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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Storage 1976

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 3030, H.R. 14524 (Sec. 2(a)(9)), H.R. 10618, H.R. 11143, and
S. 74

ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS, CALIF.
(SHEEP MOUNTAIN)

AND

H.R. 9265, H.R. 3507, and H.R. 5893

GLACIER PRIMITIVE AREA, SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST,
WYO.

HEARINGS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 29, 1976

Serial No. 94-66

Part III

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Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs



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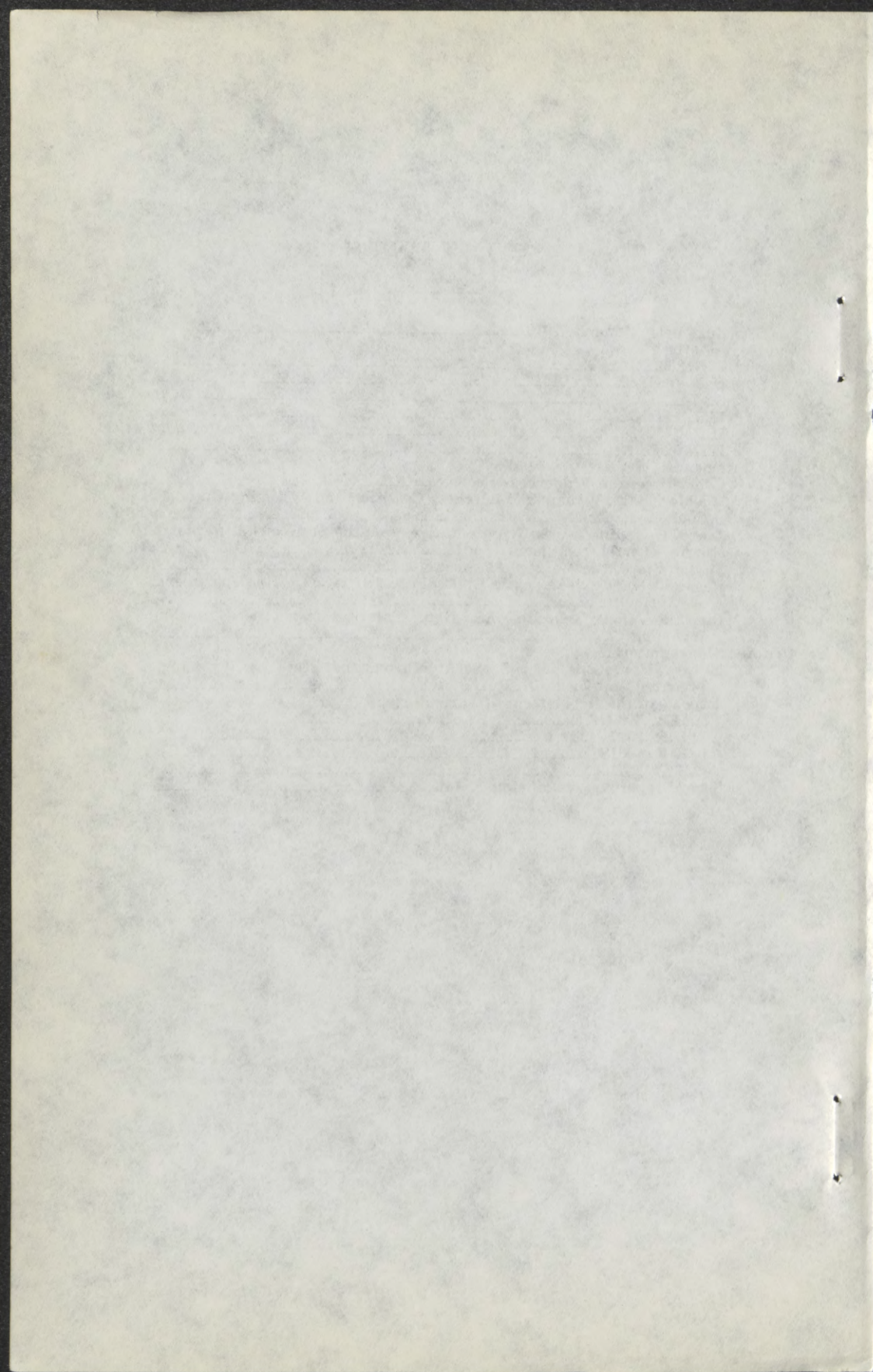
HARRY CRANDELL, *Consultant*

ROBERT L. TERRELL, *Minority Consultant*

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

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ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS, CALIF. (SHEEP MOUNTAIN)

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1976

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

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., in room 305, Cannon House Office Building, pursuant to notice, Hon. John Melcher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order.

