primitive Area and about 22,725 additional acres for the new unit for the national wilderness preservation system. Located immediately west of Lake Tahoe on both crests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, this terrain is handsome and dramatic with assets widely favored by hikers, campers, fishermen, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Rugged and high in altitude, about 65 percent of the proposed area has no vegetation. A few deer and bear inhabit the area during parts of the year but it generally is too rocky and precipitous to be productive of large numbers of wildlife.

We have only one recommendation to make with respect to S. 713. We request that the Rubicon and Aloha Reservoirs be exclusions from the proposed wilderness area. We recognize that these reservoirs were constructed to have a minimum impact on the environment and actually may enhance features of the area. However, we believe these manmade facilities are inconsistent with the Wilderness Act, and, if included as proposed, could set an undesirable precedent for those who would like to locate reservoirs and other installations within wilderness areas contrary to the Wilderness Act.

We also endorse S. 714, which sets aside 95,000 acres as the Ventana Wilderness. The California Wildlife Federation also has investigated this area and we agree to the basic proposal developed by the Forest Service and published on August 15, 1967. The area concerned has a broad range of vegetative types, including the rare Santa Lucia fir and coast redwoods. The region is drained by four outstanding streams. Overall, it is a beautiful and outstanding area for hunting, fishing, riding, camping, hiking, and picnicking, with campsites reached by trails. We have been interested in learning that a few minimum basic camping facilities are installed in the area and recommend that facilities of a more advanced and elaborate nature be provided on the perimeter of the area, if at all. This relates to the area "G" proposed by some groups for inclusion in the area.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we urge that these proposals be cleared by the subcommittee as soon as possible in order that they can become early conservation accomplishments of the 91st Congress.

Thank you again for the opportunity of making these observations.

Senator METCALF. The last witness listed is Mr. Kirk Hall of Albuquerque, N. Mex.

(No response.)

Senator METCALF. The record will be kept open until February 26 for inclusion of such statements as may be submitted and cleared by the staff, and Mr. Hall can file his statement for the record within that time. Is there anything else to come before the subcommittee?

If not, then the meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 3 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned.)

APPENDIX

(Under authority previously given, the following communications were ordered printed:)

STATEMENT OF DR. SPENCER M. SMITH, JR., SECRETARY, CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Dr. Spencer M. Smith, Jr., Secretary of the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources, a national conservation organization with offices in Washington, D.C.

As one of the conservation organizations that supported strongly the basic wilderness legislation, we are pleased to see the many occasions upon which the basic statute is implemented both in terms of substance as well as procedure. Certainly S. 713 providing for the Desolation Wilderness Area in the High Sierra Region is a case in point. This proposal represents an expansion of the 40,795 acre Desolation Valley Primitive Area to 64,097 acres.

This area in the glaciated area just west of Lake Tahoe would provide the protection needed from roads and development. To the best of our knowledge there has been no opposition or suggested modifications to the proposed wilderness area by the Forest Service by any of the conservation organizations. We support S. 713 as representing an area that meets the qualifications for wilderness and hope the Congress will see fit to act favorably on this proposal at an early date.

S. 714 would expand the present 55,000 acre Ventana Primitive Area to the 94,278 acre Ventana Wilderness Area. Located in the Santa Lucia Range above the Big Sur Coastline, a variety of areas such as rain forests and redwoods are encompassed by the proposed wilderness plan. It is most appropriate that this area be so classified and afforded the protection that such classification provides.

The only point of difference between the recommendations of the Forest Service, which are incorporated in S. 714, and some conservation groups is the inclusion of about a 3,000 acre area known as Willow Creek. The Forest Service excluded Willow Creek because of a fire control program that would necessitate roads and similar development. The importance of this function at this point is debatable and the attractive backpacking area of Willow Creek cut off from the Wilderness Area was opposed during the field hearings. We hope the fire control problem can be handled in a manner that would allow the inclusion of Willow Creek. The present usage is consistent with wilderness objectives and hopefully such use could continue without being separated from the Wilderness Area.

We appreciate the opportunity of expressing our views and hope that we have been helpful to the Committee in their deliberations.

STATEMENT OF HENRY M. PANCOAST, SPOKESMAN FOR BERKELEY ACTIVE CONSERVATION TACTICS

My name is Henry M. Pancoast. I am a graduate student studying political science at the University of California at Berkeley. I am on the executive committee of Active Conservation Tactics. Active Conservation Tactics is a student conservationist group at UC Berkeley. We have approximately 150 dues paying members. Today I am acting as spokesman for that group because I do not have final exams this morning—otherwise there would be many more students here from Berkeley.

We have examined both the Forest Service Proposal on the Ventana Wilderness Area and the additions proposed by the Sierra Club. Although we concur in the additions and minor deletions in the Forest Service Proposal and support the additions proposed by the Sierra Club, we feel that these two sets of proposals still exclude some areas that should be included within the Ventana Wilderness Area.

Therefore, Berkeley Active Conservation Tactics recommends the addition of 3 areas to the Wilderness Proposal and the designation of a fourth area as a "wilderness management" area. These additions which amount to approximately 20,000 acres are outlined on the map which I am submitting with my testimony. The numbers on the map coincide with the numbering of the proposals in my testimony.

Addition No. 1.—The inclusion of the true left bank drainage of Logwood Creek would complete the drainage basin of this creek, and the land therein is in prime wilderness condition. There seems to be no significant reason for the proposed exclusion of the rest of the Logwood Creek drainage. The few short spur roads leading down to high pastures along the crest of the ridge from the road to Anderson Peak can be isolated by local withdrawal of the boundary from the main ridge, until the land can be purchased or otherwise allowed to revert. The complex of structures at Cold Spring can stand at the very boundary as they do in the Forest Service proposal.

Addition No. 2.—An area of wilderness quality is isolated from the main wilderness by the Anderson Peak road. We ask that this area be *managed* in the same manner as the adjoining wilderness. This area includes the west half of section 11, excluding the southwest quarter of the south of the same section, and section 12 of R2E, T 20 S. In addition the northwest quarter of section 17 of R3E, T20S.

Addition No. 3.—The arbitrary withdrawal of the boundary to Pick Creek, presumably to exclude a larger part of the approximately 500 acres of inholding produces an erratic boundary that will only encourage nonconforming development on the true right bank drainage of Pick Creek. The boundary should stay at the ridge level in this area.

