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1976 OMNIBUS WILDERNESS HEARINGS
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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 392

FLATHEAD AND LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FORESTS,
MONTANA (GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS)

AND

H.R. 5568, H.R. 5589, and S. 1391

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF. (SNOW MOUNTAIN)

HEARINGS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 22, 1976

Serial No. 94-66

PART II

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



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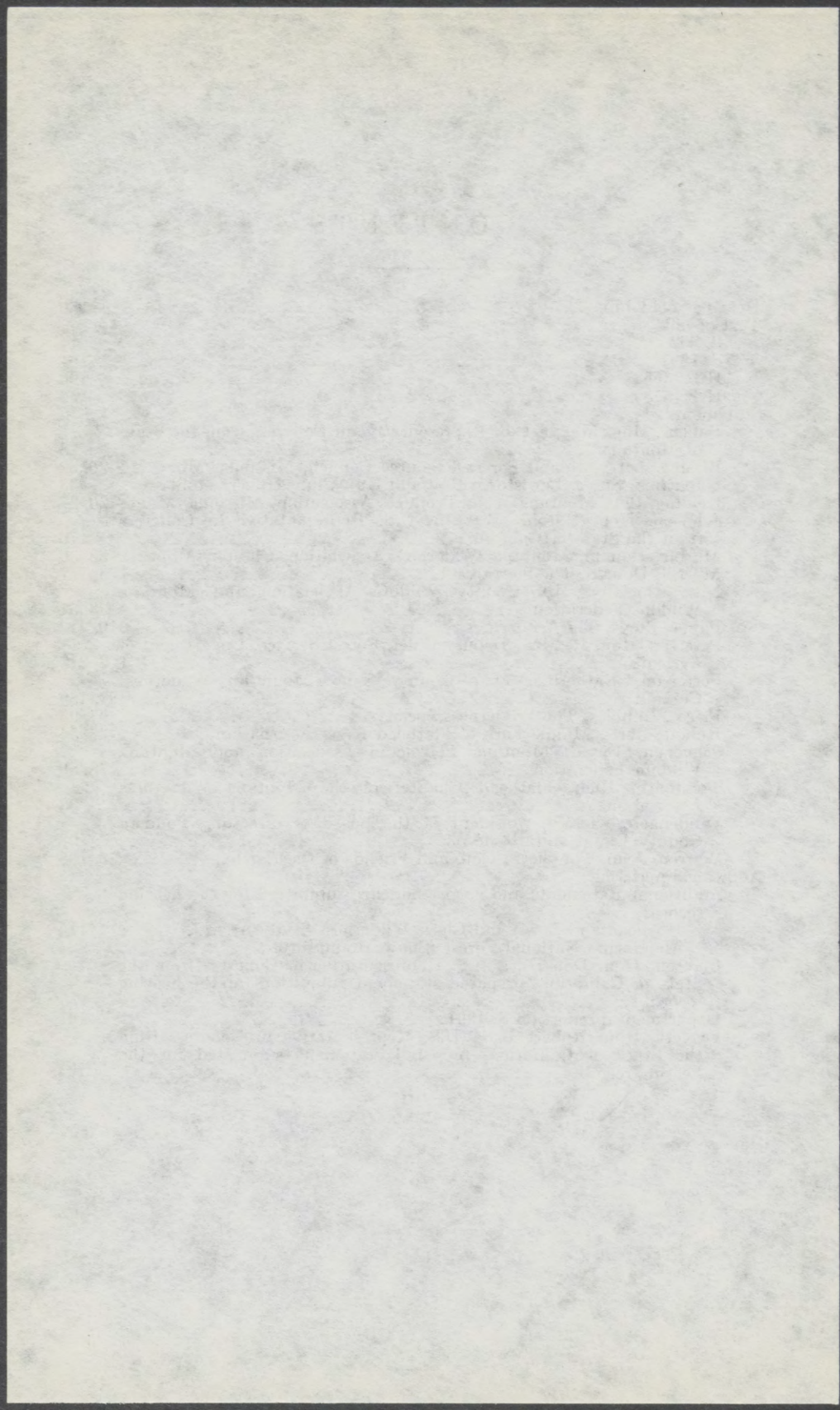
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NOTE.—The first listed minority member is counterpart to the subcommittee chairman.

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FLATHEAD AND LEWIS AND CLARK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1976

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. John Melcher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MELCHER. This morning we are meeting on two wilderness proposals. The first is the Great Bear Wilderness study, S. 392, to study certain lands in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests, Mont., for possible inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system.

The first witness is my colleague from Montana, the Honorable Max Baucus. I do not see him in the room now.

For purposes of expediting the hearing this morning, because we have a long list of witnesses and a very limited time in which to hear the witnesses, we will have Mr. Max Peterson, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, approach the witness table now for a couple of clarifying questions.

STATEMENT OF R. MAX PETERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY R. K. GRISWOLD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT; AND ROBERT GIBSON, PLANNING COORDINATOR, FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. MELCHER. There will not be any formal testimony at this time, Max. We will enter your statement in the record at this point as if read, and please make it available for other witnesses and other people in the audience if they wish to have it.

[Information referred to follows.]

STATEMENT OF R. MAX PETERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF,
PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION, FOREST SERVICE,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, ON SNOW MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA
(S. 1391, H.R. 5568, H.R. 5589) AND GREAT BEAR,
MONTANA (S. 392), JUNE 22, 1976.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for this opportunity to present the views of the Department of Agriculture on the Snow Mountain area in California and the Great Bear area in Montana.

Snow Mountain, California

Beginning in California, the Snow Mountain area is about 120 miles north of San Francisco within the Mendocino National Forest. S. 1391 and H.R. 5589 would require us to study an area of about 37,000 acres to determine its suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness. The studies would be conducted within 2 years. S. 1391 would require that the Snow Mountain area be protected from any activity that would preclude wilderness designation during the 2-year review period and during a 4-year period after the President's recommendations are sent to Congress. H.R. 5568 would designate the Snow Mountain area as wilderness without a formal wilderness study.

On the display map, the heavy black line represents both the proposed wilderness study boundary and the proposed wilderness designation boundary.

We completed an intensive study of the Snow Mountain Area in 1969. Wilderness designation was one of the land use alternatives considered. The public was asked to comment on the alternatives, and many people responded. After an analysis of resource data and public comment, we concluded that the Snow Mountain Area should serve a variety of purposes,

which would be unnecessarily limited by wilderness designation.

As illustrated by the display map, the Mendocino National Forest now has a plan which provides management direction for eight subunits of the area according to their respective capabilities.

Subunits A and B, the Snow Mountain Back Country Unit and the Middle Fork Stony Creek Unit, contain 12,860 acres. They have key attributes for primitive, dispersed recreation use, and they will be managed under the plan to maintain their scenic and primitive qualities. Motorized vehicular use is prohibited in the Back Country Unit, and in the Canyon Zone of the Middle Fork Stony Creek Unit.

Subunit C, the Pacific Crest Travel Zone, containing 700 acres, is located along the planned route of the Pacific Crest Highway. It will be managed to maintain a pleasing scenic landscape.

Subunit D, the Humming Bird-Copper Butte Unit, contains 7,300 acres. It offers the best opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement within the total area. This unit will be managed to maintain and improve plant cover for wildlife.

Subunits E, F, G, the County Line, North Ridge, and Box Springs Units, include 7,900 acres. Some good stands of timber are within these units, but watershed and esthetic considerations predominate. Timber will be harvested only to the extent that the watershed and scenic values can be protected.

Subunit H, the Bear Wallow Unit, contains 1,250 acres. This is a good timber growing area, and management will be directed to growing and harvesting timber consistent with other resource requirements.

The Snow Mountain Area was again examined during our recent review of all National Forest roadless areas containing 5,000 acres or more. Nationwide, 1,449 roadless areas containing about 56 million acres were systematically evaluated. Of this number, 136 roadless areas totaling about 3 million acres are located in California. Each of the areas was rated as to its potential wilderness quality using criteria such as scenic quality, isolation, size, and variety of potential wilderness experience. The procedure also evaluated other resource values that would be foregone by wilderness designation. Major efforts were made to involve the public in the decisionmaking process at the local, State, and national levels.

In California, 22 roadless areas containing about 991,000 acres were selected as wilderness study areas. The Snow Mountain Area is not among those selected, because we determined that in comparison with other inventoried roadless areas, the Snow Mountain Area has a low quality rating for wilderness purposes, and its designation as wilderness would be costly in terms of resource values foregone.

We recommend that neither S. 1391, H.R. 5589, nor H.R. 5568 be enacted. We have examined the wilderness values and other resource values of the Snow Mountain area during two previous studies, and we have concluded that it should be managed to serve a broader range of resource uses than would be possible under wilderness designation.

At this point, I would be happy to answer questions about the Snow Mountain area, or I could briefly review the Great Bear area and then answer questions about both areas.

Great Bear, Montana

In Montana, S. 392 would require us to conduct a wilderness study of the Great Bear area within the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests. Although S. 392 cites an acreage of 378,000 we estimate that the proposed study area contains 374,000 acres. The south side of the Great Bear area adjoins the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Only 1 year would be allowed for the study. We would be required to protect the area from any activity that would preclude wilderness designation during the 1-year study and during a 4-year period after the President's recommendations are sent to Congress.

There now are about 1.8 million acres of designated wilderness in Montana. The President has recommended that an additional 600,000 acres of National Forest be designated as wilderness within the State. As a result of our roadless area review mentioned earlier, we selected an additional 36 areas containing about 1.6 million acres in Montana as wilderness study areas. Two of these study areas make up almost 90 percent of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness study area. They are the Middle Fork Continental Divide and the Rocky Mountain Face Continental Divide Wilderness Study Areas.

On the display map, the solid red line is the boundary of the Great Bear wilderness study as proposed by S. 392. The solid blue line follows the boundaries of the inventoried roadless areas, and the dashed blue line follows the boundaries of the wilderness study areas.

The blue and orange shaded areas represent about 133,000 acres under application for oil and gas leases. Additional applications for oil and gas leases adjoin the S. 392 study area, but they are not shown on this map.

The red shaded area shows a 33-mile section of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River which has been studied to determine its potential for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This portion of the river was included in a 219-mile wild and scenic river study involving three Forks of the Flathead River. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued in 1973. Our completed study and recommendations are now being reviewed within the Administration.

The orange shaded area contains 20,000 acres which were included in the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895. This agreement allows the Tribe to cut and remove timber for houses, fences, and other purposes. We included this area in our roadless area review, but we did not select it for further wilderness study because of the commitments established under the Blackfeet Agreement. Permitted uses under the agreement would not be compatible with wilderness designation.

Although S. 392 would require us to protect the study area from activities that would preclude future wilderness designation, we do not interpret that provision as overriding the 1895 Blackfeet treaty. Efforts to agree upon substitute areas for the exercise of the Blackfeet rights or to release certain lands from those rights would greatly delay the wilderness study, and a serious undesirable precedent could be established for the management of other National Forest System lands. We do not believe wilderness study legislation such as S. 392 provides either a suitable or workable basis for undertaking modifications in Indian treaties. The area affected by the Blackfeet agreement represents less than 6 percent of the total S. 392 study area, and we strongly recommend that it be excluded from the provisions of S. 392.

If the Blackfeet area was excluded, S. 392 would be largely unnecessary, in our judgment, because the two Forest Service wilderness study areas mentioned earlier almost coincide with the remainder of the S. 392 study area. While we believe our two wilderness study areas include the areas most likely to be found suitable for wilderness designation, we would not object to studying the somewhat larger area identified in S. 392, if the Blackfeet treaty area was excluded.

However, restricting the wilderness study to only 1 year would allow insufficient time for public participation, make it necessary for us to rely on incomplete data and broad assumptions as we developed our recommendations, and seriously impact other high priority National Forest projects as personnel and resources were diverted to the study.

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have completed field work on a mineral survey of the two Forest Service wilderness study areas. However, the S. 392 study area contains about 45,000 acres not covered by the current mineral survey. The Survey and the Bureau advise us that, because of the area's short field season and other priority work, they would need at least a year to develop a preliminary report on the additional 45,000 acres. The additional year would be needed for completion of the mineral report even if the Blackfeet area was excluded from the S. 392 study area.

Meanwhile, we would need at least 2 years to determine the areas's suitability, availability, and manageability for wilderness designation. The requirements in S. 392 regarding utility corridors, while important, would complicate and lengthen the normal study process.

Meaningful public participation could occur only after the mineral survey is complete and after our resource data and preliminary recommendations are available. Upon completion of the detailed study and review of public response, we would recommend wilderness designation for any areas we believe should be added to the National System.

In keeping with national Forest Service policy, a complete study will be made of the wilderness study areas in the Great Bear vicinity to determine their suitability or non-suitability for preservation as wilderness. During the entire study process, including the filing of environmental statements, we will protect the wilderness study areas from any activity that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to preclude wilderness designation. Our efforts to protect the wilderness study areas must, of course, be subject to valid existing rights.

Furthermore, the inventoried roadless areas not selected for wilderness study will also be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics until land management plans including environmental statements have been completed and wilderness values as well as other values have been considered.

Since we are already committed to the protection of wilderness study areas and other inventoried roadless areas, we see no need to require that the S. 392 wilderness study be completed in 1 year. Neither do we see a need for S. 392 to require protection of the area during a specified congressional review period which would follow after the President made his recommendations to the Congress.

In summary, we believe that S. 392 would largely duplicate completed and planned administrative actions. However, we would have no objection

to the enactment of S. 392 if it was amended to--

(1) Exclude the area affected by the Blackfeet Agreement from the study area;

(2) Provide 3 years rather than 1 year for the study; and

(3) Delete the language in section 2 requiring protection of the area during a specified congressional review period.

If these amendments are made, the acreage cited in section one should be changed from 378,000 to 354,000. Also, section 4 should be deleted if the Blackfeet area is excluded from the study area.

This completes my prepared testimony, but I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. MELCHER. We are handicapped, further, this morning by the fact the House is in session. A quorum call or vote will interrupt our proceedings and will take, each time it occurs, approximately 15 minutes of recess.

Max, I have a question or two for you regarding, first of all, the Great Bear Wilderness. Your testimony, that I have in front of me, opens on Snow Mountain, Calif. Is it a combined testimony?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Where does it start on Great Bear?

Mr. PETERSON. On page 4.

Mr. MELCHER. First of all, without objection, S. 392 will be made a part of the record at this point and the departmental report rendered by the Senate. Have we got a different departmental report from you, Max?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. We have a different one from you?

Mr. PETERSON. No, sir, not one different from the Forest Service.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, the departmental report that was given to the Senate will be made a part of our record at this point, too.

[Information referred to follows.]

[The large fold-out map contained in the Senate report has been placed in the committee files.]

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 392

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

AN ACT

To study certain lands in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests, Montana, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the
4 provisions of subsection 3 (d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat.
5 890, 892), relating to public notice, public hearings, and
6 review by State and other agencies, shall review, as to their
7 suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness,
8 certain lands (hereinafter referred to the "study area") in
9 the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests,
10 Montana, which comprise approximately three hundred

1 seventy-eight thousand acres, and which are generally de-
2 picted on a map entitled "Great Bear Wilderness—Pro-
3 posed", and dated November 1975. The Secretary shall
4 complete his review and report his findings to the President
5 and the President shall submit to the United States Senate
6 and House of Representatives his recommendations with
7 respect to the designation of the study area or portions thereof
8 as wilderness on or before the expiration of the one year
9 period following the date of enactment of this Act. Any rec-
10 ommendation of the President that such study area or por-
11 tions thereof shall be designated as wilderness and, therefore,
12 as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation Sys-
13 tem, shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of
14 Congress.

15 SEC. 2. During the one year review period provided by
16 section 1 and for a period of four years after the recommen-
17 dations of the President are submitted to the Congress, the
18 Secretary of Agriculture shall manage and protect the study
19 area in such a manner so as not to preclude its possible future
20 designation by the Congress as wilderness. Nothing con-
21 tained herein shall limit the President in proposing as part
22 of this recommendation to the Congress, the designation as
23 wilderness of any additional lands adjacent to the study area.

24 SEC. 3. In conducting his review pursuant to section 1,
25 the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Sec-

1 retary of the Interior, shall identify any potential utility
2 corridors within or contiguous to the study area, review any
3 adverse effects such corridors may have on the wilderness
4 character of such area, determine whether any such cor-
5 ridor is necessary, and, if a determination of necessity is
6 made, select a route and design which will minimize such
7 effects. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibit-
8 ing the siting of any such corridor within the boundaries of
9 any area recommended by the President for wilderness pres-
10 ervation pursuant to this Act or designated as wilderness by
11 the Congress.

12 SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult
13 with the Blackfeet Tribe throughout all phases of the review
14 required pursuant to section 1. All information collected dur-
15 ing said review, including information obtained in the min-
16 eral survey, related to that portion of the study area under
17 the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895 shall be
18 made available promptly and without cost to the Blackfeet
19 Tribe.

20 (b) During the review period, the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior shall
22 make every effort to initiate and carry to completion a pro-
23 gram to permit the Blackfeet Tribe to obtain rights of con-
24 comitant value on land outside the study area to those pos-
25 sessed by the tribe within that portion of the study area under

1 the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895, or to other-
2 wise release such land from said rights in a manner satisfac-
3 tory to the tribe.

4 SEC. 5. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
5 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
6 this Act.

Passed the Senate December 17 (legislative day,
December 15), 1975.

Attest:

FRANCIS R. VALEO,

Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., June 11, 1975.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested here is the report of the Department of Agriculture on S. 392, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Flathead and the Lewis and Clark National Forests in Montana as wilderness."

The Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 392 not be enacted.

S. 392 would designate as wilderness certain lands comprising about 378,200 acres in the Flathead and the Lewis and Clark National Forests, Montana. The area would be known as the "Great Bear Wilderness" and would be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

Most of the area that would be designated as wilderness by S. 392 was included in the recent Forest Service review of all national forest roadless areas containing 5,000 acres or more. Nationwide, 1,449 national forest roadless areas containing about 56 million acres were systematically evaluated. Of this number, 219 roadless areas totaling about 5.2 million acres are located in Montana. Each of the areas was rated as to its potential wilderness quality using criteria such as scenic quality, isolation, size and variety of potential wilderness experience. The procedure also evaluated other resource values that would be foregone by wilderness designation.

In Montana, 36 roadless areas containing about 1.6 million acres were selected as wilderness study areas. Two of the selected areas, Middle Fork Continental Divide containing 302,700 acres and Rocky Mountain Face Continental Divide containing 65,000 acres, are substantially within the area that would be designated as wilderness by

S. 392. The enclosed supplemental statement summarizes the relationship between the acreage that would be designated as wilderness by S. 392 and the acreage included in our roadless area review of the Great Bear area.

The Forest Service land-use planning process provides the basis and context for the study of national forest areas. Public involvement is an important part of that process. Of the 378,200 acres proposed in S. 392 for wilderness designation, 291,800 acres are within five planning units of the Flathead National Forest and 86,400 acres are within the Rocky Mountain Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Field inventory work is scheduled to begin on the Flathead National Forest planning units in 1979, and the planning process is expected to be completed in 1983. A Draft Environmental Statement analyzing management alternatives for the Rocky Mountain Division will be completed this year.

As a part of the overall land-use planning process, a detailed study of the two associated wilderness study areas will be undertaken to determine their suitability or nonsuitability for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Contiguous lands will also be considered. The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have completed fieldwork on a mineral survey of the two wilderness study areas within the Great Bear area. Preliminary recommendations concerning wilderness designation will be presented to the public for additional evaluation and comment. Upon completion of the detailed study and review of public response, we will recommend wilderness designation for any areas we believe should be added to the National System.

During the entire study process, the wilderness study areas will be managed so as to protect them from activities that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to disqualify the areas from wilderness designation.

The area that would be designated as wilderness by S. 392 includes 20,000 acres which are included in the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895. This Agreement allows the Tribe to cut and remove timber for houses, fences, and other purposes. This area was included as a part of the Badger Creek Roadless Area in our roadless area review, but we did not select it for further wilderness study because of the commitments established under the Blackfeet Agreement. Permitted uses under the agreement would not be compatible with wilderness designation.

We strongly recommend that Congress not designate additional wilderness in the Great Bear area until studies of all resource values, including wilderness values, are completed. Based on the results of the studies now underway or to be undertaken, a more deliberate, orderly decision can be made as to the desirability of adding any specific area to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

J. PHIL CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary.

Enclosure.

The following table summarizes the relationship between the acreage that would be designated as wilderness by S. 392 and the acreage included in the Forest Service roadless area review of the Great Bear area.

USDA SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT, PROPOSED GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS, S. 392

Inventoried roadless area	Wilderness study area	Total acreage	Acreage included in S. 392
Middle Fork Continental Divide.....	Yes.....	302, 700	264, 542
Rocky Mountain Face Continental Divide.....	Yes.....	65, 000	63, 688
Middle Fork.....	No.....	55, 896	15, 525
Badger Creek.....	No.....	72, 326	17, 881
Dupuyer Creek.....	No.....	10, 865	3, 824
Mt. Werner.....	No.....	16, 120	160
Total.....		522, 907	365, 620

Note: In addition to 365,620 acres of inventoried roadless area, about 8,000 acres of contiguous land would be designated as wilderness by S. 392. Our estimates indicate that the Great Bear Wilderness, as proposed by S. 392, would contain about 374,000 acres.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., June 11, 1975.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. Senate,
3106 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your requests for the views of the Office of Management and Budget on the following legislation:

1. S. 74, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the 'Sheep Mountain Wilderness'" (requested April 22, 1975);

2. S. 392, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Flathead and the Lewis and Clark National Forests in Montana as wilderness" (requested April 22, 1975);

3. S. 393, a bill "To provide for the study of certain lands to determine their suitability for designation as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, and for other purposes" (requested April 16, 1975); and

4. S. 1391, a bill "To study certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System" (requested April 22, 1975).

The Office of Management and Budget concurs in the views of the Department of Agriculture in its reports on these bills, and accordingly strongly recommends against their enactment.

Sincerely,

JAMES M. FREY,
*Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference.*

Mr. MELCHER. Max, in this study bill, as the boundary is drawn and passed by the Senate, would it preclude any type of recreation now enjoyed in that area?

Mr. PETERSON. It would prevent any type of recreation that would change the character of the area so as to preclude its designation at some future time for wilderness.

Mr. MELCHER. I understand that. I am asking you whether that is a fact, would it or would it not preclude any type of recreation that is now enjoyed in the area?

Mr. PETERSON. We think not. You see most of the area is now within two of our selected wilderness study areas.

Mr. MELCHER. To the best of your knowledge, it would not preclude any type of recreation, whether it is snowmobiling, or motorcycles, or campers, or what have you?

Mr. PETERSON. Not unless you put some restriction on use beyond what we have now.

Mr. MELCHER. Beyond what is in the bill?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Would the bill, as it is drawn now, jeopardize the water rights of any individual or group?

Mr. PETERSON. No, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Would it, as it is drawn now, entail some sort of negotiations with the Blackfoot Tribe?

Mr. PETERSON. We believe it would if the tribe decided to exercise its rights under the treaty.

Mr. MELCHER. Does the Forest Service have some particular expertise in dealing with the Indian tribes?

Mr. PETERSON. I do not believe so.

Mr. MELCHER. I do not either.

Was the Blackfeet portion of the bill recommended by the Forest Service or any other part of the Federal bureaucracy?

Mr. PETERSON. No, sir; we did not recommend a wilderness study for the area involved in the Blackfeet Treaty.

Mr. MELCHER. I am sure we will have questions about that later but I wanted to establish some benchmarks at the outset of this hearing so we can start somewhere on these particular points.

I thank you, Max, and I am sure you understand that we want to be sure to hear all of the out-of-town witnesses. If we cannot conclude our hearing, we can ask you to return at some future time.

Mr. PETERSON. We will be glad to do so to help the out-of-town witnesses, which we agree should have a chance to testify.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Max.

The Honorable Max Baucus, my colleague from Montana, is present at this time. Max, would you care to give your testimony at this time?

STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. BAUCUS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, fellow members, and guests, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to appear in support of S. 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Act.

First, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for taking time from a crowded committee schedule to hold this hearing. In addition to this bill, you have been working diligently on issues of extreme importance to Montana—issues such as surface coal mining, an organic act for the Bureau of Land Management, whether to grant the right of eminent domain to builders of coal slurry pipelines, various proposals for wild and scenic rivers designation, and a host of others.

Knowing the heavy demands and responsibilities borne both by your Subcommittee on Public Lands and the full Interior Committee, I am especially grateful for this hearing on S. 392, a bill dealing with management of an area within the congressional district that I represent.

I have a special interest in the land affected by S. 392. I have introduced H.R. 10747, which would designate the three forks of the Flathead River for management according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Flathead's middle fork flows westward out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, through the heart of the proposed Great Bear study area, and along the southwestern boundary of Glacier National Park.

Since I envision wild and scenic river status for the middle fork of the Flathead, I much concern myself with the future management of the Great Bear. S. 392 offers a chance to select the best possible kind of management for this majestic area.

S. 392 would establish a process that allows Montanan's to participate in the decision on how the Great Bear will be managed. In addition to a formal data-gathering process undertaken by competent professionals, S. 392 would allow maximum access to the decisionmaking process by the public.

Many groups have an interest in the ultimate decision on future management of the Great Bear. These groups—sportsmen, environmentalists, industry, farmers, and ranchers—would be given the opportunity to participate in public hearings and meetings. Each would have ample opportunity to offer management alternatives, to advance specific concerns, and to represent the various constituencies affected by the ultimate decision.

S. 392 is a commonsense bill that would establish a commonsense approach to deciding on the kind of management needed in the Great Bear. Embodied in the bill is an important principle; the people who must live with a management decision should have the chance for maximum participation in the decisionmaking process; the decision must reflect their will to the maximum extent.

Past studies of the Great Bear have not rendered management compatible with that principle. While there is no need to assign blame for this situation, there is a great need to begin a new study. There is a need to guarantee through statute that management decisions will be made with a view to the people's wants and needs.

Mr. Chairman, S. 392 serves that need. I respectfully urge its passage. Thank you.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Max.

The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. I have no questions, but I do want to compliment the Member of Congress from Montana, a colleague in the freshman class, and I think your statement shows you really have a hold

of the situation and your statement is brief, and short, and to the point.

You agree that there should be a study made of this area?

Mr. BAUCUS. Yes, I do. There are various alternatives here: Instant wilderness, a 1-year study, 2-year study, and so forth. I believe that there should be a 1-year study because the entire Great Bear, as a single unit, has not been studied. There have been various R.A.R.E. studies that the Forest Service has conducted of various pockets, but I favor a contiguous study of the Great Bear area, a 1-year study. As the committee knows, there are conflicting claims as to the ownership and use of some of the lands in the Great Bear. The Blackfeet Indian Reservation which has a claim. I think a 1-year study would help ferret out these claims, evaluate them and reach a reasonable solution.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California?

Mr. CLAUSEN. I have no questions.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Max.

Mr. Larry Blasing and Mr. Bob Holding. Mr. Blasing represents the Inland Forest Resource Council, Missoula, and Mr. Holding represents the Montana Wood Products Association, Missoula. I appreciate your coming up together.

All comments will be made, we hope everyone understands, on the basis of very brief summaries, no longer than 5 minutes. That approach will give the committee members a chance to ask questions. However, the prepared testimony will be made a part of the record, if there is no objection.

All of the prepared testimony of each witness, if there is no objection, will be made a part of the record at the time they appear.

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

I think, perhaps, before we get started, we might as well answer that quorum call. The committee will be in recess for 10 minutes.

[Whereupon, a short recess was taken.]

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order.

When the subcommittee recessed for the quorum call, we were about to hear from Mr. Blasing and Mr. Holding.

STATEMENTS OF LARRY BLASING, INLAND FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL, MISSOULA, MONT.; AND BOB HOLDING, MONTANA WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, MISSOULA, MONT.

Mr. BLASING. I am Larry Blasing; I am research forester for the Inland Forest Resource Council, Missoula, Mont. We represent forest products companies that operate mills and plants in Montana, Northern Idaho, and eastern Washington.

I am appearing here today in support of the bill. We feel the area should be studied. It is already generally designated as a wilderness candidate study area by the Chief of the Forest Service and we are anxious to see that these studies go ahead and take place. We are anxious also to see that in reviewing the various resource values that the studies are of sufficient intensity that we can come up with some quantified answers that are statistically sound that we can rely on.

Sometimes in the past the Forest Service has taken the approach that they have reviewed some of the old data and kind of massaged

it around a little bit and passed it back and nobody really came up with an answer that was definitive. So we are looking for some definitive answers.

The Forest Service tells us there is approximately 19 million feet of allowable cut that would be available from the area. We are concerned about this. There is a community just over the hill in Browning, Mont., which has a sawmill there that has not been running for sometime. They had a fire and they have chosen not to rebuild that section of the sawmill because of the timber supply.

I might point out the volume of timber from this particular piece of land, if it were available, would more than adequately supply the needs of that bill.

In reviewing the bill, there was a 1-year study time. I think that this may not be enough time, looking at it from a professional forester's standpoint. If it were my job to go out and inventory the area, if the bill were passed July 1, I do not believe the Forest Service would have time to adequately gear up, go in and make the study and get the results back because of the conflicts with field seasons and working time. So I think that the bill should reflect at least a full field season and perhaps two field seasons of work in order to be able to accomplish what you are trying to accomplish.

We are aware of the concern about the grizzly bear and we would merely point out that from our research we find that there are several kinds of developed management, including timber harvest, that allows grizzly bear and man to use the same area. It is the conflict between man—just the meeting of the grizzly bear and the man—that really is the conflict. It is not the use of the land. We feel these two could be managed together.

That concludes my remarks.

Mr. HELDING. Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert N. Holding and I am the executive director of the Montana Wood Products Association with headquarters in Missoula.

I, too, want to support the thrust of this bill. It is a detailed intelligent study that will give us the reliable statistics so that future judgments can be made. I think the effect on the nearby community certainly in the field of timber would be studied as well as the other natural resources. I believe we are entitled as both industry and as public to find out what this area has in the way of natural resources and what the effect on the total economy would be.

I think we also must look at present acreages now classified as wilderness. This act proposes to add some 370,000 acres to the National Wilderness System and Montana presently has 1,000,796 acres so classified with our nearby State of Idaho having 1,205,000 acres and Wyoming at the present time has 1,992,000. So in the tri-State area, we presently have approximately 5 million acres in that classification already. It is our feeling that we would know whether or not we need more wilderness per se.

So just to save time, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I too suggest that we have a responsible detailed study so that all interests may know what effect this area would have on our economy. Thank you.

[Prepared statements follow.]

**INLAND FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL**

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STATEMENT BEFORE THE
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUNE 22, 1976

My name is Larry B. Blasing. I am Resource Forester for the Inland Forest Resource Council in Missoula, Montana.

The Inland Forest Resource Council is an association of forest products companies that operate mills and plants in Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington. The area basically corresponds to U.S. Forest Service Region 1 with headquarters for both organizations in Missoula. Member companies harvest timber on private, state and federal lands and process it into lumber, plywood, particleboard, hardboard, pulp for paper and packaging and other wood products. These companies employ approximately 15,000 people and the combined annual payroll exceeds \$125 million.

The Inland Forest Resource Council supports S. 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill, as it is now written. Nearly all of the area was designated as a Wilderness Candidate Study Area by the Chief of the Forest Service under the Roadless Area Review Evaluation which was completed in 1973. Since that time there has been no viable program to study those designated areas to determine whether these lands are suitable for Wilderness or other resource uses. The forest products industry is anxious to have these

areas studied so that we can know what land base is available for harvest of commercial timber.

In carrying out the studies that are directed by this bill we feel that a much more intensive review of all resource values should be made than is usually found in such studies. This should be done not only for wilderness, grizzly bear habitat and related values, but also for minerals, petroleum and commercial forest land. Since there is to be a recommendation made to the President as to which lands are suitable for Wilderness, we feel that an in-depth resource inventory and analysis must be made so that the recommendations made are based on solid information.

Since one of the main interests of our members is in the disposition of the commercial timber lands within the boundaries of the study area, we are particularly concerned about the evaluation of that resource. The review of the timber resource must include a statistically sound inventory that can be checked and reviewed by other interested parties. This inventory needs to be more than a literature review, and should include a ground sampling intensity which will give accurate data for growth, site potential and current inventory of wood fiber. Similar studies should be carried out for the other resources in the area.

The Forest Service has estimated that the potential yield for the area is 18.9 million board feet annually. While this volume may not seem significant when viewed in comparison to national needs, it must be recognized that it does make a contribution to national needs and is extremely important locally.

The 18.9 MM bd. ft. of timber that can be produced from this area will supply a medium sized sawmill. A study by the University of Montana conservatively estimates that approximately 130 direct jobs would come from the manufacture of this renewable resource and an additional 260 indirect jobs would be generated. In addition, the related jobs that are generated by other resource uses would also be available from the management of the area. This makes this area very important to the local economy.

The community of Browning has a sawmill that is currently shut down because of reduced timber supply. Browning is a small community that is the population center for the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. Unemployment has been a problem on the Reservation and, the local sawmill was a substantial source of employment. The outlook for the operation is uncertain in view of the dubious raw material supply. Most of the volume from the Great Bear Study Area can be tributary to that mill and would more than adequately supply the raw material needs of the sawmill. At the present time it is unlikely that the operation will be reopened.

The bill has allowed one year for the completion of this study. If the bill were signed into law by July 1 it is unlikely that the Forest Service could produce meaningful inventories in a one year period. By the time plans could be made and implemented, this year's field season would be past. There is little chance to complete this kind of work during the winter months. Congress should allow at least one and perhaps two full field seasons to complete the inventories.

We would like the committees assurance that the passage of this bill will not only request an intensive study of Wilderness values, but of all the other resource values as well. There are many opportunities within this large area for the development of resource values other than Wilderness. Management direction should be recommended only after these are critically explored.

Considerable concern has been expressed over the needs of the grizzly bear. We are not insensitive to these needs, however, we believe that requests for grizzly habitat have been guided by emotion rather than by the needs of the bear. Knowledgeable scientists have told us that the grizzly bear does not require large areas of wilderness for his survival. The critical problem in grizzly bear management is the contact between the bear and people. It is the control of these contacts that is critical and not man's use of the land for other purposes. Most of the scientists are in agreement that logging can be extremely beneficial to providing better food and habitat for the bear. The grasses and forbs that are increased by the harvest of timber provide increased food supply and, therefore, improved habitat. They were also quick to point out that after timber harvest, logging roads should be closed so that access to the area is restricted. We merely wish to point out that, (1) developed uses of the land and grizzly habitat can be compatible if properly managed, and (2) that timber harvest can improve habitat. As one scientist put it, the greatest loss of grizzly bear habitat in recent years occurred when the Park Service closed the garbage dumps in Yellowstone Park.

We thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I will be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BY

Robert N. Holding
Executive Director
Montana Wood Products Association
Missoula, Montana

June 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Subcommittee:

My name is Robert N. Holding and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Wood Products Association with headquarters in Missoula, Montana. Our association is composed of some 35 wood products companies and 120 associate members who provide goods and services to the Montana timber industry.

This association is vitally concerned with the timber supply problem in the state of Montana, and accordingly, are very interested in the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill, S. 392. Within this study area it is estimated that there are 18.9 million board feet of annual allowable cut.

In the Montana area, this is a considerable amount. In fact, in the nearby town of Browning, Montana, located on the easterly portion of the area in question there is a small wood manufacturing facility that could operate on a year around basis if it had the 18.9 million board feet of timber available to it. This would supplement other timber, which combined would make this a viable year around industrial employer.

At the present time this mill is not operating. Browning, Montana is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and many of the firm's former employees were members of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe.

S. 392 proposes to classify an additional 378,200 acres to the National Wilderness system in Montana. Presently, Montana has 1,796,000 acres so classified. Nearby Idaho has 1,205,000 acres in Wilderness and Wyoming so far has 1,992,000 so classified. The present classified Wilderness acreage, therefore, of this Tri-State area is 4,993,000.

The proposed study that S. 392 provides for has much merit to it and we sincerely support it. A good, detailed study that documents all the natural resources in the study area, and the effects of additional Wilderness Classification, on nearby communities is vitally needed for all parties that are interested in this matter. New field studies would accurately determine just what resources this study area contains and whether-or-not additional Wilderness acreage is desirable.

Our Association, therefore, sincerely recommends that such a qualified study be properly funded and its findings be made a matter of public record.

With this type of reliable information, the timber industry and the public can accurately plan for the future.

Thank you

Mr. MELCHER. Both of you mentioned the wood manufacturing facility, is that a sawmill?

Mr. HELDING. Yes, at Browning.

Mr. MELCHER. Both of you mentioned something about having timber available so it can operate and supply lumber and, incidently, supply some jobs. What has that got to do with this bill?

Mr. HELDING. This mill is not being rebuilt, now, Mr. Chairman, because of an inadequate timber supply in the future. They are unsure and until they know what is going to happen, they are not going to rebuild that. This is another blank in the whole matter. This would draw approximately 19 million in the annual allowable cut and it is another factor in their decisions to rebuild or not.

Mr. MELCHER. How close is Browning to the proposed area?

Mr. BLASING. It is fairly close. I am not sure it is on this map. It is probably just off of this map.

Mr. MELCHER. Have they had any timber supply out of this area?

Mr. BLASING. They have been largely relying on the Indian lands over there and private lands to supply their needs. Much of the area within the study area is tributary to Browning.

Mr. MELCHER. Is it your feeling that the proposed area has a lot of harvestable timber?

Mr. BLASING. Some portions of it have, some portions of it have none, and from a pure timber interest standpoint, there is a large portion of the area which we have virtually no interest in.

Mr. MELCHER. As the boundary is drawn now for the study area, is there any of it that you see would include some timber that could be offered for sale?

Mr. BLASING. Under the regulations that are existing now, no, because these areas have been already designated as wilderness candidate study areas.

Mr. MELCHER. That is not my question. Under the boundary as now drawn, do you see any timber that should be offered for sale?

Mr. BLASING. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. How much?

Mr. BLASING. I feel that the figures here—if the productivity of the land is examined—probably conservative, in terms of the volume of timber that would be available from the area.

Mr. MELCHER. Probably what?

Mr. BLASING. The figures are probably conservative, the 19 million feet per year.

Mr. MELCHER. You are testifying you think there are 19 million feet that should be sold per year from the area as the boundary is now drawn?

Mr. BLASING. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. You must also be testifying that it is not much of a point in the next 2 years because your testimony is to the effect that if the bill passes sometime after July 1 that it should have a 2-year study, and you must also be testifying that the 19 million feet per year is not of any significance during the next 2 years to the lumber industry then.

Mr. BLASING. There are no present plans in the next 5 years to harvest any timber in the next 5 years in the Forest Service and

in view of the status, it is in limbo until such time as that study is completed. -

Mr. MELCHER. Have you identified any other areas where you think there is 19 million board feet that could be harvested annually?

Mr. BLASING. No.

Mr. MELCHER. Could you do that for the committee or were you thinking of doing that during the study period?

Mr. BLASING. During the study period.

Mr. MELCHER. That makes sense. Until the bill becomes law, we can watch for that during the course of the study period.

The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. The gentleman has no questions.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California?

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think the chairman asked most of the questions which I would ask.

Do I understand correctly there are two basic points you are trying to make in your testimony. One is that we have a concern long range for the fact that there might be some potentially adverse impact of about 19 million feet to the allowable cut if the wilderness area were to be created, is that right?

Mr. BLASING. Yes.

Mr. HELDING. Yes.

Mr. CLAUSEN. And secondly, I gather from your testimony that you do not feel the 1-year study provision is adequate, you feel there should be two full field seasons. Would you amend the legislation, or would you think this could be done administratively?

Mr. BLASING. Perhaps it could be done administratively. I just think that the committee or Congress should recognize that it takes some time to gear up for some of these things in order to get the field work done that is necessary in order to get the proper kinds of answers, that it will probably take at least one full field season and perhaps two. We are more interested in seeing a quality study than in seeing one that is rushed through just to meet a time schedule.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Am I correct, those are the two basic points, other than that you support the legislation?

Mr. HELDING. Correct.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Larry and Bob.

Now, the next witnesses we are going to ask to appear in a panel, Mr. Steve Gilpatrick, representing the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club, Hilger; Mr. Rick Trembath, representing the Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Mr. TREMBATH. Could I just represent myself?

Mr. MELCHER. Certainly. Mr. Donald Marble, representing the Montana Wilderness Association, Miss Jean Warren, representing the Montana Group of the Sierra Club, Mrs. Dorothy Nitz, representing the Hill County Wildlife Association and Montana Wildlife Federation, Mr. Chris Roholt, representing the Middle Fork of Flathead River Association.

I understand Ms. Elizabeth Smith is not here and Ms. Ann Sutton is not here.

Ms. WARREN. I am going to speak for two national organizations later rather than sit on this panel, if that is agreeable with you, the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth, for the national organizations, not for the State. I could possibly do that later with the Wilderness Society or whatever.

Mr. MELCHER. We will ask you to come up later on the panel with them.

A PANEL CONSISTING OF STEVE GILPATRICK, LEWISTOWN ROD AND GUN CLUB, HILGER, MONT.; RICK TREMBATH, FLATHEAD CHAPTER OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION; DONALD MARBLE, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION, CHESTER, MONT.; JEAN WARREN, MONTANA GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB; DOROTHY NITZ, HILL COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION AND MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION; AND CHRIS ROHOLT, MIDDLE FORK OF FLATHEAD RIVER ASSOCIATION

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Gilpatrick, you are first. I will hope that you will be brief and give us time to ask some questions. As you heard before the recess, all prepared statements will be made a part of the record, if you so choose, at this point.

Mr. GILPATRICK. My statement is rather short, Congressman.

Mr. MELCHER. Go ahead, Mr. Gilpatrick.

Mr. GILPATRICK. I am John Gilpatrick. My son and I operate a livestock ranch in that area. We have become concerned over the past few years about the disappearance of the wildlife habitat.

We are grateful to those who had the foresight to protect the Bob Marshall Wilderness from the wanton development that has disrupted ecosystems which provide habitat for our wildlife, produce quality water, and offer man an opportunity to mend his tattered senses in pristine solitude.

How could men of such foresight have failed to see the importance of the middle fork of the Flathead; have overlooked the critical need of this area for grizzly bear, bull trout, cutthroat trout, and our elk herds?

The answer is obvious. At that time, the grizzly was not a threatened species. The trout from the Flathead Lake spawned in the south fork, north fork and the middle fork, and man had not roaded, subdivided or farmed much of the land capable of sustaining wintering elk.

All of this has changed now and is getting worse every year. If we wish to maintain a viable population of grizzlies in the Glacier Park-Flathead ecosystem, it is essential that we prevent intrusion of man with his equipment, animals, and dwellings into the middle fork of the Flathead because it is a wedge that separates Glacier Park from the Bob Marshall Wilderness and this makes the bear vulnerable to man, and man and his belongings vulnerable to the bear when the bear migrates between the two areas that are managed to maintain a grizzly population.

Flathead Lake supports a population of bull trout and cutthroat trout that spawn in the upper reaches of the Flathead River sys-

tem. Hungry Horse dam has blocked migration on the south fork leaving only the north and middle forks open to spawning fish.

Now coal development in Canada on the headwaters of the north fork threatens the future of fish population in that drainage.

In addition to the importance of this area to our wildlife, the stream offers some of the finest opportunities to float, kayak, or canoe. The degree of challenge varies greatly and offers the options of a thrilling experience, a dunking, or a scenic float depending upon the individual's choice.

An outfitter of more than 30 years in the Bob Marshall after one trip into the Middle Fork insists that this drainage has more wildlife, and offers a higher quality recreation than the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

To prevent unnecessary controversy, I ask that you remove from the area to be studied those 20,000 acres that are included in the treaty of 1895.

I want to thank the committee for providing me the opportunity to express my feelings about this magnificent land, and hope that you will give S. 392 favorable consideration and do what you can to see that it is enacted during this session of Congress. We ranchers cannot afford to be running to Washington, D.C. We have to stick to the range to insure good red meat for a hungry America.

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Trembath.

Mr. TREMBATH. My name is Rick Trembath, Mr. Congressman, and I am representing myself today. I have visited the area quite extensively, having hiked and done cross-country skiing and floated over the area. I wish to act as a resource person if there is any question that you or your colleagues may have on what is in the area as far as the boundary delineations and that kind of thing goes. I was hoping to provide some assistance to that effect. That is all.

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Marble?

Mr. MARBLE. My name is Donald Marble, and I am vice president of the Montana Wilderness Association and reside in Chester, Mont. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the rest of the committee for providing us with this hearing today on Senate bill 392.

Our organization strongly supports the designation of the area as wilderness and we also support Senate bill 392 as long as the study period is one year only.

The Montana Wilderness Association is a citizens' organization of over 700 members, most of whom reside within the State of Montana. We represent a broad spectrum of people across the State of Montana. When we get involved in questions such as a proposed wilderness area, we work real hard to learn the area and study it and know what we are talking about if we are called upon or we have an opportunity to testify on it.

We have for many years been concerned with the Great Bear Wilderness. The area has always been wilderness, always been utilized by man and wildlife as a wilderness and we believe it should stay that way. S. 392 as we see it will provide a fairly rapid study based on the already generally available information as to whether or not it should be included in the Wilderness System.