This morning we are meeting on consideration of two wilderness proposals. One is the Glacier Wilderness proposal in the State of Wyoming and the second is the Sheep Mountain Wilderness proposal in the State of California.

Congressman Lloyd is present with us now, and we will proceed with his testimony first on H.R. 3030. Mr. Lloyd is the sponsor of legislation to designate certain lands in Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

The other bills before the subcommittee at this time, H.R. 10618 and H.R. 11143 by Mr. Lloyd are similar bills, but designate a study of certain lands for possible inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system.

In addition, a similar bill is S. 74, and may I ask if S. 74 is a study or enacting it into wilderness?

Mr. CRANDELL. It is a study.

Mr. MELCHER. S. 74 is a study bill, similar to H.R. 10618 and H.R. 11143.

Before the subcommittee is a comprehensive bill known as H.R. 14524 by Mr. Udall and other Members of Congress. While it would designate certain lands for wilderness and provide for a study of other public lands for such designation, it is a comprehensive bill, involving many wilderness proposals, and is not to be confused with the specific proposal of Mr. Lloyd.

Without objection, H.R. 10618 will be made part of the record at this point.

[Bills and reports referred to follow:]

(1)

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3030

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 1975

Mr. LLOYD of California (for himself, Mr. PETTIS, and Mr. BROWN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the "Sheep Mountain 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 section 3 (c) of the Wilderness Act
4 (78 Stat. 890), certain lands in the Angeles and San
5 Bernardino National Forests which comprise about fifty-
6 two thousand acres and which are generally depicted on a
7 map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", and
8 dated February 1974, are hereby designated as wilderness.

9 SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect,
10 a map and legal description of the wilderness area designated

1 by and pursuant to this Act shall be filed with the Interior
2 and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate
3 and House of Representatives, and such map and description
4 shall have the same force and effect as if included in this
5 Act: *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 known as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness and shall be
10 administered in accordance with the provisions of the Wilder-
11 ness Act governing areas designated by that Act as
12 wilderness.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

May 30, 1975

Honorable James A. Haley
Chairman, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, here is the report of the Department of Agriculture on H.R. 3030, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the 'Sheep Mountain Wilderness'."

The Department of Agriculture recommends that H.R. 3030 not be enacted.

H.R. 3030 would designate as wilderness certain lands comprising about 52,000 acres in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness-Proposed", dated February 1974. The area would be known as the "Sheep Mountain Wilderness", and it would be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

The Sheep Mountain Area was 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. Major efforts were made to involve the public in the decisionmaking process at local, State, and national levels. From the inventory of 1,449 areas, 274 areas were selected as wilderness study areas. In California, the 31,680-acre Sheep Mountain Area is one of 22 areas totaling about 991,000 acres that was selected as a wilderness study area. The area that would be designated as wilderness by H.R. 3030 includes the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area and an additional 20,320 acres of contiguous land.

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 52,000 acres proposed in H.R. 3030 for wilderness designation, about 47,500 acres are within the San Gabriel Planning Unit of the Angeles National Forest, and about 4,500 acres along the northeast boundary are within the Cajon Planning Unit of the San Bernardino National Forest. Inventory data has been collected within the San Gabriel Planning Unit, and we expect to file a Draft Environmental Statement analyzing management alternatives early in 1976. Inventory data collection within the Cajon

Honorable James A. Haley

2.

Planning Unit will begin in 1977 with a Draft Environmental Statement on management alternatives to be filed late in 1978. On both units, final management plans and final environmental statements will not be developed until the public and agency reviews of the draft statements have been completed.

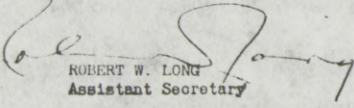
In addition to the study of the planning units, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be studied in greater detail to determine its suitability or nonsuitability for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Contiguous lands will also be considered. Information on minerals within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area should be available from the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines by the end of 1976. 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 the 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 Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be managed so as to protect it from activities that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to disqualify the area from wilderness designation.