Addition No. 4.—At the radar station, which should be excluded, the proposed boundary drops down the southwest ridge of Anderson Peak to the 2500 foot level, which it then follows southward until point is reached directly north of Paul Peak. The suggested boundary then follows the Forest boundary until that crosses the west ridge (extended) of Twin Peak. It follows up this ridge across section 33 until it reaches the saddle nearest the southwest corner of section 34, then goes directly to the south common corner of sections 33 and 34 and follows the forest boundary again to the 2500 foot contour into Hare Canyon above Vincente Camp. There the boundary goes almost due east to the saddle at about 3200 feet. The boundary then follows the western edge of the lookout access road to its terminus northeast of Cone Peak and then follows the trail into section 26 where it picks up the ridge line and the ridge trail to the eastern edge of section 25. The boundary then goes northward along the ridge and down the ridge to the Santa Lucia Memorial Park and joins the Forest Service Proposal boundary at this point.

This addition, in particular, includes high land with superb vistas of the ocean. It has lovely upper wooded canyons with rushing streams and high grassy knolls dotted with pines and oak groves. The addition also includes isolated groves of coast redwoods and another interior drainage marred only by a telephone line. This land is almost entirely in wilderness condition. There are, to be sure, some fire roads which must be blocked off, and allowed and even encouraged to revert to wild condition. There are two conspicuous bulldozed areas along the ridge (in or near sections 9 and 14 of Tw1S, R4E, the former being immediately adjacent to the boundary of the other proposals) which are several acres in extent with fire roads departing from them in several directions. Although we are aware of these disturbed areas, we believe what is lost by their exclusion is more important than what is lost by their inclusion. If serious effort is invested in the recovery of the land from these several scars, their inclusion is not a hazard and will not long be an inconsistency in the wilderness area being designated.

During our preparation of this testimony we discovered the area around Junipero Serra Peak to be of wilderness quality. However, at present this area is cut off from the Proposed Wilderness Area by a paved road. We therefore suggest that this "island" of wilderness be left in an undeveloped state until it can be studied for inclusion in the Ventana Wilderness area or reclassified as a wilderness area.

Thank you, gentlemen.

SIERRA CLUB,
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER,
Berkeley, Calif., February 15, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to express its particular interest in both the Desolation Wilderness

proposal and the Ventana Wilderness proposal. Both these areas have over the years received heavy use from members of this Chapter, who are thoroughly familiar with all portions of the regions, and we are very interested in their continued protection as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The proposal to establish a Desolation Wilderness, expressed in bill S. 713, is one we heartily endorse. The area proposed for addition to the present Desolation Valley Primitive Area will make it an even better unit, creating on the north and the east a more logical boundary, and, on the south and southeast, filling out the beautiful alpine area, most of which had already been included in the existing Primitive Area. The addition on the west includes the land on the west slopes of the Crystal Range and is a most welcome extension of the boundaries, which will provide attractive land including lakes, streams and timbered country offering wilderness beauty in itself and a superb access route to the heart of the area. An area such as the proposed Desolation Wilderness, close to the San Francisco Bay Area, will continue to provide major benefits to the people as a whole as well as to the members of our Chapter, and we strongly urge its passage.

The Ventana Wilderness, proposed in bill S. 714, is even closer to the Bay Area. Because of this and its many unique values, including its accessibility in winter and its variety of vegetation and other attractions, the proposal is of particular importance to the people of this area. However, we believe that in addition to the area set forth in the bill, the Miller canyon and Willow Creek areas, designated Areas F and G in the Forest Service Proposal, should also be included in the wilderness. These contain land of wilderness character deserving of this protection, which would create an outstanding wilderness opportunity for the people of this region. This would be a wilderness easy of access, especially when other areas cannot be reached, and one badly needed to meet the demand for this type of recreation. Especially with the minor changes mentioned we enthusiastically endorse this proposal.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposals and request that this statement be included in the record of the hearing. We urge that S. 713 and S. 714 (with the suggested strengthening amendments) be passed.

Very truly yours,

WALTER E. DODDS, *Chairman.*

PRINCETON, N.J., *February 13, 1969.*

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I am writing to urge support for the largest wilderness areas possible and inviolate protection of all wilderness lands from incompatible use.

Wilderness areas should include undeveloped contiguous drainage lands left out of the present proposals, such as the Willow Creek drainage in the Ventana Wilderness and the northern portion of the Chalone Creek drainage in Pinnacles National Monument.

I believe that the "wilderness threshold" concept, as proposed in Lassen Volcanic National Park and other areas, is unnecessary and possibly even dangerous to future protection of wilderness areas. The wilderness boundaries should come down to the roads and the spur roads in all parks and monuments.

My family and I have spent a great deal of time in many national parks and monuments. We believe that any new roads planned in these areas should be considered only as a last resort in gaining access. "Motor nature trails" are incongruous and serve only to harden the insistent use of automobiles. More roads generate more traffic congestion along with the accompanying noise and air pollution. Additional roads will not enhance our parks and monuments. These areas are supposed to be refuges and a change from the artificiality which abounds elsewhere.

Roads into wilderness are entirely incompatible, of course. Any existing service roads, fire roads, and the like should not be "improved" or extended so as to create through roads or loop roads. These existing unimproved roads should remain in the trail category. It is our experience that additional trails in some wilderness areas may be necessary to disperse visitors. In any case, wilderness needs to be expanded and protected, not diminished and debased.

Some people think that wilderness preservation constitutes a "locking up" of resources and serves no useful purpose. It is regrettable that they have so little understanding. The profit of rejuvenated air, purified water and refreshment of

the spirit is no less real than dollar profit—and it serves all the people. If it is a minority of the public that chooses a wilderness experience rather than some other form of recreation, it is a minority that deserves equal consideration.

I respectfully urge your committee to exclude the development or upgrading of roads from existing wild lands. Instead, please include as much land as possible in the National Wilderness System.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

DIANE T. GRAVES
Mrs. James F. Graves.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO., February 11, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I wish to give my earnest support to five bills, all dealing with wilderness designation for certain portions of National Park lands in California. If this is not done, there will be serious confusion between enjoyment and development of these national parks. At this time we must press for full application of the strong, comprehensive national wilderness policy of the Wilderness Law which can provide for the prompt inclusion of all deserving Federal lands in the National Wilderness System.

The motor nature trails proposed by the National Park Service in some now-wild sections of the parks also betray a serious confusion between enjoyment and development which, if not resisted will result in loss of the expansive wilderness that best distinguishes the national parks and monuments. The Wilderness Act enables the Congress to protect the essential public values of the parks by adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System all qualifying wilderness portions of the National Park System. I will list the five bills mentioned above.

S. 713, Desolation Wilderness, Eldorado National Forest.—I urge support of the Forest Service proposal to add 64,097 acres to the Wilderness System to protect against roads and accompanying development.

Ventana Wilderness, S. 714.—Add 2,934 acres for meadows, magnificent oaks, and sycamores, also Willow Creek in order to preserve a popular back-packing area.