As long ago as 1954, people in the Flathead area were proposing that the Great Bear area be wilderness. They had no success.

About 1970 some of our people in the Middle Fork of the Flat-head Preservation Committee worked out a fairly detailed proposal on wilderness by the Great Bear and I have included a copy of their written proposal, less exhibits, to my statement, so I hope you will have an opportunity to see what we have done as long ago as 1970 on this proposal.

The Forest Service, of course, has included it for study as a candidate area, but we think that there is a real problem in the way the Forest Service is approaching it and that is the reason we need this bill.

The area, if you look at the report from the Senate, really has been broken up into six separate areas, and it is really one tract of de facto wilderness. It should be studied as S. 392 asks in one period and it should be done as soon as possible, not just as broken-up units as part of the total Forest Service study area plan.

One year is enough. The Forest Service has done all the fieldwork for a timber and resource management inventory. It has been a good study, as I understand. It has been statistically accurately performed. They have all the fieldwork done to analyze the timber and resources in the area. There is no need to have to do any more fieldwork on it. The same goes for the mineral study of the area. As I understand it, this basically has been done also.

The bill will not complicate any delicate water or other problems that exist in the area. It is only a study bill, and if there are any questions that need to be considered, this will provide a good means to do it. It will not affect any water rights. It will not affect any timber rights. No one is going to be deprived of timber because of the passage of this bill or the study. We think there will be no effect on the timber industry. We do not believe there is really that much timber in the area but that could be very easily resolved because the Forest Service studies have been performed and the reports should be out soon.

The area is very well known for its wilderness, recreational and wildlife values. We all know, who live in the area, how beautiful and rugged it is. It is certainly a fit and proper candidate for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

One thing that Mr. Gilpatrick pointed out and I think has been strongly considered is the need for this area to join the Bob Marshall to the Glacier Park area as far as protection of the grizzly. The grizzly is a wilderness animal. He survives only in wilderness. If he comes out to where man resides, he will not survive. The grizzly is a wilderness indicator and we need this wilderness area in order to help protect the grizzly.

Now, it is true that as a regional question, there may be a somewhat high percentage of wilderness, but wilderness is a national resource. There is only a very small percentage of land in the United States that is wilderness, especially, and this is unfortunate, less than 1 percent is my understanding, and in land that used to be solid wilderness as long ago as only 300 years, this seems very sad. We support S. 392 as it passed the Senate and asked that the committee give the bill favorable consideration and that the House pass it as soon as possible so the Forest Service can begin with their studies.

I thank you very much.

[Information referred to follows.]

TESTIMONY OF DONALD R. MARBLE OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

IN SUPPORT OF S. 392

June 22, 1976

I am Donald R. Marble, vice president of the Montana Wilderness. I am here to express the very strong support of our organization for S. 392 as passed by the Senate. The Montana Wilderness Association is a citizens organization of over 700 members most of whom reside in the state of Montana. Our organization is dedicated to the preservation of wilderness in the state of Montana and adjacent areas. We represent a broad spectrum of persons across the state of Montana. When we involve ourselves in such matters such as consideration of this bill here today, we always make all possible efforts to become well informed on the issues. We have studied this bill carefully and we very strongly ask your favorable action on it leading to passage by the House.

The Montana Wilderness Association and others have been concerned with the Great Bear area for many years. The area historically has always existed and been utilized by wildlife and man as a wilderness. We believe it should remain as such. S. 392 will require a study now to determine whether or not the area should be finally approved as an inclusion to the national system of wilderness areas.

The Great Bear area has long been considered as a logical inclusion into the national wilderness system. In 1954 local people proposed the area for inclusion without success. In 1970 the Montana Wilderness Association and the Middlefork of the Flathead Preservation Committee worked on and presented a proposal of adding the Great Bear area to the national wilderness system. A copy of this study (less exhibits) is attached to my statement so as to advise the Committee of our early detailed work on this proposal which is the subject of S. 392. After this proposal was presented, the U. S. Forest Service became involved in their Roadless Area Review and Evaluation program (RARE). The Forest Service

subsequently selected the Great Bear area for study as wilderness . However, a basic initial error was made by the Forest Service in that the Great Bear area was divided for consideration of wilderness into six separate areas. This points up the need for S. 392. This area is a single tract of defacto wilderness. It should not for any purpose be split. It should be studied for wilderness potential as a single unit and passage of S. 392 will require this.

The bill, S. 392, requires that the study be completed in one year. This is proper. Unless the Congress expressly mandates the Forest Service to study this entire area within a specified reasonable time, one year, the Forest Service will not muster the resources necessary to give the Great Bear area proper wilderness consideration. The citizens of the state of Montana desire a single comprehensive study now and S. 392 will do this.

This bill will not complicate delicate water or other questions yet to be resolved on the East Slope. It would, since it is by definition a study bill, only help to clarify the questions and in doing so, it would lead to a logical approach to the wilderness issues involved. S. 392 is only a wilderness study bill. It will not affect any water rights. It does not favor any one group over another. It merely demands that the Forest Service perform a wilderness feasibility study within a reasonable time.

The Great Bear area is well known for its wilderness, recreational and wildlife values. The report of the Senate Committee points this up very clearly. The original Great Bear proposal attached to my statement and all of the other testimony that has been presented on the Great Bear area make this clear. No one really contests that the Great Bear area is a fit and proper candidate for inclusion in the national wilderness system.

The Montana Wilderness Association respectfully requests the Committee give S. 392 a favorable report and that the House pass the bill at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald R. Maule

PREFACE (DEC. 1971)

In recognition of the Regional Forester's directive to identify and submit tentative lists and maps of de facto wilderness areas which warrant further and more intensive consideration in the National Forests to the Chief by June 30, 1972, we present this proposal. (Forest Service Manual 2321.1
New Study Areas)

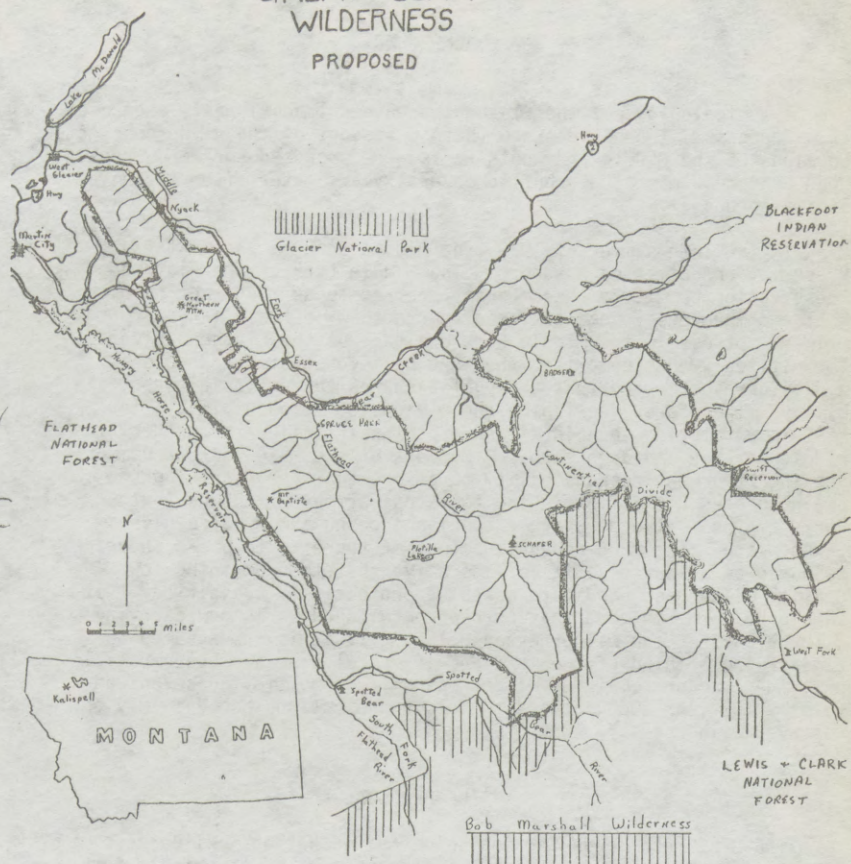
PREFACE (JAN. 1972)

This proposal is intended as a current statement of recommendations for the Middle Fork of the Flathead. Much of this material was submitted to the Flathead National Forest Supervisor, as indicated in the above preface.

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GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS PROPOSED



BACKGROUND

The Middle Fork of the Flathead area has traditionally been used as wilderness. Two decades ago (before passage of the Wilderness Act) portions of the Middle and South Forks were proposed for wilderness. John Craighead was also rebuffed several years later after making a similar proposal.

In the late summer of 1970, the Middle Fork of the Flathead Preservation Committee was born. The Middle Fork of the Flathead Preservation Committee (henceforth referred to as MFPC) set for its goal a comprehensive evaluation of de facto wilderness lands, primarily those in the Middle Fork drainage of the Flathead River. The citizenry that comprises the MFPC believes that Wilderness is a public resource and that the public shares the custodial responsibility. Therefore, cherishing these views of responsibility, the MFPC is attempting to gain Wilderness classification for much of the Middle Fork and adjacent areas. Members of the MFPC share a common feeling of urgent responsibility to assure that the Middle Fork drainage does not follow in the footsteps of the North and South Forks of the Flathead, where extensive logging and roading have taken place. The MFPC recognizes that if there is to be an enduring resource of Wilderness, it is imperative that the remaining few quality wilderness candidate areas be protectively classified. "It should be borne in mind that unreserved wilderness is now carrying a large part of the wilderness use load. If it is now assumed to be carrying a third of the load and it is released for noncompatible use, the load on remaining wilderness will be multiplied seventeen-fold by the year 2000, according to our projections based solely on reserved wilderness." (ORRRC Study Report 3)

THE PROPOSAL

The MFPC recommends for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System the de facto wilderness area of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River delineated on the included map. We also request that a moratorium be enacted on all activities that would endanger the wilderness character of the area until the Chief of the Forest Service, the President, and Congress have reviewed this proposal under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act and the Department of Agriculture regulations (Boundary descriptions will be found in the appendix).

The geographic location of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness and its corresponding interdependencies with Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Flathead Lake, the Blackfoot Indian Reservation, the Hungry Horse Reservoir, and the adjacent Forest Service lands constitute a significant and unique character. An intrinsic interrelationship -- topographically, ecologically, visually and in terms of projected recreational use patterns -- is noted between our proposed area and Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This area, if included within the National Wilderness Preservation System, will diffuse impact pressures and provide

continuity between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The importance of a link between these areas cannot be overstressed.

The proposal reflects the recommendation that the MFPC feels will best support the predominant public value and use of the Middle Fork within the meaning of the Multiple Use - Sustained Yield Act of June 12, 1960. This proposal is derived from the results of exhaustive field work and research performed by various members of the MFPC. The personal familiarity of many members with the area was drawn on in the formulation of the proposal. Opinions were also solicited from professional foresters, geologists, wildlife biologists, hikers, fishermen, hunters, packers, floaters and other interested groups.

The significance of the MFPC's proposed name for this area, "Great Bear Wilderness," will be explained in this paper. Briefly, the designation of the grizzly as an endangered species by the Department of the Interior, and the recognition that, 'as wilderness goes, so goes the grizzly,' justify the suggestion to name this area after the 'great bear' that inhabits it. There is also a mountain called Great Bear Mountain in the boundaries of this proposed wilderness. Even in the absence of a Great Bear Peak, the importance of this area as a grizzly habitat warrants the name.

THE AREA

The proposed Great Bear Wilderness lies on the Flathead and the Lewis & Clark National Forests in northwestern Montana. The area is 418,700 acres of which 282,600 acres are on the Flathead Forest west of the continental divide and 136,100 acres are on the Lewis & Clark Forest on the east side of the divide. All lands contained within the proposal are of Federal Forest ownership.

The major portion of the area, the Middle Fork of the Flathead, lies in the headwaters of the Clark Fork drainage of the Columbia River system, while the Badger and Teton rivers on the eastside are the headwaters of the Missouri River system.

The features on the west side of the continental divide are more rugged and glaciated than those on the east. The western climate has more precipitation, hence, more vegetation than the east. The western side is typified by high sharp ridges and peaks with stands of predominantly lodgepole pine on the steep mountainsides and in the bottoms. The east side has many steep, bare talus slopes descending from ridges which are parallel to the continental divide.

Within a distance of forty air miles from the communities of West Glacier, Coram, Martin City, Hungry Horse, Whitefish, Kalispell, Big Fork, Chouteau, Browning, East Glacier and Essex.

Highway 2 runs between the area and Glacier National Park. Several logging roads (the major one being the Skyland Road) run south from Highway 2. The South Fork of the Flathead and Spotted Bear River roads are on the west of the area, but entirely in the South Fork of the Flathead.

WILDERNESS AND RECREATION RESOURCE

Solitude, spirit of adventure and awareness, serenity, and self-reliance are the intangible values that measure the suitability of an area of wilderness. The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is abundantly endowed with these values and should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System so that its inspirational values can be safeguarded permanently. It is not only man's material welfare that we must prepare for, but the dignity of man himself. Are we so poor that we need to destroy these de facto wildernesses, or so rich that we can afford to lose them?

The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is still wild and free. It offers the 'geography of hope' to men born into a world that lacks primitive challenge. The visitor to the proposed Great Bear Wilderness enters on terms of the Wilderness.

The pristine mountains and valleys of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness are unexcelled for memorable big game hunts. Here on the sparking ripples of pure mountain streams man can match wits with native trout, not the weak-spirited hatchery substitutes. Every year within these boundaries of the proposed wilderness, hundreds enjoy river-rafting on one of our nations unpolluted and freeflowing rivers. Camping, mountain climbing, ski-touring, hiking, riding, photography and many other outdoor pursuits are satisfied by the de facto wilderness lands of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness.

WILDLIFE RESOURCE

Big Game

The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is locally known for its elk, mountain goat, black bear, grizzly bear, and wolverine populations. The undisturbed backcountry of this de facto wilderness provides the secluded habitat that many of our big game animals need to survive.

The wilds of this area shelter one of the last natural, free moving grizzly populations in the continental United States. The grizzly is listed by the department of the Interior's Committee on Rare and Endangered Wildlife as an endangered specie. The Department's report points to development in wilderness habitats as the reason for the grizzly's decline. The report also proposes that complete protection be given the grizzly within a distance of fifty miles from the boundaries of Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. (M-14 Rare and Endangered Wildlife of the U. S., Department of the

Interior). The magnificent grizzly is a true wilderness animal. The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is one of the last strongholds of "Old Ephraim", the beast that walks like a man.

Elk are a wilderness specie as recognized by the Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana State Fish & Game agencies. "There is considerable elk winter range distributed along the draws of the Middle Fork. The elk population spends winter in small clusters in many of these draws. The quantity of this winter range is the single most important factor in the number and vitality of the herd. Due to fire suppression by the Forest Service, conifers are choking out winter browse. There is also a USFS, BLM, Montana F&G, and University of Montana joint study ascertaining the effects of logging and roading on elk." (Dick Weckwerth in personal conversation). The MFPC contends that wilderness classification with enlightened fire policy is good management of elk.

Small Game

The populations of small species are very similar to those found in Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Non-Game

Trapping in the area is negligible.

Fish

The waters of the Middle Fork are famed both locally and nationally for high quality wilderness angling. The primary game fish sought are the Westslope Cutthroat and the Dolly Varden trout. The Kokanee salmon and the Whitefish also migrate into these cold, clear waters. The Lewis and Clark area of the proposal has populations of Yellowstone and Rainbow trout.

The Middle Fork contributes an estimated 55 percent of the total cutthroat trout production in the Flathead River system upstream from Flathead Lake and is one of its last strongholds. (The South Fork is impounded by the Hungry Horse dam and the North Fork flows in close proximity to Canadian strippable coal reserves.) The Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife has placed this species of Cutthroat on its endangered species list because it is now confined to the Flathead drainage. Apparently, habitat modification eliminated it from the rest of Montana, and all of Idaho and Wyoming. Campbell (1971) found that Westslope cutthroat have become endangered because of destruction of natural habitat by agricultural practices, road building, logging and dam building, and competition with exotic fish species. Dissolved nutrient enrichment and eutrophication resulting from timber harvest (Bormann, Likens, and Curry) should be of greater concern than turbidity and siltation. It has been shown (Hanzel) that Cutthroat display considerable movement from Flathead Lake to the upper drainages. Therefore, the three forks of the Flathead and

Flathead Lake must be considered as an entity in management considerations because of the closeness of their interrelationships. It is not an exaggeration to state that denial of wilderness classification could mean a severe blow to the survival of this species through road building and resultant habitat destruction.

WATER RESOURCE

Values concerning water quality are difficult to quantitatively measure. For example: recreational fishing, the scenic grandeur of mountain stream and river vistas, wilderness experience of a white water float trip on a wild river, etc., are all difficult to scale on any spectrum. Development of the proposed wilderness area would definitely impair present water quality.

The Lewis & Clark watersheds are contained within the boundary of the proposed Wilderness area. This watershed contributes directly to the irrigation of downstream agricultural areas. Swift Reservoir is on the boundary of the Great Bear Wilderness. It is anticipated that this will continue to be the major use in the Lewis & Clark Forest.

The Bureau of Reclamation, at one time, submitted plans to dam the Middle Fork at Spruce Park. However, for the present, these plans have been discontinued. (see appendix).

The Montanans' Fishing Guide, Volume 1, divides the Middle Fork River into essentially two different sections. "The upper section, which is about 25 miles long, meets all the requirements of the back-country wilderness visitor who desires remoteness and solitude. The lower section, which is about 35 miles long, lies immediately adjacent to Highway 2 and is readily accessible by auto." (The Guide's 25 mile figure apparently refers to the length of the Middle Fork from Highway 2 to Shafer Meadows-MFPC) (see Wildlife Resource).

FORAGE RESOURCE

Primarily, forage tends to be utilized by wildlife, but there is domestic summer grazing by sheep and cattle on the Lewis & Clark and by pack stock on both sides. The MFPC feels that there is virtually no conflict between the present wilderness resource and present use. The revenues from the commercial grazing on the Lewis & Clark total less than \$1,000 yearly.

Elk and deer are the principle wild forage-utilizing animals and the proposed Great Bear Wilderness has an abundance of these species. In some areas, winter range is critical, but the present herds seem healthy.

TIMBER RESOURCE

The MFPC considers the commercial timber value within the proposed Great Bear Wilderness to be marginal under present logging methods. If logged under present technology, irrevocable impairment of the forest would occur. This is substantiated by examining comparable areas that have been logged. The Skyland Road and Paola Creek Road which are on the fringes of the proposed wilderness are examples. Logging in these areas resulted in siltation of streams, destruction of the cover vegetation, and roads placed too closely together.

In the fall of 1970, the Flathead National Forest established a moratorium on road building and logging within most of the Middle Fork drainage. The resultant sustained yield reduction was reflected by an annual allowable cut reduction of thirteen million feet. Subsequently, the Flathead Forest defined a Marginal Zone as an area where logging by present methods would cause irreparable resource damage or would involve costs in excess of values. Land characteristics which determine marginal areas are steep areas, sharp draws, landslides or mass failures, avalanche paths, unstable soil, critical groundwater relationships, rock outcrops, and unusually difficult stand regeneration conditions. The Middle Fork has a great deal of Marginal Zones which the MFPC believes would result in an annual allowable cut of approximately seven million instead of the previous thirteen million board feet. The approximate figure of five million board feet would reduce the Flathead Forest's predicted annual allowable cut of 160 million board feet by 4 percent. This figure is not exact because the final Forest Service calculations will not be complete until August 1972.

The MFPC would strongly contend that the long-range and short-range benefits of the Wilderness designation far outweigh the economic benefits of logging. Timber harvesting in the proposed boundary could be considered "timber mining" as defined by the "Bolle Report" of the University of Montana.

MINERAL RESOURCE

The mineral resources of the proposed area west of the continental divide have been shown to have no commercial value. There are presently no active claims for mineral rights and none are anticipated by the Flathead Forest in the near future. This evaluation is confirmed by C.P. Ross's U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper #296; 1959.

On the east side of the continental divide there has been recent exploratory drilling for oil with no apparent success. There have been scars on the land resulting from this exploration activity, but the MFPC feels that these are not substantially noticeable and will revert.

We conclude that there is no reason to view mineral resources of the area as being in conflict with our proposal.

VALUES

The importance of a "scientific control" in the form of wilderness is not to be overstated. The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is of adequate size to provide stable conditions for research on previously mentioned wilderness species. One day soon, science will find itself without an ecological point of reference. Wilderness, if we have reserved enough, will then be invaluable to science.

ANTICIPATED PUBLIC REACTION

Public reaction to Wilderness classification of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness has been explored by the MFPC. If the classification process proceeds with alternatives, figures, and arguments presented in a balanced and logical manner, then we anticipate good overall support. Strong support has already been provided by the Montana Wilderness Association, Wilderness Society, Flathead Lakers, Flathead Wildlife, Inc., Trout Unlimited, guides and outfitters, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and Sierra Club.

Grazing is limited to the Lewis and Clark Forest. Ranchers and farmers consider present or future grazing potential to be far less than irrigation value.

Mining interests will probably categorically contest Wilderness classification. (see mineral resources)

Timber interests have largely ignored the Middle Fork so far as logging and roading are concerned. This indicates that it is predominantly marginal timber. See Timber Resource for an estimate of the Flathead Forest's annual allowable cut. It is assumed that the industry could accept Wilderness classification just as they are beginning to understand and accept the reasons for the reduction of the Flathead Forest annual allowable cut. There is no active sale on the Lewis and Clark Forest nor any operating mills in the area.

Shafer Meadow is one of the few "open airstrips" in the U. S. without vehicular access. The MFPC considers the future alternatives to be either having use of the strip subject to more regulations and surrounded by Wilderness or having a road to the strip. The MFPC feels the majority of pilots will ultimately choose the former alternative.

The position of motorized recreationists is one of great uncertainty. Much of the area on the Lewis and Clark already has been closed to summer motorized vehicles by the Choteau District. There is use during the summer on the Flathead Forest. There is considerable use by snowmobiles on logging roads outside the periphery of the proposed Wilderness boundary. However, there seems to be much less use on the trail system inside the boundary.

Packers, outfitters, and guides overwhelmingly support Wilderness classification.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed Great Bear Wilderness is free of nonconforming uses or activities that are or may become damaging to the Wilderness resources.

There is a guard station at Shafer Meadows. This station is a rustic log structure similar to those found in the Bob Marshall at Big Prairie, Black Bear, Basin Creek, and Danaher. It is compatible with the definition of wilderness. (section 2c Wilderness Act)

The air strip at Shafer exerts a minimum influence on the surrounding environment. It is similar to landing "strips" found in the Bob Marshall at Black Bear, Big Prairie, and Basin Creek. Established use of aircraft has been evident in Shafer Meadows area. This use has been pursued primarily for access for river float trips. However, this activity is "substantially unnoticeable" on the total environment of wilderness. Therefore, this activity cannot be construed as a serious conflict to wilderness designation. The MFPC endorses a strictly regulated continuance of aircraft use in the established area. However, we strongly urge that the U.S.F.S. limit the aircraft use to conform to the "substantially unnoticeable" clause set forth in 2321.11b of the FSM-Recreation Management.

On the Choteau District of the Lewis and Clark summer motorized use is restricted.

The proposed Great Bear Wilderness includes a portion of an area known as the Morrison Creek timber sale. This intrudes into de facto wilderness. The sale was approved in 1966 by the Regional Forester. The timber at the southernmost area of the sale has not been cut. The Morrison Creek Road was intended to be extended to Shafer Meadows. The MFPC is opposed to any further construction of this road.

The Morrison Creek sale (along with other sales in the Skyline Road complex) are in the only headwaters outside the proposed Wilderness boundary. Management direction of these external headwaters must take into consideration the influence they will exert on the headwaters and downstream areas.

Fire suppression has been practiced in all areas of both Forests. The MFPC only suggests that fire be allowed to play a more natural role in the area for the purpose of controlling insects and providing winter range for elk and deer.

FINAL COMMENTS

Suitability

Title 2300, Recreational Management, of the Forest Service Manual list four conditions that must be met before any area can be considered suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System: Untrammeled conditions; primeval character; primitive recreation; and size.

No man lives within the confines of the proposed boundary of the Great Bear Wilderness. The earth and its community of life are still unspoiled by the hand of man. The proposed Great Bear Wilderness has a long history of use by men for primitive recreational pursuits, but man is only a visitor.

The area retains its primeval character with essentially the same conditions and vistas awaiting the contemporary visitor that greeted man several centuries ago.

How many of us have taken the time to examine the word recreational in its most literal and highest sense? Do we really grasp the root meaning of the word re-creation? We hasten to add that all "mass recreation" uses have their important place. However, there is only two and one-half per cent of our Nation's land that can now qualify for Wilderness. The Great Bear Wilderness is a part of that fraction. Eventually, proper mental balance and perhaps national sanity may depend on the protection of it and similar areas. (see appendix for articles)

The proposed wilderness comprises approximately 418,000 acres which is well over the Forest Service's suggested minimum of 5,000 acres.

Availability

According to Dr. Robert Ream, University of Montana Wildlife Forester, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho contain about 7% of the Nation's commercial timber. It would appear reasonable to assume that the Great Bear Wilderness contains less than 1% of this 7%. In contrast, the proposed Great Bear Wilderness contains most of the continental United State's natural, free-moving endangered grizzly bear, excluding those in the National Parks and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The magnificent grizzly, one of Montana's most endangered resources, will not survive if we do not protect areas like the proposed Great Bear Wilderness. It is an established fact that the grizzly needs wilderness to survive. One hundred percent of the nation's pure strain Westslope Cutthroat escape extinction in the Flathead River drainage. A great portion of these trout depend on the headwaters found in the proposed Wilderness for clean spawning streams. Wilderness classification will insure the quality environment this spirited trout requires for survival. The future of the rare wolverine may hinge on the classification of the area.

The grizzly and Westslope Cutthroat trout are definitely not compatible with logging and development. They are wilderness species. Their very existence depends on the Wilderness. Both have disappeared from their former ranges where man has "conquered" the wilderness. When the overwhelming percentages of these endangered wildlife resources are weighed against the small fraction of the timber contained in the de facto wilderness, the only rational decision demands Wilderness classification. Weighing these percentages against one another, Wilderness classification represents the "highest public value" in the long-range. This becomes especially obvious within the meaning of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act which states, "...with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return for the greatest unit output."

Relationship of Wilderness Act to de facto wilderness

The Wilderness Act has specific provisions as to the review of, and submission of recommendations with respect to, primitive areas (Section 3(b)). There is nothing in the Wilderness Act to preclude the submission of proposals, such as this one, for designation of other National Forest areas as Wilderness by Act of Congress. On the contrary, the Wilderness Act has language recognizing that such proposals for this type of legislative action can be submitted as well as those relating to primitive areas when it provides in Section 3 that:

"d(1) the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness..." (underlining added)

"(2) Any views submitted to the appropriate Section under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included..." (underlining added)

This Section plainly recognizes the authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to submit his recommendations for wilderness suitability for any National Forest area to Congress through the President. Furthermore, the responsibility to study these uncommitted parcels of de facto wilderness area is clearly spelled out in the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act: "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purpose and provisions of this Act."

Mr. MELCHER. Mrs. Nitz.

Mrs. NITZ. My name is Dorothy Nitz. We, the Montana Wildlife Federation and the Hill County Wildlife Association, do recommend study of the Great Bear Wilderness study area under S. 392. The area contains lands essential to the grizzly bear. Elk and deer inhabit this area, also. Extensive timber management in adjacent areas with resulting roads and thus people/vehicle impact have forced the animals of this area farther away from their normal winter and summer ranges. The impact of the outfitters and packers along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River must soon be managed to avert any irreparable damage. It is a main corridor and requires management such as has been used within the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

We would also request that area between the Continental Divide and Birch Creek covered by our treaty with the Blackfeet Indian Tribe in 1895 not be considered in the study area. They have not abused their rights or even used their treaty rights to any great extent. To trade off their rights would not be in the best interest of the Indian, sportsman or the wildlife. The present management by the Forest Service has been excellent for all concerned. In this Bicentennial Year, we should not be second-guessing our predecessors with modifications in a document which has worked so well.

This would leave the southeasterly portion viable as a study area because it is contiguous to the northern portion of the Bob Marshall Wilderness in excess of 20,000 acres and has an excellent population of elk, deer and bear.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak and please include this statement as a part of the hearing record.

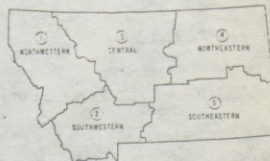
[Prepared statement referred to follows.]

EDUCATION -- CONSERVATION



Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
Great Bear Wilderness Study
Reference 3392
Report No. 34-59



Dear Committee Members,

We the Montana Wildlife Federation and the Hill County Wildlife Assn. do recommend study of the Great Bear Wilderness study area under 3392. The area contains lands essential to the Grizzly Bear. Elk and Deer inhabit this area also. Extensive timber management in adjacent areas with resulting roads & thus people-vehicle impact have forced the animals of this area farther away from their normal winter & summer ranges. The impact of the outfitters & packers along the Middle fork of the Flathead River must soon be managed to avert any irreparable damage. It is a main corridor & requires management such as has been used within the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

~~But~~ We would also request that area between the continental Divide and Birch Creek covered by our treaty with the Blackfoot Indian Tribe in 1895 not be considered in the Study area. They have not abused their rights or even used their treaty rights to any great extent. To trade of their rights would not be in the best interest of the Indian, Sportsman or the Wildlife. The present management by the Forest Service has been excellent for all concerned. In this Bicentennial Year we should not be second guessing our predecessors with modifications in a document which has worked so well.

This would leave the south easterly portion viable as a study area because it is contiguous to the northern portion of the Bob Marshall Wilderness in excess of 20,000 acres & has a excellent population of Elk, Deer & Bear.

Thank You for this opportunity to speak & please include this statement as a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Nitz

(Member) Montana Wildlife Federation

THE WEALTH OF THE NATION IS IN ITS NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DOES NOT END WITH CONSERVATION

June 16, 1976
 Box 282
 Havre, Montana
 59501

Committee Chairman
 Hearing on S. 392
 Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill

Dear Sir;

I wish to make the following statement and have it made a part of the hearing record.

This area represents some of the most prime grizzly Bear habitat left in northern Montana. Extensive use of the areas opened up around Hungry Horse reservoir and Skyland road have pushed the animals farther away from their winter feed of salmon runs along the park. They have a real need for this salmon run due to the massive food intake necessary to keep them over our long winters. With this study area set up as it is it will allow them to travel this route with very little bear-people contact. We have never had a bear problem but we due in fact have a people problem.

This area also supplies a major portion of the forage during the summer and fall for the Elk herd which utilizes the lower edge of Glacier Park.

The Forest Service has a study going on in this area at present which should give us more insight into the needs and travel patterns of the elk which utilize this area. I would hope that this also become a part of the hearing record and we have a chance to comment on it.

I also wish to say that I would feel much better if you would remove the section covered by the treaty of 1895 from the study proposal. I think personally that it will serve no useful purpose to include it and could cause some long range problems. The sportsmen of The United States face a shrinking area on which to enjoy themselves now. To trade away in excess of 130,000 acres so that we have the right to study 20,000 acres is extremely ridiculous. As it is now covered by this treaty we have no timber management plans which might infringe on the Blackfoot rights but it is useable by hunters(excluding vehicles), snowmobilers and skiers. There is no greater plan for any public domain that I know of. The southeastern section would still be contiguous to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and viable as a study area under this bill. Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment. Please remove the area under the treaty from the bill.

respectfully,

Gary Stuken
 Gary Stuken

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Roholt.

Mr. ROHOLT. My name is Chris Roholt, representing the Middle Fork of the Flathead Preservation Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for scheduling these hearings in a very tight period of Congress.

The committee, which is an ad hoc group formed in 1970, whose goal is the complete and comprehensive protection of the Great Bear de facto wilderness area. The area straddles the Continental Divide and is pure wilderness in every way but classification and has been managed as such by the Forest Service and used as such by Montanans and the Nation's recreationists since the 1930's.

It contains dozens of lakes, miles of excellent trout and canoe and floating streams, two glaciers, innumerable peaks which stretch far above treeline. It forms a habitat bridge for the grizzly bear, elk, and other wilderness species between the Waterton and Glacier Parks complex, International Peace Park, and the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness complex to the south.

I have attached to my testimony a statement by Doug Chadwick who had hoped to be here but was not able to be here. This is a wildlife summary presented before the Senate hearings.

The steep rugged valleys of the Great Bear are a geologic transition between the wilderness plateau to the south and the spectacular glaciated peaks of the parks to the north. As a bridge, the Great Bear is the key link in a large ecological unit and protects the integrity of the other four pieces.

I would also like to say that the Middle Fork of the Flathead is the last of the unthreatened streams of the three forks of the Flathead which provide the watershed for the Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake west of the Missouri, natural freshwater lake.

The second page is just a map of the area.

I think I will defer summarizing the rest of my statement and just ask that it be read into the record.

I would like to make a comment suggesting that the cost of this area of this bill, the study bill, would be essentially zero because commodity production is deferred in the area as it stands now or most of the area.

I also welcome the opportunity for the Forest Service to look at this area for suitability because that is where their professional expertise lies and where their responsibilities as far as the relationship between the agency and Congress lies, with Congress reserving the right to judge suitability and need.

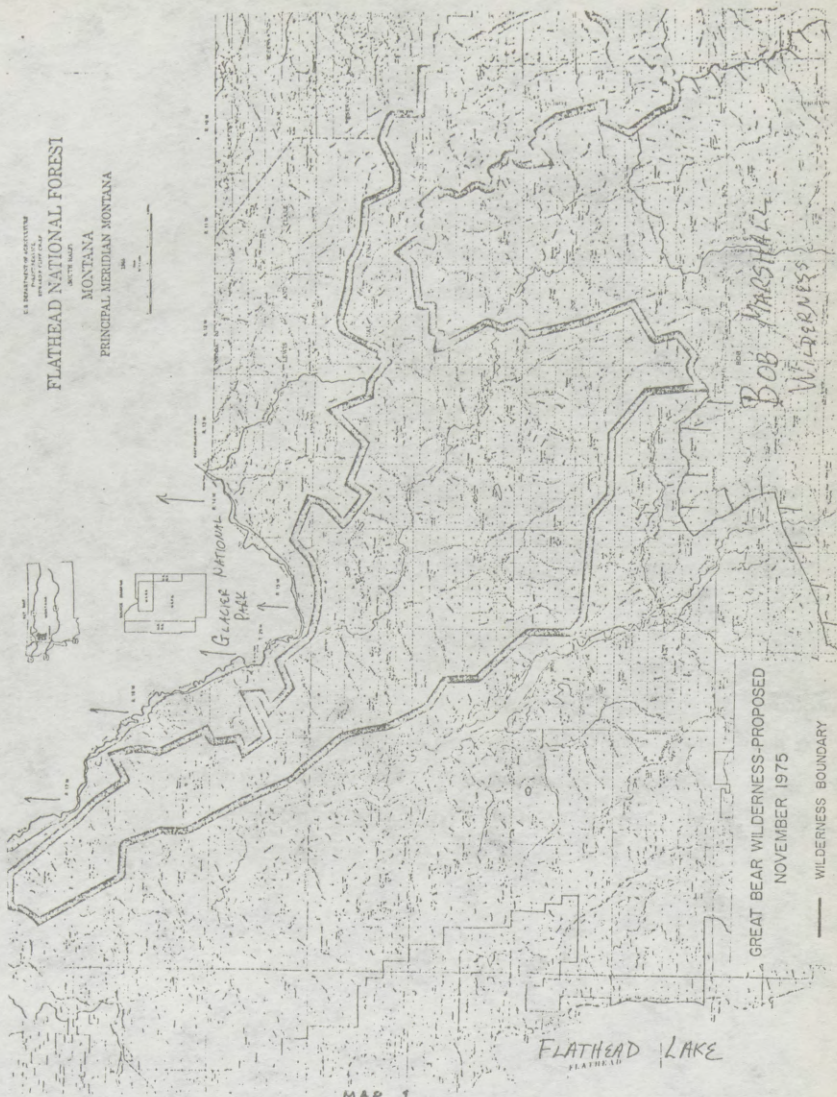
With that, I think I will stop and be prepared to answer questions.

[Information referred to follows.]

STATEMENT OF CHRIS ROHOLT
 FOR THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE FLATHEAD PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
 BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
 HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 WASHINGTON, D.C., CONCERNING S.392
 THE GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS STUDY BILL

My name is Chris Roholt representing the Middle Fork of the Flathead Preservation Committee (MFFPC). This is an ad hoc group formed in 1970 whose goal is the complete and comprehensive protection on the Great Bear defacto wilderness. The Great Bear straddles the continental divide and is 378,000 acres of pure wilderness in every way but classification. It has been managed as such by the Forest Service and used as such by Montana's and the Nation's recreationists since the 1930's. It contains dozens of lakes, miles of excellent trout and floating streams, two glaciers, and innumerable peaks which stretch far above tree line. The Great Bear forms a habitat bridge for grizzly bear, elk, other wilderness species between the Waterton and Glacier Parks complex (International Peace Park) and the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness complex (see attached Senate testimony by Doug Chadwick concerning wildlife consideration). The steep rugged valleys are a geologic transition between the Wilderness plateau to the south and the spectacular glaciated peaks of the Parks to the north. As a bridge, the Great Bear is the key link in a large ecological unit and protects the integrity of the other four pieces.

The area west of the continental divide is dominated by the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. This is the only still unthreatened fork of the Flathead Lake watershed. The South Fork is blocked by Hungry Horse dam and the North Fork may be degraded by Canadian coal development. Flathead Lake is the largest natural, freshwater lake west of the Mississippi.



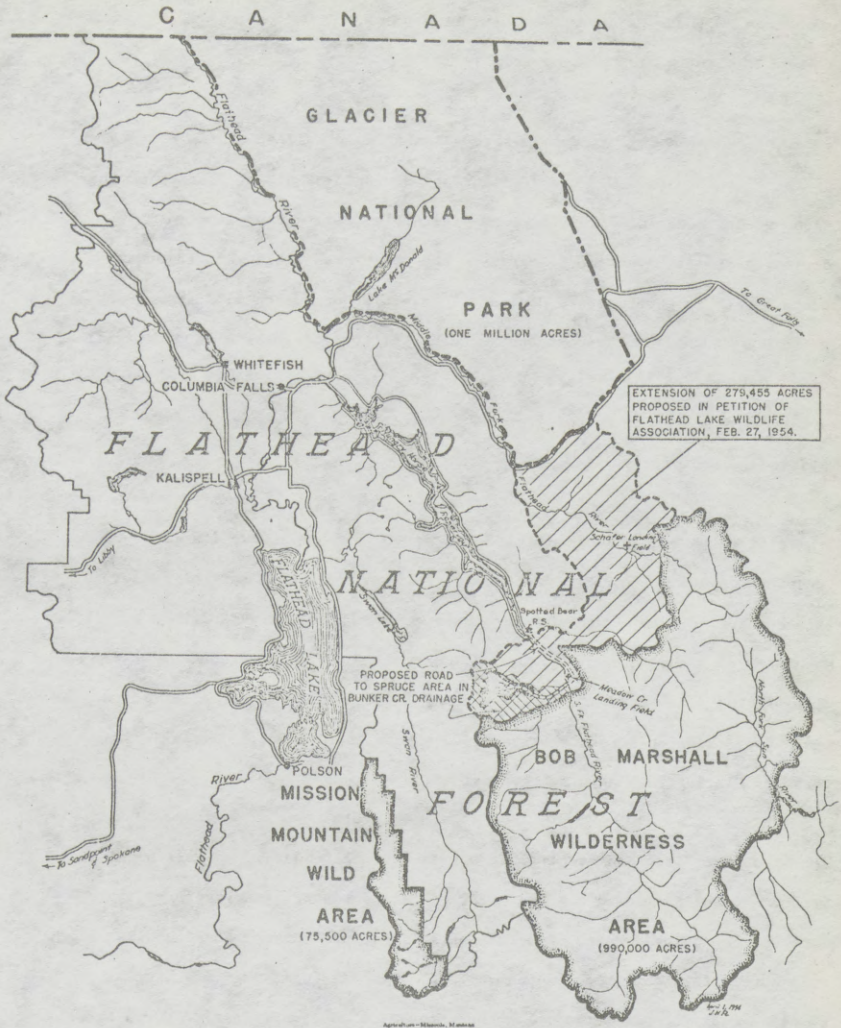
Pure strains of the rare and endangered west slope cutthroat are found only in the Flathead drainage.

The east side (Lewis and Clark Forest) is composed of a series of benches topped by a scenic hogback ridge. This side is highly valued by hunters and horse users and is becoming more appreciated by backpackers.

While the Great Bear proposal is the first citizen initiated protective measure since the passage of the Wilderness Act is is not the first. In 1950-54, Flathead citizens were rebuffed by the Forest Service in an attempt to classify the area as under the administration "U" regulations (see map 2): It is not surprising that their conservative, even modest proposal was rejected as this was during the "benevolent neglect" period of Forest Service dedication and management of wild and wilderness areas. This condition persisted until the passage of the Wilderness Act, landmark legislation that at last gives the Great Bear a chance to survive as a magnificent Wilderness and a critical component of this northern Rockies ecosystem.

When presented with a Wilderness or even a Wilderness study bill, it is important to consider the potential cost of commodity values forgone. In the case of the Great Bear, this is essentially 0, because all of the Great Bear proposal is a New Study Area or roadless area. Forest Service land that is in either of these categories will be deferred from commodity production (similar to Wilderness) until Forest Service planning takes place.

Since the area has such high Wilderness quality and passage of the study bill has such low opportunity cost we recommend that the committee act favorably on Senate bill 392.



MAP 2

Testimony presented at Senate hearings on the Great Bear Wilderness bill - S 392, May 20, 1975, by Douglas H. Chadwick.

My name is Douglas Chadwick. I am here speaking as president of the Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association and on behalf of Friends of the Earth and Defenders of Wildlife. I am a wildlife biologist presently completing my fifth year of research on the behavioral ecology of the rocky mountain goat in northwestern Montana. I have also conducted wildlife surveys in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and adjacent portions of the Flathead National Forest and studied the effects of roading and logging on wildlife populations. My current research is centered around Glacier National Park where I am employed as a biologist.

I have hiked through portions of the Great Bear and flown down its long, sweeping canyons while surveying wildlife. I have a special sort of image of this country in my mind because for three years, while I lived high on a mountainside with the Swan Mountain goats, the door of my tent opened to a view of the Great Bear. Winter and summer, I watched the sequence of storms and sunsets stretch across this vast and rugged belt of mountains with the peaks of Glacier Park shining beyond them.

The Great Bear is grand country. It offers the challenge and special high freedom of the Rockies along the crest of our continent. Its landforms include ice-sculpted crags, glacial lakes, limestone canyons running with wild pure waters, and broad, open valleys. To me it seems the very best kind of wilderness for our nation. I am here today to speak not just of human needs, but of the needs of wild creatures and the nature of the wildland ecosystems they need to survive.

The Great Bear is a living wilderness. Within its boundaries are vestslope cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, mountain whitefish, kokanee salmon, golden eagles, bald eagles, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bobcats, lynx, cougar, wolverine, marten, fisher, black bear, grizzly bear, coyote, and, according to recent reports, a few timber wolves. Several of these species are rare, threatened, or endangered within the United States. Most of them still carry out free-ranging, dominant roles within a natural and continuous ecosystem which consists of Glacier Park, the Great Bear, and the Bob Marshall wilderness. Such a vital and spectacular wildlife community, containing nearly every faunal species native to the northern Rocky Mountains, is found nowhere else in the nation. Within this vast ecosystem, such large animals still are able to conduct daily movements and seasonal migrations unimpeded. They can make use of an integrated mosaic of habitats and interact with an entire spectrum of native predator and competitors. This is why they still survive here, and this is what they require in order to continue - both in their own right, and for future generations of people to use as a source of inspiration and knowledge. It does little good to create separate, smaller ecosystems with artificial boundaries for many of these animals. Certainly, they may be preserved for a while in this way, but their ecological roles can easily become reduced and then static. We know that small, confined populations soon become relicts under many conditions. Such isolated groups are then subject to behavioral - social modifications and, finally, subject to the physical effects of inbreeding with a limited gene pool. In other words, as the size and diversity of wildland habitats are reduced, so is the flexibility and evolutionary potential of a free-ranging, intelligent species. And finally, any isolated population is vulnerable to sudden decimation through disease, parasitism, natural catastrophe, and exploitation by man.

To a biologist, this is the proper perspective for viewing our efforts to preserve wild animals, and I do not say this simply because it is my opinion or helpful to the support of the Great Bear.

It appears that the Great Bear is geographically central and biologically essential to the Glacier Park-Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness ecosystem. Available data indicates that nearly every species which I mentioned earlier has ranges which overlap at least two of these areas. Most of the animals mentioned require not only a suitably large ecosystem in order to maintain their numbers, but one which is largely undisturbed by man throughout its length and breadth. Some of these species seem able to persevere only in wilderness habitats.