We strongly recommend that the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area not be designated as wilderness without the completion of detailed studies of all resource values, including wilderness values. 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,



ROBERT W. LONG
Assistant Secretary

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 10618

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 1975

Mr. LLOYD of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To study certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, 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 Angeles and San Bernardino Na-
9 tional Forests, California, which comprise approximately
10 fifty-two thousand acres, and which are generally depicted

1 on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness—Proposed",
2 and dated February 1974. The Secretary shall report his
3 findings to the President on or before the expiration of the
4 two-year period following the date of the enactment of this
5 Act. The President shall submit promptly thereafter to the
6 United States Senate and House of Representatives his rec-
7 ommendations with respect to the designation of such area
8 or portion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of
9 the President that such area or portion thereof shall be des-
10 ignated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of
11 the national wilderness preservation system shall become
12 effective 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
15 of the President are submitted to the Congress, the Secretary
16 of Agriculture 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.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

June 25, 1976

Honorable James A. Haley
Chairman, Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you requested, here is our report on H.R. 10618, a bill "To study certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System." We also wish to offer our views on S. 74, an act with the same title.

The Department of Agriculture recommends that neither H.R. 10618 nor S. 74 be enacted.

H.R. 10618 and S. 74 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to review, as to their suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness, certain lands comprising about 52,000 acres in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness-Proposed", dated February 1974. 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 were 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. H.R. 10618 would not authorize the appropriation of any funds to carry out the review, while S. 74 would authorize the appropriation of such amount as might be necessary.

The Sheep Mountain Area was reviewed during the 1972-73 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. Major efforts were made to involve the public in the decisionmaking

Honorable James A. Raley

2.

process at local, State, and national levels. From the inventory of 1,449 areas, 274 areas were selected as wilderness study areas. In California, the 31,680-acre Sheep Mountain Area is one of 22 areas totaling about 991,000 acres that was selected as a wilderness study area. The area that would be designated for study by H.R. 10618 and S. 74 includes the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area and an additional 20,320 acres of contiguous land.

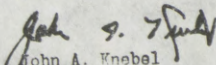
The Forest Service land-use planning process provides the basis and context for the study of National Forest areas. Public involvement is an important part of that process. Of the 52,000 acres proposed in H.R. 10618 and S. 74 for wilderness study, about 47,500 acres are within the San Gabriel Planning Unit of the Angeles National Forest, and about 4,500 acres along the north-east boundary are within the Cajon Planning Unit of the San Bernardino National Forest. Inventory data has been collected within the San Gabriel Planning Unit, and we expect to file a Draft Environmental Statement analyzing management alternatives in 1976. Inventory data collection within the Cajon Planning Unit will begin in 1977 with a Draft Environmental Statement on management alternatives to be filed late in 1978. On both units, final management plans and final environmental statements will not be developed until the public and agency review of the draft statements have been completed.

The Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area (and any additional acreage identified and selected for wilderness study during the land-use planning process) will be studied in detail to determine its suitability or nonsuitability for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Information on minerals within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area should be available from the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines by the end of 1976. 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 the 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 Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be managed so as to protect it from activities that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to disqualify the area from 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,


John A. Knebel
Acting Secretary

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 74

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 Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, 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 Angeles and San Bernardino Na-
9 tional Forests, California, which comprise approximately
10 fifty-two thousand acres, and which are generally depicted

1 on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness—Proposed",
2 and dated February 1974. The Secretary shall report his
3 findings to the President on or before the expiration of the
4 two-year period following the date of the enactment of this
5 Act. The President shall submit promptly thereafter to the
6 United States Senate and House of Representatives his rec-
7 ommendations with respect to the designation of such area
8 or portion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of
9 the President that such area or portion thereof shall be des-
10 ignated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of
11 the national wilderness preservation system shall become
12 effective 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
15 of the President are submitted to the Congress, the Secretary
16 of Agriculture 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.