S. 715, Lassen Volcanic Park.—Adopt National Park Service proposal to add three wilderness areas totaling 73,333 acres. This will protect 101,000 acres within Lassen Park from roads and other destruction.

S. 711, Lava Beds National Monument.—Designation of wilderness area to 32,000 acres of the monument's area to protect wildlife and prevent road construction.

S. 712, Pinnacles National Monument, should have an addition of 13,000 acres to form a contiguous wilderness and prevent road construction to a major part of this unit.

I urge your support for these important measures.

Sincerely yours,

OREN V. SHAW.

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIF., February 12, 1969.

Senator JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: It is my understanding that on the 18th and 19th of February your Committee will be considering areas for inclusion in the Wilderness Bill.

We are interested in the Ventana Wilderness which has been so designated by the Forest Service and is shown on our maps. It is very interesting and surprising area of wilderness close to populated areas and through highways. It is much used by people of this immediate area but also by residents of the Bay Cities area during the winter and spring months when the Sierra is available only to skiers. The peaks within this wilderness reach heights of over 5000 feet within only a few miles of the coast. In the canyons scattered through it are good stands of redwood and a native tree, the Santa Lucia Fir, which is found no-where else.

We would like the area included in the Ventana Wilderness to be expanded according to the request already with your committee. Within this expanded

area, is also the watershed for the Monterey Peninsula, and it is important that this be kept as intact as possible for water is a precious item in California.

The extension asked for will also include the upper portions of the Arroyo Seco Canyon which is a most unusual recreational feature consisting of a long series of rock-walled pools which can be entered at the upper end and climbed and swum through. Young people and vigorous adults find it a wonderful treat that has few if any equals.

This whole area is a young peoples delight and for those of us who are no longer young we can only hope that some of these will be retained inviolate for the younger generation so that they can enjoy what once gave us delight.

Since the jurisdiction of these Wilderness Areas will lie with the Forest Service, I am sure they will do a good job of protecting them. However, to have them included in the Wilderness Bill will make it easier for the Secretary of Agriculture to resist pressures to cut down on them. Therefore, it would be much appreciated if this area, with its extensions, is included in the Wilderness Bill.

Sincerely,

GLENN E. MILLS,
ERNESTINE P. MILLS.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE,
Washington, D.C., February 18, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Institute will not be able to be represented at the public hearings on S. 713 and S. 714, bills to create the Desolation and the Ventana Wilderness Areas in California. We wish to comment on the two bills briefly, however.

It is our understanding that conservationists widely favor the boundary lines that have been recommended by the U.S. Forest Service for the Desolation Wilderness. The proposal represents an enlargement of the existing primitive area, and it is believed that the new boundary lines take in country that deserves permanent dedication for wilderness purposes. We are pleased to add our endorsement to that which has been received for S. 713.

Individuals whose opinions we respect tell us that the Ventana Wilderness proposal, S. 714, would be improved by the addition of the less than 3000 acres comprising the Willow Creek drainage on the eastern side of the area. Portions of the area are used by youth and family camping groups, who back-pack into the valley in order to enjoy the wilderness features it offers.

It is believed that the natural character of the area would be best served by its inclusion in the wilderness area. It is hoped that the committee will have an opportunity for a thorough discussion of the Willow Creek drainage with the knowledgeable persons that will make statements in behalf of S. 714 at the public hearings this week.

We believe that the Forest Service has done a generally excellent job in developing these two wilderness proposals in cooperation with California conservation interests.

I would appreciate having this letter made a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

C. R. GUTERMUTH,
Vice-President.

CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF., February 23, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SIR: I should like to express my complete support for S. 714, your and Senator Cranston's bill to establish the Ventana Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest.

At the same time I should like to urge the inclusion of a small additional area, the 2,934-acre valley of Willow Creek, a tributary of the Arroyo Seco. This scenic canyon is one of the only two access routes from the Salinas Valley to the southern portion of the proposed Wilderness Area, and is just as deserving of inclusion as the other, Lost Valley, which is already part of the Forest Service proposal and S. 714. Furthermore, Willow Creek enters the Arroyo Seco just a short distance

downstream from the very heavily used Forest Service roadside camp at Horsebridge, and if protected in its present state, would offer a prime wilderness experience for the many fishermen and hikers taking day trips from this campground.

In the 14 years I have lived in Monterey County, I have been through this area a number of times on camping trips and hikes with my family, friends, and youth groups, and can attest wholeheartedly to its high caliber as wilderness and to its need for the protection which wilderness designation would afford.

Despite overwhelming support for this area at the June 1967 field hearings on the Forest Service proposal, this valley was not included in the Forest Service recommendation; yet I have been unable to learn of any plans for the area which would preclude its designation as wilderness.

Once again may I respectfully urge that your committee give favorable consideration to the addition of Willow Creek to the proposed Ventana Wilderness Area. I should appreciate having this letter made a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

MARY ANN MATTHEWS.
Mrs. W. V. Graham Matthews.

PORTLAND, OREG., February 18, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.:*

Western Wood Products Association is pleased to add its endorsement for wilderness classification of the Ventana and Desolation Primitive Areas in California. We urge, however, that wilderness classification include only those areas so recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness and set forth in its proposal for each area. We believe that wilderness classification should follow a thorough, orderly study of each proposed area. This has been done thus far with respect to these two primitive areas. We ask the committee to proceed with extreme caution in approving wilderness classification for other areas in the West which it may consider. We point to the fact that there now exist proposals for single-use withdrawal of commercial forest land in the West which total in excess of 8 million acres and 26 billion board feet of commercial timber.

We are vitally aware of the raw material supply requirements implied by the Housing Act of 1968 in setting national goals for decent housing for our citizens. Therefore, we believe that the studied consideration of Congress will be both vital and necessary if we are to meet expanded building material requirements from a continually shrinking forest land base.

Cordially,

KNOX MARSHALL,
Director of Forestry Services, Western Wood Products Association.

MONTEREY, CALIF., February 25, 1969.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
*Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: May I take this opportunity to express my strong support of Senate Bill 714 relating to the proposed Ventana Wilderness Area of California.

I strongly urge that the Willow Creek area be added and included. It is a remarkably beautiful place and there is great justification for its preservation and protection. My family, friends and I have hiked throughout this area extensively. We feel that wilderness is an increasingly important and necessary part of civilization especially in view of the complexities of our life today. We must preserve intact and undiminished what little wilderness remains.

Please do everything possible to pass Senate Bill 714 including the Willow Creek Area. Thank you for your efforts.