The proposed wilderness takes its name from our largest terrestrial carnivore, the grizzly bear - Ursus arctos - the bear that walks like a man. Once, before the coming of the white man to North America, as many as 1,000,000 of these monumental animals inhabited the area of the lower 48 states. Today, less than 1,000, and perhaps less than 700, remain. This is a dangerously low number, and the U.S. Interior Department recently proposed classification of the grizzly as a "threatened" species. Interior Department biologists stated in their report¹ that "...the grizzly bear probably is more dependent on large tracts of undisturbed wilderness than any other North American mammal." This is another way of saying: "As wilderness goes, so goes the grizzly." Outside of the Yellowstone area, grizzlies are found in the lower 48 states only within the Glacier Park-Great Bear-Bob Marshall ecosystem. Grizzly populations in Yellowstone are considered by many to be in considerable jeopardy.² Part of the problem in the Yellowstone area is that the Park boundaries are arbitrary and much smaller than the ecosystem utilized by the grizzly, and this has led to endless administrative as well as biological conflicts.

Within its remaining range in northwestern Montana, the grizzly bear is disappearing from unprotected habitats. Independent reports by Chadwick^{3.} and Schallenberger^{4.} have pointed out recent declines of grizzly populations through poaching and overhunting in accessible portions of their range. Data from Montana State Fish and Game Department hunting harvests^{5.}, which I have mapped, and from other biologists and experienced observers suggest that in addition to linking major grizzly populations in Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Great Bear is itself prime grizzly habitat and that grizzlies are well distributed throughout this centrally located portion of their remaining range. These data also indicate considerable regular movement across the boundaries of the three ecosystem components. This appears to be particularly true along the northern boundary where Glacier Park meets the Great Bear and so lends support to the hypothesis, put forward by Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan and others, that United States grizzly populations as far south as the Bob Marshall may survive in part because they are replenished by grizzlies migrating down from Canada through the Glacier-Great Bear corridor. Dr. John Craighead, a well-known grizzly expert, has recorded frequent movements by grizzlies of 50 to 100 airline miles, using animals marked with radio transmitters. He has calculated that some bears may have home ranges as large as 1,000 square miles. Because the grizzly bear roams freely throughout the Glacier Park-Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness ecosystem, and because this intact wilderness corridor may hold its last hope for survival in the contiguous United States, the Great Bear's wildlands and continuity must be preserved if the grizzly is to be preserved. I urge the committee to solicit the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species as to the status of the grizzly and the significance of this proposed wilderness to its continued existence.

There is recent and exciting evidence from two scientists, Singer^{6.} and Schallenberg, that Montana now has a few resident timber wolves, though these animals were previously thought to have vanished from the 48 states outside of the northern Great Lakes region. These Montana wolves are very likely members of the endangered subspecies Canis lupus irremotus, the northern rocky mountain timber wolf.

This species has been sighted primarily along the North and Middle Forks of the Flathead, in Glacier Park and the Great Bear. Recent increases in the number of sightings in those areas, along with still unverified sightings along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Great Bear, suggest that the wildland corridor ecosystem may have allowed wolves to migrate into the area from Canadian populations and has since acted as a refuge and a secondary center of expansion. Singer's map of wolf sightings along the Glacier-Great Bear boundary shows an obvious overlap of ranges. On the North Fork area, Singer found wolf packs travelling a route which encompassed some 40 miles by 35 miles. Other studies have revealed even more extensive movements. Singer states that: "The categorization of that area as the Great Bear Wilderness would certainly improve the chances of maintaining a resident population of wolves in that part of Montana." This is particularly true since the Montana wolf's primary range in the North Fork is threatened by massive coal strip mining operations, an influx of people to the area, reduction of its native food species, and general disturbance. Like the grizzly, which is also threatened in the North Fork by coal mining, oil and gas exploration, extensive roadbuilding and logging, and subdivision, the wolf is a wilderness species. Carbyn^{7.} and several others, including Haber^{8.} and Peterson^{9.} and Allen, have shown that human disturbances and hunting can lead to loss of key pack individuals, fragmentation of groups, avoidance of prime hunting areas, rendezvous sites, and abandonment of dens - all detrimental to its survival. Again, the Great Bear and its adjacent wildlands may be the key to the future of

an endangered species and restoration of populations to some of their native wildlands.

The importance of a large, integral ecosystem and the Glacier Park-Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness corridor in particular can be illustrated by the history of the wolverine. It was trapped and poisoned throughout its range, even in Glacier Park, until it virtually disappeared from Montana. According to Dr. Philip L. Wright of the University of Montana, it was able to reestablish itself first in Glacier Park, and then, via the wilderness corridor, the Great Bear and finally the Bob Marshall Wilderness in which it now expanding to fill adjacent wilderness habitats.

Elk are considered Montana's major game animal by many. The largest populations in northwestern Montana are found along the Middle Fork river within the Great Bear and where its southern boundary adjoins the South Fork of the Flathead. Some 200 elk winter just above and below Schafer, and some 500-800 head winter on the south facing slopes near the South Fork. There is abundant evidence that elk migrate between all three components of the corridor ecosystem. Many elk which summer within the Great Bear winter in the Belton hills of Glacier Park or along the South Fork. Radio-tracking studies by Simmons showed elk moving from the South Fork Horse Ridge area eastward through the Great Bear and across the continental divide. Here again a species, considered by many a wilderness species, is making use of an entire ecosystem and showing little regard for artificial boundaries in their movements or survival requirements. Here too, the continuing elk problem in Yellowstone Park and the adjacent Gallatin Forest illustrates the danger of separating ecosystem components in regard to a highly mobile species.

11.

Mountain goats, as studied by myself and others, are often reduced in developed habitats, particularly where easy access is provided by new roads, by overhunting and poaching. The mountain goat harvest in the South Fork of the Flathead fell from a high of 74 in 1957 to as few as 5 in recent years. At the same time period, road mileage, nearly all of it for logging access, increased from about 150 miles to nearly 700 miles in the lower South Fork. Though not a migratory species as a rule, goats are known to cross between Glacier Park and the Great Bear, and between ranges in the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Moose populations are also declining in Montana's developed habitats because of overhunting and poaching. River bottom habitats, primarily along the Middle Fork floodplain, constitute a significant addition to the moose's remaining populations. The range of this species too crosses both northern and southern boundaries of the Great Bear.

The Middle Fork of the Flathead River provides aquatic habitat which is vital to the continued existence of our nation's only pure migratory strain of westslope cutthroat trout and also to the increasingly rare Dolly Varden. Dolly Varden within the Flathead area are the largest in North America. Both cutthroat and Dolly Varden have been drastically reduced or eliminated in most of the country by destruction of spawning areas, siltation, damming of migratory routes, and introduction of exotic fish species.

12. 13. 14.
 Hanzel, Block, and the Fish and Wildlife Service have documented migration of these species between Flathead Lake and tributary headwaters as far as 100 miles upstream. The Montana

State Fish and Game Department, recognizing the threats to survival of these species, has permanently closed many tributaries of the North and Middle Fork Rivers to fishing. Forest Service fisheries biologists have recommended reduced clearcutting and roading in the North Fork to protect fisheries resources.^{15.}

I have already mentioned the coal strip mining, oil and gas exploration, subdivision, and extensive logging developments which threaten the North Fork. The South Fork of the Flathead River was dammed a number of years ago, eliminating further migratory movements to spawning grounds in that tributary. The Middle Fork alone remains largely unchanged. It is presently thought to contain some 55% of the cutthroat spawning habitat above Flathead Lake, and about 50% of the migratory Dolly Varden population. The Middle Fork's steep terrain and unstable glacial soils make it highly likely that any development within the Great Bear would have significant adverse affects on fish populations both in the Great Bear and in portions of Glacier Park drained by the Middle Fork. Last fall, Fish and Game biologists reported large bald eagle concentrations in salmon spawning areas along the Middle Fork during late fall.

In preserving the Great Bear in its pristine state, we are accomplishing far more than the setting aside of a high quality wilderness of remote and rugged terrain. We are also protecting the headwaters of a magnificently wild and scenic river. We are joining the Great Bear with two other wildland areas, Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, to forge one of the largest and most important native ecosystems on the continent. Because we can accomplish that union, we may be able to assure the survival of

an unparalleled community of our most rare and majestic wild animals. I hope it does not appear to be an exaggeration when I say that if any other nation had such a magnificent wildlife heritage and such a rare opportunity, so few conflicting demands, to create a great wild preserve, we would exhort them to do so for the sake of science and humanity. If such an ecosystem were established, it would be a source of great national pride and an assurance to all the world that these species would always have the opportunity to survive and change in accordance with the scheme of nature. We would know that future generations of people would have future generations of animals to share the earth with them.

I have no doubt but what we could make a little money off the Great Bear's timber and mineral resources, though they do not seem to be very important. Still, we could create a few new jobs, gain a few more materials. But would it cost us more in the long run to build the network of destructive roads to reach these resources - and to maintain and repair these roads? What would it cost us in the long run from loss of tourism, hunting and fishing revenues because of habitat destruction? And what would it cost us in the long run to live without animals such as the grizzly bear and wolf; animals which symbolize wild freedom. Creatures which add an entire dimension to our imaginations and our experience of nature? Once they are gone, all the money and resources in the world won't bring them back. For once, let us agree unanimously to forego short-term profit for a few people and provide a national treasure of immeasurable beauty, enjoyment and potential knowledge for all. Make the Great Bear a wilderness.

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Delke and Osborne Casey.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936

Douglas Chadwick

Swan Lake, Montana

Dear Doug:

I received your letter this morning asking for information on wolves along the southern portion of Glacier National Park. The categorization of that area as the Great Bear Wilderness would certainly improve the chances of maintaining a resident population of wolves in that part of Montana. As you know I studied wolves in the northern part of Glacier National Park and found that they regularly traveled a large area, about 40 miles by 35 miles. Since wolves are pretty easy to see and to shoot in areas where they frequent, a large area is required to keep them around.

My investigations in the Middle Fork are not as extensive or as thorough as the North Fork. There may be many more observations of wolves in that area that I do not know about. Also, as of yet, I do not know of any regularly used travel routes or dens in the area. I have only been working in the Middle Fork for three months and have been studying mountain goats primarily.

Observations that I feel sure are accurate

1. Tim Darr's father saw 2 wolves together, from U. S. Highway 2 near Devils Creek in the winter of 1972.
2. On three occasions in the 8 years of his residence near Summitt, Don Lucke has seen single wolves cross U. S. Highway 2 in the Summitt area.
3. Tom Baldwin (mostly) and the Highway Crew saw a single wolf for two winters running (1970 and 1971) in the vicinity of Nimrod; they saw it about 4 or 5 times each of those winters. The HR killed several elk in that vicinity those winters and the wolf may have been feeding on them.
[Darr, Lucke and Baldwin are on the Montana State Highway Crew out of Summitt. Darr and Lucke have been outfitters in the area.]
4. Dwight Daber who has worked in Timber for the U. S. Forest Service, Hungry Horse District for many years and knows the country there



Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday

as well as anyone alive. Daber with two hunting partners during the 1974 hunting season saw one large dark grey wolf in a clearcut along Skyland Creek Section 17. All three hunters jumped out of their truck and shot at it. It was a heavy animal with a big head and left big 5" tracks in the fresh snow.

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Observations that I have not verified yet

I have not completely verified as yet 10 other observations in the Middle Fork. Very briefly, these involve the sighting of a wolf chasing a mule deer on the open exposures north of Fielding by a long time resident, the sighting of 6 wolves (3 of which were black) by a hunter along the Spotted Bear River, the sighting of a gray wolf by Jerry Ross [good observer and packer foreman at Glacier Park] on the Spotted Bear River, and 7 different observations from near Nyack Flats, including one of 4 animals.

It is obvious that we have a wolf population in this area that will be affected by the status of the Great Bear Wilderness area proposal. The specifics concerning the status, ecology and locations of the population are not known at this time.

Attached figure of locations.

Sincerely yours,

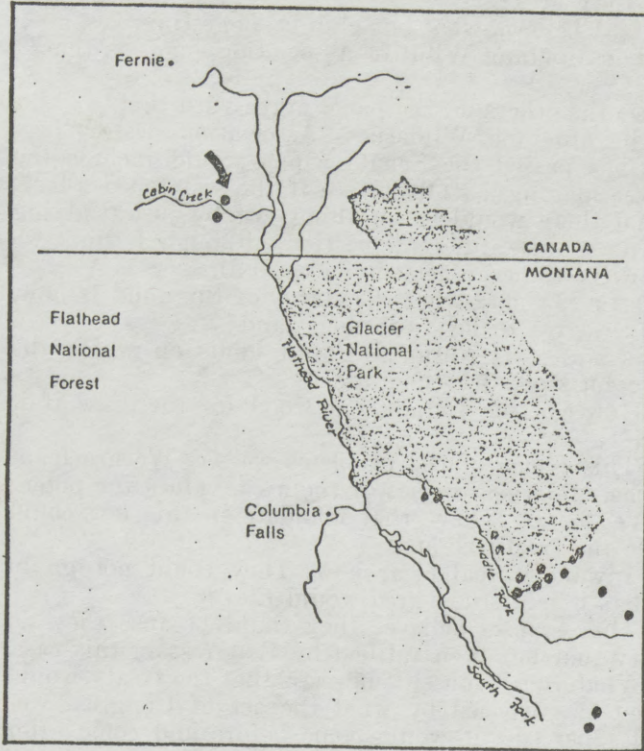
Francis J. Singer

Francis J. Singer
Biologist

P. S. Included on the figure are observations in the report for the northern part of Glacier National Park [Singer, F. J. 1975. Status and history of wolves in northern Glacier National Park, Montana. Glacier National Park Scientific Paper No. 1, West Glacier. 55 p.] of animals seen in the Middle Fork.

Figure 1. Observations of wolves presently known to me from the area of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.

The approximate location of the proposed open pit coal mine, illustration by Donita Eaton



Mr. MELCHER. Ms. Nitz, are you suggesting an amendment? Did I understand you correctly?

Ms. NITZ. I think that could be answered—

Mr. GIBSON. The Indian treaty lands are marked in orange right here. They are inside the Senate bill study area. The study area is outlined in red.

Mr. MELCHER. Ms. Nitz, are you suggesting the orange portion be taken out of the study area?

Ms. NITZ. That is, I believe, what our club is suggesting, yes.

Mr. MELCHER. The Montana Wildlife Association suggests that?

Ms. NITZ. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. Do the others on the panel agree with that?

Mr. MARBLE. The Montana Wilderness Association desires passage of 392 as it has passed the Senate which would include the area. We cannot see making a study to see if the watershed affects any rights and that there would be anything lost by just studying it. So we would take a little different position, although I think we are all basically in the same agreement on the bill.

Mr. MELCHER. I am not sure what the status of this land is now. Does the tribe have access to it? Is it their land?

Mr. GIBSON. No, sir; it is National Forest lands on which the tribe may enter to cut wood for their use.

Mr. MELCHER. How can the Indians cut wood for their use if it were a study area?

Mr. PETERSON. This is one of the problems we see. We are mandated to protect the wilderness values of the area, values for potential wilderness. We do not believe that mandate in this law could or should override the treaty rights.

Mr. MELCHER. I want it real clear now. They could not go in there to cut wood if it is a study area, could they?

Mr. PETERSON. Our counsel believes they could because they do have a valid treaty that has been ratified by Congress in this case.

Mr. MELCHER. What your counsel believes is that the treaty would be paramount then or governed by what the act of Congress was in 1964. It would supercede, it would come before and come after it, because the 1964 act would clearly say they cannot cut any wood in there in a study area.

Mr. PETERSON. The 1964 act does not address these kinds of study areas. It addresses primitive areas.

Mr. MELCHER. I see. You think you can have a study area for a wilderness, that Congress should go to the trouble of passing a law to set up a study area to put something into the wilderness system that meanwhile could be managed in such a way that it would defeat the very purpose of the study and the possibility of including it in the wilderness system?

Mr. PETERSON. No; I do not think the Congress or the Forest Service would want to do that at all. However, S. 392 does present us with a real practical problem. If during the study the Indians wanted to exercise their rights, I think we would very likely have a real problem on our hands meeting the intent of Congress to protect the study area and at the same time having a treaty that gives the Indians certain rights.

Mr. MELCHER. Max, what in effect you are saying is regardless of what Congress did here, a study bill or an act putting it in the wilderness system, it would not nullify or change the treaty?

Mr. PETERSON. I believe that is right.

Mr. MELCHER. And, therefore, the conclusion of your counsel is even if Congress acted putting this portion under wilderness status, the tribe could still go in and chop down trees?

Mr. PETERSON. I am not sure what the situation would be if Congress designated a portion of the treaty area as wilderness.

Mr. MELCHER. Your recommendation is to do nothing with that area?

Mr. PETERSON. We recommend taking it out of the wilderness study because we think it creates a very difficult problem for us.

Mr. MELCHER. Now, I will ask the panel. Ms. Nitz says to take it out of the study. In view of what Mr. Peterson has just told us, what is your suggestion now? He just told us that regardless of what Congress did, very likely the tribe could exercise their authority to remove trees whenever they wanted to.

Mr. ROHOLT. We think the fundamental thrust of the bill is to provide a test of suitability for this area, including the 20,000 acres that you are referring to.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes; I am glad you identified how many acres are involved because I do not know that anybody did. It is 20,000 acres.

Mr. ROHOLT. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. How far is it from the Continental Divide?

Mr. ROHOLT. It is contiguous to it and on the east side of it. The Continental Divide is right here.

Mr. MELCHER. If it were deleted, what would be the boundary in that area, the Continental Divide?

Mr. ROHOLT. It would go southeast to the boundary of the Bob Marshall and skirt the north end of the Bob Marshall and then back up the boundary.

Mr. MELCHER. Please proceed.

Mr. ROHOLT. We would prefer the area to remain in the bill to be studied for suitability, at the very least, and in fact we support the bill as passed by the Senate.

Mr. MELCHER. What is the purpose of your keeping it in the area for suitability if obviously the outcome—let us accept what Mr. Peterson said, that probably if it were designated as wilderness by a subsequent act, probably the tribe would still retain the rights to chop down trees there.

Mr. ROHOLT. While that is possible, I do not think that would—well, it is difficult to see what the future would bring. I think there is also the possibility that perhaps the Indian tribe themselves may put some restrictions on the entitlements that they, in fact, claim, which might make it compatible with wilderness. There is a whole gambit of possibilities here and we just would like to see the area examined for suitability, so that if one of these other possibilities arises, then the Forest Service can recommend to the Congress whether or not, in fact, they think this area could be classified as wilderness by the Congress.

Mr. MELCHER. Mr. Gilpatrick wants to add something.

Mr. GILPATRICK. The organizations I represent recommend that this 20,000 acres be excluded because they feel it will cause some unnecessary controls.

Mr. MELCHER. So, we have two of the panel of five that now are telling us that we ought to exclude it. Maybe we had better take a rollcall on the panel.

Mr. MARBLE. Mr. Chairman, we will point out that the area proposed does include 365,000 acres, so we are really just talking about the 20,000 acres. It is important to point out we all support the bill, we are just talking about a very small percentage of the land base.

Again, the Montana Wilderness Association, with all due respect to the other two groups, feels that it is just a study bill. It is not going to affect any rights. I assume that when the Forest Service comes out with their study after 1 year, they will probably say, "Take that 20,000 out," but I think it will be interesting and instructive to leave it in and not amend it and see what they say. We really have not taken a strong position one way or another on this 20,000 acres whether it should actually be wilderness or not because there are so many questions that need to be answered, and inclusion in the study area is not going to hurt anybody. There is no commercial timber of any consequence in that area. The Indian people are not exercising their rights in the area, and we do not foresee that they will. Studying it for 1 year certainly is not going to hurt anybody, although I can understand the feelings of the other two groups, but I do not think it is a major problem.

Mr. MELCHER. I might say that in 4 years that I have chaired this subcommittee, I do not recall any proposal being advanced to the hearing stage where a question came up similar to this. I think as far as I am concerned, this is a precedent. I do not recall getting involved with a proposal to designate as wilderness—and a study bill certainly is a first step to designate it as wilderness—I do not remember anything ever being proposed where an Indian tribe had rights on a portion that was to be designated as wilderness. Have I missed something? Can you tell me if you have had similar proposals to this?

Mr. GRISWOLD. We had, in the last Congress, the Aqua Tibia Wilderness which had an Indian treaty rights area in it. The Congress excluded the treaty area from designation.

Mr. MELCHER. We get a lot of problems in California.

I think the preference of Senator Metcalf was for including this area in the Wilderness system now. I think it was other Senators that asked that it be a study area bill rather than an outright bill to include this area in the Wilderness system. Frankly, a study bill with a 1-year limitation on it is—while we would probably bow to what the Senate proposes, and it will just be a Senate bill—ordinarily, we would take a bill like this and enact it. There has been a lot of discussion about including this area in the Wilderness system, and it is not some new idea. I think some of your testimony goes back to where it was proposed that certain management be exercised in the 1950's before we even had the Wilderness Act. So what we do now on the study bill will probably parallel what we

would probably recommend if we were acting on it as a final act and putting it in the Wilderness system. Absent the clear desire of the tribe to make some arrangements on their rights in this 20,000 acres, I think this subcommittee would find it difficult to place some constraints on it, and very difficult to set the stage, as it were, for some sort of negotiations between the Forest Service and the Department of Interior and the tribe that is included within 1 year or some sort of a rights swap.

I do not believe we want to get into that type of arrangement. I am telling you this very candidly now because I for one do not want to become in the middle of what I think is an impossibility to get the Forest Service to somehow trade some rights of this 20,000 acres with the tribe—and forget about the Department of Interior—and forget about the Department of Interior—that the Forest Service would negotiate with the tribe in 12 months' time on whatever rights are in this 20,000 acres for some other rights somewhere else.

I think that poses all kinds of problems. The Indian tribes as I know them, negotiate slowly, allowing the members of the tribe to fully understand what is being negotiated, and I do not believe that within 1 year's time it is very likely the Forest Service would come up with any kind of proposition that the tribe would want to accept. Then we have a new set of rights to consider, too. What happens to whoever had the water rights served by water that drains from some other area that the Forest Service may be negotiating with. I think we are probably burdening the bill with a lot for only 20,000 acres.

I mention all of this to you now so you can understand what I think is a pretty tough position to place this subcommittee in, to make a Solomon's decision on what should be done.

Before you leave, and I do not want to keep you too long, did you say the mineral survey had been concluded on this area?

Mr. MARBLE. It is my impression that the mineral survey has basically been completed. The fieldwork on the mineral study has been completed, apparently, but it needs to be polished up.

Mr. MELCHER. Let's hear right at this point from the Bureau of Mines in the USGS. Are you gentlemen present? Larry Walters and John Wells. Have you completed your survey?

Mr. WELLS. No, we have not.

Mr. MELCHER. Can you complete it within a year?

Mr. WELLS. We can complete the fieldwork. To get it completed within a year is not possible, because we won't have our reports completely finished certainly until after the fieldwork is done and that isn't done yet.

We are working on it this year. We will finish it this coming season.

Mr. MELCHER. You will finish the fieldwork this season?

Mr. WELLS. Yes. We have people planning to go in there right now.

Mr. MELCHER. If this bill were signed by the President, say, prior to October the 2d when Congress plans to adjourn, and it still was a year's time, that still would not give you enough time?

Mr. WELLS. No, because as I understand the Department of Forest Service people it takes a year for them to work on it after the full studies are made and we can't have our reports to them within a year.

Mr. MELCHER. I notice this says this study will be completed within a year and I think it is the intent of the bill that the Forest Service would therefore forward to the President a recommendation within that year or by the end of the year, and you could not have yours done. Can you tell us about how long you think it will be?

Mr. WELLS. We could have it certainly by January or February of 1977.

Mr. MELCHER. 1978?

Mr. WELLS. 1978, right.

Mr. MELCHER. We are talking about a few months over the year that this bill would be signed.

One other thing, you mentioned recreation in your testimony. The area is well known for its wilderness and wildlife values. When you say recreational, just for my clarification, what recreational value? Is there any snowmobiling in this area?

Mr. MARBLE. Congressman, it is my impression that the area within this boundary is not utilized at the present time by any motorized recreation, so we are talking mostly about hikers, horse people. Airplanes do come into Schafer, but that is no problem.

Mr. MELCHER. Where is Schafer?

Mr. ROHOLT. It is on the middle fork of the Flathead River on a big flat right there.

Mr. MELCHER. Why is that no problem?

Mr. MARBLE. Under the Wilderness Act you can continue present existing uses and we have had hearings and extensive meetings in Montana on this subject with the pilots associations and pilots and wilderness people, and so this has been considered.

Mr. MELCHER. I don't believe you can do that under the act. We don't believe that you can have a permanent landing strip.

Mr. MARBLE. My impression is that under the present existing uses clause in something—in such an unusual situation as this it could be used.

Mr. MELCHER. Under the act for purposes of safety, you would certainly want that to continue, but we don't believe that a landing strip necessarily belongs in a wilderness.

Mr. MARBLE. We are not supporting it. We are not exactly happy about an airport in there, but we think these things can all be hashed out.

Mr. MELCHER. What is it being used for now?

Mr. MARBLE. For light airplanes to land in there.

Mr. ROHOLT. Primarily recreational users often fly in canoes and kayaks and then float out.

Mr. MELCHER. You land there and then go wilderness buff after you get there?

Mr. ROHOLT. White water canoeing, at least. I may be mistaken, but it may have some administrative uses, but not as much as recreational.

Mr. MELCHER. We will check it out. Counsel will try to tell me.

Mr. ROHOLT. May I more fully address your question about recreation? There are over 20,000 people who visit the area a year, and I think that more directly answers your question as to recreational uses.

Mr. MELCHER. None of them are on motorcycles or snowmobiles?

Mr. ROHOLT. No, not substantially.

Mr. MELCHER. How substantial? I said none of them.

Mr. ROHOLT. I am not—as far as we know, none.

Mr. MELCHER. The airport is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness?

Mr. ROHOLT. It is within 8 to 10 miles, something like that, less than that.

Mr. MELCHER. If, for some reason, this airport is necessary and it were included in the wilderness would it be an island in the wilderness or would it be just part of it?

Mr. ROHOLT. We felt it would be managed quite similar to the three landing strips in the Bitterroot or the landing strips in the Idaho Primitive Area, that is that use would be maintained in the area, but that—and perhaps because of some regulations for safety the strip might be administratively promulgated, but I guess different from what the Forest Service feels that the Wilderness Act is flexible enough to allow for this use as an established use and still manage the area substantially as wilderness in character.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. I have no real questions. As I understand, probably all of the witnesses approve of the contents of the Senate bill that is before us. That is the only question I had.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. CLAUSEN. On that line of questioning, I came in late and therefore did not have a chance to hear all that was said, but I gather there was a partial difference of opinion between some of the members as to what the final outcome should be. I am referring to the last comments that I heard from Mr. Gilpatrick when he said he didn't want to have any control over a certain area, and I didn't quite hear what he was saying.

Having made that point, are you saying that whatever you have in the way of differences in opinion on the panel, it could be addressed during the study process which is the thrust of this legislation.

Mr. GILPATRICK. I realize fully that this is merely a bill to study the area, and I am not sure that my organization knows as much about it as I have learned the last day or so. I believe Mr. Melcher said that ordinarily these areas that are included in the study are usually included in the primitive area and my organization is on record as trying to exclude the area at this present time to keep away from any unnecessary controversy.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you all very much. I think your testimony has been very helpful.

Mr. David Schaenen, representing the Montana Petroleum Association.

STATEMENT OF DAVID SCHAELEN, MONTANA PETROLEUM
ASSOCIATION AND MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Mr. SCHAELEN. Mr. Chairman, members of the Public Lands Subcommittee, my name is David Schaenen. I am employed by Warren Hancock in Billings, Mont., as his explorations manager.

Mr. Hancock is an oil and gas operator and we are exclusively an exploration company. I am appearing before you today as a representative of the Montana Petroleum Association which is the Montana arm of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association. I also appear as a representative for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States.

All of these organizations are vitally concerned with S. 392 and similar legislation in our continuing efforts to find sufficient supplies of oil and gas so that the United States might be less dependent upon foreign sources of supply.

We would submit that the 1-year period allocated for this study is insufficient, and I think we have heard from the respective governmental agencies that this is probably the case. We feel that at best the time should be extended to 2 to 3 years, whatever time it takes to do an adequate evaluation of the entire area based on an examination on the ground.

Now, in the process of reviewing S. 392, we have made an attempt to review the potential for oil and gas, exploration and development for the entire area. By this area we don't mean just this particular wilderness area. We are talking about now what has perhaps been discovered as a potential area encompassing 4,000 miles running from the northern tip of Alaska southward into Mexico. This is called the "disturbed belt" and it represents an area of folded and thrust-faulted sediment and is geologically extremely diverse and complex.

In the disturbed belt in Montana, there has been no oil or gas discovered to date, and quite frankly very few attempts have been made due to the extremely high risk, the complex geology and the great cost of exploration.

To point up the importance of this area for oil and gas development, I would like to call your attention to the attached résumé of the disturbed belt of Montana and its oil and gas potential which was prepared by Mr. Robert A. Meek, who is presently serving as the president of the Montana Geologic Society. With his permission we have enclosed a copy of the report together with an accompanying map which you also have showing the regional areal extent of the disturbed belt with the major Canadian gas fields and recent Wyoming and Utah oil and gas discoveries.

Mr. Meek's report emphasizes that the potential for this overthrust belt is great and that interest has increased rapidly.

In Montana alone in the last 6 months, over 1 million acres have been leased or applied for by companies and individuals interested in the development of oil and gas on our public domain.

As a point of interest, I might mention with the most recent Amoco discovery in southwestern Wyoming in the disturbed belt,

over 5 million acres of lands have been leased or applied for. With the great gas field of Alberta to the north, and the developing oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeast Utah to the south, it is logical to assume that similar geologic conditions can be found in Montana that could result in the discovery of substantial accumulations of oil and gas. Such discoveries could well result in improved economic conditions for Montana and its citizens.

At the present time, Montana vitally needs development of its oil and gas resources. We are facing a very serious threat of a cut-off of imported Canadian gas to our businesses and residential homes, more particularly in the western part of the State, and we are further faced with a reduction in imported Canadian crude oil for our refineries located within the boundaries of the State.

Aside from the fact that additional exploration will provide jobs for the residents of the State, we are particularly concerned that there will be many additional jobs lost through those industries which will be affected by an inadequate energy supply. Such industrial curtailments would compound an already serious unemployment situation in our State.

Most certainly, it would not behoove us to lock up the immense potential of the disturbed belt of western Montana and the other Rocky Mountain States.

This area may, in fact, represent one of the last truly large potential oil and gas reserves in the United States, and until alternate energy sources are developed in the future, we are going to need all of the oil and gas that we can possibly find to sustain our economy and the well-being of our people.

As I mentioned before, we don't believe that the study can be adequately done within 1 year and we respectfully request that the committee seriously consider a minimum of 2 and possibly 3 years.

I thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to appear, and I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions you may have.

[Statement follows:]

APPEARANCE BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERIOR-INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Public Lands Subcommittee:

I am indeed honored to be permitted to appear before you today to discuss Senate Bill 392.

My name is David Schaenen. I am employed as Exploration Manager for Warren Hancock in Billings, Montana. Mr. Hancock is an independent oil and gas operator, and we are exclusively an exploration company. I am appearing before you today as a representative of the Montana Petroleum Association, which is the Montana arm of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association. In addition, I am appearing as a member of the Public Lands Committee and a Director of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and as a Director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States. All of these organizations are vitally concerned with S. 392 and similar legislation in our continuing efforts to find sufficient supplies of oil and gas so that the United States might be less dependent upon foreign sources of supply.

Inclusion of the Great Bear Wilderness, comprising approximately 378,000 acres, would increase the wilderness system in Montana by approximately 23½ per cent, there already being approximately 1,600,000 acres in the wilderness system, with an additional 417,000 acres being included in four Primitive Areas.

The proposed legislation provides that the Secretary of the Interior must study this proposed wilderness area and make his report relative thereto on or before the expiration of the one-year period following the date of enactment of the legislation.

We would submit that this period of time is completely insufficient for the respective government agencies to make an adequate study of the total resource potential of this area. Should the time for study be limited to one year, it is our firm belief that this would permit only a very cursory examination of the area and would further limit mineral exploration in those areas which might have high potential for the development of our needed natural resources. We would assume that the agency reviewing this area for mineral potential would be the U. S. Geological Survey; and based on our knowledge of its operations in Montana, we believe that the Survey has neither the manpower nor the time, much less the available funding, for an extensive study which would have to be completed within a one-year time frame. At best, the time for such a study should be extended to two or three years at a minimum so that an adequate evaluation of the entire area can be made based on a close examination on the ground.

In the process of reviewing S. 392, we have made an attempt to review the potential for oil and gas exploration and development of this entire area, encompassing what is now known as the "disturbed belt" which runs in a generally north-south direction for approximately 4,000 miles from the northern tip of Alaska southward into Mexico. The disturbed belt represents an area of folded and thrust-faulted sediment and is geologically extremely diverse and complex. In the disturbed belt of Montana, there has been no oil or gas discovered to

date, and, quite frankly, very few attempts have been made due to the extremely high risk, complex geology, and great costs of exploration. Drilling depths can vary from 5,000 feet to possibly 25,000 feet, or even more; and in most areas the majority of the prospects will fall on primarily federal lands, much of it being under the control of the Forest Service. Virtually all of the areas will involve some interaction with the Forest Service, fishermen, hikers, hunters, miners, timber operators, etc. And in probably no other area in the United States, with the possible exception of Alaska and offshore sites, will there be a greater need for cooperation with the various user groups involved.

To point up the importance of this area for oil and gas development, I would like to call your attention to the attached resumé of the disturbed belt of Montana and its oil and gas potential, which was prepared by Mr. Robert A. Meek, Exploration Vice President for Oil Resources, Inc. located in Billings, Montana. Mr. Meek is presently serving as the President of the Montana Geologic Society; and with his permission we are enclosing a copy of his report together with an accompanying map showing the regional areal extent of the disturbed belt with the major Canadian gas fields and recent Wyoming and Utah oil and gas discoveries.

Mr. Meek's report emphasizes the fact that the potential for the overthrust belt is very great and that interest in the area has increased rapidly. In Montana alone in the last six months over one million acres have been leased or applied for by companies and individuals interested in the development of oil and gas on our public domain.

With the great gas fields of Alberta on the north and the developing oil and gas fields in southwestern Wyoming and northeast Utah on the south, it is logical to assume that similar geologic conditions can be found in Montana that could result in the discovery of substantial accumulations of oil and gas. Such discoveries could well result in improved economic conditions for Montana and its citizens.

At the present time Montana vitally needs development of its oil and gas resources. We are facing a very serious threat of a cutoff of imported Canadian gas to our businesses and residential homes, more particularly in the western part of the state; and we are further faced with a reduction in imported Canadian crude oil for our refineries located within the boundaries of the state. Aside from the fact that additional exploration will provide more jobs for the residents of our state, we are particularly concerned that there will be many additional jobs lost through those industries which will be affected by an inadequate energy supply. Such industrial curtailments would compound an already serious unemployment situation in our state.

Most certainly, it would not behoove us to lock up the immense potential of the disturbed belt of Western Montana and the other Rocky Mountain states. This area may, in fact, represent one of the last truly large potential oil and gas reserves in the United States; and until alternate energy sources are developed in the future, we are going to need all of the oil and gas that we can possibly find to sustain our economy and the well-being of our people.

We recognize that much of our wilderness areas lie in the disturbed belt. As a matter of fact, with the exception of the Bitterroot Wilderness Area and the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness Area, all or a portion of the remaining wilderness areas lie within this area of interest.

Under the Wilderness Act, certain exploration activity can still be carried out for an additional period of time. Nevertheless, this time is fast running out and there may not be sufficient time for an adequate evaluation for oil and gas in those areas so delineated. We are aware that oil and gas leases can still be issued in an area delineated for study as wilderness. Nevertheless, as a practical matter, such a designation acts almost as a de facto withdrawal, and at the present time we don't feel that we need any further withdrawals of our public lands from oil and gas exploration.

Because of the serious energy problems facing our State and our Nation today, the Montana Petroleum Association respectfully requests that the Committee reject the proposed legislation or at the very least extend the study period for a minimum of two years.

I further wish to thank the Committee for giving me the opportunity to appear here today on behalf of our industry and its member associations.

THE DISTURBED BELT OF MONTANA AND ITS OIL & GAS POTENTIAL

The disturbed belt of western North America extends generally north-south for approximately 4,000 miles. It has been mapped from the northern tip of Alaska southward into Mexico. The disturbed belt represents an area of folded and thrust faulted sediments. Geologically, the region is diverse and complex. The structural and stratigraphic problems represented range from relatively simple to very complex.

The portion of the disturbed belt that we are concerned with tonight includes part of southern Alberta, western Montana, eastern Idaho, and western-most part of Wyoming and northeast Utah. The regional map of this area shows the (1) current oil (green) and gas (red) fields, (2) recent significant oil and gas discoveries, (3) the area of maximum potential for additional reserves of oil and gas, and (4) areas of recent acreage activity and leasing, and (5) recent and current drilling wells.

A few comments on each of these five items will help to provide the who, what, where, when and why of the "Disturbed Belt" story.

(1) Current Gas Fields. Nine significant gas fields are shown on the Canadian portion of the map. The ultimate recoverable reserves from these nine fields total approximately six trillion cubic feet, or the equivalent of six major gas fields. The depths to the producing horizons in these fields range from 9,500 feet to 12,500 feet. The fields all produce gas from the Rundle group of Mississippian age. There is also some Devonian-Wabamun production in the Waterton field.

The lithology of the reservoirs is a porous dolomite. The field with the largest estimated recoverable reserves is Waterton, with 2.3 trillion cubic feet of gas. The maximum pay thickness in Waterton field is 459 feet, with the average pay thickness about 152 feet. The field is about 1-1/2 miles wide and 10 miles long. The trap is a faulted anticlinal closure formed by thrust faulting. The other fields shown have similar trapping mechanisms.

(2) Recent Significant Oil and Gas Discoveries. Pineview Field, discovered by American Quasar Petroleum in 1974 - Oil production from the Nuggett sandstone (Triassic-Jurassic) at a depth of 9,900 feet. Pay thickness is reportedly 133 feet. The discovery well had an initial production of 553 barrels of oil per day. The field is reportedly on a geophysical anomaly and evaluated a farmout from Amoco Production, Occidental Petroleum and Sun Oil. An offset found additional pay in the overlying Twin Creek (Jurassic) limestone. The offset was completed for more than 1,000 barrels of oil per day. Subsequent drilling has found additional pay in the Dakota sandstone. The Amoco discovery, #1 Champlin-224-A, NWNW Section 19, T17N-R118W, found gas and condensate in a thick section of Nuggett sand. This well is approximately 40 miles north-northeast of Pineview. Amoco has a 37.5% interest, Chevron a 50% interest and Champlin a 12.5% interest in the discovery well. The Amoco well flowed gas at rates of 4.9 and 5.8 million cubic feet per day on a 3/8 inch choke. These rates are from drill stem tests at 7450 to 7476 feet and from 7474 to 7545 feet.

Estimated reserves for the Amoco well are very significant. This well is reported to have 497 feet of Nuggett sandstone pay. Using 497 feet of net pay, a shut in pressure of 3,000 PSIG, 640 acre spacing and assuming an average water saturation of 20% and porosity of 15%, recoverable reserves are estimated at 302 Bcf per section. The Amoco structure is reported to be 10 miles long and 2 miles wide. The ultimate field recoverable reserves could then be 20 times larger, or 6 trillion cubic feet of gas for a major gas field. And the story on this well is not yet complete. The well is currently drilling ahead to its primary objective, which is the Nuggett in the subthrust at 14,000 feet. If the subthrust Nuggett is also productive, the field size will be even larger and more significant. The current interstate price (price limit controlled by FPC) in Wyoming is \$.53 per Mcf. Based on this price, the undiscounted value before taxes of the Amoco discovery for 307 Bcf per section equals \$160,060,000. For the possible total field of 6 trillion cubic feet, a value of \$3,180,000,000. If intrastate sales at \$1.50 per Mcf, field value equals \$9,540,000,000. These numbers include only the value of the gas; no estimate is made for the value of the associated condensate. Another consideration that must be kept in mind, is that during subsequent development, other pay zones may be encountered. Any way you analyze it, the results are big--big enough to justify the risk and cost. The dry hole cost for an 8,500 to 9,000 foot test is approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000. A completed well will cost about \$600,000 to \$700,000. Amoco's well to 14,000 feet will probably cost well over \$1,000,000.

(3) The area of maximum potential for oil and gas in the disturbed belt of Montana is shown by the green outlines. This area is qualified by the surface geology of the disturbed belt. It is the area of preferred sediments within the area of faulting and folding. It is further qualified by the production in Alberta to the north and in Wyoming and Utah to the south.

(4) Area of Recent Acreage Activity and Leasing. The yellow dots shown on the regional "Disturbed Belt" index map represent acreage blocks filed by companies and individuals in recent weeks. Much of this activity has been spurred by the Quasar and Amoco discoveries mentioned earlier. Approximately 5 million acres have been acquired in this recent activity, which include federal, state and fee lands. Companies active in the leasing are Mobil, Chevron, Cities Service, Patrick Petroleum, Placid, Impel Corporation, Sohio, Phillips, Continental, Gulf, American Quasar, Amoco, Shell, Hunt, Tipperary, Filon Exploration, W. R. Grace & Company, Odessa Natural Gas Company, Mountain Fuel, May Petroleum and Oil Resources.

(5) Recent and Current Drilling Wells. Farmers Union Central Exchange just drilled a well to 15,722 feet in Section 31, T14S-R7W, Beaverhead County, Montana. The well cut a thrust fault at 13,000 feet and went from Pennsylvanian-Amsden back into rocks of Cretaceous Age, and was abandoned as a dry hole.

Nyvatex recently drilled to 5,430 feet in Seciton 9, in T10N-R13W, in Granite County. The well was plugged and abandoned.

It is rumored they have encountered shows of oil and gas. They have plans to drill another well with a larger rig.

American Quasar is planning a 10,000 foot test in SWSW Section 36, T3S-R45E, Bonneville County, Idaho, 12 miles east of Gray's Lake.

The disturbed belt, because of recent success in Utah and Wyoming, is receiving much attention. Because of the apparent size and significance of the reserves of oil and gas being found in Utah and Wyoming and those previously found in southern Alberta, the play is finally getting the attention it has long deserved. The geology is complex with considerable faulting and folding. The potential for more oil and gas to be found is very high. The risk and costs of exploration are also high. Montana has a large area of high potential between the production of Alberta and Utah and Wyoming. With continued drilling and evaluation, trends in Montana could easily result in major accumulations of oil and gas. Montana has the opportunity to play a major role in the energy picture as the drilling and development continues. As the demand for energy in the U. S. rises, Montana's challenge to help meet their share of the demand also continues to rise.

Robert A. Meek
6-15-76

Mr. MELCHER. I don't blame you for asking for a minimum of 2, 3 or 10 years, but the fact is that the Bureau of Mines and the USGS information is possibly going to guide you to an area of wildcatting. The fact is that even if there were a delay of 10 years, we don't know whether there would be any wells drilled in this area anyway, do we?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. Based on what has happened in Utah and Wyoming, and the fact that they are now contemplating some wells in Idaho, and there have been some wells that have been drilled in Idaho, but with no discovery of any oil or gas, this entire area is going to get a great deal of examination.

If you look at Bob Meek's report, you will notice that the Farmers' Union recently drilled a well to 12 or 14,000 feet. It cost them over \$2 million, and they never did reach their objective depth because they cut a fault and went right back into a formation which they had gone through up hole. A company called Impell recently drilled a well on the Montana-Wyoming border, west of Elk Basin. They say they have completed the well for 1,400 barrels a day. If that is true, that is a very significant discovery.

There have been some wells that have been drilled, but it is very expensive and very risky, and I think that anything that is done is going to take time.

Now, they recently had a meeting with some Forest Service people in Dillon, at which time they brought up a gentleman from Denver who had worked—he is a seismologist—and he had worked on the American Quasar discovery in northeastern Utah.

There are, apparently, methods now where they don't have to go in and use explosives and this type of thing. I am not a geophysicist, so don't ask me to explain it, but I do know that this is true.

There have been wells drilled in Forest Service areas under the supervision of the Forest Service and they have had few, if any, problems. I will admit that we have had problems in the past.

Mr. MELCHER. Of course, unless there is some sort of technique that would survey this area rapidly, it would be impossible for the study to be completed to find out whether there is any likelihood of this particular section in the disturbed belt that would have possible commercial oil and gas potential.

Mr. SCHAEENEN. I agree. We don't know.

Mr. MELCHER. It is no use to think that the USGS and the Bureau of Mines work would be completed on it, as they have just told us within 18 months. That won't give you much of a basis for making a judgment.

I recognize in your testimony the points you make are valid points. It is necessary for the benefit of the country to find out whether the disturbed belt will give us some real oil and gas supplies, but as to appoint a length of time to examine this area, I don't know how long that would be.

The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. I don't have too much in the way of questions.

Your proposed map of the fault in Canada and down on through Montana and Wyoming and into Utah, shows the recent acreage acquisition. Are all of these acquired acreages in Montana that have been shown here on private land?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. No, sir. I would venture to say because of where the lands lie, the majority of them would probably be Federal lands.

Mr. JOHNSON. The recent acreage you acquired, are these lands under lease under the Minerals Leasing Act?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. They are applied for. There are a great many that have not been issued on a lease. With the large number of lands under the supervision of the Forest Service, it may be some time before they come under the lease.