Calendar No. 345

94TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 94-357

DESIGNATING THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN AREA IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR STUDY TO DETERMINE ITS SUITABILITY FOR PRESERVATION AS WILDERNESS

JULY 31, 1975.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HASKELL, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 74]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 74) to designate certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the "Sheep Mountain Wilderness", having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are set forth in full as follows:

1. Strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following language:

That the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with the provisions of subsection 3(d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890, 892), relating to public notice, public hearings, and review by State and other agencies, shall review, as to their suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness, certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, which comprise approximately fifty-two thousand acres, and which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", and dated February, 1974. The Secretary shall report his findings to the President on or before the expiration of the two-year period following the date of enactment of this Act. The President shall submit promptly thereafter to the United States Senate and House of Representatives his recommendations with respect to the designation of such area or portion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of the President that such area or portion thereof shall be designated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the national wilderness preservation system shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

SEC. 2. During the review period provided by this Act and for a period of four years after the recommendations of the President are submitted to the Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture shall manage and protect the resources of the lands depicted on such map in such a manner as to assure that their suitability for potential wilderness designation is not impaired.

SEC. 3. The review required by this Act, including any report and recommendations with respect thereto, shall, except to the extent otherwise provided in this Act, be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act.

SEC. 4. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

2. Amend the title so as to read:

To study certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF S. 74, AS INTRODUCED AND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT THERETO

S. 74, as amended, would designate a 52,000 acre area known as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness, in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests in the State of California to be studied for its eligibility to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. S. 74, as introduced by Senators Cranston and Tunney, would have immediately designated the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area as component of that system.

Although this 52,000 acre area appears to be of wilderness quality, the Committee noted that no official wilderness study, as contemplated in the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890), had been conducted. The Committee, therefore, amended S. 74 to require a two year wilderness study. The short period of the study was considered not to be burdensome because much of the work has already been completed in the Forest Service's planning for the area.

As the area is generally acknowledged to be of wilderness quality, the Committee amendment includes a strict mandate to the Secretary of Agriculture to manage the area so as to protect that quality during the study period and for four years after the submission of the President's recommendations to Congress—a period of sufficient length to permit enactment of legislation designating the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area a component of the national wilderness preservation system, should such legislation then appear warranted.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

LOCATION AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE AREA

The 52,000-acre Sheep Mountain wilderness area is located in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California. Situated at the back of the Los Angeles Basin, the Sheep Mountain area offers a wilderness experience within an hour's drive of 10 million people.

It is a rugged, precipitous area, dominated by five peaks—Mount San Antonio, Dawson Peak, Pine Mountain, Mount Badden-Powell, and Iron Mountain (Sheep Mountain). Elevations reach nearly 10,000 feet. The area enjoys beautiful waterfalls, deep pools, and deep canyons, particularly the Fish Fork of the San Gabriel River, which support perhaps the best wild trout fishery in Southern California.

In addition to its wilderness value, the Sheep Mountain area is important as the habitat of the Nelson bighorn sheep, now considered vulnerable to extinction. Approximately 150 of these wild animals

have been spotted within the boundaries of the Sheep Mountain wilderness area. They need the protection wilderness designation affords. The wilderness boundaries proposed in S. 74 closely correspond to the boundaries of the actual range of the bighorn sheep. The sponsors of S. 74 indicated concern that the Sheep Mountain wilderness study area of 31,680 acres selected by the Forest Service pursuant to their Roadless area review and evaluation (RARE), does not cover the entire bighorn sheep range and is inadequate for protection of the bighorn herds.

The boundaries of the proposed study area also include a variety of small animals and birds, golden eagles, a few bear, coyote, fox, clear flowing streams with native trout, impressive stands of various coniferous trees, and lush riparian zones along stream bottoms, all of which add to the overall wilderness character of the region.

SIZE OF THE AREA

The proposed area would compromise approximately 52,000 acres in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.

FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA

The area proposed for wilderness study by S. 74, as amended, includes a 31,680-acre Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area selected by the Forest Service pursuant to their recently completed Roadless Area Review, and 20,320 acres of contiguous land.

SKI DEVELOPMENT

A representative of the Far West Ski Association testified in opposition to S. 74 on the grounds that wilderness designation of Sheep Mountain would affect potential ski development in the area of Mt. Baldy (Mt. San Antonio). Mt. Baldy is not within the wilderness. Similarly, the boundaries of the wilderness area were drawn to exclude the Stockton Flat area where one new ski lift is planned and for which the Forest Service has issued a permit. The Committee is not aware of any other concrete development plans.

INHOLDINGS

There are approximately 500 acres of inholdings located in the 52,000 acre proposed wilderness study area.