Yours truly,

ROBERT DOWNS.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., February 15, 1969.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: Hearings to reclassify the Desolation Valley Primitive Area to the Desolation Valley Wilderness, under provisions of the Wilderness Act, will soon be held. I wholeheartedly support the proposal to create this wilderness area.

The proposed 64,000 acre Desolation Valley Wilderness is an excellent recommendation for which the Forest Service is to be commended. The wilderness area is heavily used by hikers and horseback riders, and is readily accessible to the people in the San Francisco and Sacramento Metropolitan Areas. The wilderness contains some of the most beautiful alpine and subalpine wild country to be found anywhere. This area needs the protection from the encroachments of man, and inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System will give the area such protection. I have spent many hours hiking in the proposed wilderness, its unique beauty draws me back there every summer and fall.

Therefore, I urge adoption of the 64,000 acre Desolation Valley Wilderness, to be permanently included in the wilderness system.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD SARETSKY.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., February 12, 1969.

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I understand that hearings will soon be held to consider inclusion of the proposed Ventana Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I am in favor of a permanent Ventana Wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service recommended for a 94,728 acre wilderness is an excellent proposal, and the Forest Service is to be commended for its inclusion of an additional 40,000 acres of hitherto de-facto wilderness. However, I feel that in order to have logical boundaries, properly rounding out the wilderness, two areas should be added. One is in the southeast portion. This is the Willow Creek unit consisting of approximately 3000 acres. Willow Creek is a branch of Tassajara Creek. I feel this area would make a fine addition to the proposal. In the northeast section is located Miller Fork Creek, containing 3480 acres. This parcel has excellent wilderness qualities and should also be part of the Ventana Wilderness.

I oppose any irrigation projects on the Arroyo Seco River which will result in the construction of dams and inundating portions of the scenic Arroyo Seco Gorge, within the proposed wilderness. The wilderness and recreational values would seem to far outweigh any benefits which may be derived from damming the Arroyo Seco River. Such projects can be placed on the other rivers which drain the eastern slopes of the Santa Lucia Mountains and are outside the proposed wilderness.

The Ventana Wilderness is located close to the San Francisco Metropolitan Area and is readily available to a large number of people. It is the only wilderness in Northern California which will be open to hikers and horseback riders during the winter months since most of the area is below the snow level, and all other wilderness areas will be closed by snow until July.

Therefore, I urge you to approve a 100,000 acre Ventana Wilderness consisting of the 94,728 acre Forest Service recommendation, plus additions in Willow Creek and Miller Fork, totaling 6000 acres.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD SARETSKY.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 19, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I should like to express my support of the position of the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups on the designation of wilderness in the areas being considered by your committee in the February 18 hearing.

I am particularly interested in the status of the Ventana Wilderness which is at my back door and where I have had many trail hikes, and in the Pinnacles Wilderness, which is within a couple of hours drive from home, and which I have photographed thoroughly.

Please make this a part of the public record.

Sincerely,

C. EDWARD GRAVES.

POCATELLO, IDAHO,
February 16, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: Please enter this statement in the official record of the Congressional Wilderness Reviews on Wilderness proposals in five California areas: The Desolation, Ventana, Lassen Peak, Raker Peak, Black Lava and Pinnacles National Forest or parks areas.

I am strongly in favor of Congress protecting present and long range public values of the parks by now adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System those portions as recommended by the Wilderness Society.

It now appears that Americans are in general agreement on working towards assuring a quality environment for present and future generations. Of crucial importance, if we are to survive as a free people, is our ability to understand ourselves and the society in which we live; setting the stage for this kind of self understanding requires a differentiated use of our environment according to individual needs. The Wilderness areas proposed in these five bills now present precisely this opportunity to protect those values in our national park system.

Assuring a "quality environment" often requires that hard decisions be made. In this case I would think that the proposed Wilderness areas would qualify for such inclusion without too much difficulty. The significance of this action, rather, is the opportunity to now make a decision which may well set a pattern for future actions relating to a "quality environment."

Respectfully,

T. RUSSELL MAGER.

RENO, NEV., February 11, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I urge you to support the bill that would designate a Desolation Wilderness. The Forest Service has come up with a fine proposal for this spectacular area. I have made five separate visits to the proposed wilderness. On one visit, I climbed a ridge above Gilmore Lake and from there saw spectacular views of Mt. Tallac, Dicks Peak, Half Moon Lake, Gilmore Lake, and Susie Lake. Another time, we hiked to Grass Lake, travelled two rough cross-country miles to Susie Lake, and finally ended up at beautiful Heather Lake. Contained within the proposed Wilderness are many high peaks with beautiful lakes on their flanks. Most of the area is glaciated alpine country with little vegetation but portions of it are forested. I feel that it is important that wilderness areas like Desolation Valley are set aside so that this generation and future generations can experience the solitude and beauty of country that is still the way it was centuries ago.

The Forest Service also has come up with a fine proposal for a Ventana Wilderness on the California Coast to protect the Santa Lucia Range. However, an additional 3,000 acres should be added to preserve Willow Creek and its magnificent forest of oaks and sycamores. This Wilderness also will probably be the only Wilderness where the Coastal Redwood and Santa Lucia Fir are represented.

Sincerely yours,

REED SECORD.

BOGUE & WEEKS,
Vermillion, S. Dak., February 12, 1969.

Re S. 711, S. 712, S. 713, S. 714, and S. 715.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U.S. Senator, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: With considerable interest I have watched the progress of national park service and forest service proposals which have resulted

in the above proposed legislation. As one who very strongly favors full and wide application of the 1964 Wilderness Act, I urge that each of the above bills be adopted with the amendments proposed by the Wilderness Society and by the Sierra Club. Truly primitive territories are of such scarcity that no part of any should be wasted. Providing "wilderness thresholds" buffer zone and highway access around or into these areas will inevitably result in a wasting of a truly valuable national asset. I most sincerely plead that the changes asked by the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society be incorporated into each of the above mentioned enactments and that they be adopted as thus changed.

Yours truly,

MARTIN WEEKS.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C., *February 13, 1969.*

DEAR SIR: I wish to take this opportunity to urge ratification of Desolation Primitive Area and Lassen Nat'l Park as wilderness areas (in the latter case including the Mt. Harkness & Emigrant Gap areas). From my own point of view, that of a geologist and "nature lover" (to use an overworked phrase) both these areas are outstanding both in their geologic settings and their contrasting esthetic and wilderness appeal. I know both areas from first hand experience, Desolation in particular.

Also of major importance is the ratification of Ventana Wilderness (including Willow Creek). This is spectacular and beautiful country as well as being part of the most rugged part of the California coast. I feel that wilderness designation for this area is of major priority.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL D. LAMPEN.