Mr. JOHNSON. I agree with the chairman when he talks about the time limits on a mineral survey. As stated this morning, it takes from 18 months to 2 years and that would satisfy the government and the Forest Service, but whether that would satisfy the outside interests or not, I don't know.

As I understand, the Federal agencies will make the mineral survey and the Forest Service will review this and, under the terms of the bill, if we were to perfect a bill calling for a study, it would inately have to be extended a little beyond a year. That is my personal observation of the questions asked by the chairman. But if you hold mineral leases or applied for mineral leases under all of this land—

Mr. SCHAEENEN. All this map is supposed to delineate is areas in which lease applications have been filed or leases have been acquired.

Mr. JOHNSON. It is all under the Mineral Leasing Act?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. To a large extent it is under the Mineral Leasing Act. I know that acreage has been acquired from the various States and, of course, on the ground from the owner, but basically primarily it is Federal land.

Mr. JOHNSON. Then it would be under the Mineral Leasing Act?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. That is correct.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is all.

Mr. MELCHER. There are no lands applied for under the Mineral Leasing Act in the proposed area?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. Yes, there are.

Mr. MELCHER. Can you identify them?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. No, I can't.

Mr. MELCHER. Can somebody from the Forest Service?

Mr. GIBSON. The areas depicted in blue are all oil and gas lease applications. We did not show the application areas outside of S. 392 study boundary, but they do, in fact, extend outside. There is a strip that comes right through here that crosses and avoids the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area on the Lewis and Clark Rocky Mountain fronts.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I just want to ask if this map, which is the regional disturbed belt index map, is that part of your testimony?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. Yes, sir.

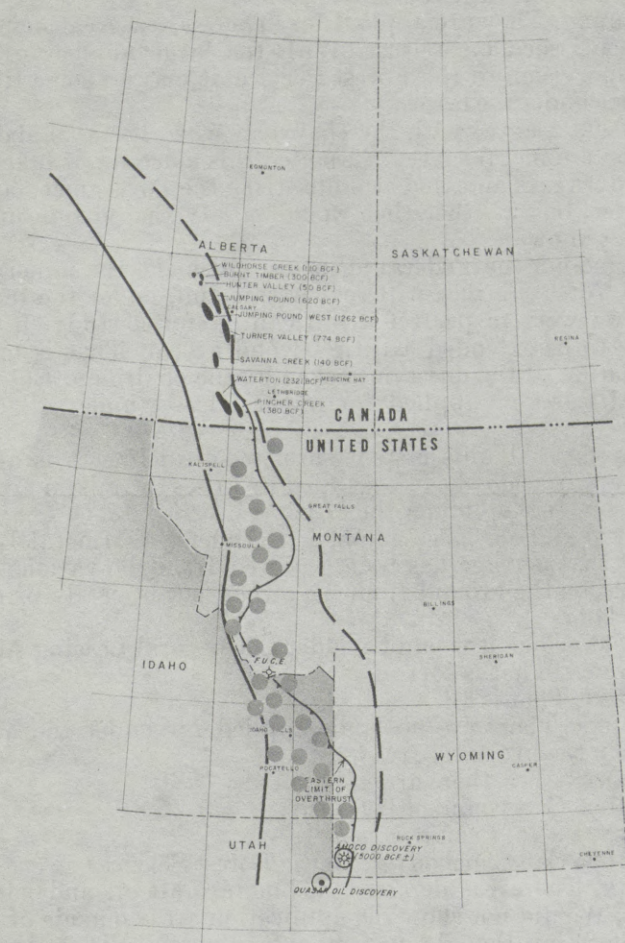
Mr. CLAUSEN. Is that going to be included in the record?

Mr. SCHAEENEN. I would ask that it be included in the record, please.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think it would be helpful.

Mr. MELCHER. It will go in the record.

[Map follows:]



RECENT ACREAGE ACQUISITION ●

REGIONAL "DISTURBED BELT" INDEX MAP

SHOWING MAJOR CANADIAN GAS FIELDS
AND RECENT MAJOR WYOMING OIL AND
GAS DISCOVERIES

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gerald Vandenacre, Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Co., Conrad, Mont.

STATEMENT OF GERALD VANDENACRE, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PONDERA COUNTY CANAL & RESERVOIR CO.

Mr. VANDENACRE. Mr. Chairman, honorable congressman and aides, I, as president of the board of directors, with 351 stockholders, represent the Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Co., which encompasses 76,000 acres of irrigated land, located about 100 miles northwest of Great Falls, Mont., 50 miles south of the Canadian border and 35 miles east of the proposed "Great Bear Wilderness Area."

The main source of our water is Birch Creek, which borders the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and has about 75 percent of its drainage area in the proposed Great Bear Wilderness Area. The rest is on Forest Service land and a very small part of drainage is from the Indian reservation. This water is stored in Swift Dam for our stockholders and about 80 cubic feet per second is delivered by us to reservation-irrigated land, free of charge. The amount was adjudicated in Federal Court about 1922. This water is sufficient for their use on their irrigable land in that area.

We have water rights dating back to 1884 with practically all appropriated before 1900. Our project started operation in 1898 and we have used these appropriations for beneficial use ever since. Most of the project was organized under provisions of the congressional act of August 18, 1894, known as the Casey Act.

Conrad, with a population of 3,500, which is the county seat of Pondera County, obtains its water supply from our irrigation system. A large part of the economy of this county depends on the assured supply of water for its survival. Large amounts of capital have been invested in sprinkler systems, land leveling, et cetera. The security for credit and capital from banks and lending agencies depends on this water supply being available.

We are opposed to this proposed Great Bear Wilderness area, S. 392, if it is created in its present form and boundaries. It will cause serious problems for us, as users of water from part of this drainage. Approximately 20,000 acres of this area encompasses land on which the Blackfeet Indians have treaty rights for hunting, fishing, and limited tree-cutting rights for their own use. The proposal calls for the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture to arrange some agreement whereby the Indians would relinquish these rights on this area for some other settlement.

The bill allows for negotiation with the Blackfeet Tribe for other Forest Service land of concomitant value. Part of this Forest Service land is the north fork drainage of Birch Creek, which is part of our water drainage area for Swift Reservoir.

There have been previous proposals by the Blackfeet to acquire this area of approximately 140,000 acres as fee-patent lands.

We are deeply concerned that in this trade we will lose our legal rights to water from this drainage. Also, if the Blackfeet Indians receive title to it and were to permit unlimited lumber cutting in this

area it would ruin the snow- and water-storing ability of this drainage.

By leaving this boundary as it is, it would bring about litigation and undue financial hardships on all concerned.

We are also concerned about the Blackfeet Indian tribal claims to water rights. Quoting from their constitution:

The Blackfeet Tribe is the sole owner of all water arising within, flowing through, or flowing by, and all surface, underground, flood and atmospheric waters within or bordering upon the Blackfeet Reservation. The ownership of such water cannot be amended, abridged or revoked without the consent of a majority of the adult members of the Blackfeet Tribe.

The Blackfeet Tribe shall have the power: to enter into agreements, contracts or other contracts for the beneficial use, sale, rental or distribution of such water.

The argument is given by many groups and organizations, that removing this disputed treaty rights area from the proposed wilderness area will create a problem by removing a connecting link. By examining a map of this area you will not find this is not true. The Bob Marshall Wilderness area, already in existence, is completely surrounded on three sides by this new proposed wilderness area.

We feel it is not too early to surface these rights before they cause too big a problem and a lot of litigation for everyone involved.

It is only 20,000 acres out of—I heard the figure of 365,000—our records showed 372,000. We don't feel that is too much to give up.

That is all of my testimony.

Mr. JOHNSON of California [presiding]. I am sure the chairman, being very familiar with this area, will have some questions. He has stepped out for a moment.

Mr. Vandenacre, as I understood you to say, you oppose Senate bill 392.

Mr. VANDENACRE. In its present boundaries, yes. If the boundary were to remain exactly the same, we would oppose the whole thing for that reason, but if that were left out, I think we could live with it.

Mr. JOHNSON. You say if that was left out?

Mr. VANDENACRE. The 20,000 acres.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is now under the jurisdiction or certain rights accrue to the Blackfeet Indian Tribe?

Mr. VANDENACRE. We would like to leave that they have nothing to negotiate about, as it shows in the bill, because immediately, if they acquire land, they say they acquire the water that is in it, and they could sell it back to us. We say no, it is our water. We have used it for years. We would, in turn, go back to the *Conrad Investment Co.* court case on this where it was adjudicated and they would immediately go back to the Winter's doctrine, or the only other court case in that area of Federal court, and they would say: "Look we have all of these rights that I read to you." So, it would be an immediate conflict, and it would be in court immediately.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, in the original court adjudication some time back, you people were granted the right to use that watershed for your water supply?

Mr. VANDENACRE. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. And that supply was this 20,000 acres mentioned in that court decree?

Mr. VANDENACRE. No; the 20,000 acres is part of the overall. The green crosshatched on the map—that is a total watershed for our dam. The 140,000 acres the Indians have tried to negotiate for includes the southerly part, the northerly part of the greenhatched area that borders the reservation.

Mr. JOHNSON. We have your map here. It is very easily identified. I was just amazed at the statement that you oppose the 392, S. 392, as passed by the Senate. Heretofore, we have only been talking about some of the problems as to time of the study. You are the first one to outright oppose 392 if this 20,000 acres were involved.

Mr. VANDENACRE. That is how important it is to us.

Mr. JOHNSON. From your answers, your point of concern of the water company is the 20,000 acres that you have identified here in red.

Mr. VANDENACRE. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. If that treaty rights area were not in the study, you would have no objection to the bill?

Mr. VANDENACRE. No. That would clear up our problems.

Mr. JOHNSON. That would satisfy your company?

Mr. VANDENACRE. Yes.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Would the gentleman yield on that point.

Mr. JOHNSON. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think in order to be absolutely clear, and have something in the way of a specific recommendation for the consideration of the committee, could you provide us with delineated boundaries of the area we are talking about, rather than just a generalized map here? I think it would be very helpful to us if we are going to be addressing ourselves to the questions on the 20,000 acres of the treaty rights area.

Mr. VANDENACRE. I think we come up with that by use of the national forest land. It would be from these various peaks which is the way that is drawn up.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would strongly admonish you to do this because I have seen all sorts of problems develop when we don't have a clear-cut description of the boundaries.

Mr. MELCHER [presiding]. Gerald, this is a very important point. As you recall, I was approached by Mr. Bluette, the attorney for your company several months ago. I believe it was in March. I expressed to him at that time the necessity of having a description of what you feel is the drainage area supplying the water for the company so if it became pertinent to the bill we could clearly establish it within the bill. To this date, while I have a letter dated June 10 from Alex Wood, I have nothing connected with the letter or anything else we have received from him or the water company that would describe to us the legal boundaries so we can guide the Forest Service in this matter if we seek to exclude from the bill that area of which you are concerned.

Mr. VANDENACRE. We will supply that. You want it by sections, is that it?

Mr. MELCHER. Something, a map, that when it is drawn will clearly satisfy your rights in the manner.

Now, just to be sure, you have no objection to putting into wilderness classification that part that is proposed in the bill that is not dealing with the tribal areas, the treaty areas?

Mr. VANDENACRE. Yes. Actually, we feel that in the drainage area, ourself, it is advantageous to have our drainage areas covered by the wilderness bill, but on the northerly part that also includes a little bit of the treaty-cutting rights.

So, otherwise, I would propose to include the northerly part of our drainage, but there is a part that overlaps, as you see, in green and red.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes, I see.

I have one other question and I don't know whether you can answer it or not, but I have been asking it of other witnesses. To your knowledge, in the proposed area, is it used now by types of recreation that would be forbidden if it were in the wilderness system.

Mr. VANDENACRE. Very much so.

Mr. MELCHER. What part of that area? Can you show us on the map us there? Are we talking about snowmobiling?

Mr. VANDENACRE. Yes; snowmobiling and this area in here is widely used by motorbikes. The area of snowmobiling is just over the Continental Divide, all in this area in here. They follow logging trails, way in as far as 20 miles into this area down in here.

Mr. MELCHER. I detect we are going to get some dispute from the Forest Service that there are logging trails there. Max, are you going to agree to that?

Mr. PETERSON. No, sir, not there. I think there are some trails, though, that are used, but they are not logging trails.

Mr. VANDENACRE. Mr. Chairman, I personally—and there are more in this audience that ride these areas back into these clearcut, logging areas.

Skyland Road is one of the main ones. It is 2 miles west of the Continental Divide, and it goes in many miles from there, and that includes—this can only be a couple of miles from Highway 2 in that area. You can go way back in there and it takes hours.

Mr. PETERSON. I would suggest that we try to look at this on a detailed map and provide you with information on that.

Mr. MELCHER. I would like to have this area identified. I think I have gotten some petitions numbering in the hundreds, maybe close to 1,000 people, that say that the bill will deter snowmobiling and other types of recreation that would be prohibited if it were wilderness. I would like to have that identified. I think somebody in the Forest Service can clearly identify all of these uses and provide this committee with some guidance on that.

Thank you, Gerald.

Are there any other questions?

The gentleman from California.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Vandenacre, to your knowledge has there been any previous court cases or decisions relative to Indian rights which would have a bearing on this area?

Mr. VANDENACRE. The only one would be the *Conrad Investment* case of 1922 where the amounts were adjudicated for the white people and for the Indians, but in that also, I should add, they do have a right to go back and petition the court for more water. But the Indians would rather use the Winter's doctrine that they continually come back to as an overall, blanket decision. That was in Montana, I think, about 1905, in the northeasterly part.

The attorneys here could spell that our better.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Gerald.

Now, our last group of witnesses will be Miss Bubbles Pierce, the the Wilderness Society. I haven't noticed Brock Evans here. Is he here? Brock isn't here, but Miss Jean Warren will be testifying, I think, representing the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth.

Miss Pierce, please proceed.

**STATEMENTS OF BUBBLES PIERCE, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
AND JEAN WARREN, SIERRA CLUB AND FRIENDS OF THE
EARTH**

Miss PIERCE. Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to testify here today and in the consideration of brevity, I will simply say that I represent the Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization which is committed to the preservation and protection of our Nation's natural lands and waters.

We are here today to support Senate bill 392 and we urge prompt approval of this legislation to implement Great Bear as a study area so that future generations of America may enjoy nature in the wild.

I take issue with Mr. Schaenen's saying the well-being of this country depends on the development of gas and oil. The well-being of this country depends on healthy citizens that are physically and, especially, mentally able to cope with solutions to our survival. Man needs healthy ecosystems to sustain his own life. Great Bear provides these ecosystems.

Thank you kindly.

[Statement follows:]

The Wilderness Society

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006 (202) 293-2732

STATEMENT OF THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

GIVEN BY (MS.) BUBBLES PIERCE
Before the
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
Of the
HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
On
ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
For
GREAT BEAR, MONTANA
S. 392

June 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman, I am Bubbles Pierce representing The Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization committed to the preservation and protection of our nation's natural lands and waters.

The Wilderness Society is pleased to join with representatives of the Montana Wilderness Association and other conservation organizations in strong support of S. 392. This legislation by Senators Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield would authorize and direct a study of the 378,000-acre Great Bear Area in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests of Montana for its qualifications for the National Wilderness Preservation System.

For many years the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Montana Wilderness Association, The Wilderness Society, and other conservation organizations have urged the Forest Service to make a wilderness study and recommendation for

"IN WILDERNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD." — Thoreau

the Great Bear Area. These same organizations and others have worked closely with the Montana Fish and Game Department for the past twenty-five years to gain lasting protection for the area. The Wilderness Society's Western Regional Director, Clifton Merritt, and the Society's former president, Thurman Trosper, are both Montanans who are well acquainted with the area and who have worked continuously through the years to call attention to the important need for its protection.

There are several substantial reasons why the protection of a mandated wilderness study is needed at this time. I will enumerate a few of them.

The proposed study area is a vital link between the natural ecosystem of Glacier National Park on the north side and the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the south. The area encompasses a major part of the remaining grizzly bear habitat in Montana. The grizzly bear is on the Department of the Interior's threatened and endangered species list. For the grizzly the proposed wilderness study area would assure protection of wild habitat so necessary for the wide-ranging grizzlies' survival. Other wildlife species that are also dependent for survival on the wilderness ecosystems of this area are the mountain goat, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, pine marten and the northern Rocky Mountain wolf.

The Great Bear Area contains the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, a superb whitewater stream proposed by the Forest Service and conservationists for national wild and scenic river status. However, retainment of the wild character of the river requires careful consideration of the undisturbed area it drains. The Flathead's famed

Middle Fork provides habitat for the endangered west slope cutthroat trout and for the Dolly Varden. Both native species of trout are propagated entirely by natural means and require essentially an undisturbed environment to prosper. The natural ecosystems and wildlife of the Great Bear Area are of national significance. Wilderness status is the most appropriate use of these resources.

S. 392 has already passed the Senate. It only requires prompt and positive action now by the House to assure that this majestic and largely primeval region is given a comprehensive and timely study. The U.S. Forest Service recognized the superior wilderness character of the magnificent Great Bear Area in the roadless area review by giving it a quality index of 172 points out of 200 and selecting it in 1973 for a wilderness study. But the Forest Service set no time schedule for the study and arbitrarily excluded from consideration over 75,000 acres of the total area. S. 392 would correct these two deficiencies in the Forest Service action.

The Wilderness Society urges prompt approval of this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this vital matter.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much.

Jean?

Ms. WARREN. I am going to try and be brief, too. I think I will read the first sentence and last paragraph of my prepared testimony, and in between that I would like to talk about the Blackfeet tribal issue, Schafer's Meadow, the USGS, and some snowmobiles, but I will make it very, very brief.

My name is Jean Warren, my home is Montana. Today, I speak on behalf of the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Earth, two national conservation organizations to which I belong.

Both organizations wholeheartedly support passage of the Great Bear Wilderness study bill—study, capital S, capital T, capital U, capital D, capital Y—because I think there is some confusion about what we are talking about here today.

As far as Blackfeet tribal issuing, I think the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee passed along to us a very wise amendment. Our Bicentennial history began with land originally protected and loved by America's native peoples. Just take a look at the pictures on the wall of this hearing room. What we are just beginning to learn, they lived by for centuries before our arrival and it seems only fitting that we assure continuity and respect for that land and for our treaties.

Specifically, with regard to some questions that were raised about the Blackfeet problem, the Forest Service does have at least one source of expertise with regard to native peoples of America.

I have personally talked with this person. He is on the Six Rivers National Forest in region V. Though this does not apply to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Flathead, that is hardly the issue. In a study, the Forest Service's own administrative Forest Service manual directs it to seek information and advice from and to work with various State agencies and other expertise in inventorying and managing the various forest resources of these public forest lands, including cultural, historic, and archeological resources.

So, just because the Forest Service doesn't have that particular expertise at this particular moment on this particular forest, that should cause no problems in a study.

Let's try and define the Blackfeet tribal problem really quickly, if we can. They have hunting, fishing, and limited timber options on the land. The options have never been exercised to date. It is my feeling that we ought to give the Blackfeet and the Forest Service a chance, through this study, to work this out. If these problems cannot be worked out, then it can easily be deleted from a wilderness bill that might be introduced later.

We all might be pleasantly surprised at what the Forest Service and the Blackfeet Tribe might be able to work out as far as exchanging the options on this Forest Service land to another parcel of Forest Service land.

My plea, I guess, is to not foreclose the options, that we might be creating a problem which might be easily solved and it is the forum of the study process, granted to us under the Wilderness Act, in which we find that out, not at today's hearing.

Congress, by the way, I don't believe will be in the middle, because Congress will be receiving recommendations after a wilder-

ness study. If Congress doesn't like the recommendations they receive, they can take care of it afterward. So there should not be any concern about being stuck in the middle.

One last point, it is not designating an area for wilderness which could maybe be logged that we are talking about. This area, this 20,000 acres, would not be designated for wilderness if that was a threat. The study will tell us if that is a real threat.

As far as the airstrip at Schafer Meadows goes, if Congress doesn't believe there should be an airstrip at Schafer Meadows, this also would be addressed through the study process.

As far as the U.S. Geological Survey statement that the Forest Service feeds 4 full year after receiving the survey information, I believe this should be carefully scrutinized. Perhaps the committee might like to get some more information afterward. Did the Forest Service tell the USGS that they need a full year after receiving the information? Is this really true, or is it an assumption by either or both the Forest Service and the USGS? I think we had better find that out for sure.

Lastly, on the issue of snowmobiles, again, I keep stressing that this is what a study is all about. A study bill will give us the forum to decide whether snowmobile use in the area now is a major enough concern to either warrant designation or nondesignation of the area for wilderness. Whether there is snowmobile use right now has nothing to do with whether this study bill should be passed, because it is during the study that we will find out how much the snowmobilers feel about this area.

It is my impression, by the way, that the Skyland Ridge logging—past logging activities and use of the areas by snowmobile is entirely outside of the boundary, and I am hoping that we can check into that.

I will close now with my prepared emotional last paragraph.

Let's remember that a great river and its wildland provides us with abundant needs, not the least of which is love. If the latter is absent in the heart of the interpreter, the Great Bear will appear as nothing more than so many million board feet of timber with a wet river running through it and filled with flowers whose fragrance is at its best on someone's table, and geological formations for a new fireplace and even animals to put over that fireplace, and, of course, a lot of bothersome dirt and mountains on top of even more energy for our demands.

You know, our children are all prone to pick up our own particular biases, I am sure of that. My daughter, Julie, a fourth generation Montanan, shared a thought with me one morning last year. My eyes were moist and my heart was filled with love as she said, "I had a dream last night, Mom. It was about some people who care about the land."

Thank you.

Mr. MELCHER. Jean, when you referred in the last paragraph in your testimony to a great river, you meant the middle fork of the Flathead? Perhaps, it was just to enlighten us on your feelings on the treaty, but most of your comments dealt with the other side of the divide.

Ms. WARREN. Right.

Mr. MELCHER. Which had nothing to do with the Middle fork of the Flathead. Do you really view the presence or absence of this 20,000 acres as being critical to the bill?

Ms. WARREN. I think it is critical to the study bill because the chance exists through the study that that 20,000 acres can be a part of the Great Bear. The Blackfeet Tribe may say, "All we want are the options to hunt and fish and take some timber off Forest Service land. We don't care if it is that 20,000 acres or 20,000 acres on some other forest." Now, they might not say that, but why preclude the option that they could say that and that this then could be a part of the Great Bear?

So, yes, I think it is a critical issue.

Mr. MELCHER. That isn't my question, Jean. What is there about the 20,000 acres?

Ms. WARREN. It is de facto wilderness. It is a vanishing resource. The Congress of the United States declared in the Wilderness Act that this was a valuable resource to the people of the Nation.

Mr. MELCHER. To your knowledge, it is of a unique character that deserves wilderness designation?

Ms. WARREN. Yes. I believe all undeveloped, untouched land is unique in our Nation and on the planet, and in that sense, I think it deserves at least a chance to be looked at.

Mr. MELCHER. I guess I am not making myself clear. Is this 20,000 unique over and above other Forest Service lands in the area?

Ms. WARREN. Congressman Melcher, it is very difficult for me to deal with that term "unique." You know, we all have our relative biases. What is special and unique to me is not special and unique to Max Peterson of the Forest Service. I hate to get back into a corner of saying it is prettier or less prettier or it is nicer or it is greater, because I have been in many places in many lands. I can get just as turned on laying in a field of daisies with a concrete plant two blocks away if I feel that good at that moment as I can in a park here in Washington or in a wilderness. I am just one person. That is my feeling.

Mr. MELCHER. Jean, obviously somebody in the Senate, perhaps Senator Metchalf or other Senators believed there was something special about this 20,000 acres and they added it to the recommendation of the Forest Service despite the Forest Service recommendation.

We don't have anybody testifying from the Senate today on this bill. I am just trying to elicit from some of our witnesses whether there is anything special about the 20,000 acres that makes it so desirable to have it as a part of the overall bill?

Ms. WARREN. I think I wasn't making myself clear. The problem is I don't see this 20,000 acres. I am not thinking in a political boundary sense. I am thinking in a biogeographic sense. To me, it is part of an area that is untouched. It has only been called 20,000 acres, not because they put the 20,000 acres in, but because someone took a look at this whole thing and said, "Wait a minute—there is something we know about a little piece here."

I am probably not making myself at all clear, Congressman Melcher, but what I am saying is it is a part of a whole. I don't see it as something separate.

Miss PIERCE. May I also add, it is an essential link. Someone brought up in previous testimony about the grizzly bear. This is a wide ranging animal that is endangered and you need the vital ecolink, there between those lands. If you stop that link there, the grizzly bear is out of luck as far as his habitat in cutting him off.

Ms. WARREN. I should have been going like this, because this line here is just a political, if you will, line. This is the boundary in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. And an elk or a grizzly bear or a creepy-crawly on the ground is not going to know he has just crossed over the boundary. This is all one large needed habitat.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There is just one question here. I see you are looking at this as a whole area, but I think we have to recognize a treaty between the U.S. Government and the Blackfoot Tribe. That is a problem, and if they had their way today, I am sure it would not be just the use of the land. They are vitally concerned with the fee title to the lands that they now have some right to be on through treaty. This is what is finding its way into the courts and into the Indian Lands Commission and into this committee on knowledge of the lands that have been set aside for a certain use of a tribe of Indians. They are after the fee title. So we have to deal with that and Congress has to.

The Senate set this up and pretty much earmarked it as a problem that would be included in the bill to be looked at and studied.

Now, I think if you are in favor of the study bill as called for in S. 392, we have to be concerned with this.

Ms. WARREN. I am sorry, I didn't mean to indicate I wasn't concerned. You made my point. That is the exact point I was making. We have not heard from the Blackfeet Tribe and through the study bill we will be able to hear their feelings on this land.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is right. It is in the bill and that is one of the big problems in the bill.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman has not understated the case. That is one of the problems in the bill. To indicate that the Blackfeet are anxious for a 1-year period of time in which people can examine them to see what their desires are, I think is somewhat presumptuous.

Ms. WARREN. I wasn't implying that.

Mr. MELCHER. I am just pointing out the tribe as far as I know is not going to say within 1 year how they wanted to solve some treaty problem that they view as—the 20,000 acres is only a portion of the whole treaty problem as far as they are concerned. I just don't believe we are going to get anywhere to suggest that based on the hearings under the terms of the bill and under the Wilderness Act in general that the Forest Service is going to be in the business of solving the basic arguments that the tribe might have with that treaty.

So the gentleman from California did not understand it. It is a problem in the bill.

One other point, though, the section 2 is proper, I think, for a study bill. It says that during the year of study—and they list 4 years—but generally it says until such time as Congress has had an opportunity to receive the recommendations of the President and to act upon them, the Forest Service will manage the land involved as if it were

wilderness. So, by enacting this bill as a study bill, if there is snowmobiling in this area, it is going to be forbidden by an act of Congress. If there is motorcycles using the area if this bill is enacted, such use is going to be forbidden by the law, because we are saying that during that year of study it will be managed as if it were wilderness. These types of vehicles, other than for administrative purposes and safety are forbidden. So I just want to call this to your attention, that when we do this we would like to know if we are going to forbid snowmobiling and motorcycles except for purposes of safety and administration; we would like to know who is using this now and how much and for where, so we are going to have to get that information and consider it now. Because if this bill becomes law, they will be forbidden to utilize it for those purposes.

The gentleman from California.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think most of the questions have been answered.

I am rather interested in your reference to the fact that you get turned on by observing some daisies in the field. I want to bring your attention to the fact that I have legislation introduced to establish the Shasta daisy, which was a Burbank hybrid, as the national flower. So I would like to have you get turned on to support that bill. May I talk to you later about that?

Ms. WARREN. I lived in southern California many years of my life. I can appreciate that well.

Mr. MELCHER. I want to thank all of the witnesses that we have heard on this bill because I think it has been most helpful. I particularly want to thank all of the witnesses who came here from Montana. I have two colleagues here from California and they well understand the distances and the cost of airplane tickets and other modes of transportation to get here. So I think it is quite significant that all of you who have come from Montana came here in order to testify.

With that, we will excuse Miss Pierce and Jean.

Miss PIERCE. Thank you.

Ms. WARREN. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY ON S.392

DESIGNATING THE GREAT BEAR AREA IN THE
STATE OF MONTANA FOR STUDY TO DETERMINE ITS SUITABILITY
FOR PRESERVATION AS WILDERNESS

Before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands

June 22, 1976

by Jean Warren, Sierra Club

My name is Jean Warren. My home is Montana. Today, I speak on behalf of the Sierra Club, a national conservation organization of over 150,000 members to which I belong. The Sierra Club is involved in the preservation and protection of our natural resource heritage for present as well as future generations. Hundreds of members are residents of Montana.

The Sierra Club wholeheartedly supports passage of S.392 and urges that this be done before anymore of the priceless resource base of the astonishingly beautiful Great Bear defacto wilderness is lost, developed, civilized and tamed.

Bycyclists are touring the United States this bicentennial year -- getting as close as possible to the land. In our local paper we have been reading stories about a dysentary-like disease afflicting many of these bikers. Last Thursday, the medical director of the North Central District Health Department in Lewiston, Idaho (in trying to pinpoint the source of the biker's dilemma) said, "Any surface water in the United States should be considered to be contaminated, unless maybe its very far back in the boondocks."

I was appalled. And then it occurred to me: as if there weren't already more than enough reasons to preserve the wild land and water of the Flathead River's Middle Fork, this certainly must be added to the list!! The thought that it's automatically assumed that our nation's surface waters are contaminated is almost too

much to bear. The Great Bear wilderness is a perfect example of those "boondocks" to which the medical health director referred. And his statement helps to clearly bring home the message that when the people of this nation, through their Congress, passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, they may not have realized the incredible significance of the Act to our physical, as well as mental health in securing the benefits of an enduring resource of Wilderness.

I have my own fond memories of recreational experiences in the defacto wilderness known as the Great Bear. Exhilarating moments scrambling hell-bent-for-leather down the slopes of Great Northern Mountain with wide-eyed respect for a lightening storm all about myself and my companions. And quiet, gentle moments in another area of dark, moist forests, photographing huge, orangish Alice-in-Wonderland-like mushrooms. And the Middle Fork -- that wild, unspoiled, untamed river. Though no fisherman, I still enjoyed its water and smile now as I recall a friend's spontaneous poem at 5:45 one morning: "Out on Charlie Creek, down on ma' knees; I thought I heard a bull trout sneeze!"

The fish species to which he referred was the rare Dolly Varden. Its been drastically reduced or eliminated in most of the country by destruction of spawning areas, siltation, damming of migratory routes, and introduction of exotic fish species.

The rare and endangered species that inhabit the Great Bear area and the contiguous wilderness lands in Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness are more than inspirational creatures for our national heritage or someone's calendar. They are a statement of the evolutionary process of life to which we all

belong. More poetically speaking:

A living planet is a rare thing,
Perhaps the rarest in the universe,
and a very tenuous experiment at best.
We need all the company we can get on our unlikely journey.
If an island is washed away mankind is the less:
One species' death diminishes us, for we are involved in life.
The more varied the life the better. There is no requirement
that our voyage be a monotonous one.

The grizzly bear, the westslope cutthroat trout, and perhaps the endangered timber wolf are a part of the Great Bear defacto Wilderness area. The habitat of the Great Bear area is a vital link between that ^{area} to its contiguous north and south. These endangered species know nothing of political boundaries -- theirs is a natural world tuned to biogeographic limits. As we ponder ^{our} 200-year history, let's consider one of the lessons we should have learned with regard to needs of wildlife species. Through unfortunate planning, the wild land of Yellowstone National Park was artificially tailored. Yearly, the elk of the area come out of the Park, past an invisible, political boundary and into the fire of waiting rifles. The problem is complex and the solutions will probably not ever be satisfactory. With the grizzly bear habitat of the Middle Fork area, we have a chance to use this lesson well -- to be farsighted and not repeat our mistakes: In the long run, it will cause less money, hardship, and endless study commissions to heed the warnings of so-called "dingbat" environmentalists and the scientific community.

For Congress to sanction, through S.392, a vitally needed legislative mandate for the study that will lead to protection of this habitat would be fitting in this bicentennial year. It would be an act symbolizing our awareness that we finally no longer take for granted that our frontiers are infinite and that all must be

sacrificed to accomodate our voracious appetites to civilize every last acre of the land we call our home. To let this opportunity pass means we simply reaffirm that nature - to us - is, in the words of poet Gary Synder, merely a "vast supply depot."

After reading the Department of Agriculture's report on S.392, as originally introduced, to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, I must say that it is reassuring to me that ours is a government of, for, and by the people and not of, for, and by various federal agencies. The U.S. Forest Service argues that their land-use planning process will yield, in their words, "a more deliberate, orderly decision"... "as to the desirability of adding any specific area to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Baloney. And thank god for the Wilderness Act, which lets the people, through their Congress, decide the "desirability" of protecting the Great Bear as classified Wilderness.

I am personally familiar with the land-use planning process and with the anti-wilderness philosophies woven throughout the Forest Service. I have participated in this process for over four years, through workshops, field trips, monthly meetings, critique of pre-draft, draft, and final environmental impact statements, and policy statements, and calls to my home from Forest Service employees at all times of the day and night. I have always appreciated the opportunity to be involved as a private citizen and as a representative of conservation organizations.

Let there be no doubt that contrary to what the Forest Service would have you believe, there is no such thing as a "detailed study" of defacto wilderness through the planning unit land-use process. It is merely a contrived grading scheme, a beauty con-

test, if you will -- using one or another numerical rating systems that are destined to eliminate defacto wilderness from consideration. In many cases I know of -- one close to my home -- the district rangers sit at their desks and derive ratings for geologic, scenic, scientific, educational, recreational and solitude values of roadless areas. And lets look at those rating systems -- and at their absolute relativity. A Forest Service planner, on one forest in Region I, called one afternoon and discussed with me my contention that personal bias clouds the ratings, that what is tagged a number 9 by one person might be given a number 20 by another. He concurred. And then went on to give me a specific example of how exactly that had happened on one of the districts on the forest. His words were that "so-and-so" gave it a real low rating because he knew that "so-and-so" would probably give it a higher rating!

Could we at least hope that evaluation of this so-called "detailed study" of the planning unit process might be more fair to the wilderness resource of our national forest lands? The answer is no. And here is an example: of "other factors influencing" a decision not to recommend an area in the Bitterroot National Forest for study: ^{Quoting from the Bitterroot South FEIS} A "(2) established Wilderness at least locally is abundant and therefore, additional classification is not a pressing need; (3) ability to protect and manage canyon mouths for wilderness values (primarily solitude and natural conditions) would require implementation and enforcement to limit use for the protection of wilderness values; this would be expensive to administer and would not be palatable to most local residents;..." (emphasis added). Does the Wilderness Act say

this is for the Forest Service to decide? Or is it for Congress and the people to decide?

I have made these points to advise you that it is erroneous to assume that if S.392 is not passed, the Great Bear will still receive tender loving care from the Forest Service. They need this legislative mandate to do the kind of wilderness study provided by the Wilderness Act.

Other concerns, such as timber, need to be considered of course. But that's the whole purpose of a study bill. As for some of these concerns, comment can be made now:

- The commercial timber value within the proposed Great Bear is marginal. The land is characterized by steep slopes, unstable soils, and poor growing sites. We seem to be able to grow trees in many other parts of our forests (including ^{other parts} the Flathead National Forest) -- the options for "growing" grizzly bears unfortunately are not so rosy.
- Motorized vehicle use restriction seems a poor argument, since in the forests contiguous to the Great Bear and the Bob Marshall Wilderness there are already at least 15,000 miles of roads and trails available to such use.
- Water users have everything to gain from classification if that's what this study bill leads to. In 1973, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrote to the Chief of the Forest Service and cautioned that great care be taken in the final decisions made for the nation's roadless areas, because their greatest value was the quality of water derived from them.
- Section 3 of the amended bill adequately addresses con-

cerns about potential utility corridors.

- And lastly, Section 4 -- a very wise amendment -- provides that all resource data will be made available to the Blackfeet Tribe, concerning the 20,000 acres of tribal land within the study area boundary. Additionally, that "every effort to initiate and carry to completion a program to permit the Blackfeet Tribe to obtain rights of concomitant value on land outside the study area..." Our bicentennial history began with land protected and loved by America's native peoples. What we are just beginning to learn, they lived by for centuries before our arrival. It seems only fitting that we assure continuity and respect for that land and for our treaties.

In closing, let's remember that a great river and its wild land provides us with abundant needs, not the least of which is love. If the latter is absent in the heart of the interpreter, the Great Bear will appear as nothing more than so many million board feet of timber with a wet river running through it and filled with flowers whose fragrance is at its best on the table, and geological formations for a new fireplace and even animals to put over that fireplace!

That our children are all prone to pick up our own particular biases must certainly be true. My daughter Julie, a fourth generation Montanan, shared a thought with me one morning last year. My eyes grew moist and my heart was filled with love as she said, "I had a dream last night, Mom. It was about some people who care about the land..."

Mr. MELCHER. We have a number of points that have been raised, Max, and I hope you can supply us information on these, one being whether or not the area proposed does have motorcycles, snowmobiles and other types of recreational activities that will be forbidden if we enact the bill, and the other being a clear definition of the boundary that is involved with the treaty lands of the Blackfoot Tribe.

Are there any other points?

Mr. PETERSON. Maybe you would like for us to address the length of time we need to complete the study.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes, the time frame, we want that.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I wonder if that could be coordinated with the Bureau of Mines proposal as well, if they are going to be the coordinating agency. It seems to me that the testimony at least to me reveals the fact that when you are dealing with a resource question the Forest Service has the information on the other resources, gas and oil and so forth. I think we need that.

Mr. MELCHER. We need that information on what has been applied for leases for gas and oil exploration under the Mineral Leasing Act in this area. We need some information on that. I am a little bit concerned. It seems like a great amount of land has been applied for leases within this area.

Mr. PETERSON. We may have another dilemma here that we need to think about. That is, in many study areas we have not precluded snowmobiles on existing trails or on existing old roads, as long as it was not something that changed the character of the area; as long as we protected the wilderness values. We would not allow cross-country use of vehicles that would damage the area or even snowmobile use that would be damaging to the area, but we have not immediately stopped snowmobile use on existing roads and trails.

Mr. MELCHER. I think you had better give us some recommendations if that is what you would do if this bill were enacted on what we should do with section 2, which says the Secretary of Agriculture shall manage and protect the study area in such a manner as to not preclude its possible designation by the Congress as wilderness. This is supposed to be a wilderness area. If it is not wilderness area, we should know about it and if you are going to continue to use it during the 5 years, if you are going to allow vehicular use, we had better know about it.

Mr. PETERSON. We will propose something to you and let you reflect on it in the report so it is clear we are in agreement.

Mr. MELCHER. I think it had better be in the terms of the bill. We have had some unfortunate experiences on what was in the report and what happened after the bill was enacted. We would rather have it in the bill.

Mr. PETERSON. The other thing relates to the airstrip question and what we want to do with the airstrip during the study period. That is a fairly significant strip. It is 3,000 feet long. It gets a substantial amount of recreation use, particularly the use of the Middle Fork. As you know, we have not been happy with those kinds of nonconforming uses generally within the wilderness areas, but we want to be sure that we are clear about what the congressional intent is here during the study period.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Let me ask a question on that. Having been in aviation most of my life and having observed some of these forests—and I think we will find a lot of it this year are subjected to the hazards of fire and the need to have an adequate system of airports so that you have access for firefighting purposes to protect the wilderness areas, and whatever areas, I would hope that they would—let me ask you this question: Is this airstrip itself located in such a way that it would serve the purpose of protecting the total forest or the total wilderness area if it were available for that purpose?

Mr. PETERSON. It is used partially for that purpose now.

Mr. CLAUSEN. This is the kind of thing that we need to keep in mind, and that is that it is one thing to set up the wilderness area, but as it now stands, even in the wilderness areas you have people that will find their way into those lands and thereby subject them to the forest-fire problems. As a result, I am just one of those that feels very strongly about the need to have an adequate system of airports as well as a system that will permit you to adequately fight the fires.

Mr. PETERSON. The authority to use an airstrip of this kind for protection of an area and for safety and so on, as Congressman Melcher indicated, is already in the Wilderness Act, but the question of general recreation use of such an airport is a question.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Could you give us a detailed response as to what that airport is being used for, taking into consideration the points that I have made.

Mr. PETERSON. We will do that.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much. That concludes our hearing on S. 392.

[Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m. the hearing was concluded, and the subcommittee proceeded to other business.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows:]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20250

8 JUL 1976

1510



Honorable John Melcher
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Public Lands
Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Melcher:

We are pleased to provide the following information and the enclosed map in response to requests of the Subcommittee during the June 22 hearing on Great Bear, Montana (S. 392) and Snow Mountain, California (S. 139), H.R. 5568 and H.R. 5589).

Before discussing specific issues related to Great Bear and Snow Mountain, we wish to clarify our management philosophy for National Forest System areas which are designated by Congress for wilderness study. Unless Congress directs otherwise, we maintain any wilderness character and suitability for potential wilderness designation that existed at the time the area was designated for study. For example, long-term uses and activities that would significantly diminish wilderness suitability (i.e., road construction, timber harvesting, and powerline installation) are prohibited. On the other hand, transitory uses and activities that would not significantly diminish wilderness suitability (i.e., snowmobiling, trail bikes on existing trails, vehicles on existing roads, and aircraft landings at existing facilities) may be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. Our efforts to protect existing wilderness suitability within congressionally designated wilderness study areas must, of course, be subject to valid existing rights, under the mining laws of 1872, under any other law, or under any Federal treaty.

GREAT BEAR, MONTANA

1. Where are snowmobiles and motorcycles now used within the Great Bear area? What is the extent of such use? How would these uses be affected by a wilderness study?

There are two primary snowmobile routes (shown by blue dots on the map). The Morrison Creek Trail receives about 600 visitor days of use per year. (Visitor day means 12 hours of use in any combination--2 persons for 6 hours each, 4 persons for 3 hours each, etc.). The Dickey Creek Trail gets about 200 visitor days use per year. Normally, only 50 snowmobilers a year travel as far as Schafer via the Morrison Creek Trail.

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Trail bike use (shown by orange dots on the map) is essentially on the Granite Creek and Big River Trails, and there are about 550 visitor days use a year.

Unless the legislation requiring a wilderness study specified otherwise, uses of a transitory nature which would not significantly alter existing wilderness suitability could be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. In all probability, snowmobiles and trail bikes would be permitted to continue using the trails during the study and congressional consideration. We would monitor such use, of course, and should the use seem to be leaving impacts significantly affecting wilderness suitability, the use would be terminated.

2. Where are the lands affected by the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895? What rights do the Blackfeet have under the treaty?

National Forest lands affected by the treaty are outlined in pink on the map. It is our understanding that all of the treaty lands are east of the Continental Divide. The lands outlined in pink are within the Lewis and Clark National Forest; none are within the Flathead National Forest. As the map shows, about 20,000 acres of the treaty area are within the S. 392 study boundary. We believe the treaty also affects some acreage within Glacier National Park.

Within the treaty area, the 1895 agreement permits the Blackfeet to "cut and remove therefrom wood and timber for agency and school purposes, and for their personal uses for houses, fences, and all other domestic purposes." The Blackfeet also reserved and retained the "right to hunt upon said lands and to fish in the streams thereof so long as the same shall remain public lands of the United States under and in accordance with the provisions of the game and fish laws of the State of Montana."

3. How much time would be needed to complete the wilderness study? When would minerals data be available?

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have completed field work on a mineral survey of the two Forest Service wilderness study areas within the Great Bear proposal. These two areas contain about 328,000 acres. About 45,000 acres of the Great Bear proposal are not covered by the current mineral survey. One additional complete field season (1976) followed by a period of analysis and report preparation will be needed to complete the Great Bear mineral survey. January 1978 seems to be the earliest assured date for completion of the mineral survey report.

The Forest Service wilderness study could begin the first field season following passage of the legislation. The mineral survey information must be obtained before preliminary wilderness study recommendations could be formulated. Thereafter, the recommendation would be reviewed, public notice would be given, and wilderness public hearings would be

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conducted. The policies and procedures of the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act would be followed during the study. This process must be concluded at least six months before legislative recommendations can be expected to arrive before the Congress.

This complete study process is expected to take a full three years following enactment of legislation calling for the wilderness study.

4. What is the extent of oil and gas lease applications within the Great Bear vicinity?

Areas under oil and gas lease applications are shaded in yellow on the map. The area of oil and gas lease applications on the east side extends off the map for a considerable distance to the south. About 133,000 acres (including the 20,000-acre Blackfeet treaty area) within the S. 392 study area are covered by oil and gas lease applications.

5. What is the extent and nature of the use at the Schafer airstrip?

The Schafer airstrip is open annually from July 1 through November 1. The following table illustrates its use for the past two seasons:

	Number of flights and percent of total			
	1974		1975	
Private parties	483	77%	279	70%
Commercial guided parties	54	9%	35	9%
Administrative use	89	14%	84	21%

The probable reason for the drop in private and commercial flights during the 1975 season was inclement weather during much of the summer.

Administrative traffic consists primarily of servicing crews that work out of Schafer, which also serves as a pickup point for smokejumpers and for rescue flights. Aerial fire patrols are based at Kalispell and the Spotted Bear Ranger District; none are based at Schafer. The Schafer complex includes eight buildings, two campgrounds, one airfield, corrals, and a water system with chlorinator and reservoir. The strip was built in 1935, and it was extended to 3,300 feet in 1961. The strip is capable of handling DC-3 aircraft.