MINERAL RESOURCES

While information on minerals within the Sheep Mountain wilderness study area will not be available until after completion of the two year study period, the Committee noted that there are some patented placer mining claims along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The Committee was also made aware of a lode mining property, the Big Horn Mine, of about 200 acres located within the proposed wilderness study boundary. Of course under the Wilderness Act of 1964 patented land within any wilderness area continues to be subject to mining.

Prospecting and the operation of unpatented mining claims are allowed under regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture until December 31, 1983.

III. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 74 was introduced by Senator Cranston, for himself and Senator Tunney, on January 15, 1975. The Subcommittee on the Environment and Land Resources held a hearing on the measure on May 20, 1975. On July 31, 1975, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, by unanimous voice vote, ordered S. 74, as amended, reported to the Senate.

IV. COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

As discussed in Section I, the Committee amended S. 74 to require a two year wilderness study rather than designate the entire 52,000 acres as "instant" wilderness.

V. COST

In accordance with subsection (a) of section 255 of the Legislative Reorganization Act, the following is a statement of estimated costs which would be incurred in the implementation of S. 74, as amended: As much of the study has already been conducted in the form of Forest Service intensive planning for the area, the study is not expected to be very costly. Section 4 of the measure authorizes the appropriation of such funds as are necessary to complete the study.

VI. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, in open markup session on July 31, 1975 with a quorum present, unanimously recommended that S. 74, as amended, be enacted.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The reports of the Federal agencies to the Committee concerning S. 74, as amended, are set forth in full, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., May 30, 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. 74, a bill "To designate certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as the 'Sheep Mountain Wilderness'."

The Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 74 not be enacted.

S. 74 would designate as wilderness certain lands comprising about 52,000 acres in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, California, which are generally depicted on a map entitled "Sheep

Mountain Wilderness-Proposed", dated February 1974. The area would be known as the "Sheep Mountain Wilderness", and it would be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

The Sheep Mountain Area was 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. Major efforts were made to involve the public in the decision-making process at local, State, and national levels. From the inventory of 1,449 areas, 274 areas were selected as wilderness study areas. In California, the 31,680-acre Sheep Mountain Area is one of the 22 areas totaling about 991,000 acres that was selected as a wilderness study area. The area that would be designated as wilderness by S. 74 includes the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area and an additional 20,320 acres of contiguous land.

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 52,000 acres proposed in S. 74 for wilderness designation, about 47,500 acres are within the San Gabriel Planning Unit of the Angeles National Forest, and about 4,500 acres along the northeast boundary are within the Cajon Planning Unit of the San Bernardino National Forest. Inventory data has been collected within the San Gabriel Planning Unit, and we expect to file a Draft Environmental Statement analyzing management alternatives early in 1976. Inventory data collection within the Cajon Planning Unit will begin in 1977 with a Draft Environmental Statement on management alternatives to be filed late in 1978. On both units, final management plans and final environmental statements will not be developed until the public and agency review of the draft statements have been completed.

In addition to the study of the planning units, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be studied in greater detail to determine its suitability or unsuitability for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Contiguous lands will also be considered. Information on minerals within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study should be available from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines by the end of 1976. 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 the 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 Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be managed so as to protect it from activities that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to disqualify the area from wilderness designation.

We strongly recommend that the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area not be designated as wilderness without the completion of detailed studies of all resource values, including wilderness values. 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,

RICHARD A. ASHWORTH,
Deputy Under Secretary.

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 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.

VIII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that no changes in existing law would be made by S. 74, as amended.

○

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 11143

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 1975

Mr. LLOYD of California (for himself, Mr. OTTINGER, Mr. STARK, Mr. BADILLO, Mr. HAWKINS, Mr. BEDELL, and Mr. GUDE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To study certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, 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 Angeles and San Bernardino Na-
9 tional Forests, California, which comprise approximately

I

1 fifty-two thousand acres, and which are generally depicted
2 on a map entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness—Proposed",
3 and dated February 1974. The Secretary shall report his
4 findings to the President on or before the expiration of the
5 two-year period following the date of the enactment of this
6 Act. The President shall submit promptly thereafter to the
7 United States Senate and House of Representatives his rec-
8 ommendations with respect to the designation of such area or
9 portion thereof as wilderness. Any recommendation of the
10 President that such area or portion thereof shall be desig-
11 nated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the
12 national wilderness preservation system shall become effec-
13 tive only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

14 SEC. 2. During the review period provided by this Act
15 and for a period of four years after the recommendations of
16 the President are submitted to the Congress, the Secretary
17 of Agriculture shall manage and protect the resources of the
18 lands depicted on such map in such a manner as to assure
19 that their suitability for potential wilderness designation is
20 not impaired.