WASHINGTON, D.C., *February 21, 1969.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON, *U.S. Senate,*
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: It is a somewhat unusual and a genuine pleasure to be able to back up a Forest Service proposal for Wilderness designation without any complaints or suggestions. This is the case with their excellent proposal for a full-sized Wilderness in the Desolation Valley Primitive Area. I have walked into that area and can picture with delight the territory which will, if your Committee and Congress as a whole acts upon the recommendation, be preserved for all time.

I should like also, as a member of the Wilderness Society, to back up the Forest Service on the Ventana Wilderness proposal, but with one slight request for amendment. Could not the Willow Creek drainage of about 3,000 acres be added to the Forest Service proposal? That area above the Big Sur is magnificent country and I hope that as much of it as possible will be placed under this form of protection.

I was unable to attend the hearings on 18 February and hope that it is appropriate for this letter to be included in the Hearing Record as it is printed.

Respectfully yours,

R. W. VAN WAGENEN.

SIERRA CLUB,
ATLANTIC CHAPTER,
New York, N.Y., February 21, 1969.

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club supports strongly the views of the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society and their recommendations on the following proposals for Wilderness Act legislation:

1. Desolation Wilderness (S. 713).
2. Ventana Wilderness (S. 714).
3. Lassen Volcanic National Park (S. 715).
4. Lava Beds National Monument (S. 711).
5. Pinnacles National Monument (S. 712).

Sincerely,

ALFRED S. FORSYTH,
Chairman, Conservation Committee.

MORRISONVILLE, N. Y., February 21, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I am writing as Co-Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the North Country Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Our Committee is very much concerned that progress be made toward including the many wilderness area proposals which are now backed up awaiting congressional actions. The setting up of this system is the last good chance for maintaining a portion of this nation as it once was. We urge the Secretary of the Interior who bears the heavy responsibility for the maintenance of this national treasure to pursue, and we urge the committee to cooperate in the passage of S. 713, S. 714, S. 715, S. 711, and S. 712. We would strongly back the recommendations of the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club for increasing the size of these areas, particularly Lassen Volcanic Park. We strongly oppose the concept of "motor nature trails", one of which is apparently proposed by the Park Service for the Lava Beds National Monument. We have so many "motor nature trails" that our environment is all "motor" and no "nature". We have paid heavily for this in poorer living conditions.

May we urge prompt action on all wilderness inclusions so as to carry out the intent of this excellent legislation.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD K. READ.

MISSOURI VALLEY CLINIC,
Bismarck, N. Dak., February 13, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Public Land Subcommittee, Interior and Insular Affairs,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: Speaking for the North Dakota Chapter of the Wilderness Society and the 5,000 members of the North Dakota Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, I would heartily support the findings of the conservation groups including the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club in regard to the Pinnacles National Monument, the Lava Beds National Monument, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Ventana Wilderness, and Desolation Wilderness. Not only must we add the greatest amount of wilderness and buffer zones to the areas as listed, but we must dissuade the National Park Service of the extreme folly of continued "development" and road building.

The continuing over-development of national parks with paved roads through every nook and cranny is, as a result of pressure from the tourist industry and the automotive industry, is destroying our last unspoiled national treasure. There is absolutely no reason, absolutely none, why a person cannot walk—young or old.

Please make this letter a part of the hearing records. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE M. JOHNSON, M.D.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ., February 11, 1969.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee,
Senate Interior Committee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHURCH: I wish to register my support in the record of the hearing for the five wilderness proposals your committee is now considering. At a time when population pressures on our remaining wild areas are increasing at an alarming rate, it is particularly important to establish reserves of high quality wilderness.

The Forest Service proposal for a Desolation Wilderness (S. 713) is adequate as written; however, strong citizen support for adding the Willow Creek drainage system, bringing the total acreage to 97,662 acres, should be reflected by adding the Willow Creek area to the Ventana Wilderness proposal (S. 714).

I am continually concerned over Park Service proposals to intrude more roads and "motor nature trails" into the wild areas of our national parks. I also find their insistence on buffer zones between roads and wilderness boundaries unnecessary. Therefore, in

Lassen Volcanic National Park (S. 715), I support the conservationist proposal to create three wilderness areas within the park totaling 101,000 acres, and the elimination of buffer zones;

Lava Beds National Monument (S. 711) I concur with the suggestion of bringing the Black Lava Flow Wilderness area boundary down to the Monument road and spurs. I also support creation of a second wilderness area in the Schonchin and Three Sisters Lava flow amounting to 21,000 acres as proposed by Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

Pinnacles National Monument Again, please deny any proposals for motor nature trails and establish one contiguous unit of 13,000 acres in the existing monument, excluding only those areas which are already developed.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH B. BARNETT.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., February 28, 1969.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: Long having been interested in conservation, and in particular, conservation of those few remaining areas of virgin wilderness in this country, it has come to my attention that during the opening session of the 91st Congress, Senate Committee on Interior Affairs will hold hearings upon the proposal for re-enacting various areas of national wildernesses in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

It is my understanding that Congress must enact specific legislation for each wilderness area in order that it will be fully protected under the 1964 Wilderness Act and that there are five areas in the State of California which are in debate. I have visited several of the areas concerned and I wish to state that it would be a grave and irreparable loss for our country if the following five areas were not given the fullest protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act. I refer of course to the Desolation, Ventana, Lassen Peak, Raker Peak, Black Lava Schonchin, Pinnacle Wildernesses.

It is my hope that you and the other members of the Committee will take the interest to fully evaluate the unique qualities of each of these areas and you will keep in mind the pressing need for conservation of such territory for our nation. So little was done in the past in the way of conservation and I think that all of us now realize how necessary it is to make a concerted effort to maintain those few areas which now remain.

With every best wish, I remain,
Sincerely yours,

GEORGE DAVISON ACKLEY.

SAN JOSE, CALIF, February 25, 1969.

Senator FRANK CHURCH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my position on the five Wilderness Area proposals for California.

(1) *Desolation Wilderness* (S. 713): I fully support the Forest Service's proposal for a 64,097-acre Desolation Wilderness Area.

(2) *Lava Beds National Monument* (S. 711): The National Park Service's proposal for a 9,197-acre wilderness needs expansion to place 32,000 acres of Lava Beds National Monument under wilderness area protection. The black lava flow area should be expanded to bring the boundary to the monument road and its spurs. There should also be created a second Wilderness area of 21,000 acres which would include both Schonchin and Three Sisters lava flows—the wild heartland of the lava beds. Protection of these 21,000 acres is needed to prevent construction of a "motor trail" along the route of Old Lyons Road, which instead could easily become a wilderness trail. Therefore, with these additions mentioned above, the Wilderness Areas should total 32,000 acres.