We anticipate no change in the status of operations for the Schafer airstrip and the adjoining administrative complex during the proposed wilderness study and congressional consideration. If the Great Bear area was designated as a wilderness, Section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act would give the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to permit continuation of aircraft landings where the practice had become established prior to designation. We would then look at the Schafer operations, determine whether the

Honorable James Melcher

private and commercial flights were acceptable within the management plan which would be prepared for the wilderness, and act accordingly. In many existing wildernesses, continued private and commercial use of some airstrips is permitted, although the number of flights is sometimes restricted. Some strips have been closed to all traffic.

6. Is the Schafer airstrip used for fire control?

As stated above, the airstrip is used to pick up smokejumpers and to supply the trail and fire fighting crews stationed at Schafer. There are no smokejumpers stationed at Schafer, and patrol flights for detection are based elsewhere.

SNOW MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

1. What types of uses would be permitted to continue during the wilderness study period?

Unless the legislation requiring a wilderness study specified otherwise, uses of a transitory nature which would not significantly alter existing wilderness suitability could be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. There are already some restrictions on off-road vehicles (ORV's), with travel being restricted to designated routes and trails. We would monitor the effects of ORV use during the study period and congressional consideration. Should effects of a more lasting nature begin to appear on the land, the ORV use would be further curtailed. If the area is designated by Congress as wilderness, all ORV use would be prohibited. The same situation would exist relating to use of the road into the Crockett subdivision. So long as the effects of such use did not significantly affect the existing suitability of the area for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System, such use could be permitted to continue, at the discretion of the Secretary, during the study period and congressional consideration.

2. How much time would be needed to complete the study?

The USGS-Bureau of Mines would begin a minerals survey during the first field season after study legislation is enacted, and a minerals report would be completed within 18 months. Meanwhile, the Forest Service would begin its wilderness study. Preliminary recommendations could not be completed until the minerals report was available. Public notice, hearings, and review would then be undertaken in accordance with the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. A minimum of two years would be needed to complete the total study process.

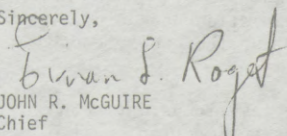
We were also asked to provide language to amend H.R. 5589 that would provide for protection of the Snow Mountain area during the study period and congressional review period. The following new section could be added to H.R. 5589:

Honorable James Melcher

"SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area cited in section 1 so as to maintain its presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System until Congress determines otherwise, except that such management requirement in no case extend beyond the expiration of two years from the date the President submits his recommendations concerning the Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area to the Congress."

We hope the above information will be helpful to the Subcommittee.
Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

for 
JOHN R. MCGUIRE
Chief

Lance A. Olsen, M.A.
 1501 4th Avenue North
 Great Falls, Montana 59401
 June 25, 1976

Rep. John Melcher, Chairman
 Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

I write relative to S.392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study, and would urge you to make my comments a part of the public record regarding the Great Bear Wilderness.

I wish to advise you that a new group of Americans may soon join the ranks of those who see wilderness as an important part of our lives. Soon, behavioral scientists will be joining poets, philosophers, and naturalists in pointing out the value of wilderness lands.

I have recently begun correspondence with a number of my colleagues in the American Psychological Association, to determine their interests in, their experiences with, their insights into the wilderness and its value to persons. Our correspondence has commenced in just the past two weeks, and we have not yet even met each other to share our ideas. At this point, I am the only one who has corresponded with the others, and I haven't even been able to disseminate what I am learning to those who have written me. We have just now begun. And yet, at this very early stage of our mutual interest, I see that some of my psychologist bretheran have been able to use wilderness experiences for therapeutic value, some have begun to formulate their ideas as to the characteristics of wilderness which have value to human living. I think that this is an exciting beginning. What we have observed relative to the value of wilderness in general certainly applies to the Great Bear.

Psychologists have been involved in studies of public perception of wilderness, in passage of legislation at the state level, in utilizing wilderness for noticeable human benefit. And..... we have just begun.

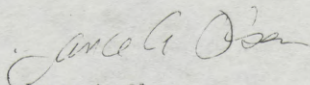
Keep us in mind. We may be able to contribute in more tangible ways.....we may provide some unique insights into wilderness issues. We would certainly be glad to share our ideas and/or impressions with others who are interested in the value of the natural environment. We may be able to demonstrate the "practical" benefit of wilderness to persons, and that could be important at a time when

wilderness is perceived by some as not being practical, but as a luxury, instead. My own feeling is that psychologists have already begun to realize the practical value of wilderness, and that we can do even more in this regard.

Psychiatrists, too, may be helpful. One psychiatrist has written an article on the value of wilderness....."Toward a Psychology of Wilderness Experience.", by N.R. Scott in Natural Resources Journal, 1974, 14, 231-237. You may wish to pursue this reference.

I am gathering information for the purpose of disseminating it among those who are interested. I have no intention of limiting this information to psychologists, and would certainly be agreeable to including you, your committee, others you might suggest. What do you think?

Sincerely,



Lance A. Olsen

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER



P.O. BOX 12
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

June 28, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Melcher:

On behalf of the Environmental Information Center, I wish to submit the following comments in support of S. 392--the Great Bear Wilderness Study bill. The Environmental Information Center is a statewide environmental group of over 800 people concerned with the wise use and protection of Montana's natural resources and of the lifestyles associated with these resources.

We wish to lend our strong endorsement to S. 392. This legislation, by Senators Metcalf and Mansfield, would provide for a study of the 378,00 acre Great Bear Area in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests for its suitability as Wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

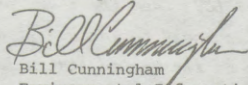
I can personally testify to the high wilderness quality of the Middle Fork of the Flathead country, having hiked through much of it in years past. The Great Bear is a vital link between Glacier National Park on the north and the Bob Marshall Wilderness to the south. The area contains one of the last free-roaming populations of grizzly bear--a species recently classified as threatened by the Secretary of Interior. Wilderness designation of the proposed Great Bear study area would assure protection of the wild habitat so necessary for the grizzlies survival. Other wilderness species in the area include, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, pine marten, mountain lion, and the endangered northern Rocky Mountain Wolf.

The Great Bear area contains the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, a magnificent wild stream proposed by both conservationists and the Forest Service for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system. However, the wildness of the river cannot be retained in a vacuum. The river can remain only as wild as the country through which it flows. The Middle Fork provides quality habitat for the endangered west slope cutthroat and for the Dolly Varden. Of particular concern is the Dolly Varden-a species that has shown an alarming decline in recent years. Because these two species are propagated entirely by natural means they must have the essentially natural environment, that wilderness use would provide.

We are reminded that the U.S. Forest Service has selected much of the Great Bear as a New Wilderness Study Area. However, there are several deficiencies with this approach that would be corrected by S. 392. The bill provides for a one-year study which is reasonable considering the volume of existing data already available. On the other hand, the Forest Service has not set a time table for the study and has excluded over 75,000 acres of the total area from New Study Area status. Secondly, the present Great Bear New Study Area is distributed between two planning units on two different National Forests. S. 392 would avoid this fragmented approach by establishing a single study area of the entire Great Bear.

S. 392 has already passed the Senate. We are hopeful that it will receive quick and positive action by the House. We ask that this letter be made a part of the official hearing record.

Sincerely,



Bill Cunningham
Environmental Information Center
P.O. Box 12
Helena, Montana 59601

C.C.: Lee Metcalf
Max Baucus

June 16, 1976
Box 282
Havre, Montana
59501

Committee Chairman
Hearing on S. 392
Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill

Dear Sir;

I wish to make the following statement and have it made a part of the hearing record.

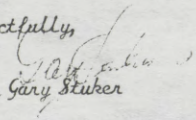
This area represents some of the most prime grizzly Bear habitat left in northern Montana. Extensive use of the areas opened up around Hungry Horse reservoir and Skyland road have pushed the animals farther away from their winter feed of salmon runs along the park. They have a real need for this salmon run due to the massive food intake necessary to keep them over our long winters. With this study area set up as it is it will allow them to travel this route with very little bear-people contact. We have never had a bear problem but we due in fact have a people problem.

This area also supplies a major portion of the forage during the summer and fall for the Elk herd which utilizes the lower edge of Glacier Park.

The Forest Service has a study going on in this area at present which should give us more insight into the needs and travel patterns of the elk which utilize this area. I would hope that this also become a part of the hearing record and we have a chance to comment on it.

I also wish to say that I would feel much better if you would remove the section covered by the treaty of 1895 from the study proposal. I think personally that it will serve no useful purpose to include it and could cause some long range problems. The sportsmen of The United States face a shrinking area on which to enjoy themselves now. To trade away in excess of 130,000 acres so that we have the right to study 20,000 acres is extremely ridiculous. As it is now covered by this treaty we have no timber management plans which might infringe on the Blackfoot rights but it is useable by hunters(excluding vehicles), snowmobilers and skiers. There is no greater plan for any public domain that I know of. The southeastern section would still be contiguous to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and viable as a study area under this bill. Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment. Please remove the area under the treaty from the bill.

respectfully,


Gary Stoker

Briggs M. & Alice H. Austin
4741 Sundown Road
Missoula, Montana 59801

June 20, 1976.

Representative John Melcher
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Melcher,

Thank you for your letter informing us of the June 22nd hearing on the Great Bear Wilderness study bill. As you requested we are sending this letter to express our opinions on this matter so it may be included in the hearing record.

It is our understanding that oil and gas companies have applied for leases to drill on national forest land from Marias Pass to Rogers Pass with more than 500,000 acres involved. We understand that Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear areas will not be recommended for leasing. We urge that the remaining area of 105,000 to 185,000 acres also NOT be recommended for leasing. This should not be simply a matter of "no recommendation for leasing." It should be a matter of recommendation against leasing. The roadless area that is now not part of the three mentioned areas (the 105,000 to 185,000 acres) should be included in one of the other three areas or designated as an additional wilderness area.

We are very much in favor of s.392 and hope that it will be approved.

Sincerely

Briggs M. Austin and Alice H. Austin

Briggs M. Austin, Alice H. Austin

Copies to: Senator Lee Metcalf
Representative Max Baucus

Western Environmental Trade Association — Montana

1785 Tamarack Lane, P. O. Box 96
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Executive Committee

President
Vow Crosswhite
Operating Engineers International Union

Vice President
Bibb Brothers
Island Empire District Council
LPIW, AFL-CIO

*Don L. Allen
Montana Petroleum Association

*Joe Brand
United Transportation Union, ALF-CIO

*Wm. H. Cudson
The Montana Power Company

*Roy Countryman
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Montana Mining Assn.,
Montana Beer Wholesalers' Assn.

*John E. Hamwell
Construction & General Laborers' Union,
Local #1334

*Ralph Holman
Columbia Basin Steel

*Marveth Knight
Intl. Union of Operating Engineers,
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*Bill McCulley
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The Anaconda Company

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Montan Water Development Assn.

Cecil R. Williams
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Lloyd Worrell
Laborers' Intl. Union of North America,
AFL-CIO

*Also Members of Board of Directors

June 17, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher, MT
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Melcher:

The Western Environmental Trades Association (WETA) of Montana is a coalition of labor and management recently organized to study the issues that threaten the economic well-being of Montana industry. The attached list of our Board of Directors will serve to illustrate the spectrum of our representation throughout the state. WETA of Montana fights for projects that are environmentally sound, but are caught in a maze of bureaucratic red tape or are opposed by preservationists and no-growth proponents. WETA of Montana believes that in Montana, a state consisting of approximately 96 million acres, there is ample room for wilderness preservation and industry that is important to our economy. One of these issues involves the management of our national forests. S. 392, if passed, would have the effect of preventing the necessary testing needed to determine if significant reserves of oil and gas exist in the disturbed belt area which lies in Montana.

WETA is not opposed to the concept of designating certain areas as wilderness, but in view of the large number of acres already set aside as such in Montana, and more importantly, in considering the worsening energy situation in the United States and in Montana as well as the concern over maintaining a healthy economy, we would like to be sure that adequate time be allowed for determining if significant resources exist in the affected area.

The disturbed belt, because of recent success in Utah and Wyoming, is receiving much attention. Because of the apparent size and significance of the reserves of oil and gas being found in Utah and Wyoming and those previously found in southern Alberta, the activity is finally getting the attention it has long deserved. The geology is extremely complex with considerable faulting and folding. The potential for more oil and gas

to be found is very high. The risk and costs of exploration are also very high. Montana has a large area of high potential between the production of Alberta and Utah and Wyoming. With continued drilling and evaluation, trends in Montana could easily result in major accumulations of oil and gas which could prove essential to the future of Montana and its citizens.

It is very critical to the economic health of Montana that every effort be made to insure an adequate supply of crude oil for the refineries and sufficient natural gas to supply the industries in Montana which are unable to switch to other fuels. In view of the increasing costs and scheduled cut off of supplies from Canada, every effort needs to be made to find more oil and gas in Montana for Montana.

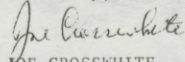
The number of jobs which would result from additional exploration, and hopefully in production which would follow, is relatively insignificant compared to the thousands of jobs in the affected industries which, without adequate energy supplies will not be able to operate on a full year-round schedule and eventually not operate at all.

In addition to the oil and gas aspects of S. 392, according to estimates by the Forest Service, the proposed Great Bear Wilderness area contains a potential sustained yield of 18.9 million board feet of sawtimber. This volume is sufficient to support an economically sized sawmill. It is important to the forest products industry that sufficient time be given to this study before declaring this volume of sawtimber unavailable as a wilderness area. This is especially important in view of pending legislation that could reduce the allowable cut on national forests.

In order to allow sufficient time for oil and gas exploration and a thorough inventory of the timber reserves in the proposed Great Bear Wilderness area, WETA of Montana recommends that the study period be increased to two full years. It is in the best interest of the United States and Montana not to act too hastily in setting aside more wilderness area without careful consideration of all impacts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



JOE CROSSWHITE
President

JC:1sm

June 29, 1976
Richard Ranney
#14 Parsons Drive
Missoula, Montana 59801

The Honorable John Melcher
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Melcher,

I understand that your subcommittee has just concluded hearings on S.392, the bill to designate the Great Bear area for study for inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. I strongly support the designation of this area as wilderness. I have traveled in this area extensively, and can say that, even if isolated, it would constitute a wilderness area of the highest order.

It's importance is greatly enhanced by being a vital habitat link between Glacier National Park to the north and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area to the south. As only one example, if the grizzly bear is to be preserved in a viable population in the lower 48 states, I feel that protection of this area as wilderness is essential.

Citizens in Montana have been seeking protection of this area since the early 1950's. In the meantime the encroachments of civilization have greatly reduced its size. After more than 20 years we are still at the stage of proposing bills to merely study the area. I say it is time to study the area with all reasonable speed, to the end that this magnificent area can be legally recognized as the wilderness that it is.

Sincerely,

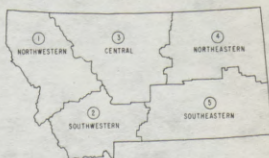
Richard Ranney
Richard Ranney

EDUCATION -- CONSERVATION

Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
Great Bear Wilderness Study
Reference 3392
Report No. 94-569

JUN 29 1976



Dear Committee Members,

We the Montana Wildlife Federation and the Hill County Wildlife Assn. do recommend study of the Great Bear Wilderness study area under 3392. The area contains lands essential to the Grizzly Bear. Elk and Deer inhabit this area also. Extensive timber management in adjacent areas with resulting roads & thus people-vehicle impact have forced the animals of this area farther away from their normal winter & summer ranges. The impact of the outfitters & packers along the Middle fork of the Flathead River must soon be managed to avert any irreparable damage. It is a main corridor & requires management such as has been used within the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Sirs: We would also request that area between the continental Divide and Birch Creek covered by our treaty with the Blackfeet Indian Tribe in 1895 not be considered in the Study area. They have not abused their rights or even used their treaty rights to any great extent. To trade of their rights would not be in the best interest of the Indian, Sportsman or the Wildlife. The present management by the Forest Service has been excellent for all concerned. In this Bicentennial Year we should not be second guessing our predecessors with modifications in a document which has worked so well.

This would leave the south easterly portion viable as a study area because it is contiguous to the northern portion of the Bob Marshall Wilderness in excess of 20,000 acres & has a excellent population of Elk, Deer & Bear.

Thank You for this opportunity to speak & please include this statement as a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Nitz

(Member) Montana Wildlife Federation

78-742 179

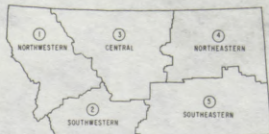
THE WEALTH OF THE NATION IS IN ITS NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DOES NOT END WITH CONVERSATION



EDUCATION -- CONSERVATION

Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



We would like all the letters from the individuals & groups of which I have listed & going to read the Names of & then hand to your recording secretary to go into the Hearing record.

Kenneth Hannah Sr.
Marlene Hannah

~~Leslie Bebee~~ Leslie Bebee

President- Montana Broadcasters, Inc. Carlyle D. Leeds

Ray Nitz (Sec)
Hill County Wildlife

Joe Pleskac

Klabunde Mobile Homes (Joseph J. Klabunde)

the Rev. Canon E.A. St. John

Richard L DonTigny

Montana Historical Society

Pastor Rodney Kvamme

Rita M. Toth

Al Lucke

Larry Nitz

Pastor Kenneth H. Olson

Louis W. Hagener

Nick H. Lafrantz

Martha Anne Dow (Mrs. Gary)

Gary Stuker

Havre Area Chamber of Commerce

State of Mont. Department of Fish & Game

Emmett A. Stallcop

Dr. Harrison Lane

Henry Bebee

ANACONDA 

June 21, 1976

Vice President

The Honorable John Melcher
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

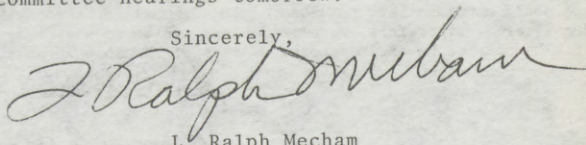
Enclosed are letters with supporting materials recommending a modification in S. 392, the bill which would create the Great Bear Wilderness Area in Montana.

Our Regional Project Geologist, Gordon B. Brox, recommends in his memorandum that the bill be revised to exclude portions of the proposed wilderness area boundaries lying west of Township 15 West, M.P.M. Two maps provide more detail concerning this recommendation. Vice President and Chief Counsel of our General Mining Division, C. J. Hansen, endorses this action and has asked me to pass the recommendation along to you.

While the area we have outlined may be small, it is an indication that additional mineralized areas probably exist within the proposed wilderness. It is our opinion that while prospecting is permitted in wilderness areas, that permission extends only through 1983 under the Wilderness Act. Such a short remaining time would effectively foreclose the development of the mineral prospect.

I hope you will consider this recommendation while reviewing the bill in your Subcommittee hearings tomorrow.

Sincerely,



L. Ralph Mecham

prm

Enclosures

3/6/75

THE ANACONDA COMPANY

526 HENNESSY BUILDING, P. O. BOX 621
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701

406 723-4311

February 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. C. J. Hansen - Vice President, Public Relations and General Counsel

FROM: Mr. Gordon B. Brox - Regional Project Geologist

SUBJECT: Proposed Wilderness Area - Senate Bill #392

Limits of the wilderness area proposed in Senate Bill #392 extend from Glacier Park on the north to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area on the south, east of Hungry Horse reservoir, as shown on the accompanying maps. Overall, the proposed withdrawal covers most of the unroaded area in the Flathead range between these two preserves.

Geologically, Paleozoic and younger rocks outcrop in the eastern third of the area while late-Precambrian Belt formations are exposed in the western two-thirds. The Precambrian rocks occur within an easterly-tilted fault block in which the Grinnel formation, a stratigraphic or time equivalent of the Ravalli formation, which contains significant copper-silver deposits in western Montana, is present. Grinnel exposures parallel the northwest margin, partially within the proposed wilderness area. Stratiform copper occurrences showing similarities to those in the Revett, have been prospected in the Grinnel in areas adjacent to the proposed wilderness tract. One occurrence, the Monty Bernard prospect, was inspected by the Geological Department last summer and found to have sufficient merit to warrant recommendations that a lease-option agreement be obtained. Further work on this prospect and in surrounding areas in the Grinnel formation has been temporarily deferred due to shortage of exploration funds.

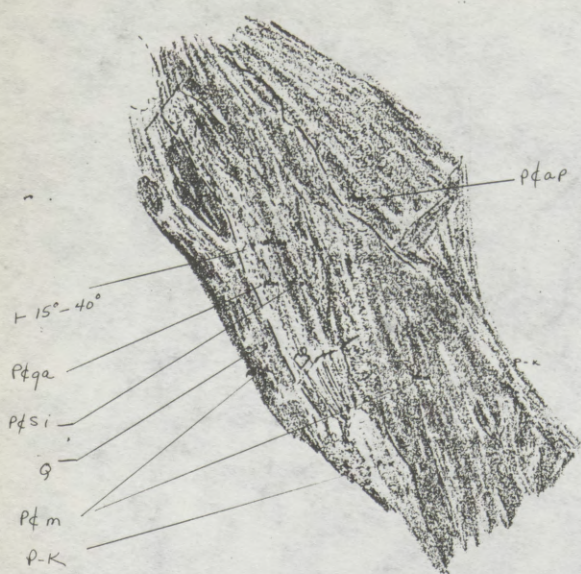
Although the presently-known stratiform copper occurrences are found outside the proposed wilderness area boundaries, deposits of this type are usually extensive and could continue into portions of the Grinnel formation within the proposed withdrawal area. Therefore, recommendations are to request a revision of the wilderness area boundaries to exclude portions west of Township 15 West, M.P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon B. Brox
Gordon B. Brox

GBB:lp

xc: G. A. Barber
R. C. Baker

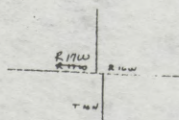


Reconstructions
 Qal - Tertiary-Quaternary
 P-K - Paleocic-Mesozoic
 { *Pt m* - Missoula Group (Upper Belt)
Pt Si - Middle Belt-Carbonate
Pt qe - Grinnel fm (Revett Equivalent)
Pt ap - Appekuny fm (Burke Equivalent) }

Geologic Map
 Proposed Wilderness Area S. 72 E.

1" = 800,000"

(Overlaid on State Geologic Map)
Geology



THE ANACONDA COMPANY

Primary Metals Division
INTERSTATE 10 E. AND KOLB ROAD
P. O. BOX 27007
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85726

INTER-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

To: C. J. Hansen

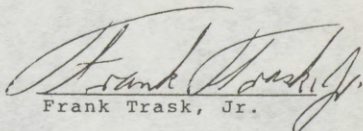
Date: March 6, 1975

From: Frank Trask, Jr.

Subject: SB 392

I have studied the maps and find that the proposed wilderness takes in all roadless area between Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

I do not know of any mines in this area, however there is mineralization which is not well understood or prospected in the Grinnell formation. It is possible that important deposits could be found although I can't predict it. I suggest that the U.S.G.S. should put a party in the field. The geologists should be experienced in strata-bound copper deposits. The area of interest is a band about 2 miles wide which extends from a little south of Prospector Mountain to the highway and railroad near Belton, or from Sec. 20, 21, 22, T. 27 N, R 16 W, to Sec. 36, T. 32N., R. 19 W., Sec. 31, 32, T. 32 N., R 18 W., Mont. P.M. The Anaconda Company does not have any claims in this area.



Frank Trask, Jr.

FTJr/dc

xc: G. A. Barber

8 N. Howie
Helena, Mt. 59601
June 21, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Melcher:

This is to ask that you please obtain prompt passage of S. 392, the Metcalf bill to direct the Forest Service to make a wilderness study of the Great Bear area in northwestern Montana.

I am quite well informed about this wild country on the Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage. It is the home of the nearly extinct grizzly bear. The grizzly bear needs wilderness to survive. The best use of this area is as wilderness. It does not have much commercial timber or other commodity resources. But it does provide important watershed protection for many thousands of people who live downstream. Other wild creatures besides the grizzly bear that need wilderness for their well being inhabit the area.

Unless directed to do so by this legislation, I do not believe that the Forest Service will give prompt and adequate consideration to the wilderness values of the Great Bear area.

So I urge immediate House approval of S. 392 without any deletions of area.

Please make this letter a part of the hearing record on the bill.

Thank you for your support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Emmelen Gabriel

Emmelen Gabriel

Choteau, Montana 59422
June 16, 1976

Hon. Rep. John Melcher
House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: S. 392, Great Bear Study Bill

Dear Congressman Melcher:

Please include this statement in the official hearing record for S. 392.

I have lived in the Choteau area for the past six years, working variously as a wilderness ranger for the Forest Service and as a packer and guide for outfitters.

During that time, I have been fortunate to have lived six summers and autumns in the back-country south of Glacier National Park, throughout and adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Scapegoat wilderness.

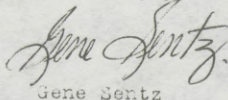
Having camped in and traveled extensively (on horseback and on foot) through the land now being proposed as the Great Bear Study Area (particularly that portion of it which lies east of the continental divide), I am sorry that that area was not originally included as part of the Bob Marshall wilderness.

Certainly the Great Bear, which lies adjacent to the Bob Marshall boundaries, exhibits the same wilderness character of the Bob Marshall. In my opinion, the whole Great Bear area is even more spectacular country than portions of the Bob Marshall itself, and certainly just as important in terms of wildlife habitat (e.g. the threatened grizzly) and historical and scientific values. Preliminary reports in the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Front Plan seem to bear this out, too.

My feelings for this land run deep, because I have lived there, and I know the unquestionable wilderness character of this back-country known as "the Great Bear." This character should be--must be--preserved.

For this reason, I strongly implore the Congress to pass S. 392, delineating the Great Bear Area as a special unit for study and for eventual consideration for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Sincerely yours,



Gene Sentz

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Helena, Montana
June 8, 1976

Honorable John Melcher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear John:

I am pleased to know that you have scheduled a public hearing for Senate Bill 392 in Washington on July 22nd.

The Fish and Game Commission withheld a statement on the proposed legislation until it was amended to provide a one-year study of the wilderness characteristics. Following that, the commission took action and I am enclosing an excerpt from the February 25 commission minutes, item 14.

Thanks for your interest in this matter. We will be glad to cooperate in any way that we can concerning the study.

Sincerely,

Wesley R. Woodgerd
State Fish and Game Director

WRW/jt
Enclosure

13. REQUESTS FOR LISTS -- Public reaction has been unfavorable to granting the request from Trout Unlimited and the Montana Wildlife Association to use license holder's names for direct mail in order to solicit membership to their organizations. Mr. Jim Handley, TU representative from Manhattan, indicated he would like to withdraw the request as funding and preparation are not complete.

In a slightly different vein, the Commission was asked if they wished to continue the practice of sending lists of trapper's names to the fur buying companies. This has been done with the expectation that trappers would be assisted in getting better prices for their furs. However it was suggested that trappers who want this information can write for it themselves. It was decided that publicity should be given to the possibility of furnishing the trappers list to the fur buyers and await public reaction.

MOTION, Mr. Hagenston: "I move to table the request to furnish names of license holders for noncommercial purposes until we have more information." Seconded by Mr. Rieder. Carried.

14. GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS BILL -- Mr. Joe Gaab discussed the Great Bear Wilderness Act. The original bill has been amended to provide for a one-year study rather than instant wilderness. This area is located between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area and includes the Sun River Game Preserve. Other amendments provide for a study of the possibility of a utility corridor through the area and if found necessary, determination of the route with the least impact on the land; and a provision to work out an agreement with the Blackfeet Tribe concerning timber rights. Other problems concern gas and oil leases on both sides of the Continental Divide. The bill provides for a four-year period for determination by Congress following the one-year study. Mr. Gaab said the department's primary concern is for grizzly bear habitat and cutthroat trout on the west slope. He recommended endorsement of the study.

MOTION, Dr. Pengelly: "I move to advise the Montana Congressional Delegation that we approve the amendment to S. 392 which provides for a one-year study of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness Area, and that we do not at this time make any recommendation as to final inclusion of the area in the National Wilderness Preservation System." Seconded by Mr. Rieder. Carried.

15. PROGRAM PLANNING & BUDGETING SYSTEM -- Administrator of the Planning Division Don L. Brown, reviewed progress in the Planning Division. A law passed at the last legislative session calls for pilot programs on planned program budgeting and this department has been selected to prepare its budget in this way. The Employees Activity Reporting System provides a history of how the money is presently being spent in terms of program, activity within the program, and geographical location of work accomplished. The new budget is being prepared with this information as a guideline. Inventories of supply and demand will help decision makers establish priorities. The programs chosen under PPB will be Wildlife, Fish and Parks. No one administrator would be in charge of a program because all of them transcend divisional responsibilities. The Director and Deputy Director will make the decisions and serve as program managers. Mr. Woodgerd stressed that every effort is being made to comply with the budgetary demands within the present

JARDINE, STEPHENSON, BLEWETT & WEAVER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SEVENTH FLOOR, FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING,
P. O. BOX 2289

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

ART JARDINE (1943-1973)

PHONE 727-5000
AREA CODE 406

June 10, 1976

JOHN D. STEPHENSON
ALEX BLEWETT
JOHN H. WEAVER
JOSEPH G. MUDD
L. MORRIS ORMSETH
GEORGE N. MCCABE
JOHN D. STEPHENSON, JR.
JACK L. LEWIS
ROBERT CORONTZOS
DONALD J. HAMILTON
JAMES E. AIKEN
P. DALE SCHWABE
ALEXANDER BLEWETT III
LON T. HOLDENHonorable John Melcher
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515Re: Senate Bill 392
Great Bear Wilderness Proposal

Dear John:

You will recall that I heretofore discussed with you Senate Bill 392 and its potential for far reaching effects over and beyond matters directly connected with wilderness. I advised you that I have been doing some work for and on behalf of Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company, and at your suggestion am submitting this letter somewhat in the nature of documentation substantiating the concern of my clients in this matter.

First of all, I am well aware of the fact that Senate Bill 392, as passed by the Senate, is basically a study bill, and from my investigation this designation leads to the conclusion by some people that it is or may be innocuous. Hopefully, it will have as its end result only the establishment of a wilderness area. Included in the proposed wilderness area, however, are approximately 20,000 acres which were likewise included in the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895 (see copy of letter dated June 11, 1975, directed to Senator Henry M. Jackson by J. Phil Campbell, Under Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Note therein his comment that permitted uses under the Agreement would not be compatible with wilderness designation. (See also pages 48 and 49 covering the Senate subcommittee hearing).

Thus, if the area now proposed is finally to become the Great Bear Wilderness area, then the Blackfeet Tribe will lose some rights and privileges for which they would seek redress and compensation. Absent any money payment or provision for money payment, the Blackfeet Tribe would naturally look for an exchange of these rights for something else of comparable value. It seems logical to assume that any such exchange would involve other government lands in the area. Tribal ownership of exchanged lands could and would likely involve tribal ownership of water, thus possibly impairing or affecting existing water uses by individual landowners and others in the area. This potential is of serious concern to my clients who not only corral but make available to many landowners water through its reservoir and canal system. As will be noted from the proceedings on the hearing, Witness Sedlack identifies this area as prime watershed control (see page 65 of the hearing proceedings). The importance of water as a resource to be considered is found in the report of proceedings at page 82. Mr. McDowell concludes at page 85 "there are many complex issues involved that need careful study."

Certainly one of those issues revolves around the determination of what compensation will eventually be given to the Blackfeet Tribe for loss of their treaty rights. Before this bill clears the House and some agency ends up with blanket authority to negotiate for and conclude with the Blackfeet Tribe some possible exchange of government land, Congress should not only consider establishment of definite guidelines as to how and in what manner the rights of the Blackfeet Tribe will be decided, but should also give consideration to possible revision of the wilderness area so as to eliminate or at least diminish this problem. For example, deletion of the 20,000 acres would not adversely affect the overall project even though such acreage is now considered by some as a necessary corridor. Actually, according to my information, the wilderness area south of such acreage provides a corridor.

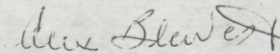
A Western States Water Council report, dated March 8, 1976, points up the seriousness of litigation and claims involving Indian and non Indian water users. That report recommends a better assessment of present and potential conflict between the two. Congress can perform a valuable service to the Blackfeet Tribe and others if it would now take into account the many dilemmas final enactment of the bill may present.

In view of your present intention to attend the House hearing scheduled for June 22nd, I am hopeful that this letter will give you some food for thought as to why my clients are apprehensive.

Even though the study bill status may allow for time to investigate further points raised in this letter, I hope you don't feel it is too early to have them surfaced.

Again, my thanks for your usual fine cooperation and attention, and my personal regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Blewett", followed by a long horizontal flourish line extending to the right.

Alex Blewett

AB:dk

June 12, 1976

Dear Congressman Melcher:

Re: June 4th letter - Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill - S 392:

March 12, 1976 I wrote you my feelings on this - I can only repeat myself about the use of RVs and snowmobiles in this forest area. Myself and everyone I know has a self-contained unit - when we drive into this area to camp - it is clean camping. Outdoor recreation in this neck of the woods is rather limited. If one doesn't fish - there isn't much else to do but go camping and hike on the trails. Boating is risky - the lakes are far away - the wind blows - or the waters are too cold. We don't have any amusement parks to amuse ourselves in. So we all "go to the mountains and camp". Loggers have taken off the best trees - what's left are the small trees, and brushy type vegetation; you don't "plow" through this on foot or with a vehicle of any kind, snowmobile, bike or pick-up. Only our 4-footed friends can. So - therefore we travel the roads left by the loggers or use the forest trails. Snowmobiles? There are well over a hundred that use this area in winter. These machines are expensive - we don't take to these roads and trails until there is plenty of snow cover. Snow-covered logging roads make for fine travel. When the clear-cut areas have lots of snow on them; the old stumps are all covered over - snowmobiling is beautiful. And there is absolutely no damage done to the terrain. These patches have never been seeded; they've been left to nature - and in this tough cruel climate it'll take a hundred years to raise a forty or fifty foot tree. Take a look at the 1929 fire damage around West Glacier - nothing but a little brush has come back.

Again I say I'm against this Great Bear Wilderness Area Bill 392. All of us for hundreds of miles around enjoy this mountain country. Compared to populous areas; we are only a speck. I can not foresee how we will have "thousands" of out-of-staters running all over this land and spoiling it. I can not see that they will flock to this off-route out-of-the-way country for a bit of summer camping; and they surely aren't coming in winter. Every way we turn - no one wants big industry to come to this state - so we won't have that population explosion underfoot either.

I've made my plea again for this land; I hope you consider it - thank you Mr. Melcher for listening to one small voice.

Sincerely,

Sterling B. Hoge

Box 1283

Cut Bank, Montana 59427

Cut Bank, Montana
February 20, 1976

Congressman John Melcher
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Sir:

This letter is in protest of the designation of the Great Bear area as a Wilderness area. Before final decision is made, I would like to request that a hearing be held here in Cut Bank or at least in this vicinity so that the people nearest to the area and concerned with same may have a chance to express their feelings.

My husband and I are 30 year residents of this city and are taxpayers, both as home owners and business owners. We also own property, a home, in West Glacier and use it both winter and summer as a headquarters for recreation.

We feel that the Great Bear area provides much enjoyment and hours of relaxation for snowmobilers and summer hikers, cyclists, and skiers. One of the advantages of this area is the fact that the snow fall is very heavy and no harm is done to undercover whatsoever. We are just as desirous of preserving the beauty of this land as anyone, but cannot find any harm is being done by those using it.

This land is about 60 miles from Cut Bank and the closest that we have for recreational use. To close it would be shutting off recreational space for a large area and includes many many people. We were very upset when the Glacier Park area was closed to snowmobilers and feel that the feelings of the people from here, altho a meeting was held, were not correctly represented. Nearly everyone at the meeting was against the closing, yet it was closed anyway. Don't we have a right to true and honest consideration?

Please give this your immediate attention.

Thank you.

Lila Mae Pritchard
Lila Mae Pritchard

410 Woodward Ave.
Missoula, Montana 59801
June 17, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
House Sub-Committee on Public Lands
1224 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

Please include my support for the Great Bear Wilderness legislation in the hearing record. I have had the pleasure of traveling through this area; an option that should be retained for others.

However, the most important reason for retaining this ecosystem intact is to assure continued populations of wolves and grizzly bears and migration routes and spawning grounds for cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden that inhabit Flathead Lake, also the elk winter range is critical to maintain the Middle Fork herd.

If developed the Middle Fork of the Flathead would create a barrier for grizzly bear and wolves migrating between Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall, two of the few areas still managed in a manner compatible to these animals.

Minable minerals are evidently not present in the proposed Wilderness. Available timber is marginal and the steep slopes and fragile soils preclude judicious development. The real public values in this area are top quality water, recreation, wildlife, and opportunity for solitude. These are all renewable and rapidly appreciating resources.

The only change I recommend for the proposed legislation is the deletion of the 20,000 acres of land on which the Indians were granted specific rights in the Treaty of 1895.

Sincerely,

Donald Aldrich
Donald Aldrich

215 N. Church Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

June 22, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Melcher:

I am writing in support of S 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill.

This 378,000 acre area is well suited as a possible wilderness and should be studied as this bill would provide. This area has few conflicting values, since timber, hard-rock minerals, and livestock grazing are minimal. It contains steep slopes and unstable soils and thus is unsuited for roadbuilding and ORV use. I understand also that most oil and gas leases are outside of the proposed.

Please include this letter as part of the hearing record in the Public Lands Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Harold Beckelman

Harold Beckelman

MOORE'S WOODSMANSHIP CENTER
3728 W. Sussex Avenue
Missoula, Mt. 59801
(Phone: 406-549-8450)

June 25, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Public Lands
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

Since time and costs prevented us from attending your June 22 hearing on S. 392, we request that this letter become part of the hearing record.

The natural systems on the Flathead River's upper Middle Fork perpetuate many values that cannot survive the intrusion of man's machine-age-technology. Natural landscapes, rivers, lakes, trees of all ages, an array of wildlife including the threatened grizzly and several endangered species combine to create a resource of wildness that transcends, and will continue to transcend, anything to be gained by impacting that land with roads, chainsaws and motorized equipment.

We have so very little wild country left and the upper Middle Fork is some of our finest. The least we can do is pass S. 392 and assure that the Forest Service will study the Great Bear country for wilderness.

That's all we ask.

Sincerely,

William R. & Janet Moore

Dr. William R. & Janet Moore

June 24, 1976
1300 Dickinson
Missoula, MT 59801

Congressman John Melcher, Chairman
Public Lands Subcommittee
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Subcommittee Office Room 1522
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

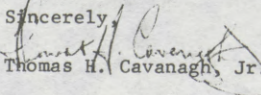
Dear Representative Melcher:

I learned this day that the above-mentioned committee held a public hearing concerning S.B. 392 on June 22, 1976, concerning a one year study by the Forest Service of the Great Bear Area in the Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests. I would request that this letter be made a part of the public record in that matter.

My concern with S.B. 392 is that any change in title, management, and control of these lands, I believe would have serious effects on the water interests and rights involving many thousands of acres of some of Montana's prime cropland. I also oppose any change in title, management, and control of these lands inasmuch as same might negatively affect the right of the Montana citizen to hunt, camp, etc. in these lands, even to the extent of paying for a tribal permit to be on these lands.

Because of the very serious results which would necessarily occur if there were any change in title, management, and control of these lands, I would be opposed to any study such as proposed in S.B. 392, and would request that my opposition be noted for the record.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Cavanagh, Jr.

JOHN R. SWANSON
P. O. Box 922
Berkeley, California 94701

June 22, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher, Chairman
House Sub Committee on Public Lands
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

Please add my testimony, as follows, to your Official Public Lands Records concerning legislation to a study of the proposed Great Bear Wilderness in Montana.

I wish to assure this Committee of my substantial support for this proposal as the area considered possesses outstanding wilderness wildlife and scenic resources of certain National value and would make a very worthy addition to our National Wilderness Preservation System as a fully qualified wilderness unit.

and I urge certain amendments to this proposal to simply strengthen its contents and to insure responsible preservation of this Great Bear area. I strongly suggest that this legislation, simply of parks wilderness status to this area rather than only study status as it currently provides now as a full wilderness unit.

The area suggested should be expanded to cover all of the important remaining wilderness-type lands in this general Great Bear area, expanded to include at least 450,000 acres, which will form a more viable wilderness unit.

Establish a Buffer Zone to surround this wilderness in order to further protect the values of this wilderness from the nominal multiple-use activities of the National Forests involved. Grazing and timber interests now count not only this proposed wilderness but all of the lands of our National Forests in Northwestern Montana with the result that all of these forest lands could well be decimated by exploitation within the next several years destroying not only the remaining wilderness but all other important resources as well, including the important wildlife resources of this region, (including the termination of one of America's remaining major Grizzly Bear habitats).

Some twenty years ago I suggested National Park classification for this region including the lands of this wilderness proposal, as it contained one of America's outstanding remaining natural outdoor areas; from Glacier National Park to north of Helena and from west of ~~Helena~~ to and including ~~Helena~~ Lake, as a Glacier and Lake National Park.

Perhaps, then, such an action may be the only measure in which to save this new shared outdoor heritage, of certain national significance.

Sincerely,
John R. Swanson

FLATHEAD Electric COOPERATIVE, Inc.

POWER AND LIGHT

510 LaSALLE ROAD
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901
PHONE 755-5483

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THOSE WE SERVE

June 21, 1976

Honorable John Melcher
United States Congressman
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: Great Bear Wilderness Area

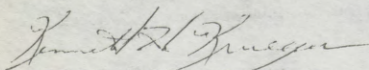
Dear Congressman Melcher:

We understand that there are hearings being held on the Great Bear Wilderness Area in the Flathead River drainage in western Montana.

In considering the creation of a wilderness area to include the upper Middle Fork of the Flathead River drainage and the Bear Creek drainage, it is our opinion that there are some exceptions that should be considered by your committee and we believe that there should be reservations in the proposal for the establishment of such wilderness area:

1. One of the reservations should be to permit a further study of Spruce Park Dam on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River to determine the present feasibility of such dam and if such study determines that this dam will be practical and beneficial both for flood control and electric power generation, then any wilderness legislation should make an exception to permit such dam to be constructed.
2. There are present plans for the construction of an electric transmission line by Bonneville Power Administration along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and Bear Creek to transport energy to the users in Glacier, Toole and probably other counties, on the east side of the continental divide. The wilderness legislation should be so written that it will not prevent the future construction of such transmission line.

Very truly,

KENNETH KRUEGER, President
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Margaret E. Murie
Moose, Wyoming 83012
June 23, 1976

Hon. John Melcher,
Chairman,
House Subcommittee on Public Lands,
House Office Building,
Washington, D. C. 20515

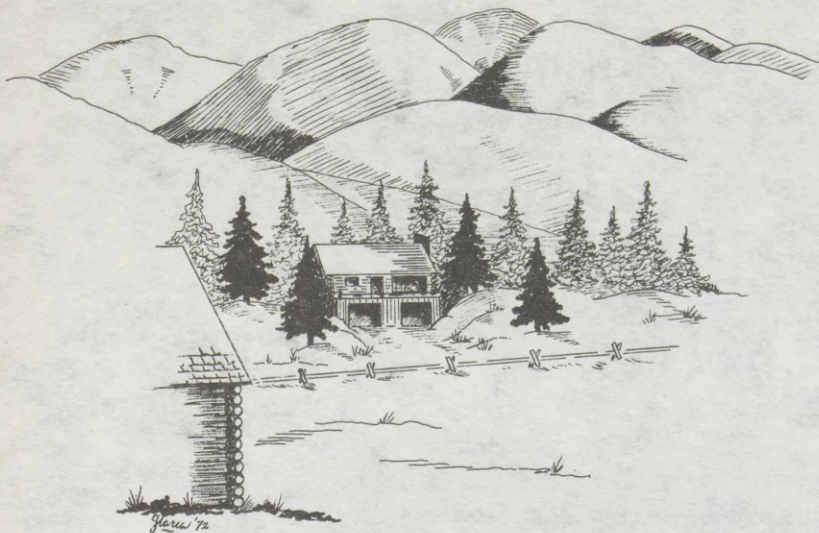
Dear Congressman Melcher:

This is simply to express my strong support of the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill (S.392), and also my hope that your committee will recommend that this area be studied for Wilderness designation.

I feel there is every reason for supporting this plan for the Great Bear. We need to look to the future, and I am confident the future generations will be grateful for this stewardship.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret E. Murie



June 22, 1976

Congressman John Melcher, chmn.
House Subcommittee of Public Lands
House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515.

Dear Sir:

I believe it extremely important that the country which lies between Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness be studied as a possible addition to our Wilderness System. To have this area in an undisturbed state is vital not only to wildlife, but to many of the citizens of this country. As both an M.D. and a Wilderness user, I am well aware of the great benefit, both physically and mentally, many people derive from Wilderness use. For some, the challenge and solitude offered by Wilderness, is essential for the maintenance of sound mental health.

For this reason I would urge that S 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill, be approved by the House, and the U.S. Forest Service be directed to make a Wilderness Study of this area. I request that this note be included in the Hearing Record.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely
Edward L. Foss
Edward L. Foss
Condon, Montana 59326

MISSOULA, MONT., June 28, 1976.

JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Public Lands,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: We would like to urge a wilderness study be made of the Great Bear area located mainly on the upper Middle Fork of the Flathead River drainage in northwestern Montana.

This area has poor timber, steep slopes and unstable soils. Livestock grazing is poor. This area also lacks hardrock minerals. Gas and oil development plans threaten the western portions of this pristine area. This area known as Great Bear area is a link between Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It is necessary, to preserve the endangered Rocky Mountain wolf and the grizzly bear, to have this Great Bear area designated as wilderness.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. HAYES.

EAST SHORE, BIG FORK, MONT., June 22, 1976.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: Could you please make my following comments a part of the official hearing record on S. 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill.

I have traveled extensively the area being considered by S. 392 by hiking and x-country skiing and have worked at Schafer Meadows for a summer. Further I have worked with others on boundary delineation for the Great Bear.

A year's study by the Forest Service is a good idea and I very much support S. 392. There are conflicting aspects of use within this area as well as boundary refinements that need reviewing and this bill would provide ample opportunity for this. During the study I trust the public would be informed of the progress and would be afforded a chance to contribute wherever possible.

Presently there is motorized use within the area in the form of airplane landings at Schafer, trail bikes and snowmobiles. There is relatively very little snowmobile or trailbike use now compared to adjacent developed Forest Service lands due to the rugged character and remoteness of the Great Bear. As these uses are primarily transient short term uses I see no reason for banning them during the study period. Likewise I think that the small planes presently using the Schafer airstrip should have continued use during the study period. I do object to large commercial planes; say those with a seating capacity greater than five, using the airfield. The one year study period would provide time to review motorized uses of this area to determine more specifically exactly where this use should continue.

The 20,000 acre portion of S. 392 with tribal timber rights as provided for by the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895 I believe should be left in this bill. However, possibly there could be written into S. 392 a brief sentence after the first sentence in Sec. 2 that would allow for existing tribal timber cutting rights in that specific area. I know of the land character of this 20,000 acres and personally feel that the wood cutting rights would not be exercised because presently there is no access and the area contains extremely little; if any, commercial timber. A years study could resolve this issue and if not, the area could be deleted from S. 392.

The Forest Service during the 1974 field season completed an extensive forest resource inventory including those lands in the Great Bear west of the Continental Divide. This was done to provide basic data for the Flathead Forest timber management plan revision. Review of this data has been ongoing since 1974 and should be finalized within the next year. This would provide the necessary information on timber values and potentials needed to resolve important questions and conflicts on the timber resource within the Great Bear proposal.

Much has already been said about the wilderness values within the lands of S. 392 and I would like to say that this area does indeed have high quality wilderness character not unlike those lands of the Bob Marshall or Glacier Park.

Please pass S. 392.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. TREMBATH.

MISSOULA, MONT., *June 27, 1976.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: I am writing in support of S. 392 and in particular the inclusion of the 86,400 acres or so that lies east of the Continental Divide. I am quite intimately familiar with this area. It is exceptionally worthy of wilderness classification both in its own right and because it is markedly different from the adjacent area west of the Divide.

Thus the entire area would lose a lot if the eastern part were excluded. It is only a great pity that the Feather Woman and Badger Canyon area of the Blackfeet Reservation were excluded as this is probably the most strikingly beautiful and awesome part east of the Divide.

The question of Indian hunting and fishing rights would not be prejudiced by wilderness classification—in fact their rights will be better preserved if roads and logging operations are forbidden.

There is very little commercial timber in the eastern area and what there is stands on very poor growing sites. Road building to gain access to this timber for the sake of removal would be a definite waste of taxpayers' money.

I hope your bill is successful and that the eastern part of the land in question is not excluded for any reason.

I am employed as a forest economist by a resource consulting firm in Montana. I request that this letter be included in the public record.

Sincerely,

ALAN G. MCQUILLAN.

SHELBY, MONT.

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my views, on the proposed Great Bear Wilderness area in Montana. I use the area for backpacking and would like to see the area made into the wilderness. As for the twenty thousand acres of Indian land, I feel I know the area extremely well and I feel the area would be best served if it were a wilderness. I am glad I can express my views on the Great Bear Area. I really hope that the Great Bear Wilderness bill is passed.

Sincerely yours,

TIM PALMER.

NOXON, MONT.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, House Subcommittee on Public Lands,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MELCHER: As our earlier correspondence has indicated, we are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the National Treasure, the State of Montana. Many in western Montana share this goal.

We are ecstatic in our thanks to you for assisting in freeing Mr. Metcalf's S. 1506 from whatever fate had delayed its hearing in Mr. Taylor's subcommittee.

We would like to inquire as to the exact locations of offstream water storage facilities, suggested by yourself as a possible amendment to the bill. Ranching and farming friends in the Chester area have indicated their dismay at such a project, having raised the question of such a project's intended use. Could you please expound on this at your convenience?

Secondly, while realizing the crowded House calendar, it is hoped Mr. Metcalf's S. 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study, will receive your active support.

Being more than passingly familiar with this area, I might attest to its singular quality, and when combined with the Bob Marshall Glacier National Park and the Upper Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage, offers resident wildlife and the Nation's citizens, unmatched value.

We would be grateful if our letter could be entered into the hearing record for the most welcome, S. 392.

Respectfully,

BILLO AND LINDA COMOLA.

CUT BANK, MONT., June 16, 1976.

JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
 U.S. House of Representatives,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: We very much oppose the inclusion of lands north of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and the lands east of the Continental Divide in the S. 392—Great Bear Wilderness Study bill. The land lying west of the Divide is the only recreation area left for the use of us "Hi-liners" who wish to get away from the dust and wind of the prairie. The land east of the Divide conflicts with the rights of the Blackfoot Tribe and should be left alone.

The land south of the Middle Fork, we believe suitable for wilderness, as it has not been invaded by roads, clear-cutting, or airstrips.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. STILLWELL,
 ALICE L. STILLWELL.

[Western Union Mailgram]

CONRAD, MONT., June 21, 1976.

Congressman JOHN MELCHER,
*Chairman, Public Subcommittee, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.:*

We wish to express in the Congressional Record opposition to Senate bill 392 in public hearing. This bill infringes on water rights, lumber industry, prevents the use of Schaffers Meadows Landing Strip, and deprives the public use of a prime recreation area, which several hundred people use each week winter and summer.

LYMAN DENZER FAMILY.

BILLINGS, MONT., June 20, 1976.

DEAR MR. MELCHER: I just wish to express my support for the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill (S. 392). Wilderness is a resource, one of our rarest resources. We need to save as much as possible. Nothing's lost in wilderness, everything's saved for tomorrow's children. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN UNWIN.

EAST GLACIER PARK, MONT., June 10, 1976.

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*House of Representatives,
 Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: Thank you for advising me of the hearing to be held in Washington on the Great Bear Wilderness Study bill S. 392. I am indeed interested! Since it is impossible for me to travel to Washington to attend the hearing, I would like to take this opportunity to make my views known.

As you are no doubt aware, the Great Bear Wilderness would connect the Bob Marshall Wilderness area with Glacier National Park and the Lincoln-Sagegoat Wilderness, making one of the largest unroaded ecosystems in the United States. With the constant eroding of our wild areas due to the advance of civilization, it seems imperative that we save as much as possible of what is left while we still can.

Many of our threatened and endangered animal species cannot survive without large habitats. We have just recently found that there are several Rocky Mountain wolves in Glacier Park. What better way to help them survive, perhaps even to multiply, than by insuring them a place to live. The same is true of the grizzly and many others of our larger animal species. It seems to me that mankind has claimed the earth as his exclusive property long enough. We have driven other animals as far as it is possible, there is no place left for them to go. We must now decide if we wish to destroy them completely, or if we will finally grant them the right to share this planet with us. It is my sincere hope that we will realize in time that a world without wild, free things is indeed a poor place in which to live.

Mr. Melcher, you mention people's concern over water rights in this matter. I have read the Committee Report from the Senate Interior Committee, which was sent to me by Senator Metcalf. I see no mention in it of water rights. I know nothing of this and am glad to leave it to your good judgment. As far as its interference in recreational use, it is mind-boggling to me to think that some people would ask you to work against a project of this magnitude for such purely selfish reasons. I have read several items in the Cut Bank newspapers on this matter and on the snowmobile ban in Glacier Park. It is obvious that the term "environmentalist" and especially "Sierra Club" have become dirty words. I would like to point out that environmentalists act unselfishly for what we really feel is right. We don't sell our heritage, and the lives and future of other living things, for a day's fun snowmobiling.

Mr. Melcher, you must know that there are many places open to recreational vehicles in this part of Montana, but there are not many places left for Ursus Horribilis. Just for once, let's think of him!

I urge you as strongly as I know how to please find in favor of S. 392. Thank you very much for listening.

Sincerely,

EVA WALL (Mrs. Jack Wall).

GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Hon. JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Public Lands,
U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MELCHER: I am writing to ask favorable consideration of S.B. 392, the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill. This key area must at least be studied carefully for possible inclusion into the wilderness system, and S. 392 would provide the best means by which such a study could be undertaken.

Thank you for your work on S. 1506 and your good letter of explanation regarding your generally positive position on it. I surely hope we can nail this one down this year.

In appreciation,

JACK H. SEVERNS.

P.S. Please include my letter as part of the hearing record.

J.S.

BOZEMAN, MONT., June 26, 1976.

Representative JOHN MELCHER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MELCHER: I would like you to include this short letter in the S. 392 hearing record.

The beautiful wild country in the Middle Fork of the Flathead drainage surely deserves a prompt wilderness study. Only passage of S. 392 will properly accomplish this objective.

I once lived in northwestern Montana, and am acquainted with the area in question.

Please obtain House approval of this bill in the current session of Congress.

Thank you,

SHERRY ESSIG.

MISSOULA, MONT., June 23, 1976.

Representative JOHN MELCHER,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I would like to go on record as being a Montana resident who favors and supports the Great Bear bill (S. 392).

It is my sincere belief that the entire issue of wilderness preservation is of tremendous importance to present and future generations. We owe it to ourselves and our progeny to take current, positive steps to protect the wilderness as much as possible. It constitutes a real element of our heritage as well as our uniqueness in the world today and tomorrow.

Very sincerely,

HENRY H. HARRISON.

SEELEY LAKE, MONT., *June 23, 1976.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MELCHER: I can only speak for myself, of course, but I assure you there are many people in northwest Montana very concerned and hopeful for the future of the Flathead River drainage. The beauty of the Great Bear area plus the air, watershed and wildlife habitat is extremely precious. Together with the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier Park, it's even more valuable as a wilderness resource, than it would be standing alone.

I know, Mr. Melcher, that there many requests in the last few years to save this or protect that. It seems it's a now or never in so many instances, and, therefore. I would greatly appreciate your support for the Great Bear bill (S. 392).

This letter to be entered in the hearing record, please.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA L. HALTERMAN.

KALISPELL, MONT., *June 22, 1976.*

HON. JOHN MELCHER,
*House Subcommittee on Public Lands,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. MELCHER: I am a native Montanan 62 years with intense interest in Montana's great out-doors and recreational potential.

I know I speak for numerous local citizens when I request your support for S. 392 the Great Bear Wilderness Study Bill.

I am very familiar with the 378,000 acres involved as I have traveled most of it on foot and horse-back over an 18-year period. I worked 27 years as placement representative for the employment service, thereby becoming very familiar with the economy here too.

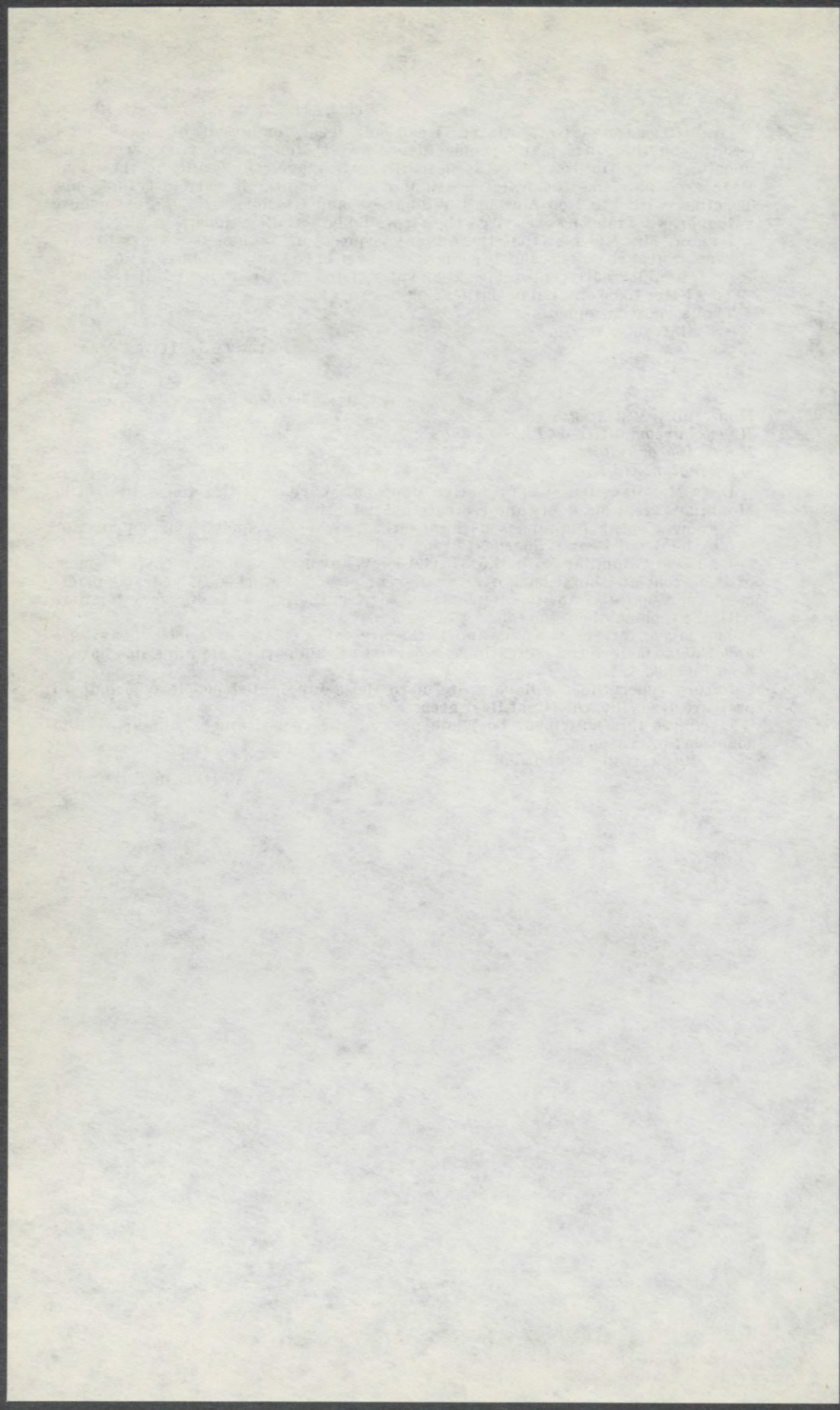
The lakes, forests, streams and parks are experiencing extremely heavy use and I don't believe the recreational potential of this part of Montana has hardly been touched yet.

Future generations will be grateful to those far-sighted people who help to preserve areas like the Great Bear area.

I request this statement be made part of the record and would appreciate some sort of response.

Respectfully submitted,

DALLAS EKLUND.



MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.
(SNOW MOUNTAIN)

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1976

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 12:30 p.m., pursuant to other business in room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. John Melcher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will consider H.R. 5568, "To designate certain lands in the State of California as wilderness;" H.R. 5589 "To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to review as to its suitability for preservation as wilderness the area commonly known as the Snow Mountain Area in the State of California;" and S. 1391, "To study certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System."

Without objection, H.R. 5568, H.R. 5589 and S. 1391, will be included in the record and when it is available the departmental report will be made a part of the record at this point.

[Bills and reports follow:]

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5568

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 1975

Mr. DON H. CLAUSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of California as wilderness.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That, in accordance with subsection 3 (b) of the Wilderness
4 Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (b)), certain lands in
5 the Mendocino National Forest, California, which comprise
6 approximately thirty-seven thousand acres as depicted on a
7 map entitled "Snow Mountain Defacto Wilderness Area",
8 dated June 1971 are hereby designated as wilderness and
9 shall be known as the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area.

10 SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect,
11 the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal

1 description of the wilderness area with the Interior and
2 Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and
3 the House of Representatives, and such description shall
4 have the same force and effect as if included in this Act:
5 *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typo-
6 graphical errors in such legal description and map may be
7 made.

8 SEC. 3. The wilderness area designated by this Act shall
9 be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accord-
10 ance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing
11 areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except
12 that any reference in such provisions to the effective date
13 of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to
14 the effective date of this Act.

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5589

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 1975

Mr. JOHNSON of California (for himself, Mr. LEGGETT, and Mr. DON H. CLAUSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to review as to its suitability for preservation as wilderness the area commonly known as the Snow Mountain Area in the State of California.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the
4 provisions of subsection 3 (d) of the Wilderness Act of Sep-
5 tember 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 892, 16 U.S.C. 1132 (d)), relat-
6 ing to public notice, public hearings, and review by State
7 and other agencies, shall review, as to its suitability or non-
8 suitability for preservation as wilderness, the area generally
9 depicted on a map dated March 1975, and entitled "Pro-
10 posed Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area," Mendocino

1 National Forest California, comprising approximately thirty-
2 seven thousand acres. The Secretary shall report his findings
3 to the President on or before the expiration of the two-year
4 period following the date of the enactment of this act. The
5 President shall submit promptly thereafter to the United
6 States Senate and the House of Representatives of his rec-
7 ommendations with respect to the designation of such area
8 or portion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of the
9 President that such area or portion thereof should be desig-
10 nated as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided
11 by an Act of Congress.

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1391

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

AN ACT

To study certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the
4 provisions of subsection 3 (d) of the Wilderness Act (78
5 Stat. 890, 892), relating to public notice, public hearings,
6 and review by State and other agencies, shall review, as to
7 their suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilder-
8 ness, certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest, Cali-
9 fornia, which comprise approximately thirty-seven thou-
10 sand acres, and which are generally depicted on a map en-

1 titled "Snow Mountain DeFacto Wilderness Area", dated
2 June 21, 1971. The Secretary shall report his findings to
3 the President on or before the expiration of the two-year
4 period following the date of the enactment of this Act. The
5 President shall submit promptly thereafter to the United
6 States Senate and House of Representatives his recommen-
7 dations with respect to the designation of such area or por-
8 tion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of the
9 President that such area or portion thereof shall be desig-
10 nated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the
11 national wilderness preservation system shall become effec-
12 tive only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

13 SEC. 2. During the review period provided by this Act
14 and for a period of four years after the recommendations of
15 the President are submitted to the Congress, the Secretary
16 of Agricultural shall manage and protect the resources of the
17 lands depicted on such map in such a manner as to assure
18 that their suitability for potential wilderness designation is
19 not impaired.

20 SEC. 3. The review required by this Act, including any
21 report and recommendations with respect thereto, shall,
22 except to the extent otherwise provided in this Act, be con-
23 ducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the
24 Wilderness Act.

1 SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated
2 such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
3 of this Act.

 Passed the Senate August 1 (legislative day, July 31),
1975.

Attest:

FRANCIS R. VALEO,

Secretary.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Honorable James A. Haley
Chairman, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives

DEC 2 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, here is our report on S. 1391, an Act "To study certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System."

The Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 1391 not be enacted.

S. 1391 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to review, as to their suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness, certain lands comprising about 37,000 acres in the Mendocino National Forest, California, identified in the bill as the "Snow Mountain DeFacto Wilderness Area". The review would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 3(d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890, 892). The Secretary would be required to conduct the review and report his findings to the President within two years from the date of enactment. During the review period and for a period of four years after the recommendations of the President are submitted to Congress, the Secretary would be required to manage the affected area in a manner to assure that its suitability for potential wilderness designation would not be impaired.

In 1969, the Forest Service completed an intensive study to determine the best mix of natural resource uses for the Snow Mountain Area. Wilderness designation was one of the land use alternatives considered. The public was asked to comment on the alternatives, and many people responded. After an analysis of resource data and public comment, we concluded that the Snow Mountain Area should serve a variety of purposes which would be unnecessarily limited by wilderness designation.

The Mendocino National Forest now has a plan which provides management direction for eight sub-units of the area according to their respective capabilities. Two of the sub-units, totaling 12,860 acres, have key attributes for primitive, dispersed recreation use, and they will be managed under the plan to maintain their scenic and primitive qualities. In three other sub-units, watershed and recreation considerations will predominate followed by timber management considerations. In the three remaining sub-units, the respective management priorities by sub-unit are timber management, wildlife, and scenery.

The Snow Mountain Area was again reviewed during the recent Forest Service study of all National Forest roadless areas containing 5,000 acres or more. Nationwide, 1,449 national forest roadless areas containing about 56 million acres were systematically evaluated. Of this number, 136 roadless areas totaling about 3 million acres are located in California. Each of the areas was rated as to its potential wilderness quality using criteria such as scenic quality, isolation, size, and variety of potential wilderness experience. The procedure also evaluated other resource values that would be foregone by wilderness designation.

In California, 22 roadless areas containing about 991,000 acres were selected as wilderness study areas. The Snow Mountain Area is not among those selected, because we determined that in comparison with all other inventoried roadless areas, the Snow Mountain Area has a low quality rating for wilderness purposes, and its designation as wilderness would be costly in terms of resource values foregone.

Existing or planned resource management activities in the Snow Mountain Area should not be curtailed pending the outcome of a third study. Such curtailments, which could last up to six years under the provisions of S. 1391, would adversely affect our ability to provide needed resource products and services from the Mendocino National Forest. Furthermore, a requirement to restudy the Snow Mountain Area could delay our review of other areas that demonstrate greater potential for wilderness designation and management.

In summary, we strongly urge the Congress not to require a third study of the Snow Mountain Area. We have examined the area's wilderness values and other resource values during two previous studies, and we have concluded that the Snow Mountain Area should be managed to serve a broader range of resource uses than would be possible under wilderness designation.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

signed
 RICHARD A. ASHCROTH
 Deputy Under Secretary

Mr. MELCHER. Our first witnesses are two colleagues on the subcommittee, Harold T. Johnson and Don H. Clausen.

Please proceed.

Mr. JOHNSON of California. Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I would ask unanimous consent to have my statement and the statement of Congressman Leggett of California included in the record as if read.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, so ordered.

[Statements follow:]

Statement of
THE HONORABLE HAROLD T. (BIZZ) JOHNSON
before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
of the
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 22, 1976

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to review as to its suitability for preservation as wilderness the area commonly known as the Snow Mountain area in the State of California.

Mr. Chairman:

I would first like to thank you personally and my colleagues on the Subcommittee for this opportunity to discuss ^{H.R. 5339} with you, the need for a study of the Snow Mountain area in California for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system. The Subcommittee schedule has been quite heavy this year, and I appreciate this hearing being scheduled.

The Snow Mountain area in Northern California encompasses parts of Glenn, Lake, and Colusa Counties. It contains some of the most beautiful country in our part of the State. The proposed wilderness area is physically located in the Mendocino National Forest and is the last virtually roadless area within that Forest. Snow Mountain itself is comprised of three adjacent peaks above the 6,500 foot level and is located in the North Coast Range. Unlike many surrounding peaks, Snow Mountain contains a large bulk above the 6,000 foot line which provides the opportunity for considerable development of high elevation flora. Vegetation types on Snow Mountain include grass lands, mountain meadows, many chaparral types, canyon oaks, oak woodland, mixed conifers, high

elevation red and white fir, and other botanically important species. Wildlife is abundant in the Snow Mountain roadless area, and it has some of the best native trout fishing along the Middle Fork of Stony Creek.

This primitive area is not large. It encompasses approximately 37,000 acres. It is, however, highly recognized in the area as unique and worthy of preservation. It provides the closest opportunity for a wilderness experience for the residents of the San Francisco Bay area, a major metropolitan area in our State.

President Theodore Roosevelt first set aside the Stony Creek Forest Reserve in 1907. Since that time, this area has been given special protection because of its important wilderness qualities.

In spite of this fact, the area also provides many other benefits. One of the greatest resources that the area offers is timber. In recent years, roads have been put into the area to help in the extraction of timber. Timber harvesting has been reduced in the area in order to protect the wilderness quality. Through various arrangements with the Forest Service, limited timber harvesting has continued in the Snow Mountain area.

Another matter of concern in this area is the Pacific Crest Highway. Present plans for the Pacific Crest Highway call for a two-lane paved section of the Highway to cut through the proposed wilderness area.

As you can see, there are many factors to be considered before final action is taken on whether or not to create a wilderness in the Snow Mountain area. It was with this understanding that I chose to

introduce and support legislation which would call for a two-year study by the Forest Service of the potential for this area's inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system. If, indeed, we are to create a wilderness at Snow Mountain, I believe it is important that these other problems be clarified to the understanding of all parties concerned.

By placing a two-year limit on the study, I believe that we can review these problems and come up with a definitive assessment of the situation. Based on this information, the Congress can then act on this issue.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would raise the fact that this area has been studied on at least two prior occasions by the United States Forest Service. While this would indicate to some that another study is not necessary, I would point out that the area has never specifically been studied for the sole purpose of determining its overall wilderness quality. It is my belief that the past studies can play an important part in analyzing the potential of the area for wilderness designation. I am confident that the Forest Service has the information available to make an effective and an objective study of the area. I would hope that this Committee and the Congress would call on them to make this important study.

I believe it is important to note that the U. S. Senate has already passed similar legislation, S. 1391. It is my hope that this Committee and the House of Representatives would take action on this legislation as promptly as possible so that the legislation can be enacted in this

Congress. As we increasingly feel the pressure to wrap up our legislative session, I believe it is going to be important to act on this legislation as quickly as possible.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I express to you my appreciation for these hearings and for an opportunity to share with you the story of this beautiful part of Northern California.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT L. LEGGETT BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS, JUNE 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be heard in support of HR 5589 to authorize a study of the Snow Mountains area for Wilderness designation. I and my colleagues, Bizz Johnson and Don Clausen, in the House, in whose districts the proposed wilderness area would fall, have cosponsored this legislation which legislation has already passed the Senate.

There was a time, several redistrictings ago, when the entire proposed wilderness area was in my district. At that time, the Forest Service was in the process of formulating their management plan for the Snow Mountain area. Almost simultaneously, I began receiving a large amount of correspondence urging my support of a wilderness classification for the area. Nevertheless, I refrained from taking a position on the issue until I had an opportunity to review all sides.

In July of 1970, I personally toured the proposed wilderness area in the air and on foot with the District Ranger, and in 1971, I introduced my first Snow Mountain wilderness bill. I would like to summarize for the Committee why I came to this decision.

First, Snow Mountain is the last potential wilderness area in this portion of California. There are nearly a million non-wilderness acres in Mendocino National Forest. Snow Mountain is the last little bit of all this Forest that is roadless and undeveloped. If established, Snow Mountain would be the closest area to the populations of metropolitan San Francisco, something like 125 miles, and would be the only wilderness area in the Mendocino National Forest accessible throughout the year.

Secondly, the 37,000 acre Snow Mountain wilderness proposal has almost unanimous local support. The proposal has been co-sponsored in Congress by all five Federal Representatives of the area, Senators Cranston and Tunney, and Congressmen Bizz Johnson, Don Clausen and me. It has received the official support of the Boards of Supervisors of all three counties involved, and nearly 100 percent of the mail that I have received on this matter, (and it has been considerable) has been in favor of it or stronger legislation.

In the 93rd Congress, we went through a rather traumatic experience with the Forest Service, a logging company known as Commander Industries, and the State of California in connection with a contract held by Commander Industries to a substantial portion of the proposed wilderness. While the company showed admirable restraint in its logging schedule to accommodate our efforts to preserve this area, its contract was running out, and part of the timber was cut. The remaining scheduled logging was held up by an injunction obtained by the State of California, which was in effect until Commander Industries' contract with the Forest Service expired. It was not renewed, and there is currently no claim against the timber in the proposed study area.

In view of the long struggle by local residents to protect and preserve this unique area and the unanimous agreement among the Washington representatives of those people, I hope that you will be able to act favorably on this measure.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, the Snow Mountain Wilderness study is in a bill known as H.R. 5589. The matter has cleared the Senate and the Senate bill is before the committee also, S. 1391, calling for a study of approximately 37,000 to 38,000 acres of Forest Service lands known as the Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

I would hope that the committee would hear our witnesses. We have witnesses here from California who will be testifying and have come a long way and I want to give them the opportunity and the time to testify.

I might say that Congressman Leggett and Congressman Clausen and I introduced this bill after we talked with our two Senators, and we did hold a hearing in Willows, Calif., with the Forest Service people in the regional office as well as the supervisor of the Mendocino National Forest and the interested groups there concerned with this.

Mrs. Peterson, who is here today, and Mr. Morrill both attended that hearing.

At the time when we left there we were pretty much in agreement that we would introduce and put out a bill calling for a study of this area so that the Forest Service could have the mineral surveys completed, their recommendations completed, and then we would come before the Congress probably in the 95th Congress and have the bill go into the wilderness area. That is what is called for in H.R. 5589 by all of us who represent the area. It is in three counties, Glenn County, Lake and Colusa Counties.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, first, I would ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to include my statement as though read in full, and then I will just elaborate briefly.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, so ordered.

[Statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF HON. DON H. CLAUSEN, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, JUNE 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to submit my views in support of my bill, H.R. 5568, to create the Snow Mountain wilderness area in Northern California.

I appreciate your willingness, Mr. Chairman, to schedule this hearing on my bill and I want to express my extreme gratitude to you for your continued understanding and responsiveness to the views of the residents of the Snow Mountain area. I am hopeful that this final review of the issue will permit us to move ahead with the legislation.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of Mrs. Katherine Petterson who is with us today from Kelseyville, California. She is, without a doubt, one of the most knowledgeable people on the history of the Snow Mountain area and its unique beauty. She has spearheaded the effort to gain wilderness status for the area. She has dedicated a great deal of time and effort dating back to 1952 when a Snow Mountain wilderness was first proposed and I urge my colleagues to pay particular attention to her testimony and I feel certain she would be willing to answer any questions you may have.

My bill, H.R. 5568, is to establish a 37,000 acre Snow Mountain wilderness. The wilderness designation permits usage of the area for activities that will not alter the scenic beauty of the area or damage the delicate nature of the area. Only those activities compatible with retention of the existing unspoiled condition would be permitted. Enactment of my bill would automatically implement prohibitions previously enacted by the Congress against the construction of permanent roads and the use of motorized vehicles.

Residents of the Snow Mountain area have repeatedly voiced their support for my bill. I have received a continual flood of mail in favor of establishment of the wilderness area and have also received formal endorsement of my legislation from the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

Cattlemen, horsemen, sporting groups and interested citizens have all joined together in an effort to protect and preserve this area.

The Snow Mountain area is generally recognized as one in which we have the opportunity to preserve a pristine area which will provide the maximum benefit to those able to enjoy the wilderness experience. In my judgment we have a duty and a responsibility to take prompt action on this legislation.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, as you know, we held hearings on the legislation in the 93d Congress, and you will note that there are two pieces of legislation, my own bill, H.R. 5568, which is to designate the area as a wilderness, and then the other legislation which is H.R. 5589, which is something I could have sponsored with Mr. Johnson, namely, to study the area, to follow the established procedure.

I will certainly want to yield because of limits on time to the witnesses that have come a long way from California, Mrs. Peterson, and Mr. Don Morrill, and I will obviously follow this up with continued discussion with you and other members of the committee in an attempt to advance this legislation, because it is genuinely a gem in an area of northern California that I think needs to receive the wilderness designation.

So, I would ask the committee to pay particular attention to these bills because Mrs. Petterson in particular is one of the most knowledgeable people about the history of the area that I know of in northern California.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you.

The first witness will be Mr. Donald Morrill. Mr. Morrill represents the Sierra Club, Chico, Calif.

**STATEMENT OF DONALD MORRILL, THE SIERRA CLUB,
CHICO, CALIF.**

Mr. MORRILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a rather lengthy testimony, but I would be willing to submit it for the record and summarize it.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I ask unanimous consent the statement appear in the record as though read, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, so ordered.

[Statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF DONALD MORRILL, SIERRA CLUB
WILDERNESS COORDINATOR FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA/
NEVADA ON H.R. 5568, H.R. 5589, BILLS TO STUDY
OR DESIGNATE SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS IN
CALIFORNIA. BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
LANDS, INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON D.C.
JUNE 22, 1976.

I am Donald Morrill from Chico, California and I am representing the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club strongly supports H.R. 5568, by Representative Don Clausen which would designate a 37,000 acre Snow Mountain Wilderness on Mendocino National Forest in California.

Due to the longstanding nature of this wilderness proposal, including public meetings and hearings held by both Congress and the Forest Service, we believe that additional studies on the suitability of the Snow Mountain area for Wilderness designation are unnecessary. The two questions most often raised in regard to the proposal are the available mineral resources and the impact that logging has had on a portion of the area. We would like to address these two points.

With regard to the logging that occurred in 1974, only about 600 acres of the proposed wilderness were affected. As a result of a lawsuit file by the State of California, the Forest Service allowed the logging of the Crockett Peak section of the Nye Timber Sale, while cancelling the Pocket portion.

Fortunately, the land that was logged was selective cut, and a thorough cleanup of slash and debris was done. As a result, this logging operation is far less noticeable than other methods of logging such as clearcutting. From several hundred yards and beyond, it is scarcely noticeable. The mile of road constructed into the proposal is more obtrusive, but would revert to a natural state over a period of years.

It is regrettable that the logging occurred within the proposed wilderness, but this section is important to the whole area. A portion of the Middle Fork of Stony Creek watershed is within the logged area, and we believe it is essential that we protect as much of this wild stream's headwaters as possible.

Also, motorcycles and jeeps are using this area causing soil erosion in some areas. This is an important trailhead to the interior of Snow Mountain, and should not be a finger of off-road vehicle use inside the proposed Wilderness.

It was a grave mistake that trees in this 600 parcel were ever cut. The Forest Service went ahead with their sale despite overwhelming public opposition. To exclude 600 acres from the wilderness would be to ratify a gross error by the administrative agency.

For the above reasons, we strongly believe that the disturbed area, which is less than 2% of the entire proposal be included within the designated wilderness.

Geologically, the Snow Mountain area is markedly different from that of many of California's wildernesses and parks that are carved out of granite masses. There are no granitic rocks present at Snow Mountain. Much of the mountain is composed of sedimentary rock of various types uplifted from a shallow ocean floor. Serpentine intrusions are found along the north and middle forks of Stony Creek, and lava flows are present on the north side of Snow Mountain.

There are no known deposits of commercial grade material. The Forest Service reports that "to date no discoveries have been made which would indicate economic mineral deposits. Experience in this portion of the Coast Range indicates little likelihood of future discoveries." (Report on Snow Mountain Study Area, 1969) This statement is confirmed by available geologic literature, the California Division of Mines "Geologic Reconnaissance of the Northern Coast Ranges and

Klamath Mountains, California, with a Summary of the Mineral Resources" 1960.

In addition, Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act requires that areas designated as Wilderness will be studied on a recurring basis by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines. If Snow Mountain is so designated, it will be studied as required by law.

If Snow Mountain is designated a study area, the serious problem of Off-Road Vehicle abuses would not be solved. Currently, Forest Service regulations do not preclude ORV use in designated study areas. Many trails in the Snow Mountain area are being badly chewed up by both trail bikes and jeeps. Wilderness designation is necessary to halt such destruction.

Other objections to the suitability of Snow Mountain for wilderness designation have been raised by the Forest Service. These items include the timber resource, the scenic quality of the area, the economic values to be foregone, and public opinion.

The actual timber resources of the Snow Mountain region are difficult to determine as each Forest Service report offers new figures. In their 1969 report the Forest Service stated that 187,693 million board feet (MMBF) of timber would not be available for harvesting under wilderness classification for the 27,317 acre study area, causing a reduction in the overall sustained allowable cut on the Mendocino National Forest equalling 1-2 MMBF per year (the current allowable cut on the entire forest is 90.5 MMBF). It should be pointed out, however, that the report showed that 25% of this timber is located in the Crest Zone (and is therefore not available for harvesting under current management direction), 31% was said to be inoperable under present methods, and of the remaining 44% of timber, 2% was unoperable, located on the rugged west face of St. John Mountain. Assuming that only 42% of the timber in the area is operable, the total volume is then reduced to 78.9 MMBF,

When Congressman Leggett submitted a 30,000 acre preliminary wilderness proposal to the Forest Service for evaluation, Deputy Chief M.M. Nelson stated that the enlarged area made the total 205, 193 MMBF. The additional commercial forest land in the enlarged proposal was said to be 1500 acres, or a volume in excess of 45,000 board feet per acre. This is a ridiculously high volume for this area, as it is more than twice the volume of timber growing on adjacent lands.

The Roadless Area Review reports a timber volume of 78.9 MMBF for the Forest Service's 30,000 acre roadless area (note that this figure is identical to the figure computed above for a 27,317 acre study area). So it remains unclear as to how much timber is actually in the Snow Mountain region.

Nor is there any discussion of the road costs in the admittedly steep and unstable terrain that could render the harvesting of the timber uneconomical. Since most new timber roads will be put to bed after use they cannot be legitimately claimed as capital investments.

Three of the criteria used by the Forest Service in determining the suitability of the Snow Mountain area for a wilderness recommendation are their Quality Index, Total Opportunity Costs, and Public Involvement. We have analyzed their reports on these factors and found them to be not applicable, misleading, or just plain wrong.

The Forest Service states that Snow Mountain received a low quality rating for wilderness during their Roadless Area Review and Evaluation study, scoring 93 out of a total of 200 possible points. While many citizens find it hard to believe that Snow Mountain could receive such a low rating, even using the given Forest Service criteria, the main objection to this Quality Index is that it is almost totally biased towards certain subjective recreational aspects of wilderness use, ignoring ecological, geological, scientific, educational, and historical values of wilderness.

If these two factors only were recalculated, the Total Opportunity Costs for Snow Mountain wald drop from \$1,084,000 to about \$100,000, a figure far below the one million dollar cutoff point for consideration of a wilderness study.

There is longstanding public support for the proposed Snow Mountain Wilderness as expressed by Forest Service public meetings, hearing records, and the backing of elected officials.

The public had its first opportunity to comment on a wilderness proposal for Snow Mountain in December 1969. An analysis of the public meeting record shows that over 360 letters were received supporting wilderness classification with most of these comments coming from various timber companies throughout California.

A second opportunity to comment came during the May 1972 meetings held by the Forest Service as part of their Roadless Area Review and Evaluation study. An often repeated summary of public input to these meetings states the "about 23 percent of the comments received supported more wilderness... about 69 per cent said that California had enough wilderness or commented that the full range of multiple uses would best serve the public interest".

This summary by itself is misleading because it does not specify the types of inputs that were received. What has been computed for the "69 per cent opposed to Wilderness" figure are total signatures in the hearing record. Inputs to the record, however, came in many forms; public testimony, individual letters, form letters, and petitions. Each of these types of inputs represents differing degress of personal commitment and effort in expressing opinion. Decision makers are quite interested in this breakdown as it represents varied degrees of quality and degree of opinion.

Local wilderness advocates in California have looked through the complete hearing record of the May 1972 public meetings. Out analysis shows that the 69 per cent of the comments opposed to additional wilderness

presented approximately 2,800 signatures, 2,400 of which were either form letters or petitions. The 23 percent of comments supporting wilderness study represented 912 signatures, with about 100 names on petitions. If the form letters and petitions are considered separately, this leaves about 400 letters opposing additional wilderness and 800 letters supporting more wilderness.

The fact that 85% of the comments received in opposition to wilderness indicates that a signature gathering campaign was actively pursued. This is not to say that these types of inputs should not be counted, but only that they should be recognized as different from personal testimony and letters.

As a result of these public meetings, Snow Mountain was placed in a "clearly divided" public opinion category. We have found that any area receiving one or more letters opposed to study was declared to be a "clearly divided" issue. Snow Mountain was listed as having received 10 letters for study and two against.

Our own analysis of the record showed 22 letters specifically recommending wilderness study for Snow Mountain, as the analysis did not include those who spoke in favor of Snow Mountain at the public meeting, for no record was made of oral statements given.

Another important gauge of public opinion came during the filing of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation. Since Snow Mountain was not selected as a "tentative candidate new study area" many citizens wrote to ask that it be so studied. The Forest Service's analysis of the record shows that letters received on Snow Mountain totaled:

	Enlarge & Study	Study	Don't Study
Signatures.....	4 (1.1%)	349 (98.3%)	2 (.6%)
Inputs.....	4 (2.6%)	148 (96.1%)	2 (1.3%)

As a result of this overwhelming support for a study of Snow Mountain the area was identified as one with "significant public interest for addition". However, due to the low Quality Index and high Opportunity Cost earlier determined by the Forest Service, Snow Mountain was rejected for further study.

The real indication of public support, however, is the overwhelming sponsorship of Snow Mountain Wilderness legislation by both California Senators, John Tunney and Alan Cranston, and all the Congressmen with portions of the area in their districts, Robert Leggett, Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson, and Don H. Clausen. All three County Boards of Supervisors are on record favoring the establishment of a 37,000 wilderness.

Finally, but far from least important, is the human aspect of this whole issue. I am somewhat of a newcomer to the battle to protect Snow Mountain. Many others have worked more than fifteen years to see their beloved mountain permanently preserved. They have been enthusiastically received by the public and virtually every level of government. They have met their challenges head on, and have carried on after every setback. Unfortunately, they have been confronted with insensitivity, stubbornness, and often outright arrogance on the part of the U.S. Forest Service. Passage of H.R. 5568 designating a 37,000 acre Snow Mountain Wilderness (at long last) would reward their patience, perseverance, and faith in our system of government.

Thank you.

Mr. MORRILL. My name is Donald Morrill from Chico, Calif., representing the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club strongly supports Congressman Clausen's bill, H.R. 5568. We feel that Snow Mountain has had a long history of citizen involvement and also attention by the Forest Service.

A study was done in 1969 by the Forest Service. In fact, I have a copy of that study and I thought that possibly it would be something that could go in the files for the hearing.

This is a study that was done in response to a request by the Sierra Club for additional areas in northern California or in California that were of high wilderness quality back at that time.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent that it be included in the file and it be made a part of this testimony.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, so ordered.

[Study referred to has been placed in the committee files.]

Mr. MORRILL. I thought I would address a couple of the areas that are cited as problems with regard to enacting an outright wilderness designation.

The first is a 600-acre area which was selectively logged back in 1974 after a settlement of a court suit brought by the State of California against the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture. The 600 acres is in this portion here called the Crockett subdivision. I was up in the area last week and it was the first time I had been up there since the loggings. It was selectively harvested and there was clean-up of slash, and it looks—it is not substantially noticeable. There is a road, however, that goes in about a mile. It was built for timber access. That is indicated right here. That road would be considered obtrusive, and there are culverts, and it is a relatively wide road. It is an extension of a Forest Service road that is planned for use as recreational as well as timber access, but we feel that in terms of the whole area and in terms of the importance of that area to the entire proposals and also in light of the fact that there are roads in wilderness areas, that that isn't a major problem and that could go into the wilderness system and within a few years it would revert back to a primitive state, a natural state.

Part of that logged portion is in the drainage of the middle fork of Stoney Creek, which is a valid stream for the most part, and it is an essential part of the wilderness proposal. So, we would want to make sure that portion is protected in the wilderness.

Also, vehicles are using that road now. That road points directly into the wilderness and offroad vehicles are using that road now and there is some problems with damage and erosion because of the road.

We believe that it should be included in the wilderness.

As far as a mineral survey and concern about minerals in the area, I thought I might just read from my testimony briefly regarding that. There are no known deposits of commercial grade material. Forest Service reports that "to date no discoveries have been made which would indicate economic mineral deposits. Experience in this portion of the coast range indicates little likelihood of future discoveries." That is from the report I submitted for the files.

This statement is confirmed by available geologic literature in the California Division of Mines, geologic reconnaissance of the northern coast ranges and Klamath Mountains, Calif., with a summary of mineral resources.

So, there has been scrutiny of the area with regards to minerals and it appears that there is very little likelihood of any mineral discoveries and beyond that the Wilderness Act provides for recurring mineral surveys.

I thought I would just run down some of the groups to indicate the broadspread, widespread support for this area. The following groups have supported a wilderness designation outright for the 37,000 acres: The Glenn County Board of Supervisors, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors, the Lake County Board of Supervisors, all of which are counties which have a portion of their county in the wilderness, the Stonyford Cattlemen's Association, the Stonyford Horsemen's Club, Clear Lake Horsemen's Club, Conocti Road and Gun Club, the Chico Road and Gun Club, the Sacramento Bee, the Willow's Daily Journal, plus all major conservation groups.

So we feel that Congressman Clausen's bill is the proper vehicle for enactment.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might say that I believe from the Forest Service report that is up here on this particular piece of legislation that the administration would be adverse to the passage of this bill as well as the Senate bill.

When I inherited this part of the State of California and got into this, I met with the various groups, met with the Forest Service all the way from the ranger to the supervisor in the regional office, to the office back here, and then we had a meeting in California where we sat down and talked this out and went out and went all over the area both by airplane and as far as you could go by auto, and then we got on foot and walked a good portion of the area and looked it over to familiarize myself with what had taken place heretofore prior to the time I got into this particular matter.