21 SEC. 3. The review required by this Act, including any
22 report and recommendations with respect thereto, shall,
23 except to the extent otherwise provided in this Act, be con-
24 ducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the
25 Wilderness Act.

94TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 14524

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 1976

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BOLLING, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. PHILLIP BURTON, Mr. CONTE, Mr. DRINAN, Mr. EDWARDS of California, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. FRASER, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GUDE, Mr. KREBS, Mr. LEHMAN, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. NIX, Mr. OTTINGER, Mr. ROE, Mr. SEIBERLING, Mr. STARK, Mr. STUDDS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. VANDER VEEN, Mr. WEAVER, Mr. CHARLES WILSON of Texas, and Mr. WIRTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain endangered public lands for preservation as wilderness, to provide for the study of additional endangered public lands for such designation, to further the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That this Act may be cited as the "Endangered American
- 4 Wilderness Act of 1976".

I

1 STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND POLICY

2 SECTION 1. (a) The Congress finds that—

3 (1) certain presently undeveloped national forest
4 lands possess and exhibit outstanding natural character-
5 istics giving them high value as wilderness and will, if
6 properly preserved, contribute as an enduring resource
7 of wilderness for the benefit of the American people;

8 (2) certain of these undeveloped national forest
9 lands meet all statutory criteria for suitability as wilder-
10 ness as established by subsection 2 (c) of the Wilderness
11 Act (78 Stat. 890), but are not adequately protected
12 and lack statutory designation pursuant to the Wilder-
13 ness Act as units of the National Wilderness Preservation
14 System;

15 (3) certain other undeveloped national forest lands
16 are of evident wilderness resource value, but require
17 more thorough study of boundary locations prior to
18 designation as wilderness by Act of the Congress;

19 (4) these and other undeveloped national forest
20 lands exhibiting wilderness values are immediately
21 threatened by pressures of a growing and more mobile
22 population, large-scale industrial and economic growth,
23 and development and uses inconsistent with the protec-
24 tion, maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of their
25 wilderness character; and

1 (5) among such immediately threatened areas are
2 lands not being adequately protected or fully studied for
3 wilderness suitability by the agency responsible for their
4 administration.

5 (b) Therefore, the Congress finds and declares that it is
6 in the national interest that certain of these endangered
7 areas be promptly designated as wilderness within the Na-
8 tional Wilderness Preservation System, in order to preserve
9 such areas as an enduring resource of wilderness which shall
10 be managed to promote and perpetuate the wilderness char-
11 acter of the land and its specific multiple values for water-
12 shed reservation, wildlife habitat protection, scenic and his-
13 toric preservation, and scientific research and educational use,
14 primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge
15 and inspiration, for the benefit of all of the American people
16 of present and future generations.

17 DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

18 SEC. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purpose of the Wil-
19 derness Act, the following lands (hereinafter referred to as
20 "wilderness areas"), as generally depicted on maps appro-
21 priately referenced, dated June 1976, are hereby designated
22 as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National
23 Wilderness Preservation System—

24 (1) certain lands in the Umatilla National Forest,
25 Washington and Oregon, which comprise about two

1 hundred thousand acres, are generally depicted on a
2 map entitled "Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area—
3 Proposed", and shall be known as the Wenaha-Tucan-
4 non Wilderness;

5 (2) certain lands in the Inyo and Sequoia Na-
6 tional Forests, California, which comprise about two
7 hundred and forty thousand acres, are generally de-
8 picted on a map entitled "Golden Trout Wilderness
9 Area—Proposed", and shall be known as the Golden
10 Trout Wilderness;

11 (3) certain lands in the Coronado National Forest,
12 Arizona, which comprise about fifty-six thousand five
13 hundred and ten acres, are generally depicted on a map
14 entitled "Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area—Proposed",
15 and shall be known as the Pusch Ridge Wilderness;

16 (4) certain lands in the Tongass National Forest,
17 Alaska, which comprise about four hundred and five
18 thousand acres, are generally depicted on a map entitled
19 "West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness Area—Proposed",
20 and shall be known as the West Chicagof-Yakobi
21 Wilderness;