(3) *Pinnacles National Monument* (S. 712): The National Park Service's proposal for 5,330 acres should be expanded to include a total of 13,000 acres within Wilderness Area protection. This would be inclusion of the scenic foreground of the road corridors and the wild northern part of Chalone Creek drainage. I oppose the Service's plan to build a one-way "motor trail" on Chalone Creek. With the two additions indicated above, the Wilderness Area should total 13,000 acres.

(4) *Ventana Wilderness* (S. 714): The Forest Service's proposal for a 94,728-acre Wilderness should be expanded to 97,662 acres, which would include the Willow Creek Valley drainage of meadows and large oaks and sycamores. At the field hearing for Ventana Wilderness there was strong citizen support for this addition of Willow Creek and I, too, support this addition to create a 97,662-acre Ventana Wilderness.

(5) *Lassen Volcanic National Park* (S. 715): The proposal for three Wilderness Areas totalling 73,333 acres should also be expanded to make these three areas total 101,000 acres. The scenic foreground on both sides of existing park roads should be protected with Wilderness designation (the boundaries are at present set back up to a mile from the roads for no logical or necessary reason); the Mt. Harkness area and the route of the historic Emigrant Trail should also be included in the Wilderness designation. The total of these three Wilderness Areas should be 101,000 acres of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Thank you for your consideration and possible support of these changes.

Sincerely yours,

BONNIE L. DORAN.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., February 16, 1969.

SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: Herewith I wish to make known my views on the subject of six wilderness proposals which are, I believe, scheduled for study and hearings before your committee either presently or in the near future. All areas concerned are in California.

1. *Desolation Valley*. This proposal is good and I hope that it will be approved. My acquaintance with this area stems from several knapsack trips therein with a number of Camp Fire Girl groups, my role being that of leader or co-leader.

2. *Lassen Volcanic National Park*. We visit this park every few years. Do not (as now proposed) set Wilderness boundaries back from the road (in some instances as much as a whole mile back). No good purpose is to be served by such a setback. "Buffer zone"? No. It would only encourage "shoestring" development. Then where's Wilderness scenery? Also, include Mt. Harkness and the old Emigrant Trail. In its original state, the latter is a thrill to travel or just to see. As a part of a modern road or other development, it is a nothing.

3. *Lava Beds National Monument*. My first visit there was in about 1935, with at least two subsequent visits. Here we need to add the Sonchin and the Three Sisters lava flows, and the desert expanse of grasses and sagebrush which constitute the core, or heartland of the lava beds area.

4. *Pinnacles National Monument*. I first visited Pinnacles as a newlywed in 1934 and last visited in 1965. Here too, don't omit the scenic foregrounds of the road corridors. And don't omit the Chalone Creek area, a major wild area. There seems no reason to "develop" or "improve" (?) (impossible!) this area by new roads, including a link which would cut the Monument in two. This Monument has been a great place for family week ends, among other uses, the main attractions being the caves under the tumbled boulders and hikes to viewpoints. A through road would be a liability and a needless loss of wilderness values.

5. *Ventana Wild Area*. Although I have been here it is the least well-known to me of the areas in question. The total acreage should be increased by the inclusion of Willow Creek, a measure for which there has been strong local support. In driving the Pacific Coast it is surprising to see how few are the undeveloped flatlands.

I have visited each of these areas either once or several times, as you note above. I value them highly and hope that future generations may have the same privilege and pleasure.

Thank you for your efforts in behalf of Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Mrs. ALLEN H. BROWNFIELD.

CARMEL, CALIF., *February 16, 1969.*

SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE,
Room 3106, New Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you in order to inform you of my support for the Ventana Wilderness bill, S. 714. Also, I am in support of the Willow Creek area being added to the bill.

The 5,000 acres within Pinnacles National Monument should also be given favorable approval, as should the Desolation Wilderness area near Lake Tahoe.

As a member of the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation, I feel it is tremendously important to conserve unspoiled areas for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

GERALD W. HERRICK.

CRAWFORD TO PLEA FOR VENTANA WILDERNESS

Rudd Crawford, chairman of Ventana chapter of the Sierra Club, left yesterday for Washington, D.C., where he will testify next Tuesday on behalf of the Ventana Wilderness bill before the Senate Interior Affairs Committee.

Francis Wolcott of the Loma Prieta chapter, within whose district most of Pinnacles National Monument lies, will speak in support of a proposed 5,000 acre wilderness area within the Pinnacles.

The Ventana Wilderness bill, S-14, calls for approximately 94,000 acres. Crawford will ask the committee to add the Willow Creek area, an addition of approximately 3,000 acres urged by the Sierra Club.

Also to be considered are Desolation Wilderness of some 40,000 acres in the mountains west of Lake Tahoe, and 73,000 acres within Lassen Volcanic National Park. Other Sierra Club representatives will speak in support of these proposals.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ., *February 11, 1969.*

Re wilderness review, February, 18, five California areas.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator JACKSON: I hope your committee will favorably consider the above areas for Wilderness classification with the extensions recommended by interested citizens during the public hearings.

I personally entered a statement for the hearing record regarding Ventana Wilderness and Pinnacles Wilderness which I had visited and would like to reiterate that the proposals in both instances are in need of additional acreage.

Since the National Park Service retains its "buffer zone" concept for the areas in its jurisdiction, I might once more mention opposition to this principle. Let these areas be like our existing Superstition Wilderness in Arizona and begin from the road terminal.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

EILEEN MANDERFIELD.

THE OZARK SOCIETY,
Fayetteville, Ark., *February 10, 1969.*

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Ozark Society is very much interested in the five wilderness bills to be considered by your Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Our position concurs with that of the Wilderness Society, on which you are already informed. We shall appreciate your consideration of the point of view of the Ozark Society and its members.

Sincerely,

L. AUCKER, *Secretary.*

CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF., February 25, 1969.

HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We have hiked in the Los Padres Forest and Ventana Wild area for years and consider it the outstanding coastal wilderness of Central California. We consider it important that the Willow Creek area be included in the final bill, S-714, as this area is fully deserving of being preserved as a wilderness. In these days of increasing population density and machine control, the establishment of a strong wilderness system is one thing we can do to preserve some of the natural beauty of this country and to give our future population room for relaxation and "breathing space".

Sincerely,

DALE AND KATHARINE WILSON.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 25, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: With regard to S. 714, the bill to create a Ventana Wilderness Area in Los Padres Forest near here, we hear that the Forest Service has relinquished its opposition to the inclusion in the Wilderness of the Willow Creek area, as recommended by local people both at the public hearing and since.