We sat down, and talked this out and looked at all of the presentations that were made by the people from the local area, and agreed that this was an area that should be studied.

Coming back to Washington and talking with the Senators as well as the Congressmen, it was considered that we should bring this in a regular manner because, as I understand it, the Forest Service here figures that there is no wilderness status to this area, based on their observation and their position.

We differ on that.

It was the unanimous opinion of the two Senators and the three of us who joined on this bill H.R. 5589, proposing the study, to bring it in through the regular channel and then when it is recommended through the regular channels and the regular procedures, or if it isn't then we would go ahead and consider it, as a Congress, for wilderness status.

Certainly, I have no objections to a portion of the area becoming a wilderness area in the final end, but I do think the proper study should be made with the understanding that nothing will take place in the area.

It would be managed as a wilderness area during the period of the study and up until the time when we finally act on a piece of legislation.

We proposed the necessary boundaries of a wilderness area. That is my position and it is the position of Congressman Legett. Congressman Clausen can speak for himself. He is here today.

I know that the bill that came over from the Senate provides for the study. We would like to see this bill enacted at this session of Congress and proposed as a study.

So, I would be happy with and in favor of H.R. 5589.

Mr. Morrill testified when we were there in the Willows, and his Sierra Club people and others gave us the highlights of the area prior to our going out there and we were able to look it over and know much more about it after our meeting in the Willows, and when we left we felt this would be the procedure to follow.

Now, I doubt very much whether H.R. 5568, which was introduced by our colleague, Mr. Clausen, which was also introduced in the last Congress, would take precedence over the agreements that was reached with all five of us at one time. That is a matter for this committee to consider. It is a matter for the full committee and a matter for the floor, and then proceeding with the signature of the President.

I think the proper method is to go through and get this set aside to be managed as a wilderness area, and we would come up with a proper procedure; this was my understanding when I inherited this problem and we had a piece of Snow Mountain in our area. I thought it was a proper solution to it.

That is the only comment I have to the statement made by Mr. Morrill.

I realize this has been under consideration for some time and we have many wilderness areas in California that are under consideration. I do believe that a proper procedure would be having the study made by the Forest Service, having the mineral surveys made if it is necessary; if it is not, they don't have to make them, but that determination would be made by the Federal people that have that responsibility, and the final consideration would be the Forest Service. Then, if after the study is made and everyone has their input, then we go ahead and Congress will act the way it sees fit.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. The gentleman from California.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think the only point I would make is that our ultimate objective is to see that the area is designated as wilderness. I have sort of concluded in my own mind that the procedure as has been suggested, the study bill, if that is what it takes for us to move in the direction of establishing the area a wilderness area and that is all we can accomplish in this session, why certainly I am going to support it. I do believe that at some point we will find ourselves essentially committing ourselves to the designation of this area as a wilderness area.

I certainly want to thank you, Don, for again maintaining your interest and coming back before the committee to make the presentation. It has been very detailed and excellent for the record.

Mr. MELCHER. Please proceed.

Mr. MORRILL. I just want to say I do appreciate the effort that Congressman Johnson has made and you, Congressman Clausen, have made to resolve this. The one major concern, a major concern of

ours with H.R. 5589 has been the lack of any kind of protection for the area after the study is completed by the Forest Service. Our indications to us are, and over the period of years dealing with the Forest Service, there is a high probability there will be a negative recommendation from the Forest Service, and without any protection after the recommendation comes down from the President to Congress, and there would be a danger of something happening. I appreciate Congressman Johnson's concern about that.

Mr. JOHNSON. May I state it is our intention, I am sure, that nothing will happen to this area until Congress acts based upon the study that will be called for in this bill. It will remain that way and the bill will spell it out. There are a few things we have to do to the House bill or amend the Senate bill to make certain this does stay in wilderness status until Congress has had an opportunity to act finally on this proposition.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Morrill.

Our next witness is Mrs. Katherine Petterson, Lake County Snow Mountain Wilderness Committee.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, as Mrs. Petterson is approaching the witness stand, I wonder if I could ask unanimous consent to include copies of resolutions I have, as well as some extraneous materials including editorials that support my legislation.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, the communications referred to by the gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen, will be made a part of the record. The extraneous material will be made a part of the file and, without objection, all other communications received on these two bills will be made a part of the record in referring to the Snow Mountain bill.

[Material referred to will be placed in the committee files when received.]

STATEMENT OF KATHERINE PETTERSON, LAKE COUNTY SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Ms. PETTERSON. Chairman Melcher, and members of the subcommittee, I am Katherine Petterson, a resident of Kelseyville, Lake County, Calif.

I wish to acknowledge with appreciation the invitation of my Congressman, Don Clausen, and his very nice introduction earlier today, to attend this hearing and the encouragement he has given me in these recent years by his support of the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area proposal.

I certainly want to commend this committee for hearing these bills and Congressman Johnson's elaboration on our recent meeting in Willows and his concept of this area.

My original intention was to support Mr. Clausen's H.R. 5568, but after Congressman Johnson's explanation earlier, I feel that with his willingness or interpretation of protecting this as wilderness now, and the consideration of protecting this for the full term of the congressional consideration, it would be quite an acceptable position by me.

Now, with your permission, I would like to submit my statement for the record and then I would still like to briefly review some of my principal points for the record.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would ask unanimous consent that her statement will appear in the record in full.

Mr. MELCHER. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

[Statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF KATHERINE PETTERSON ON THE
SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS PROPOSAL BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
JUNE 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittees:

I am Katherine Petterson from Kelseyville, Lake County, California. I wish to acknowledge with appreciation the invitation of my Congressman Don Clausen to attend this hearing, and his encouragement these recent years through his support of this Snow Mountain Wilderness Area proposal.

A little over a decade ago a Snow Mountain Wilderness Area Committee was formed for the sole purpose of studying, organizing support for and qualifying the necessary legislative details for Congressional action and statutory protection for this unique and beautiful mountain and surrounding slopes. We soon found that we of varying backgrounds such as farmers, cattlemen, sportsmen and other interested citizens were floundering in bewilderment as to how to proceed and asked the help of the Sierra Club for guidance.

In this ten year interim much has happened. We have had countless study meetings, public hearings, evaluation trips to the area, and have acquired supporting resolutions from the Board of Supervisors in each of the three counties involved. In 1971 Congressman Leggett introduced the first bill for a Snow Mountain Wilderness Area. In 1972 the Lake County section of this study area was reapportioned to Congressman Don Clausen, and in 1974 Congressman Harold "Bizz" Johnson became the Glenn County representative. This has taken time to familiarize these gentlemen with the area and today we are pleased to note that all three Congressmen of the counties involved have supporting legislation before you.

In 1969 the Forest Service issued its report of the study area, and in it were two important observations: (1) "....the Snow Mountain area appears to meet most of the minimum conditions for wilderness....", and (2) "Timber values do not preclude wilderness establishment....".

In January 1970, the Forest Supervisor released his management decision to designate the entire study area as a Motor Vehicle Control Area with eight sub-units of varying capabilities. In July of that year we learned of the Nye Timber sale on land contiguous to the study area, a portion of which has now been logged.

Another analysis of Snow Mountain was made by the U. S. Forest Service when Roadless Area Reviews and Evaluations became a requirement. Snow Mountain was not selected to be studied for wilderness suitability. This astonishing decision was based on a review process with which I'm sure you are familiar. It is difficult for me to rationalize that this report is accurate and unbiased. For example, and I quote from the U.S.F.S. New Wilderness Study Areas, Bulletin 1630, October 1973, page 3: "The apparent relative wilderness value... was the primary criterion considered in the selection of new study areas". And yet the rating of this wilderness value was delegated to the subjective evaluation of a rating officer. For instance, over the signature of an A. P. Snyder Snow Mountain was given a low 7' grade for 'variety'. This is a startling determination considering the elevation ranges from 2500' down in the spectacular gorge of Stony Creek to 7056' on the alpine summit of Snow Mountain!

The timber industry is interested in the harvest of trees. Certainly I acknowledge the importance of this industry in our economy and have supported various land exchanges with them recommended by the U. S. Forest Service in our

county. I feel that our forests need efficient timber management programs in commercially productive areas. But I do not condone the logging of areas where harvesting becomes timber mining----the removal of residual old growth timber from sites uneconomical to manage. With few exceptions the terrain and soils of Snow Mountain are such that the cutting and removal of trees with a minimum of disturbance to the surroundings would be uneconomical if not impossible.

I have a few photographs to better acquaint you with portions of our proposal and also to illustrate my concern about the erosion potential of the Pacific Crest Road (24NO2) under consideration. The photo locations are located on the map by page numbers.

I should like to submit typed exhibits pertaining to the flora and fauna for the hearing record. The compilation of this data by these eminent naturalists and botanists was made at my request. These should enable you to better evaluate the educational and scientific benefits of our proposal.

After a decade of research, reviews and criticisms, public hearings and practically unanimous local support it is time to act. As stated in the newspaper from our state capitol, the Sacramento Bee on September 7, 1975 in reference to Snow Mountain: "But there have been enough studies.... This fall the Interior Committee should hold hearings on the wilderness proposal and recommend its passage".

This sentiment is echoed by the people at home----they are against the spending of more time and tax dollars on yet another study, and emphatically are against roads into the area. In the 872,287 acres of public lands in the Mendocino National Forest there are 3000 miles of roads, 74% of which are timber access roads.

I am leaving much unsaid which after these many years of dedication to this task is not easy. However I feel I could better help you in your decision by answering questions which you might have, as I am probably more familiar with this entire area than anyone in this room. But before closing I'd like to submit this excerpt from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 72-10: "....As a basis and premise for this Resolution, the Board finds:(2) The preservation of Snow Mountain as a wilderness area has been the subject of detailed study and many meetings attended by interested persons and citizens of Glenn County, the great majority of whom have expressed sentiments in favor of establishing such lands as a wilderness area.

(3) It would be in the best interests of the people of Glenn County and in the best interests of the people of the State of California and of the United States as a whole for such an area to be preserved as a wilderness...."

The Boards of Supervisors in Counties of Colusa and Lake adopted similar resolutions.

I respectfully request that your recommendation on this 37,000 acre Snow Mountain De Facto Wilderness Area will be for immediate statutory protection by inclusion in to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Report:

THE PHYTOGEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SNOW MOUNTAIN

The accompanying lists are provisional, based on a brief botanical reconnaissance of Snow Mountain by the California Native Plant Society in July 1972 and on collections and reports made by Milo Baker, H. Hamann, L. R. Heckard, H. L. Mason, P. A. Munz, and G. T. Robbins. The mountain is still in need of a detailed search for its most rare plants, and previously reported plants must be confirmed by examination of voucher specimens.

That Snow Mountain harbors rare plants (Table I) has been known for some time. The mountain also was known to have the southernmost stand of Red Fir (*Abies magnifica*) and of Mountain Alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*) in the Coast Ranges, but it was not known that many other plants also share this geographic characteristic. Our preliminary studies have shown that at least 65 plants (Table II) reach their known Coast Range southern limit on Snow Mountain. Most of these plants are typically of the Sierra Nevada and Northern California. Thus Snow Mountain becomes of particular geographic significance in the distribution of California's native plants. Whether the reason for this particular distribution lies in the physical and climatic features of Snow Mountain or in the ecological adaptation of the plants themselves is not known. It is conceivable that the plants possess genetic differences in their adaptive attributes. It is to be hoped that the plants will continue to find a hospitable environment, away from man's disturbances, where they can be studied in future years.

--L. R. Heckard, Curator, Jepson Herbarium

Geographically Significant Vascular Plants of Snow Mountain

(A preliminary report based on a brief survey by the California Native Plant Society, July 1972). Compiled by L. R. Heckard, Jepson Herbarium, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

I. Rare Plants Found on Snow Mountain.

- Cycladenia humilis -- Scattered in a few localities in ranges on both sides of the upper Sacramento Valley.
- Epilobium nivium -- Restricted to a few mountains of the inner Coast Ranges of northern Lake and Mendocino counties.
- Eriogonum ursinum var. nervulosum -- Known only from Goat and Snow mountains, the latter the TYPE locality.
- Linanthus rattanii -- Known only from a few collections from the inner North Coast Ranges of Lake, Tehama, and Mendocino counties.
- Montia saxosa -- Snow Mountain is the type locality for this plant, which is found occasionally from here to Siskiyou County.
- Orobanche pinorum -- Known in California from only six localities, the most recent collection being from Snow Mountain.
- Penstemon purpusii -- Known only on a few other peaks of the North Coast Ranges from Humboldt Co. to Snow Mountain, its TYPE locality.
- Pityopus californicus -- Known from only five other localities in California.
- Raillardella scabrida -- Found only on Snow Mountain, the TYPE locality, and on nearby mountains of Mendocino and Tehama counties.

II. Plants That Reach Their Known Southern Limit in the Coast Ranges on Snow Mountain. (Those not heretofore known to occur as far south as Snow Mountain indicated by an asterisk.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Abies magnifica</u> | <u>Arenaria nuttallii</u> ssp. <u>gregaria</u> |
| * <u>Agrostis thurberiana</u> | * <u>Arnica longifolia</u> ssp. <u>myriadenia</u> |
| <u>Agrostis variabilis</u> | * <u>Brickellia greenei</u> |
| <u>Alnus tenuifolia</u> | <u>Calycadenia truncata</u> ssp. <u>scabrella</u> |
| <u>Antennaria geyeri</u> | <u>Carex fracta</u> |
| * <u>Arabis platysperma</u> | <u>Castilleja applegatei</u> var. <u>fragilis</u> |
| <u>Arctostaphylos nevadensis</u> | [= <u>C. pinetorum</u>] |

- Ceanothus lemmonii
Cercocarpus ledifolius
Chaenactis douglasii
Chrysothamnus nauseosus ssp. albicaulis
Collomia tinctoria
 *Cordylanthus viscidus
Crepis occidentalis ssp. conjuncta
Cycladenia humilis
 *Dodecatheon jeffreyi
Epilobium brevistylum
Erigeron inornatus ssp. inornatus
Eriogonum lobbii
Eriogonum spergulinum
 *Galium bifolium
Galium grayanum
Gayophytum humile
Gilia leptalea ssp. pinnatisecta
 *Hackelia jessicae
Haplopappus whitneyi ssp. discoideus
Holodiscus boursieri
Horkelia tridentata ssp. flavescens
 *Juncus howellii
Lesquerella occidentalis ssp. diversifolia
 *Lewisia triphylla
Listera convallarioides
Machaeranthera shastensis var. eradiata
 *Melica stricta
Mimulus breweri
 *Mimulus primuloides
Montia chamissoi
 *Muhlenbergia filiformis
Osmorrhiza occidentalis
 *Pedicularis semibarbata
Pinus jeffreyi
Polygonum davisae
Polygonum kelloggii
- Potentilla glandulosa ssp. nevadensis
Pterospora andromeda
Purshia tridentata
 *Quercus vaccinifolia
Ranunculus alismaefolius
 *Ribes binominatum
Ribes lobbii
Stephanomeria lactucina
Symphoricarpos acutus
Trichostema oblongum
Trifolium cyathiferum
 *Trifolium longipes
Veratrum californicum
 *Veronica serpyllifolia var. humifusa
Viola macloskeyi
 *Zauschneria californica var. latifolia

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF SNOW MOUNTAIN

by

DONALD V. HEMPHILL, Ph. D., Chairman Biology Dept., Pacific Union College, Angwin, California. ("The Vertebrate Fauna of the Boreal Areas of the Southern Yolla Bolly Mountains, California", 1952, Zoology Department of Oregon State University).

The birds and mammals of the summit areas are often restricted in habitat much as an island in a sea. In such cases, these are ecological islands of high mountain forest altitudinally above the extensive yellow pine belt. Most of the following are found only on Snow Mountain but some extend along the high ridge to the Goat Mountain summit.

Birds

Sooty Grouse
White-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Hammond Flycatcher
Wright Flycatcher
Mountain Chickadee
Cassin Finch
Yolla Bolly Fox Sparrow
Green-tailed Towhee
Lincoln Sparrow
Mountain Bluebird

Mammals

Water Shrew
Silvery-haired Bat
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
Yellow Pine Chipmunk
Townsend Chipmunk
Northern Flying Squirrel
*Long-tailed Meadow Mouse
Porcupine

*Possibly an undescribed new race from Snow Mountain
(Dark Hollow Meadows)

OTHER BIRDS

Western Turkey Vulture
American Goshawk
Cooper Hawk
Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk
Western Red-tailed Hawk
American Golden Eagle
N. American Sparrow Hawk
Dusky Poor-will
Northern Black Swift
Monterey Red-shafted Flicker
Western Pileated Woodpecker
Cabanis Hairy Woodpecker
Willow Downy Woodpecker
Western Wood Pewee
Northern Violet-green Swallow
American Holarctic Raven
Clark Nutcracker
Northern Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch

Sierran Mountain Quail
Coast California Quail
Northern Kildeer
Pacific Bandtailed Pigeon
Western Mourning Dove
Calif. Coast Screech Owl
Pacific Horned Owl
Anna Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Migratory Allen Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Western Kingbird
Northern Western Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Blue-fronted Stellar Jay
Northwestern Scrub Jay
Interior Scrub Jay
California Bush-tit
Coast Bush-tit

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF SNOW MOUNTAIN

BIRDS

Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Black-eared Pigmy Nuthatch
 Sierra Nevada Brown Creeper
 North American Gnatcatcher
 Western Mexican Bluebird
 Western Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Lazuli Bunting
 Cassin Solitary Vireo
 Western Warbling Vireo
 Lutescent Orange-crowned Vireo
 Calaveras Nashville Warbler
 Pacific Audubon Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Townsend Warbler
 Hermit Warbler
 Northern Toluca Warbler
 Golden Pileated Warbler

Pallid Wren-tit
 Northern Rock Wren
 San Joaquin Bewick Wren
 Western House Wren
 Western Robin
 Monterey Hermit Thrush
 Northern Townsend Solitaire
 Brewer Blackbird
 Western Tanager
 Pacific Black-headed Grosbeak
 Western Evening Grosbeak
 California Purple Finch
 Northern Pine Siskin
 Red Crossbill
 Sacramento Spotted Towhee
 Western Lark Sparrow
 Western Chipping Sparrow
 Sierra Nevada Oregon Junco

OTHER MAMMALS

California Raccoon
 Mountain Coyote
 Townsend Gray Fox
 California Valley Coyote
 Douglas Beechey Ground Squirrel
 Mendocino Flying Squirrel
 Tehama Brush Rabbit

Humboldt Pine Marten
 Fisher (Martes pennanti)
 California Mountain Lion
 California Wildcat
 Northern Sonoma Chipmunk
 Columbian Black-tailed Deer

REPTILES

Northern Mountain Swift
 Common Western Skink
 Western Yellow-bellied Racer
 Western Garter Snake
 Pacific Prairie Rattlesnake

Shasta Alligator Lizard
 Pacific Rubber Snake
 Pacific Gopher Snake
 Common Red-sided Garter Snake

AMPHIBIANS

Rough-skinned Newt
 California Western Toad
 Pacific Giant Salamander

Pacific Tree Toad
 California Yellow-legged Frog
 Oregon Red Salamander

FISHES

Coast Rainbow Trout

Eastern Brook Trout

FLOWERS

(Not included in thesis)

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF SNOW MOUNTAIN

FORESTTrees:

Shasta Red Fir
White Fir
Jeffrey Pine
Sugar Pine
Incense Cedar
Nuttall Willow

Shrubs:

Pine-mat Manzanita
Green Manzanita
Shiny-leave Gooseberry
Pioneer Gooseberry
Sticky Currant
Red-flowering Currant
Western Mountain Ash
Desert Mahogany

FOREST CHAPARRALTrees:

Blue Elderberry

Shrubs:

Snow brush
Bitter Cherry
Huckleberry Oak

MEADOWHerbs:

False Hellebore

GARRY OAK WOODLANDTrees:

Garry Oak

Shrubs:

Brewer Oak

STREAMSIDE WOODLANDShrubs

Mountain Alder
Creek Dogwood
Cascara Sagrada
Wood Rose

Shrubs:

Sitka Willow
Western Service Berry
Blackcap Raspberry
Siskiyou Gooseberry

ROCKY RIDGE AND CLIFFSHRUBS

Cream Bush*
Desert Mahogany
Great Basin Sagebrush
White-stemmed Rabbit Brush
Antelope Brush

Western Choke-cherry
Western Service Berry
Cascara Sagrada
Dwarf Barberry
Western Rabbit Brush

Rabbit Hill, March 20, 1973

June 17, 1976

Skeel Hamann

Dear Katherine:

Our young genius naturalist, with the leaden pen, has not come up with any lists for Snow Mountain as yet, so we will dig from our memory --

Birds

Golden Eagles, nesting in the crags

White-headed woodpeckers on North Ridge

Pileated woodpeckers

Green-tailed towhees

Pine siskins

Oregon juncos

Plain titmice

White-breasted nuthatches

Mountain chickadees

Water ouzels

Red-tailed hawks

Swainson's Hawks

Redshafted flicker

Acorn woodpecker

Greathorned owl

Pygmy owl

Hummingbirds -- Rufous, Anna, Allan

Sparrows -- Fox, White-crown, Golden-crown and unidentified other species

Robins

Ravens

California vultures

Nighthawks

Red-bellied sapsuckers

Mountain bluebirds

Wrentits,

Bewick wrens,

Mountain quail

Trees--

The most remarkable of the tree or shrub growth is the grove of very ancient mountain mahogany, Cercocarpus ledifolius, beyond East Peak toward Sheetiron above Stony Creek, on an elbow to the left of the trail. Their age must be phenomenal.

The slopes of Red fir, Abies nobilis, as the trail rises to the summit, are not valuable as timber, because of the gnarled growth, from battling snows and wind, that makes them remarkable as scenic monuments.

In the pass above Summit Springs, the wind-twisted Pinus jeffreyi are one of the wilderness's greatest ornaments.

Pinus ponderosa and Libocedrus decurrens form vigorous forest stands.

Flowers

Epilobium nivium is the mountain's rarest flower, found in only a couple of other locations in California.

Asclepius solanoanum is another rarity, thriving on serpentine slopes at higher elevations.

Cycladenia humilis, in dense mats of fluorescent rose below melting snowbanks, startles with its masses of widespread color in its season.

Zauschneria californica, in flaming red, Monardella in misty lavender, color open slopes in fall.

Dicentra uniflora, an alpine rarity, appears in ephemeral bloom as snow melts on summits.

The tall creamy Eriogonum, and the procumbent rosy fluff bloom appearing later in summer are the most spectacular in this family.

Dicentra formosa comes with melting snow in the Red fir forest, Dicentra chrysantha with Argemone on the traps of North Ridge later. Penstemon purpurea colors the summit flats of West Peak in early summer. Linum lewisia's blue shows beyond East Peak early.

Milk Ranch's glade is solid with blue of procumbent Delphinium, gold of alpine buttercup in early summer, along with white violets at water's edge. The white orchid Habenaria dilatata stands up to 30 inches tall by hundreds later in the upper grade.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

JEPSON HERBARIUM

P.O. BOX 397 BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

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Dear Sir:

As President of the California Native Plant Society, and a botanist who has been familiar with the wild lands of Lake and Colusa Counties for almost thirty years, I wish to urge that you establish a wilderness area in the region of Snow Mountain. In addition to having one of the finest montane forests in the Coast Ranges, Snow Mountain has long been renowned for its collection of rare plants. Many species such as the Snow Mountain willow herb (Epilobium niveum), the Snow Mountain milkweed (Asclepias solanosa) were first found there, and are still known from only a few other localities.

As civilization advances, these remote mountain wildernesses will become increasingly important refuges, for preserving our irreplaceable heritage of native plants and animals. Situated as it is, far from any well travelled highway, Snow Mountain would seem to be ideally placed for designation as one of these perpetual refuges, for which everything should be done to keep it intact and in its present natural condition. We sincerely hope that you will be able to act positively on this proposal.

Yours very sincerely,

G. Ledyard Stebbins
G. Ledyard Stebbins

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

* * *

RESOLUTION NO. 72-10

* * *

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING PASSAGE
OF SB 2680 (CRANSTON) and HR 9806 (LEGGETT)
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
AREA.

* * *

AS A BASIS AND PREMISE for this Resolution, the Board
finds:

1. There is now pending before the Congress of the United States, Senate Bill 2680 as introduced by the Honorable Alan Cranston, United States Senator from California, and HR 9806 as introduced by the Honorable Robert Leggett, Member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of California, for the establishment of the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area which is generally located in Southwestern Glenn County, Southeastern Lake County and Northwestern Colusa County of California.

2. The preservation of Snow Mountain as a wilderness area has been the subject of detailed study and many meetings attended by interested persons and citizens of Glenn County, the great majority of whom have expressed sentiments in favor of establishing such lands as a wilderness area.

3. It would be in the best interests of the people of Glenn County and in the best interests of the people of the State of California and of the United States as a whole for such an area to be preserved as a wilderness.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that:

1. Snow Mountain should be established and designated by Congress as a wilderness area.

2. SB 2680 and HR 9806 now pending before the Congress

of the United States have the whole hearted approval and endorsement of this Board of Supervisors and the passage of such legislation is solicited and encouraged.

3. Copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Alan Cranston, United States Senator and to Honorable Robert Leggett, Member of Congress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of February, 1972,
by the following vote:

AYES: Holvik, Polzin, Reimers and Colbert

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: Fiack

COUNTY OF GLENN

BY: *Ralph P. Clark*
CHAIRMAN, Board of Supervisors, Glenn
County, California

ATTEST

Milton S. White
COUNTY CLERK and ex officio Clerk,
Board of Supervisors, Glenn County,
California.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Resolution No.: 72-42

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF
SB 2680 (Cranston) and HR 9806 (Leggett) FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA.

WHEREAS: There is now pending before the Congress of The United States, Senate Bill 2680 as introduced by the Honorable Alan Cranston, United States Senator from California and HR 9806 as introduced by the Honorable Robert Leggett, member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of California, for the establishment of a Snow Mountain Wilderness comprising approximately 37,000 acres of land, generally located in southwestern Glenn County, northeastern Lake County and northwestern Colusa County of California.

WHEREAS: The preservation of Snow Mountain as a wilderness area has been the subject of detailed study and numerous meetings attended by interested citizens and persons of Lake County, the great majority of whom expressed sentiments in favor of establishing such a wilderness area, and

WHEREAS: It would be in the best interests of the people of Lake County, the people of the State of California and of the United States as a whole for such an area to be preserved as a wilderness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake THAT:

1. Snow Mountain should be established and designated by Congress as a wilderness area;
2. SB 2680 and HR 9806 now pending before the Congress of the United States have approval and endorsement of this Board of Supervisors and the passage of such legislation is encouraged.

3. Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded
to United States Senators John V. Tunney and
Alan Cranston, and to Congressmen Robert
Leggett and Don Clausen.

YES: Supervisors Wrieden, Lamson, Wilds
NOES: Supervisors Denner, Martinelli
ABSENT: None

Marked

Chairman of said Board

ATTEST: JAMES L. SHINN
Clerk of said Board

By: *Jaune K. Dights*
Deputy Clerk

The within instrument is a correct copy
of the original on file in this office.

ATTEST: JAMES L. SHINN

MAR 21 1972

County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors of the State of
California in and for the County of Lake

By: *Jaune K. Dights*
Deputy Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 72- 10

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF COLUSA
CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION TO THE HONORABLE ALAN CRANSTON, THE HONORABLE JOHN V. TUNNEY AND THE HONORABLE ROBERT L. LEGGETT SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPOSED SNOW MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Alan Cranston and the Honorable John V. Tunney, Senators from California, have introduced S. 2680, a bill in accordance with the Wilderness Act that proposes the designation of approximately thirty-seven thousand (37,000) acres entitled "Snow Mountain DeFacto Wilderness Area"; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Robert L. Leggett, Representative from California, has introduced H.R. 9806 in accordance with the Wilderness Act that concurs with the proposal of the Honorable Alan Cranston and the Honorable John V. Tunney.

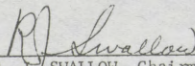
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this Board of Supervisors, also representative of all the people of the County of Colusa, herein by unanimous expression fully endorses the foregoing recitals and pledges support of S. 2680 and H.R. 9806 bills to designate the Snow Mountain DeFacto Wilderness Area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 29th day of February, 1972
by the following vote:

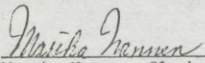
AYES: Supervisors Frank L. Miller, C. Martin Wilmarth, Edwin G. Ross,
H. L. Peterson and R. J. Swallow.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.


R. J. SWALLOW, Chairman
of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

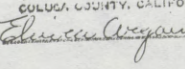

Martha Nannen, Clerk
of the Board of Supervisors

I CERTIFY THIS COPY TO BE
CORRECT COPY OF THE RECORD IN THE
ATTEST:

MARTHA NANNEN

FEB 29 1972

CLERK OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COLUSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

BY  DEPUTY

Ms. PETTERSON. I also have some maps which I think would be appropriate to submit at this time.

[Maps have been placed in the committee files.]

Ms. PETTERSON. A little over a decade ago the Snow Mountain Wilderness Committee was formed for the sole purpose of obtaining statutory protection for Snow Mountain. When a road was constructed on the rugged St. John Mountain east of Snow Mountain, we local people were motivated to protect this area in the Mendocino National Forest.

In the 10-year interim much has happened. We have had study meetings, and have held many public hearings. Resolutions or endorsement were obtained from three county boards of supervisors.

In 1971, Congressman Robert Leggett, the sole representative of the area, introduced the original legislation, and then shortly after the reapportionment, Congressman Don Clausen and Congressman Johnson. I am pleased today that all three of these gentlemen have supporting legislation before you.

In 1969, the Forest Service concluded an intensive study which included two important observations, that the Snow Mountain area appears to meet most of the minimum conditions for wilderness, and two, timber values did not preclude wilderness establishment. Then in 1970 the Mendocino National Forest supervisor released a plan which provided direction for eight subunits of varying capabilities including logging and motorized vehicles.

In July of that year, we learned of a timber sale on lands contiguous to the study area, a portion of which has now been logged.

I feel that wilderness is just as entitled to equal, fair, and full consideration as the management alternative in allocating areas of national forest lands to give uses as logging, but it seems that the timber industry with its priority established for allowable cuts has a primary consideration even in marginal areas such as Snow Mountain where a timber harvest becomes timber mining.

Now, I have photographs which will show you portions of the mountain and also illustrate my concern about the erosion potential of the Pacific Crest Road, 24N02, under consideration.

This road is shown on your map as indicated by the dotted lines. Apparently this road has been on the drawing boards of the Forest Service for quite some time. We coordinate the photos with the numbers on your map. On pages 1, and 2, and 3, these are taken along the proposed road sites. I should like to bring out the points that it is rather difficult to do in a photograph to show the terrain, but it is projected through quite steep and unstable country. Those are pages 1, 2, and 3.

On page 4 is a view of delightful picturesque Stony Creek which is the native trout fishery and candidate for the wild river classification. Also on page 4 as shown on your map, and we go up toward the north end of the map, are views of the Bear Wallow drainage.

Pages 5 and 6 illustrate the Crockett subdivision of the Nye timber sale. This portion of the Nye timber sale was not harvested.

Then I have typed exhibits which I should like to submit for the record of the flora and fauna, California Plants Society, L. R. Heckard, curator, Jepson Herbarium, Skee Hamann, who is an eminent

botanist in Lake County, and the flora and fauna of Snow Mountain which was compiled by Donald V. Hamphill from his doctorate thesis.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I ask unanimous consent those exhibits be included in the record as requested by the witness.

Mr. JOHNSON [presiding.] Hearing no objections, so ordered. They will be placed in the record following her statement.

Ms. PETTERSON. I also have resolutions from the three county boards of supervisors, Glenn County, Lake County, and Colusa County.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would ask unanimous consent that the three resolutions, as introduced by the witness, be included in the record, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JOHNSON. Without objection, I hear no objection—they will be placed in the record following her statement.

[Material referred to has been placed at the beginning of Ms. Petterson's prepared statement.]

Ms. PETTERSON. Local people are against spending more tax dollars on yet another study. People at home do not want roads in this area. In the Mendocino National Forest there are 3,000 miles of roads, 786 miles for the traveling tourist, the rest for the motorized bike or 4-wheel drive. I wish to mention here that trail bikes are returning to the once off limits of the Summit area of Snow Mountain. This and other offroad vehicle traffic should be stopped immediately before we are told it is no longer untrammelled by man.

I served on our school district board of trustees for 12 years. I have been a 4-H Club leader for 15 years, helped with the Girl Scouts in our community and have been affiliated as a leader with our Clear Lake Junior Horsemen. To me these youngsters are important. For them I have dedicated over a decade in attempting to save a potential wilderness which they want, need, and to which they have a right.

For a short excursion, not too far away, a boy or girl scout troop, a church or family or school group can backpack to nearby Snow Mountain, summer or winter, and perhaps this would save one child from the unsettling influences of present day social pressures.

Can the value of this be measured in board feet of timber? Should we deny these youngsters to their right to an unmanipulated, unplanned, unharvested, uneroded bits of real estate? For these young people, I would like to see an immediate statutory protection by the inclusion of Snow Mountain de facto wilderness into the wilderness system.

In lieu of this, should your endorsement be for continued studies, then this 37,000 acre wilderness proposal must be given complete protection as such and for an unlimited time until Congress makes a final determination.

I am leaving much unsaid which after these many years is not easy. However, I feel I could better help you in your decision by answering questions which you might have during the course of this hearing.

Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. We thank you, Mrs. Petterson for your very fine statement. We read your statement and I think the map you prepared

here is about as illustrative as anything I have seen of the area, what is there, what has taken place.

Do you know the amounts of acreage in private holdings within the proposed area?

Ms. PETTERSON. The total amount of acreage is 640 acres. Of the 640 acres, I have a breakdown of the statistics, about 120 are owned by what used to be Commander Industries. Now I do not know if it is Louisiana-Pacific that bought out Commander.

Mr. JOHNSON. I presume Louisiana-Pacific took over all their holdings, but I don't know.

Ms. PETTERSON. The rest of the property is owned by a local family in Lake County, Jones and Wager and they own holdings in Lake County of 137 acres and in Calusa County, 383.

Mr. JOHNSON. There are only two ownerships in there.

Ms. PETTERSON. Right. The Jones-Wager family are cousins.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Will the gentleman yield? In referring to these ownerships, do the people live in those areas?

Ms. PETTERSON. No. These inholdings are quite inaccessible. Aside from that 120 acres of Louisiana-Pacific, that's near the Crockett subdivision of the Nye timber sale. The other is on the summit of Snow Mountain and quite inaccessible aside from, well, you can't even get a 4-wheel drive up there. The trail bikes can go up there.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Do these people that have the ownership of the inholdings, are they in support of or in opposition to the wilderness area?

Ms. PETTERSON. They have been in opposition.

Mr. CLAUSEN. What are their names?

Ms. PETTERSON. Claire Jones and Audrey Wager. They used to run cattle up there, but within the last 4 years they have not. The Forest Service has suggested a land exchange on various parts of their land. However, there seems to be quite a longstanding antagonism, the family with the Forest Service.

So, I really don't know what the resolution would be.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Where do they live?

Ms. PETTERSON. They live in Upper Lake.

Mr. JOHNSON. I want to thank you for your position. Recalling our meeting out there with the local, Federal agency people and the group that were there that day and then after our trip up on the mountain, and flying the perimeter in a local helicopter, we had a very good look at it, and on the ground in a vehicle for a considerable portion of it and then walking to one or two of the vantage points around there, we had a good opportunity to see just what was up there.

Coming back here, when we reported what I had thought I understood out there, that we would proceed with a study of the area as referred to and the Senators worked their bill through and as I understand it there is only one fear in the Senate bill as far as those who were concerned with the wilderness area and that is under section 2 on page 2 of the Senate bill, "During the review period provided by this act, and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary of Agriculture shall and protect such lands in such a manner as to assure that their suitability for potential wilderness designation is not impaired."

In doing that, I would think that the committee, I hope, will mark-up the Senate bill to the committee's satisfaction in lieu of the Senate bill. That would probably be the fastest way to go in protecting the bill to go to the floor and have it passed in the House and Senate.

If the Senate concurs, it will go to the White House or we can further markup H.R. 5589, which would probably be more suitable because there are three of us, and we might want the bill to bear our names, and we could perfect the House bill and take it to the floor of the House and then amend it and then we could speed up the process.

We very much appreciate your coming all this way to testify. I know that you are as knowledgeable as anyone with whom I have become acquainted concerning Snow Mountain, and certainly the map that you bring before us and the statement that was made pretty much spells out the general area.

As I understand it, the Forest Service will have to speak for themselves, the official position of the Forest Service is that they do not approve of the legislation that is pending before this committee and especially H.R. 5589, or 5568. They can make that position clear when they are called upon to testify.

The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I am sure that once the membership of the committee has had an opportunity to read your statement, we will bring that to their attention, and the staff will evaluate and scrutinize the content, and they will come to realize that which you have presented us, Mrs. Petterson, is a very detailed and comprehensive presentation of the facts, certainly as you know them.

I, for one, want to join Mr. Johnson in stating to you how much we appreciate your taking your own time and I know it is out of your own pocket that you had to pay for the trip coming back here and that is certainly dedicated citizenship at its best that you come before the committee.

We thank you very much.

Ms. PETTERSON. Thank you.

Mr. JOHNSON. Our other witness that was scheduled to come before us today is Mr. Steve Payne of the Wilderness Society. Is Mr. Payne here?

STATEMENT OF STEVE PAYNE, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, my name is Steve Payne. I am representing the Wilderness Society and the California wilderness coalition in strong support of H.R. 5568.

As a former resident of Eureka, Calif., I am well aware of the Snow Mountain area and feel this area deserves wilderness designation and has been sufficiently studied for such designation.

Snow Mountain is truly an interesting and diverse natural area in terms of ecologic and geologic values. The headwaters of the middle fork of Stony Creek are within this proposed wilderness. Within the rocky waters native trout thrive, a valuable and scarce resource of this populous State.

The Forest Service report made in 1969 for the Snow Mountain study area noted that isolation has helped keep the stream productive, a great variety of wildlife such as black bear, coyote, bobcat and the quickly disappearing mountain lion takes refuge within rugged canyons, small meadows, scattered stands of timber and brush or vegetation.

It is difficult for these animals to avoid continued human activities within the Mendocino National Forest which has a mish-mash of logging activity.

The geologic activity of this area is an important factor for protecting this area. The mountains are formed by geologic uplifts from once a shallow ocean floor. Lava flows, resulting from volcanic activity on the north side of Snow Mountain, are in existence. Rare in the north coast range, is evidence of glacial drift material at the head of Dark Hollow Creek.

I would like to identify reasons for which this area qualifies for instant wilderness designation. Snow Mountain has 37,000 acres within its boundaries and is the largest de facto wilderness area within the Mendocino National Forest.

The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 recognized, along with important values, that "the establishment and maintenance of acres of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this act."

The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided the definitions and guidelines by which areas could be identified for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. The ecologic, geologic and scientific values within this area combine to provide a sense of character to Snow Mountain, a character which exemplifies scenic beauty sought by people throughout the State for primitive recreational enjoyment.

The 1969 Forest Service report on the Snow Mountain area states that "The Snow Mountain area appears to meet most of the minimum conditions for wilderness and has the physical characteristics and attributes."

The wide and broad support of concerned citizens and elected officials is unsurpassed in any other area in California to date.

All of these points add up to the need, desire and ability to protect Snow Mountain by including it into the national wilderness preservation system.

We urge this committee to accept H.R. 5568 and immediately designate this richly deserved area as the Snow Mountain wilderness area.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I would ask unanimous consent that Mr. Payne's statement appear in the record as though read in full.

Mr. JOHNSON. Without objection, it is so ordered. It will appear in the record as if read in full.

[Statement follows:]

The Wilderness Society

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006 (202) 293-2732

STATEMENT OF STEVE PAYNE

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

CONCERNING H.R. 5568
TO DESIGNATE AS WILDERNESS
SNOW MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

June 22, 1976

Mr. Chairman, my name is Steve Payne, Wilderness Coordinator for The Wilderness Society, a national environmental organization established in 1935 dedicated to the protection and preservation of our finite natural resources.

We are pleased to add our name to the long list of concerned citizens, groups and elected representatives interested in protecting Snow Mountain by incorporating it into the National Wilderness Preservation System. We appreciate the opportunity to indicate to this committee our full support for H.R. 5568, as introduced by Congressman Clausen, which would provide wilderness designation for this 37,000 acre area.

Citizen action and involvement to achieve protection for Snow Mountain has stretched over a long 24 year period. Through the years a growing number of people have stepped forward announcing their interest and desire to preserve this portion of the Central California Coast Range. This following represents a wide and diverse membership and includes individual citizens, local newspapers, environmental groups, and elected officials.

"IN WILDERNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD." — Thoreau

Snow Mountain is truly an interesting and diverse natural area. It is an extremely rugged wilderness exhibiting on its summit scattered, wind-shaped fir and pine, natural openings and exposed rock faces. From the summit, the topography plunges into a deep, rocky gorge where the Middle Fork of Stony Creek flows. The headwaters of this creek are included in this proposed wilderness. As the creek strives for the Sacramento basin, it shows uncompromising beauty as it flows serenely through the Mendocino National Forest, forming pools of calm reflection or swiftly beating the high rocky walls of the deep gorge.

Within these rocky waters, native trout thrive, a valuable and scarce resource of this populous state. The Forest Service report made in 1969 for the Snow Mountain Study Area noted that "Isolation has helped keep this stream productive" (page 14). We recognize the need for many streams and lakes to be artificially stocked, but we should now make every effort to protect those remaining waterways which exhibit and maintain natural habitat for wild fish.

A great variety of wildlife, such as black bear, coyote, bob cat, and the quickly disappearing mountain lion, takes refuge within rugged canyons, small meadows, scattered stands of timber and brushy vegetation. It is difficult for these animals to avoid human activities here for the Mendocino National Forest is a mish-mash of logging activity.

The trees which are not healthy and vigorous in the eyes of the professional forester should not be condemned. These trees help bring new life to the forest, life which, at one time or another all of us have enjoyed. Dead and dying trees provide habitat for many great birds

of prey and for mammals. Undoubtedly, there is wildlife which is benefited by young, immature stands of trees, but we should also recognize that some wildlife species thrive in old and mature stands. The Snow Mountain wilderness represents the largest primitive area within the Mendocino National Forest, such areas are rapidly becoming a rarity. Let us recognize that the Wilderness Act was enacted "...to assure that increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization does not occupy and modify all areas..." [Sec. 2(a)].

The potential for study by interested botanists and geologists has existed for many years and should not be hindered in the future. The California Native Plant Society has identified within this wilderness numerous rare plant species found outside their normal range. The uneven topography was created by the changing moods of nature. There are mountains formed by geologic uplifts from a once shallow ocean floor, and lava flows resulting from volcanic activity on the north side of Snow Mountain. Rare in the North Coast Range is evidence of glacial drift material at the head of Dark Hollow Creek.

We further wish to bring to your attention the 1974 logging of a 600 acre tract within the proposed Snow Mountain Wilderness Area. We urge this committee to keep this selectively logged area within the proposed boundaries. A portion of the Middle Fork of Stony Creek watershed was unfortunately included within the harvested area. We believe it is important to protect as much as possible the headwaters of this wild stream. Soils are highly unstable, as recognized by the mass soil movement in other areas of the Mendocino National Forest. Continued logging or roading could

adversely impact the native fish and water quality of the Middle Fork of Stony Creek. We encourage this committee to request the Forest Service to close the road going into this unit and allow it to revert back to natural conditions.

The Mendocino National Forest, like other national forests in northern California, is managed primarily for its timber resource. As mentioned previously, the forest is a maze of logging networks. Recognizing this, how can we seriously be before this subcommittee requesting instant wilderness legislation? Several critical points to be recognized are the following:

- 1.) Snow Mountain has 37,000 acres within its boundaries, and is the largest primitive area within the Mendocino National Forest.
- 2.) The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 recognized, along with other important values, that "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this act" (Sec. 2).
- 3.) The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided the definition and guidelines by which areas could be identified for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. I have attempted to identify these very values recognized by this act. The ecologic, geologic and scientific values combine to provide a sense of character to Snow Mountain. A character which exemplifies scenic beauty sought by people throughout the state for primitive recreational enjoyment.

- 4.) The 1969 Forest Service Report on the Snow Mountain Study Area states that "The Snow Mountain area appears to meet most of the minimum conditions for wilderness and it has the physical characteristics and attributes..." (page 14).
- 5.) The wide and diversified support of concerned citizens is unsurpassed in any other area in California to date.

All of these points add up to the need, desire and ability to protect Snow Mountain by including it into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

We strongly support Congressman Clausen's bill, H.R. 5568. We do not support Congressman Johnson's proposal, H.R. 5589, because The Wilderness Society does not believe that it is necessary to conduct another study to determine the wilderness potential of Snow Mountain. Further, one very detrimental aspect of H.R. 5589 is that it does not provide interim protection for the area during the study period, which is contrary to study provisions found in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

We heartily commend Congressman Clausen for his long-standing support and the introduction of H.R. 5568. We feel it would be inexcusable to ignore Congressman Leggett's long-time effort and on-going support to protect Snow Mountain. He has sponsored legislation in the past to achieve such protection. We urge this committee to accept H.R. 5568 and immediately designate this richly deserved area as the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views before this committee.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you for appearing here today on behalf of this Snow Mountain area.