We therefore hope that this area may be included in the bill passed out of the Interior Committee. The implementation of the Wilderness Act takes so long with each area that it seems a good idea to include within each bill as much area as may ever be delineated "wilderness." Many people here who have hiked and camped in the Willow Creek area feel it to be worthy of wilderness status, and of a lovely quality which should be kept in a relative wild state, rather than with too much development. Camp grounds do exist there, and enlargement of or improvement of same would not destroy the wild values of the surrounding country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. BETTY HUGHES.

NORTHRIDGE, CALIF., February 17, 1969.

Mr. WALTER J. HICKEL,
Secretary of the Interior,
Senator FRANK CHURCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: This letter is in reference to the Congressional Wilderness Reviews which begin on February 18, 1969 concerning five wilderness areas in California.

I wish to register my support of the bills: S. 713-714. Having just moved from Idaho to the most populated section of the country, has impressed upon me the urgent need for swift action on these and other similar bills. With future generations in mind, there can be no doubt that we will save and preserve all remaining wilderness areas within the next ten years—after that there will be nothing left worth preserving.

Looking to future needs is part of any good definition of conservation. While setting aside more land for coming generations is an idea that some people have difficulty in grasping, nevertheless, it is in the best American tradition. I urge you to lend your support to these bills and similar ones in the future. Having enough wilderness areas for the greatly increased population of the future is a legacy we can all be proud of.

Sincerely yours,

RONALD WISE.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 24, 1969.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I heartily approve of S. 714, the Ventana Wilderness bill, but I would also like to see the boundary expanded to include Willow Creek.

I am familiar with the area as I have hiked over a considerable part of the suggested additions. I feel sure it will be more safely removed from wrongful use if it is made a part of the wilderness area.

I ask that my letter be made a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

DONALD CAMPBELL.

CARMEL, CALIF., *February 24, 1969.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I am writing to you in regard to the Ventana Wilderness Area in California. I am hopeful that your committee will favorably consider the addition of an area called Willow Creek to the main Ventana Area.

This additional area is of a character that qualifies for wilderness status. Having spent so much time in the area I know that it fulfills wilderness needs more than any conceivable other purpose. I am convinced our area needs this additional land.

Yours truly,

DAVID HAGEMEYER.

CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF., *February 24, 1969.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U. S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I appreciate the wise inclusion of beautiful Willow Creek into the Ventana Wilderness through your bill, S. 714. As a fairly frequent and enthusiastic hiker, I wish to support this inclusion. Please make my letter part of the record.

Very sincerely,

DOYT EARLY.

CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF., *February 24, 1969.*

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I urge you to support the inclusion of Willow Creek in this bill. I have hiked there many times.

Also, may I request that this letter be part of the hearing record.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

JAMES G. ZIEGLER.

GLENSIDE, Pa., *February 20, 1969.*

HON. FRANK CHURCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: I would like to go on record as supporting the following wilderness legislation: Desolation, Ventana, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lava Beds, and Pinnacles National Monument.

I believe now is the time to protect forever what we have. As pressures mount for development of forest and park lands, we must move quickly along for completion of the National Wilderness Preservation System as it calls for under the Wilderness Act.

The proposed "motor nature trails" in the two national monuments show a disregard for the wilderness aspect of the area. As much wilderness as possible should be protected.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH L. WALICKI.

CARMICHAEL, CALIF., February 15, 1969.
 Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We urge your committee to add Desolation Valley, California, to the Wilderness areas already set aside.

It's about the only spectacular spot close enough to a highway so oldsters like us can still hike in.

ELLEN and GENE KNAPP.

SEATTLE, WASH., February 11, 1969.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This letter is just to notify you that I favor the five Senate bills coming up for hearings, related to wilderness designation and monuments. Have read the information on each carefully and would like this placed in the record. The bills are S. 713, S. 714, S. 715, S. 711, and S. 712.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. NEIL HAIG.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 12, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR: I am writing to ask your favorable consideration to the addition of 40,000 acres in the Los Padres area, to the Wilderness area in San Louis Obispo. There is so little time left to acquire these lands for ourselves and future generations.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. ERNEST LEFFINGWELL.

CARMEL VALLEY, CALIF., February 11, 1969.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I wish to go on record for support of the proposal of the Forest Service for the enlargement of the Ventana Wilderness Area.

Yours truly,

J. G. ZIEGLER.

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CALIF., February 14, 1969.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: It is my understanding that the Forest Service has recommended a form for the Ventana Wilderness that your Committee is to deal with. I respectfully urge your support of the bill in the form suggested by the Forest Service.

I am particularly interested in the protection of the trees in the area; a large stand of Santa Lucia fir, unique in the world; many stands of redwoods, magnificent oaks and cedars.

Yours very truly,

ETHELINDA M. JAMES.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 14, 1969.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
 Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
 Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: May I respectfully urge you as Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee to support the Ventana Wilderness bill in the form recommended by the Forest Service.

Yours truly,

SARAH HARKINS.

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CALIF., February 14, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Washington, D.C.,

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I respectfully urge your support of the Ventana Wilderness bill in the form recommended by the Forest Service.

Yours very truly,

JAMES HARKINS.

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., February 15, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This is to urge the establishment of the 64,097-acre Desolation Wilderness as proposed by the U.S. Forest Service.

As Californians, living in a State that has a tremendously increasing population, we feel a great need for wilderness areas for the benefit and use of future citizens.

Please have our views included in the hearing record on S. 713.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR MORLEY
(For Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morley).

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., February 15, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: This is to urge the establishment of a Ventana Wilderness in the Santa Lucia Mts. We know something of its beauty and recreational potential, having traveled in the Big Sur area.

We recommend that the Willow Creek area be included in the bill, making a Ventana Wilderness of over 97,000 acres. Reasons for supporting this large an area: There are not many places left in California with wilderness potential. Where there are areas of unusual beauty, they should be made part of our national wilderness system so that future Americans can find peaceful and healthful recreation there—away from the crowds resulting from our population explosion.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR MORLEY
(For Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morley).

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA,
ATHENS, GA., February 17, 1969.

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We, the undersigned, support the following wilderness proposals currently before the Senate Interior Committee, with the following recommendations:

DESOLATION WILDERNESS (S. 713): We support the Forest Service proposal without recommendation for change in proposed boundaries.

VENTANA WILDERNESS (S. 714): We request that the 2,934 acres in the Willow Creek drainage be added to the Forest Service proposal, making a wilderness area of 97,662 acres.

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK (S. 715): We request addition of the Mt. Harkness area and the route of the Emigrant Trail to the proposed wilderness area, and also request that the boundaries be extended to the edges of existing park roads.

LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT (S. 711): We request that this proposal be amended to bring wilderness boundaries to the existing road and its spurs, and to create a second wilderness of 21,000 acres incorporating the Schonchin and Three Sisters Lava Flows.

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT (S. 712): We request that the proposal be amended to include the wild northern portion of Chalone Creek drainage, as well as foregrounds of road corridors, making a total of 13,000 acres.

Please include this statement in the official hearing record. Thank you.

A. STEPHEN JOHNSON
(And 28 others).

CARMEL, CALIF., *February 11, 1969.*

Senator HENRY JACKSON:

DEAR SIR: I am very much interested in the passage of S. 714, which will make 40,000 acres additional wilderness area, in the Los Padres National Forest. Our Forest Service is active in pushing this also. I am a resident, tax payer, along with thousands of others in the area. This is badly needed to preserve among many other things, watershed for an increasingly water short area in a rapidly growing group of communities, Monterey, Seaside, Carmel, Fort Ord, Marina, etc. This year fortunately we have lots of water, but, we have our dry years, when the dams are drained dry. My wife joins me in respectfully requesting your approval and help in passage of this bill.

Very truly yours,

BRUCE F. CRANE.
ESTHER S. CRANE.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., *February 16, 1969.*

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As longtime Californians, recently transferred to the East for scholastic purposes, we would like to express our views concerning several Wilderness Proposals in California which are to be reviewed in the Senate Interior Committee.

The proposed areas with which we have personal experience are the Desolation Wilderness (S. 713) and Pinnacles National Monument (S. 712). The former has obvious wilderness values and will probably not receive much adverse criticism in the hearings. The Pinnacles, however, is less well-known and its wilderness values, as is true of most desert-like areas, are more subtle. We have spent much time there, hiking its trails, climbing its spires, and observing its ecology. From these experiences, coupled with its relative nearness to the Bay Area, we assert that a good portion of the Monument should become wilderness and, moreover, that plans for a "motor nature trail" connecting roads on the east and west be scrapped. The Monument is small enough and existing trails are extensive and gentle enough such that a wilderness experience can be enjoyed by most people. A road would violate this wilderness setting and would not open up any new areas not already easily accessible. It would probably be regarded less as a nature trail than as a convenient access between highways 101 and 25.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. DAVID BOORE.

CARMEL, CALIF., *February 11, 1969.*

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I would like you to know that I support the Forest Service for the enlargement of the rare and beautiful present Ventana Wilderness area.

I feel that we can do no less than attempt to preserve this wilderness area in its present state for the sake of our future citizens.

Very sincerely,

ELEANOR J. MELVIN
Mrs. E. H. Melvin.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., *February 16, 1969.*

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Washington, D.C.:

Do establish the full 6,300-acre Desolation Wilderness near Lake Tahoe. Californians like wilderness vacations.

KATHARINE HAKALA.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF., *February 15, 1969.*

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.:

I urge you to maintain Desolation Valley as a wilderness area.

RICHARD WAUGH.

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIF., *February 13, 1969.*

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: As one who lives in Monterey County, California, and who greatly enjoys the wilds of the Santa Lucia Mountains in our area, I am writing to ask your support of the bill as recommended by the Forest Service to expand the Ventana Wilderness Area in the Santa Lucias. It contains many fine redwoods, oaks and especially the endemic Santa Lucia fir, which is not found growing wild any where else in the world but in the Santa Lucia Mountains.

Yours sincerely,

BEATRICE F. HOWITT
Miss Beatrice F. Howitt.

OAKLAND, CALIF., *February 11, 1969.*

Subject: Ventana Wilderness (S. 714).

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: The Forest Service proposal for a Ventana Wilderness in Monterey County, California, of 94,728 acres should be increased by the inclusion of Willow Creek Valley, making a total of 97,662 acres.

I do not think that Willow Creek should be excluded because of a possible future fire road.

Yours very truly,

HAROLD G. SHARP.

OAKLAND, CALIF., *February 11, 1969.*

Subject: Desolation Wilderness (S-713).

Senator HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: The Desolation Valley Primitive Area just west of Lake Tahoe should be designated as Wilderness.

The proposal of the Forest Service for a 64,097 acre Desolation Wilderness is an excellent program and I strongly endorse it.

Yours very truly,

HAROLD G. SHARP.

CARMEL, CALIF., *February 12, 1969.*

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: I hope you will see fit to lend your support to the proposal of the Forest Service for the establishment of an additional 40,000 acres in the beautiful Los Padres Wilderness Area in Monterey County, California.

Having traveled through a large portion of it, I can testify as to its beauty, its streams, fishing possibilities, pine and cedar forests.

Thanking you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

MALCOLM W. STEEL.

CARMEL, CALIF., February 14, 1969.

Re Ventana Wilderness.

Senator HENRY JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Interior Committee,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: We wish to register our support for speedy passage of S. 714, Ventana Wilderness, as recommended by the Forestry Service,—with the addition of the Willow Creek Area (Area G).

This 97,662 acres of rugged mountains and canyons is used by large numbers of trail hikers. These people seeking escape from noise, motors and crowds come, not only from near-by cities; increasing numbers are from the 4,000,000 people of the San Francisco Bay Area.

We all need areas such as this where the land, the trees, the air, the water are as yet unspoiled by man.

Please include this letter as part of the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

EARL L. MOSER,
LOIS L. MOSER.

BERKELEY, CALIF., February 18, 1969.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: Please enter my statement as follows in the official hearings record concerning public hearings pertaining to the establishment of wilderness units, such as: Desolation Wilderness, S. 713; Ventana Wilderness, S. 714; Lassen Volcanic National Park, S. 715; Lava Beds National Monument, S. 711; and Pinnacles National Monument, S. 712.

I support each of these above wilderness proposals and am of the opinion that these proposals are worthy additions to our system of National Wilderness Preservation.

I strongly urge, however, that each of these wilderness proposals should be amended as to provide for a larger sized wilderness than is now proposed.

Such enlarged areas are as follows:

Desolation Wilderness, now proposed, containing 64,097 acres enlarged to some 68,000 acres.

Ventana Wilderness, now proposed, containing 94,728 acres enlarged to some 135,000 acres.

Lassen Volcanic National Park Wilderness, now proposed, containing 73,333 acres enlarged to some 105,000 acres.

Lava Beds National Monument Wilderness, now proposed, containing 9,197 acres enlarged to some 43,000 acres and,

Pinnacles National Monument Wilderness, now proposed, containing 5,330 acres enlarged to some 13,500 acres.

Concerning the Desolation and Ventana Wilderness proposals, in addition to necessary increases in acreage of such wilderness units, I propose that an adequate buffer zone surround each such wilderness in which natural features are preserved between wilderness units and multiple-use activities.

Sincerely,

JOHN SWANSON.