You recommend this wilderness today?

Mr. PAYNE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. We are somewhat inclined to agree with the Senate that there should be a study made within the framework of the Wilderness Act and taken through the proper channels and at that time we would act, but in the meantime, we would hold the area pretty much managed as wilderness.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, if I may comment to that effect, we do not support H.R. 5589 because the Wilderness Society does not believe that it is necessary to conduct another study. We feel that studies have been performed sufficiently.

Mr. JOHNSON. As we understand it, the Forest Service claims that it is not wilderness character area and we are trying to help it along channels and then Congress will decide what it should be.

with getting a proper study made and coming through the proper

Mr. PAYNE. If I may address one further point: We feel that as it presently stands, H.R. 5589 does not provide internal protection for this area during the study period as recognized under the Wilderness Act which is a very important criteria.

Mr. JOHNSON. You have heard the proposed language for that protection.

Mr. PAYNE. Yes. We would have to study that further.

Mr. JOHNSON. I think that is pretty much protective language to protect the interests.

Mr. PAYNE. If it is under the guidelines of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Mr. JOHNSON. The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think his statement is very clear and I appreciate very much your coming to make the very forthright presentation that you have made.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Our next witness will be Mr. Max Peterson, the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

You are in reverse order, but we did want to get through with all of those from outside and we would hear from you last. I presume that you have other engagements and your statement will be placed in the record as if read in full and you may summarize it anyway you see fit, Mr. Peterson.

STATEMENT OF R. MAX PETERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. PETERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't think I will take time to read the statement. You have it before you.

I will make two points. There has been a substantial amount of study of the Snow Mountain area going back to 1969 and before. At this time, we do not have a mineral survey of the area. Such a survey would be done in the event of a wilderness study. I would hasten to add that we do not know whether there are any significant mineral values in the area.

The area, though, has been extensively studied. On the map, you will notice that in the orange color there are two areas—subunits A and B—that were set up in 1969 as special zones, where we exclude vehicular use. The other zones were also set up after an intensive study of the area, and they provide for various kinds of use that are compatible with the area. For example, on the west side the Hummingbird-Copper Butte area has fairly substantial wildlife values that we are not sure can be perpetuated under pure wilderness management. In other words, it is our feeling, as many people have indicated here, this is a nice area, it is an area that is getting considerable kinds of use now. I think several have testified what a beautiful area it is and we agree. We would like to see it managed under a variety of uses which would retain the basic beauty of the area while making it available for a lot of people.

We have not said the area does not meet the minimum qualification for wilderness. In fact, our roadless area study indicated it did, in fact, meet the minimum qualifications for wilderness.

Our study did, though, indicate that, considering all of the other areas that are available in California, there are many other better quality areas, considering the physical characteristics of the area, other kinds of values, and other kinds of recreation use that would be forgone if the Snow Mountain area was wilderness. It is our judgment that, on balance, we do not recommend this particular area for wilderness, not because it doesn't meet the minimum qualifications but because we feel there are other kinds of very sensitive management of this area that will better meet the public needs.

I just want to make it clear that we have not said the Snow Mountain area does not meet the minimum wilderness qualifications.

Mr. JOHNSON. It was stated to me that the position of the administration was that they were opposed to 5589 as well as opposed to Senate bill 1391 and the reason for that was that there had been various considerations given to this area in the study in 1969 and the courtsuit in 1974, I believe, relative to a timber sale, and it did not receive the approval of your consideration for wilderness. I don't know how much plainer you can put it than that. That was told to me. I do not have it in writing. We do not have the official position of the administration in writing at the present time. I don't know what they are going to say. That is not before the committee.

Mr. PETERSON. I might try to clarify that. There is a small area upon the north side that was logged selectively by Commander Industries, there was what we considered a good job of logging done.

Mr. JOHNSON. We looked at that.

Mr. PETERSON. We do not consider that area to meet the definition of wilderness under the Wilderness Act. That is a relatively small part of the area.

Mr. JOHNSON. It looks pretty good. There is one road there, but the way it was logged and the way it has been cleaned up, I think it could very easily be reverted back.

Mr. PETERSON. Let me see if I can state in one sentence the way we see it. The Snow Mountain Area was not among those areas we selected as candidate wilderness areas because we determined that in comparison with other inventoried roadless areas, the Snow Moun-

tain Area has a low quality rating for wilderness purposes, and its designation as wilderness would be costly in terms of resource values forgone. The area does, however, meet the minimum qualifications of wilderness. There is no question about that, in our minds, for the bulk of the area. The one area recently selectively logged does not qualify for wilderness, in our opinion.

Does that clarify the thing for you?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes. Now, in a proposed study that would be mandated by Congress, naturally, you would report back on all of the characteristics in the area studied?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. And this would bring it all together in one place. As to whether or not there was a need for a mineral survey, we were told out there that there had been no mineral survey made and in this study called for under the regular criteria of the Wilderness Act this item would be treated, the mineral survey would be made and there would be recommendations and clearances there clearing that area.

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. You people would report on the bill also and it would all be in one place, and all inclusive for you to report back to the Congress that the study had been made, regardless of your recommendation, and then that would come to the Congress and we would treat that and the Congress would act one way or another.

Mr. PETERSON. Sir, we would provide a complete wilderness study report including mineral survey information from the Bureau of Mines and USGS.

Mr. JOHNSON. There was some concern by many people about the Senate bill that passed, under section 2, page 2. I presume that we would recommend an amendment there if we were to perfect the Senate bill. If we were to perfect our own, 5589, we would make this provision in that bill, too. "Until Congress determines otherwise," would be the words we would insert after "and there" on section 2.

Mr. PETERSON. You might want to consider "until Congress determines otherwise" or until the end of a certain period so that if Congress never does anything, you don't have a perpetual cloud over the area. That is just a suggestion.

Mr. JOHNSON. That could be put in there but—

Mr. PETERSON. I would assume Congress would act rather expeditiously.

Mr. JOHNSON. The Senate bill would call for the study to be made there and report the findings to the President on or before the expiration of 2 years. Can you comply with that? I assume you can, if you studied it once in 1969. All you have to do is clear the mineral survey part of it and we could do that within those 2 years. Now, if you want to put a time certain in there on the time of the consideration of Congress, that is all right, too. We have no objection to that.

Mr. PETERSON. We would be glad to work with your staff on that wording. I think it should be clear that if Congress doesn't decide to consider the area, certainly the Forest Service would feel a cloud, and I know of no case in our history where we have allowed an area to deteriorate after a study has been called for a Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON. I will ask the staff a question. As I understand it, the Chairman would probably perfect the House bill, take it to the floor and then amend it into the Senate bill?

Mr. CRANDELL. That is correct

Mr. JOHNSON. This may become part of a package?

Mr. CRANDELL. It may. These are the only two wilderness bills of several pending before the subcommittee.

Mr. PETERSON. I would make a recommendation. If you set up the area for study, we need to have a common understanding of the types of uses that would be allowed in the area pending the study. We normally would allow use to continue that did not impact the area in a way that would deteriorate potential wilderness values. In other words, we try not to presume what Congress might decide just because a study has been called for. So if, for example, there is existing use on that road that Commander Industries built, we would need to have it clear whether we are expected to discontinue such use or whether we are allowed to let the use continue, because the road will be there until such time as it is taken out. We would not assume we would be expected to take the road out until Congress decides what to do with the area.

Mr. JOHNSON. Is the road on Forest Service property?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. You pretty much control the use of it?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir. We would quite honestly favor—

Mr. JOHNSON. As far as Commander Industries is concerned, they paid for it?

Mr. PETERSON. Although Commander Industries built the road, we were talking about general public use. We would normally allow existing public use on existing roads and trails as it now exists as long as they don't go cross country or do something to damage existing wilderness characteristics. We would assume that such limited use would continue until the study was completed and a final decision was made.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is one thing they are a little bit concerned about, the use of motor vehicles and jeeps in the area. You people restrict that on a lot of your land. I don't know why you wouldn't on a place that you are going to give wilderness protection to.

Mr. PETERSON. Much of the area is already closed to offroad vehicles, and we would not want offroad vehicle use to take place that would detract from the area's future value as wilderness. I just don't want a disagreement between the local people up there on what is decided, you see?

Mr. JOHNSON. The local people as far as I know want to restrict the use of motor vehicles in there whether it be motor vehicles or jeeps or automobiles.

Mr. PETERSON. On the existing roads?

Mr. JOHNSON. In the area that is under study.

Mr. PETERSON. We just need to be clear of what the direction of Congress is on it. We will comply whichever way you want us to go.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I think, Mr. Chairman, if it is agreeable with you, I would certainly like to make a request personally—of course, it can't be solidified until such time as we take congressional action,

but I would like to have you, if you would, through administrative procedures, consider protecting this area as though it were to be established as a wilderness area.

I think that is the desire of the people there, and then offer us whatever suggested language we need in the report for direction or for actual language in the bill so we can be sure that is carried out. That is what the people want up there.

Mr. JOHNSON. I would say that would be included in the report.

Mr. PETERSON. We would be glad to work with your staff on that.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a couple of questions.

One: How long do you believe that it is going to take for you to conduct an adequate study? As you have heard testimony, Mr. Peterson, people do feel that there has been an adequate study and some are of the opinion that there can be a designation without further study. Now, so we don't have this prolonged forever, how long do you think it would take for you to come up with an adequate study?

Mr. PETERSON. I think the 2 years in the bill would be adequate. Normally, we get the information from the Bureau of Mines and USGS on the mineral part of it and then we assemble that along with all the other information for public hearing. It usually takes 6 months to a year after we get all the information together to go through all the procedural steps including the mandatory procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act. I think that 2 years is a reasonable period.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I further understand—and know to be a fact—that the Forest Service has written a letter whereby they have indicated there will be no timber harvesting in this area, this is in letter form, until such time as the Congress or study is finalized on this. This is a sort of interim protection. I am assuming that is still in effect. Would you state for the record whether or not that is Forest Service policy?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir. There are no active timber sales in the area now, we do not plan any, and we will not plan any until we see what Congress does with this bill that is now pending.

Mr. JOHNSON. There is one question further I would like to ask, to make certain that you have your necessary manpower and the necessary funds to make this study or should we provide a certain amount of money? The Senate has a section in their bill that "It is hereby authorized to be appropriated such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act." We do not have that in our bill at the present time. What do you say about the Forest Service capabilities of doing this with the manpower and funds?

Mr. PETERSON. That is a very difficult question because when we prepared our budget for fiscal 1977, which will begin in a short time, we estimated making so many studies, including all kinds of roadless areas, and so on. There have been quite a few additional studies added by Congress. We will either have to change priorities, you know, or secure additional funds. It is hard on a one-by-one basis to say where you reach the point where you can't do them without additional funds.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think that it might be appropriate when Congress is through with its action during this session to take an overall look at the studies that have been added rather than trying to deal with each one.

Mr. JOHNSON. If the Congress mandates studies, that comes first out of your budgeted funds for that purpose, doesn't it?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. And you have general authorization funds within your budget?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. Maybe it would be safer if we specify a funding bill.

Mr. PETERSON. I don't believe it is necessary to provide a separate authorization in the bill. We have a general authorization, as you mentioned, to do this kind of work. The problem is not authority, the problem is whether we will in fact, end up with adequate funds. The Snow Mountain study would be a priority if Congress so directs.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Wells, you are here from the USGS. Do you feel if called upon to make the study you have ample personnel and money to make the study?

Mr. WELLS. We are in the same position the Forest Service finds themselves. We have allocated all of our funds for current studies and if we do not get appropriations we will have to simply defer some other study.

Mr. JOHNSON. You would give priority to those enacted into law by Congress?

Mr. WELLS. Yes, we certainly do. The areas we study are referred to us by the Forest Service, and we do all we can to honor them, but there are times when funds and staff seems to be stretched awfully thin which means to defer something else.

Mr. JOHNSON. I would recommend then that the committee staff get in touch with the Forest Service and the USGS to make certain you get funds if the matter is enacted into law. I would hate to see it held up for the lack of funds and we can very well provide and spell out in here the necessary amount of money to do it. We do that with the wild rivers, we spell it out, in the Bureau of Reclamation project, all the matters under Interior that come under this committee generally carry a pricetag and we provide the necessary funds so there is no hitch that way as far as funds are concerned. It does come out of your general investigation funds, I guess.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Will the gentleman yield? Just for my own edification and maybe for the record, what would you estimate the costs to the agency for the conduct of a study of this type?

Mr. PETERSON. Congressman Clausen, on studies of this nature, including the environmental statement, and so on, our total costs generally run from \$75,000 to, up to, a couple of 100,000. In this case though, we already have a substantial amount of the information on hand so I think—and this is just a rough estimate—it would probably be in the neighborhood of \$50,000 to complete the entire study, have the hearings, produce the record and process the whole thing.

Mr. CLAUSEN. We certainly don't want to find ourselves in the position where once we authorize the study that there is an admin-

istrative delay based upon the fact that there would be inadequate authority. Do you feel you need additional authority from this committee?

Mr. PETERSON. I don't believe, Congressman, we need additional authority, because we have general authority to conduct such studies. What really may happen, and let me stress may, if these studies accumulate, is that some other study in our budget submitted to Congress may have to yield. So we will have to tell Congress that we either delay some other study or get additional funds for this one. So I do not believe that we need special additional authority in this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON. Does the staff have any questions?

Mr. TERRELL. The \$50,000 you are recommending, that does not include the cost of the mineral surveys by Interior, is that correct?

Mr. PETERSON. No. I hope you understand that is a rough estimate. It might be less than that. There are some mandatory procedures including hearings in certain places, a complete record, and requirements to send copies to all kinds of people. So there are a lot of fixed costs in these studies regardless of how much resource information we have on hand.

Mr. CRANDELL. This is kind of a double-barreled question because it is related to both areas we have discussed today. It was mentioned earlier that there are some helicopter flights over the Great Bear Wilderness area. Do you utilize aircraft in the Snow Mountain area at all for firefighting purposes using helicopters and so forth?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, we do. We have a substantial number of helicopters in California that we use on contract for fire suppression.

Mr. CRANDELL. As I understand it, if this area should go into the wilderness system, that type of use would not be precluded?

Mr. PETERSON. That type of use for fire would not be precluded under the Wilderness Act, although if there was a fire in the area, we would attempt to handle it by other means if we could do it within the time available and within the threat that was there.

Mr. CRANDELL. I was referring partly to the Great Bear area, but the Wilderness Act authorizes previously established aircraft uses to continue, not just in emergencies. I wanted to make that point.

Mr. PETERSON. I need to differentiate between two things, and I think you understand this. The Wilderness Act provides for the use of aircraft for administrative purposes and for protection of the area for fire and so on, whether or not it was preexisting. On preexisting uses, it is discretionary with the Secretary whether the preexisting uses, such as recreational use of Schafer Airport, would continue under the Wilderness Act.

Mr. CRANDELL. That wasn't made clear earlier. I am glad you clarified it.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to submit some questions in writing to the Forest Service and that they would respond at this point in the record.

Mr. JOHNSON. You have heard the request, is there objection? Hearing none, so ordered. If the questions are forwarded to the Forest Service, they will answer and your answers will go in the record.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your co-operative attitude and that of the entire committee, and the fact that we have held these hearings today is very significant in our total effort to accomplish our mutual objectives. I think it has been a very good hearing and I want to thank you very much.

Mr. JOHNSON. If there are no further questions, Mr. Peterson, we will release you and the committee will adjourn.

[Whereupon at 1:40 p.m., the hearing was adjourned, to reconvene subject to the call of the Chair.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows:]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20250

8 JUL 1976

1510

Honorable John Melcher
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Public Lands
Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs
House of Representatives



Dear Mr. Melcher:

We are pleased to provide the following information and the enclosed map in response to requests of the Subcommittee during the June 22 hearing on Great Bear, Montana (S. 392) and Snow Mountain, California (S. 1391, H.R. 5568 and H.R. 5589).

Before discussing specific issues related to Great Bear and Snow Mountain, we wish to clarify our management philosophy for National Forest System areas which are designated by Congress for wilderness study. Unless Congress directs otherwise, we maintain any wilderness character and suitability for potential wilderness designation that existed at the time the area was designated for study. For example, long-term uses and activities that would significantly diminish wilderness suitability (i.e., road construction, timber harvesting, and powerline installation) are prohibited. On the other hand, transitory uses and activities that would not significantly diminish wilderness suitability (i.e., snowmobiling, trail bikes on existing trails, vehicles on existing roads, and aircraft landings at existing facilities) may be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. Our efforts to protect existing wilderness suitability within congressionally designated wilderness study areas must, of course, be subject to valid existing rights, under the mining laws of 1872, under any other law, or under any Federal treaty.

GREAT BEAR, MONTANA

1. Where are snowmobiles and motorcycles now used within the Great Bear area? What is the extent of such use? How would these uses be affected by a wilderness study?

There are two primary snowmobile routes (shown by blue dots on the map). The Morrison Creek Trail receives about 600 visitor days of use per year. (Visitor day means 12 hours of use in any combination--2 persons for 6 hours each, 4 persons for 3 hours each, etc.). The Dickey Creek Trail gets about 200 visitor days use per year. Normally, only 50 snowmobilers a year travel as far as Schafer via the Morrison Creek Trail.

Trail bike use (shown by orange dots on the map) is essentially on the Granite Creek and Big River Trails, and there are about 550 visitor days use a year.

Unless the legislation requiring a wilderness study specified otherwise, uses of a transitory nature which would not significantly alter existing wilderness suitability could be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. In all probability, snowmobiles and trail bikes would be permitted to continue using the trails during the study and congressional consideration. We would monitor such use, of course, and should the use seem to be leaving impacts significantly affecting wilderness suitability, the use would be terminated.

2. Where are the lands affected by the Blackfeet Treaty Rights Agreement of 1895? What rights do the Blackfeet have under the treaty?

National Forest lands affected by the treaty are outlined in pink on the map. It is our understanding that all of the treaty lands are east of the Continental Divide. The lands outlined in pink are within the Lewis and Clark National Forest; none are within the Flathead National Forest. As the map shows, about 20,000 acres of the treaty area are within the S. 392 study boundary. We believe the treaty also affects some acreage within Glacier National Park.

Within the treaty area, the 1895 agreement permits the Blackfeet to "cut and remove therefrom wood and timber for agency and school purposes, and for their personal uses for houses, fences, and all other domestic purposes." The Blackfeet also reserved and retained the "right to hunt upon said lands and to fish in the streams thereof so long as the same shall remain public lands of the United States under and in accordance with the provisions of the game and fish laws of the State of Montana."

3. How much time would be needed to complete the wilderness study? When would minerals data be available?

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have completed field work on a mineral survey of the two Forest Service wilderness study areas within the Great Bear proposal. These two areas contain about 328,000 acres. About 45,000 acres of the Great Bear proposal are not covered by the current mineral survey. One additional complete field season (1976) followed by a period of analysis and report preparation will be needed to complete the Great Bear mineral survey. January 1978 seems to be the earliest assured date for completion of the mineral survey report.

The Forest Service wilderness study could begin the first field season following passage of the legislation. The mineral survey information must be obtained before preliminary wilderness study recommendations could be formulated. Thereafter, the recommendation would be reviewed, public notice would be given, and wilderness public hearings would be

conducted. The policies and procedures of the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act would be followed during the study. This process must be concluded at least six months before legislative recommendations can be expected to arrive before the Congress.

This complete study process is expected to take a full three years following enactment of legislation calling for the wilderness study.

4. What is the extent of oil and gas lease applications within the Great Bear vicinity?

Areas under oil and gas lease applications are shaded in yellow on the map. The area of oil and gas lease applications on the east side extends off the map for a considerable distance to the south. About 133,000 acres (including the 20,000-acre Blackfeet treaty area) within the S. 392 study area are covered by oil and gas lease applications.

5. What is the extent and nature of the use at the Schafer airstrip?

The Schafer airstrip is open annually from July 1 through November 1. The following table illustrates its use for the past two seasons:

	Number of flights and percent of total			
	1974		1975	
Private parties	483	77%	279	70%
Commercial guided parties	54	9%	35	9%
Administrative use	89	14%	84	21%

The probable reason for the drop in private and commercial flights during the 1975 season was inclement weather during much of the summer.

Administrative traffic consists primarily of servicing crews that work out of Schafer, which also serves as a pickup point for smokejumpers and for rescue flights. Aerial fire patrols are based at Kalispell and the Spotted Bear Ranger District; none are based at Schafer. The Schafer complex includes eight buildings, two campgrounds, one airfield, corrals, and a water system with chlorinator and reservoir. The strip was built in 1935, and it was extended to 3,300 feet in 1961. The strip is capable of handling DC-3 aircraft.

We anticipate no change in the status of operations for the Schafer airstrip and the adjoining administrative complex during the proposed wilderness study and congressional consideration. If the Great Bear area was designated as a wilderness, Section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act would give the Secretary of Agriculture discretion to permit continuation of aircraft landings where the practice had become established prior to designation. We would then look at the Schafer operations, determine whether the

private and commercial flights were acceptable within the management plan which would be prepared for the wilderness, and act accordingly. In many existing wildernesses, continued private and commercial use of some airstrips is permitted, although the number of flights is sometimes restricted. Some strips have been closed to all traffic.

6. Is the Schafer airstrip used for fire control?

As stated above, the airstrip is used to pick up smokejumpers and to supply the trail and fire fighting crews stationed at Schafer. There are no smokejumpers stationed at Schafer, and patrol flights for detection are based elsewhere.

SNOW MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

1. What types of uses would be permitted to continue during the wilderness study period?

Unless the legislation requiring a wilderness study specified otherwise, uses of a transitory nature which would not significantly alter existing wilderness suitability could be permitted at the Secretary's discretion. There are already some restrictions on off-road vehicles (ORV's), with travel being restricted to designated routes and trails. We would monitor the effects of ORV use during the study period and congressional consideration. Should effects of a more lasting nature begin to appear on the land, the ORV use would be further curtailed. If the area is designated by Congress as wilderness, all ORV use would be prohibited. The same situation would exist relating to use of the road into the Crockett subdivision. So long as the effects of such use did not significantly affect the existing suitability of the area for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System, such use could be permitted to continue, at the discretion of the Secretary, during the study period and congressional consideration.

2. How much time would be needed to complete the study?

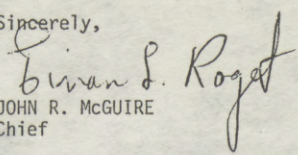
The USGS-Bureau of Mines would begin a minerals survey during the first field season after study legislation is enacted, and a minerals report would be completed within 18 months. Meanwhile, the Forest Service would begin its wilderness study. Preliminary recommendations could not be completed until the minerals report was available. Public notice, hearings, and review would then be undertaken in accordance with the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. A minimum of two years would be needed to complete the total study process.

We were also asked to provide language to amend H.R. 5589 that would provide for protection of the Snow Mountain area during the study period and congressional review period. The following new section could be added to H.R. 5589:

"SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area cited in section 1 so as to maintain its presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System until Congress determines otherwise, except that such management requirement in no case extend beyond the expiration of two years from the date the President submits his recommendations concerning the Snow Mountain Wilderness Study Area to the Congress."

We hope the above information will be helpful to the Subcommittee. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

for 
JOHN R. MCGUIRE
Chief

TELEPHONE
(415) 956-0410

WESTERN TIMBER ASSOCIATION

212 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108



June 16, 1976
File No. 2.67251-3

The Honorable John Melcher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee On Interior and
Insular Affairs
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Melcher:

We will not be able to testify in person June 22, 1976 on H.R. 5568 and H.R.5589 regarding the Snow Mountain area on the Mendocino National Forest. We respectfully ask that this letter and the enclosures be made a part of the record of the June 22 hearing.

The enclosures are statements and letters offered to the Senate in 1972 in respect to similar legislative proposals to classify the area formally as Wilderness. They indicate in some detail our reasons for supporting the Forest Service's position that the proposal has been fully considered and for good reasons rejected as not leading to the wise use of the resources in the area.

Our position remains the same--the area should be managed for a variety of purposes, including a roadless recreational area and not classified as Wilderness. Thus, we respectfully ask that the Committee give an unfavorable recommendation to H.R.5568.

Ideally, there should be no legislation regarding the Snow Mountain area. To us, the facts and the arguments are conclusive. However, if the Committee feels that there is some uncertainty because of inadequate information then we would favor Congressman Johnson's H.R.5589.

Sincerely,

George A. Craig

George A. Craig
Executive Vice President

GAC:hr

Enclosures: Mimeos #4458, #4466
#4467, #5032

cc: The Honorable Harold T. Bizz Johnson

MIMFO
#5032

WESTERN TIMBER ASSOCIATION

212 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

Fundamental issues need attention in
Snow Mountain and other
preservationists controversies.

FILE

2.67251-3

April 11
1973



April 10, 1973
No. 2.67251-3

The Honorable Robert L. Leggett
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Thank you for responding to our letter to Senator Cranston regarding the Snow Mountain multiple-use area or the Mendocino National Forest. Your comments regarding some of the details are certainly of interest. However, the fundamental issues remain:

1. How can the National Forests meet the Nation's needs for wood products as required by law (Organic Act of 1897) if the timber growing capacity is continually reduced by additional Wilderness classifications?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 described the specific areas of the National Forests to be considered for classification and left open the areas to be selected in the National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges. The legislative history of the Act shows the intent of Congress was not to make further withdrawals from the potentially productive areas of the National Forests. Family formations now require additional housing which must be supplied in large part from the timber inventory in the National Forests. Future needs are expected to be great, and the growth potential of the National Forests must be harnessed to meet such needs.

2. Should more of the National Forests be classified as "Wilderness", making relatively inaccessible some of the most attractive scenic areas that could serve as recreational area for many more people than they will as wilderness?

More than 10 percent of the 19,435,600 acres of National Forests in California are now classified as Wilderness or Primitive Areas (about to be classified as Wilderness). Some additional area (738,577 acres) is under study as possible wilderness areas. Millions of acres administered by the National Park Service in California will be part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. In response to Forest Service inquiries last year, about 70 percent of more than 14,000 respondents indicated that they believe there is already an adequate amount of National Forest land included or in process of inclusion in the System in California. The Forest Service's plans for Snow Mountain include a variety of recreation areas, including some roadless, that would be managed to provide a quality experience for various publics.

3. Will professional foresters be permitted to practice on the National Forests in other than a custodial fashion?

We have invested millions of dollars in training and research to produce scientists with the capacity to make the forests better serve man's needs for goods and services. The National Forests were established for such purposes. However, the Congress and the Administration do not provide the funding and others would deny the right by banning modification of the areas through classification as Wilderness. It is ironical that in the Snow Mountain case, some of the "don't touch" advocates rely for their sustenance on agriculture, the close relative of silviculture. They would not wish to return to the acorn economy of their predecessors. They should have faith that professional foresters can and should be permitted to manage the vegetation in the National Forests to serve man more fully--for a variety of renewable resources, including scenic beauty.

4. To what extent should Congressional requests, appeals and other delaying tactics be permitted to disrupt long standing programs which affect the livelihood of thousands of Californians?

The Snow Mountain problem is but one of several that have evolved from controversies over management practices in the National Forests of California. Commonly, Congressional requests, appeals and court actions are used to frustrate the agency in its conduct of programs authorized by law but contrary to the wishes of preservationists. The tactic is to delay with the expectation that publicity and pressure will erode the agency's will to perform its duty under the Organic Act of 1897 and the Multiple Use Act of 1960. About 44 percent of California's National Forests are classed as commercial timber lands, but they are not managed for sustained yield, as specified in the law, because initial harvests are being prevented.

Recently, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has served the frustration purpose well. The question has not really been whether or not the Forest Service's practices are environmentally acceptable, but whether or not complex time-consuming procedures have been followed--an ideal delaying device. There are 225 million board feet tied up in appeals in California at this time. NEPA may delay the sale of another 500 million board feet in the next two years. There is need to recognize and implement the obligations of earlier laws by continuing planned programs with due attention to environmental concerns. Unless there is such recognition, there will be underemployment and an unnecessary further shortage in lumber and plywood.

We wrote to Senator Cranston because we believe his office should be in a position to review such fundamental issues objectively. We thought he could weigh the concerns of the city dwellers for less costly housing and accessible recreation as well as the desires of preservationists to prevent development of the National Forests. Such issues must be faced. We are

The Hon. R. L. Leggett
 April 10, 1973
 page 3

pleased that you took time to answer our letter to him. Incidentally,
 we did not get the copy of your letter to John McGuire you said was
 enclosed.

Sincerely,

George A. Craig
 George A. Craig
 Executive Vice President

GAC:jt

cc: Honorable Don Clausen
 Honorable James Haley
 Ann Wray c/o Senator Alan Cranston
 Martha Campbell c/o Senator John Tunney
 Mr. John McGuire, Chief Forest Service
 Sacramento Bee
 Willows Daily Journal
 Honorable John Melcher

MIMEO

#4458

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582 MONADNOCK BLDG. • 681 MARKET STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

FILE

2.67251



Statement to Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
Washington D. C., May 18, 1972 re. S.2680 and S.3027.



May 17
1972

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I am George A. Craig, Secretary-Manager of Western Lumber Manufacturers, Inc., an association of wood processors who are dependent on national forest timber. These firms process approximately three-fourths of such timber harvested in California. There is no alternative supply.

Our members have an obvious interest in any restrictions placed on reasonable development of the national forests. However, in spite of that interest, we have supported the classification of a number of California areas as "wilderness," and these areas have included hundreds of millions of board feet of timber. Examples include the classification of the Mokelumne area and the enlarged High Sierra, Desolation Valley and Emigrant Basin areas. We recognized that the loss of that timber was part of the payment that had to be made to continue such areas in a primitive condition.

WILDERNESS WAS TO BE LIMITED BUT HAS GROWN

The Wilderness concept was developed by the Forest Service, and approximately 1.7 million acres of California's national forests were classified as wilderness-type areas before the Wilderness Act became law in 1964. This classification was done under regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Multiple Use Act of 1960 declared that such classification was appropriate, even though the Organic Act of 1897 stated that the purpose of national forests was to supply a continuous source of water and wood for the citizens of the nation. "

Congressional leaders did indicate that passage of the Wilderness Act would not affect other uses of the national forests. For example, Senate Report No. 109 of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, presented by Senator Church in 1963, stated; "...the Wilderness Preservation System can be established without affecting the economic arrangements of communities, counties, states or business enterprises since the areas are already withdrawn, or because existing private rights and established uses are permitted to continue. There will be no withdrawal of lands from the tax base of counties or communities; no withdrawal of timberlands on which lumbering operations depend..." Many other similar quotations are available from the Congressional Record.

The wilderness-type areas in California national forests have grown to more than 2 million acres, including private land. This is made up of 1.6 million gross acres classified as wilderness and 420,000 gross acres classified as primitive. These areas amount to about 10 percent of the national forest area in California.

THERE ARE OTHER NEEDS

With S.2680 and S.3027, it is proposed that another 58,500 acres of California's national forests be classified as wilderness in two units--the Snow Mountain and Lopez Canyon areas. We oppose such classification for the following reasons:

1. A disproportionate share of the public lands would be devoted to limited purposes. Besides the said 2 million acres in national forests there are 4.4 million acres administered by the National Park Service or federal Fish & Wildlife Service. Most of this area will be classified as wilderness.

2. The primary recreational wants and needs in America are for areas accessible by roads, as the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission reported to the Congress. It is wrong to classify so much of our most scenic areas in such a way as to prevent ready access for large numbers of citizens. On page 3 of the Commissions report is this statement:

"Driving and walking for pleasure, swimming, and picnicking lead the list of the outdoor activities in which Americans participate, and driving for pleasure is most popular of all. This is generally true regardless of income, education, age, or occupation."

3. The restrictions of the Wilderness Act preclude the installation of even primitive sanitation facilities, the building of check dams for fish management, the use of power equipment for trail buildings, etc. It is becoming necessary to restrict human use of wilderness areas because of human health problems, soil erosion problems, etc.--all because the Act prevents development and other management practices. We have enough of the national forests assigned to this nonmanagement fate.

4. The Forest Service has authority to manage some areas for scenery appreciation or "back-country" recreation without classification as wilderness where appropriate. This can be done without the undesirable constraints imposed by the Wilderness Act. A substantial part (over 12,000 acres) of the Snow Mountain Area was designated as "scenic" by the Forest Service and the use of vehicles was prohibited in the area, before S.2680 was introduced. We supported such designation.

5. Where appropriate, the Forest Service has authority under the Code of Federal Regulations to prohibit the use of motor vehicles as necessary to protect the national forest environment. This was done on most of 30,000 acres of the Snow Mountain area prior to introduction of S.2680.

6. In response to preservationists' requests, the Forest Service studied 27,000 acres of the Snow Mountain area and sought public reaction to a proposal to classify the area as wilderness. The above mentioned management decisions resulted. The Forest Service plan of management emphasized environmental considerations and preservation of scenery. The Congress has the authority but no good reason to change the Forest Service's plan.

7. S.2680 includes 10,000 acres more than that proposed initially for wilderness and has such problems as a highway location, areas of included private land and a timber sale area already under contract for harvesting.

8. There was little opportunity for local people to express themselves regarding the area proposed by S.2680. Affected people including Forest Service representatives were not aware of hearings by some county boards of supervisors until they were completed. There had been little reason to expect another review so soon after the first.

9. The Lopez Canyon area proposed by S.3027 does not meet the standards and definitions of the Wilderness Act. It includes manmade intrusions such as an electrical power transmission line, roads, an FAA radio transmission facility and vegetative fuel breaks for protection from fire.

10. These bills are not conservation measures. They would substitute little use and nonmanagement for wise use and sound management. Our energies should be devoted to truly important resource problems, such as promptly funding and implementing a program for balanced use of the national forests, as we urged to the Appropriations Committees last month. A copy of our testimony is offered for the record in this hearing. America's needs for millions of new homes cannot be met without such a program. Developed recreational opportunities, improved wildlife habitat, and more useable water depend upon it.

CAREFUL REVIEW SHOULD RESULT IN DISAPPROVAL

In conclusion, we would like to recognize the judicious recommendations this Subcommittee recently developed regarding the clearcutting issue. They were largely a repudiation of the irresponsible critics of the Forest Service. We believe that equal care by the Subcommittee in its review of S.2630 and S.3027 should have the same results. Approval of these bills would be contrary to the intent of the framers of the Wilderness Act as well as a disservice to the nation.

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MIMEO
#4467

WESTERN LUMBER MANUFACTURERS, INC.

FILE
2.67251

582 MONADNOCK BLDG. • 681 MARKET STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

Sponsors of Snow Mountain Wilderness proposal
provided arguments against S.2680 and
our testimony on S.3027.May 22
1972May 22, 1972
File No. 2.67251The Honorable Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

Mr. Lester Paddock of Redding, California, and I were present last week when you presented S.2680 and S.3027 to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. You had to leave the hearing immediately after your appearance, as did Congressman Leggett when he spoke as a sponsor of the House version of S.2680. Senator Tunney, another sponsor, was not present. As a consequence, you and the other gentlemen were not exposed to our testimony.

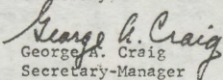
This is an extremely busy time for all of us. However, Mr. Paddock and I felt we should take time to prepare good statements of the facts as we know them and fly to Washington to present our statements in person. None of you have sought the reactions of all affected local people through local hearings. Not even the Forest Service was invited to make a presentation when the S.2680 was given cursor review by some County boards of supervisors. Further, there has been the usual distortions of fact from some proponents, such as the staff of the Sierra Club. In his prepared statement on S.2680 and S.3027, the Executive Director of the Club, Mr. Michael McCloskey, said "Both of these areas are tracts of roadless and undeveloped land..." Just prior to his testimony, John W. Dienema, Associate Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, stated regarding Lopez Canyon:

"Some of the non-conforming features of the area with respect to qualification as wilderness under the Wilderness Act are 2.5 miles of a conventional road, 4.0 miles of 4-wheel-drive vehicle road, and 70 KV power transmission lines traversing the area... The area now has 3.2 miles of tractor-constructed fuel breaks and 33 constructed helicopter landing spots."

The purpose of this letter is to make sure that you receive our statements and a supplemental letter requested by Senator Metcalf. A copy of each is enclosed. As part of my testimony, there is a quotation of a 1963 statement by Senator Church regarding the limitations on designating lands for wilderness classification. We believe you should have access to the summary of the legislative history contained in the enclosed article "The Wilderness Act as Congress Intended."

We take this time and trouble because we are confident that our democratic system will work if our elected representatives are provided all of the facts and arguments. We respectfully ask your thoughtful consideration of these enclosures.

Sincerely,


George A. Craig
Secretary-Manager
cc: Honorable John Tunney, Honorable Robert Leggett, Honorable Don Clausen
Honorable Harold Bizz Johnson

MIMED

#4466

WESTERN LUMBER MANUFACTURERS, INC.

FILE

582 MONADNOCK BLDG. • 681 MARKET STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

2.67251 ✓

X No. 2.67251-3

Pine timber quality in sale inside proposed Snow
Mountain Wilderness is not below average.
Deficit sale condition explained.

May 22
 1972

May 22, 1972
 File No. 2.67251
 X File No. 2.67251-3

The Honorable Frank Church, Chairman
 Subcommittee on Public Lands
 Senate Committee on Interior and
 Insular Affairs
 3106 New Senate Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Church:

At the end of the May 18 hearing on S.2680, a bill to establish the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area on the Mendocino National Forest, Senator Metcalf was acting as chairman. He asked us to send some information for the hearing record regarding the quality of the timber in the Nye Timber Sale. That is the sale that is currently under contract to Commander Industries and lies largely within the area proposed for classification as wilderness.

As part of the Forest Service's timber appraisal for each offering, there is usually a sample made of the timber quality by grading the logs in the standing timber. The results of this sampling is usually reported in the prospectus for each sale. We have reviewed the Fiscal Year 1972 prospectuses from California national forests to determine how the Nye timber compares with the other offerings.

More than three fourths of the estimated 5.5 million board feet in the Nye Sale is ponderosa pine. We found only three FY 1972 prospectus from the Mendocino National Forest with log grade information. The ponderosa pine log grades in these sales and the Nye Sale were distributed as follows:

Timber Sale	Log Grade in Percent of Volume By Sales			
	Nye	Cedar Springs	Spanish Ridge	Sheep Ridge
Grade 1	4.60	2.01	3.62	7.37
Grade 2	15.47	10.63	6.97	12.14
Grade 3	15.11	17.76	11.51	24.65
Grade 4	---	---	---	---
Grade 5	64.79	69.60	77.90	55.84
Ponderosa Pine Volume, MBF	4,200	6,100	9,000	1,300

The sample indicates that the log grade distribution for the Nye sale is relatively good compared to other recent offerings on the Mendocino National Forest. The Forest Service estimated that 20 percent of the Nye volume of ponderosa pine would be in the two top grades and about 65 percent in the lowest grade. This is somewhat better than the averages for the other offerings. (The weighted average amount of Grade 5 for the three others is 73 percent.)

To compare the grade distribution with that of offerings in other national forests in California, I tabulated data shown on the attached sheet. Included are all offerings this fiscal year which have at least 2 million board feet of ponderosa pine or Jeffrey pine and for which we have grade data. The sample is for sales totaling 311 million feet of such pine. Only seven of these 54 units had a higher percentage of volume in Grades 1 and 2. Only 13 of the 54 had a smaller share of the lowest grade. Compared to the 20 percent of upper grades in the Nye Sale, the large sample had an arithmetic average of 13 percent. The amount of lowest grade in the Nye Sale was 65 percent compared to 72 percent for the large sample.

The actual value of the timber also varies with size. I have not taken the time to make that more complex analysis, since the above data are sufficient to indicate that the timber in the Nye Timber Sale is not substantially below average and data on size of timber are not as readily available.

We were also requested to comment on the fact that the Nye unit was a "deficit sale" at time of advertisement. At the hearing, Mr. Paddock of Commander Industries, the holder of the contract, explained that the offering was made at a low point of the market. The timber appraisal was based on data for the first quarter of 1970. The lumber price index for ponderosa pine at that time was 109.53. By the first quarter of 1972, it had risen to 142.83. This means that the advertised rate per MBF for ponderosa pine stumpage would be raised by \$16.65 if all of the timber were cut, removed and measured in the first quarter of 1972. This would remove the deficit several times over.

It should also be noted that the original deficit condition resulted from the requirement that the purchaser do \$127,000 worth of work on the permanent transportation system for the national forests. Some of this was reconstruction of existing roads. The resulting roads are expected to have a 20-year life and to serve many purposes in the use, protection and management of the forest.

The cost per MBF for road work was estimated at \$23.10 and the deficit amounted to \$2.29 per MBF. As noted above, the market change more than removed this deficit. However, it should be made clear that it is the timber purchaser who suffers in a truly deficit sale. The deficit comes out of what should be the normal profit opportunity. Under present contracts, the timber purchaser must pay the government some cash for each stick of timber removed, even though the purchaser has built roads to the extent that there is not enough value in the timber to give him credit for the work.

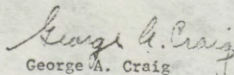
This expensing of long-lived roads on short-term timber sales is the result of the failure by the Congress and the administration to fund the

The Honorable Frank Church
Page 3

road program for the national forests. This problem is discussed in our budget testimony which Senator Metcalf included in the record of the hearing on S.2680.

If there is additional information that we might provide to clarify any of the issues regarding S. 2680, please let us know. We are confident that a complete record will cause the Congress to reject S.2680 as inappropriate to the needs of the nation. The Forest Service's carefully developed plan of management of the Snow Mountain area should be permitted to operate.

Sincerely,


George A. Craig
Secretary-Manager

GAC:hr

cc: The Honorable Alan Cranston
The Honorable John V. Tunney
The Honorable Robert L. Leggett
The Honorable Don Clauson
The Honorable Harold Bizz Johnson

Attachment

Log Grade Distribution for Ponderosa Pine and Jeffrey Pine in California
National Forest Timber Offerings* in Fiscal Year 1972

Sale Name	National Forest	Volume MMBF	Percentage by Grade	
			Grade 1 & 2	Grade 5
American Hill	Tahoe	10.3	29.3	52.6
Bailey Creek	Lassen	4.4	16.3	67.3
Bear	Eldorado	2.1	11.0	72.0
Blue Creek	Stanislaus	10.4	15.6	76.0
Bumblebee	Stanislaus	9.7	10.2	79.5
Bunchgrass	Shasta-Trinity	4.7	22.5	63.7
Caldor	Eldorado	4.6	8.0	62.0
China Ditch	Klamath	2.2	8.3	77.0
Collins	Stanislaus	3.0	16.4	70.4
Cornaz	Lassen	12.5	10.5	78.4
Cutler	Plumas	3.2	13.8	69.4
Devil	Shasta-Trinity	6.5	9.7	71.7
Dippity Doo	Klamath	4.3	11.6	72.5
East Stuart	Shasta-Trinity	2.4	20.9	54.9
Ebey Lake	Lassen	8.1	15.1	76.7
Ferrari	Eldorado	6.2	4.0	87.0
Fish Meadows	Klamath	4.6	4.1	90.5
Goat Mountain	Lassen	15.5	4.0	84.4
Greek Store	Tahoe	3.8	27.3	58.6
Hamilton	Lassen	8.6	15.5	62.9
Harris Spring	Modoc	9.4	16.6	69.5
Horseshoe	Sequoia	4.7	9.3	73.5
Iron Creek	Sierra	4.6	7.5	79.0
Jackson	Plumas	4.1	7.3	79.9
Jims Creek	Shasta-Trinity	6.6	27.6	53.7
Last Chance	Lassen	6.1	13.4	70.7
Lonesome Canyon	Plumas	8.5	12.3	72.2
Manzanita Chutes	Lassen	3.0	8.0	72.6
Moonlight	Plumas	6.3	16.5	61.7
Mud	Eldorado	6.7	8.0	81.0
Old Station	Lassen	15.0	7.6	81.5
Overlook	Stanislaus	6.4	18.7	62.5
Owens	Eldorado	3.6	17.0	61.0
Parsnip	Modoc	6.0	4.4	60.0
Pegleg	Lassen	3.2	9.3	80.0
Piute	Sequoia	6.6	6.5	82.7
Rat Trap	Shasta-Trinity	3.3	9.5	69.3
Recon	Plumas	8.9	8.1	67.8
Refuge	Eldorado	2.8	13.0	66.0
Red Rock	Plumas	2.0	26.9	53.0
Slate	Sequoia	2.7	7.8	73.4
South Deer Mtn.	Klamath	8.9	4.7	77.2
Stonebreaker	Eldorado	2.9	11.0	81.0
Summit	Sierra	2.7	21.6	69.9
Taylor	Sierra	2.2	2.3	95.6
Trail Gulch	Klamath	2.3	9.4	78.0
Trapper	Klamath	4.8	7.1	84.0
Twin Buttes	Lassen	7.5	16.3	61.9
Wallow	Shasta-Trinity	6.0	13.4	71.7
White Springs	Stanislaus	7.6	16.1	69.6
White Fawn	Shasta-Trinity	5.0	13.0	69.5
Weed	Stanislaus	5.6	19.6	61.1
Wilcox	Shasta-Trinity	3.8	15.0	50.5
Wood	Shasta-Trinity	2.3	19.1	62.6
		310.8	13.0 #	71.9 #

*Units with at least 2 MMBF of these pines

#Arithmetic average