22 (5) certain lands in the Wasatch and Uinta Na-
23 tional Forests, Utah, which comprise about thirty-three
24 thousand five hundred acres, are generally depicted
25 on a map entitled "Lone Peak Wilderness Area—Pro-

1 posed", and shall be known as the Lone Peak Wilder-
2 ness;

3 (6) certain lands in the Cibola National Forest,
4 New Mexico, which comprise about thirty thousand
5 seven hundred acres, are generally depicted on a map
6 entitled "Sandia Mountain Wilderness Area (North
7 and South Units)—Proposed", and shall be known as
8 the Sandia Mountain Wilderness;

9 (7) certain lands in the Los Padres National Forest,
10 California, which comprise about twenty-one thousand
11 two hundred and fifty acres, are generally depicted on a
12 map entitled "Santa Lucia-Lopez Canyon Wilderness
13 Area—Proposed", and shall be known as the Santa
14 Lucia-Lopez Canyon Wilderness;

15 (8) certain lands in the Mendocino National Forest,
16 California, which comprise about thirty-seven thousand
17 acres, are generally depicted on a map entitled "Snow
18 Mountain Wilderness Area—Proposed", and shall be
19 known as the Snow Mountain Wilderness;

20 (9) certain lands in the Angeles and San Bernardino
21 National Forests, California, which comprise about fifty-
22 two thousand acres, are generally depicted on a map
23 entitled "Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area—Proposed";
24 and shall be known as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness;

1 (10) certain lands in the Willamette National For-
2 est, Oregon, which comprise about forty-two thousand
3 acres, which are generally depicted on a map entitled
4 “Trench Pete Creek and Other Proposed Additions,
5 Three Sisters Wilderness”, and which are hereby incor-
6 porated in, and shall be deemed to be a part of, the Three
7 Sisters Wilderness as designated by subsection 3 (a) of
8 the Wilderness And; and

9 (11) certain lands in the Los Padres National
10 Forest, California, which comprise about sixty thou-
11 sand and eighty acres, which are generally depicted on
12 a map entitled “Ventana Wilderness—Additions”, and
13 which are hereby incorporated in, and shall be deemed
14 to be a part of, the Ventana Wilderness as designated
15 by Public Law 91-58.

16 DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

17 SEC. 3. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the
18 Wilderness Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter
19 known as the “Secretary”) shall, within five years after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, review each area desig-
21 nated by this section as to the suitability of such area for
22 preservation as wilderness, and report his findings to the
23 President.

24 (b) Areas to be reviewed pursuant to this section
25 (hereinafter referred to as “wilderness study areas”), as

1 generally depicted on maps appropriately referenced, dated
2 February 1976, include—

3 (1) certain lands in the White River National
4 Forest, Colorado, which comprise approximately one-
5 hundred forty-six thousand, two hundred and forty acres
6 and are generally depicted on a map entitled "Holy
7 Cross Wilderness Study Area";

8 (2) certain lands in the Lolo and Kootenai National
9 Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately eighty-
10 nine thousand acres and are generally depicted on a map
11 entitled "McGregor-Thompson Wilderness Study Area";

12 (3) certain lands in the White River National
13 Forest, Colorado, which comprise approximately seven-
14 ty-seven thousand acres and are generally depicted on a
15 map entitled "Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness Study
16 Area";

17 (4) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest,
18 Montana, which comprise approximately twenty-two
19 thousand acres and are generally depicted on a map
20 entitled "Mount Henry Wilderness Study Area";

21 (5) certain lands in the Coronado National Forest,
22 Arizona, which comprise approximately sixty-two thou-
23 sand, nine hundred and thirty acres and are generally
24 depicted on a map entitled "Rincon Mountain Wilder-
25 ness Study Area";

1 (6) certain lands in the Sierra National Forests,
2 California, which comprise approximately twenty-eight
3 thousand acres and are generally depicted on a map
4 entitled "Kaiser Wilderness Study Area";

5 (7) certain lands in the Coronado National Forest,
6 Arizona, which comprise approximately eighty thousand,
7 four hundred and thirty acres and are generally depicted
8 on a map entitled "Galiuro Wilderness Additions Study
9 Area".

10 (c) The Secretary shall conduct his reviews, and the
11 President shall advise the United States Senate and House of
12 Representatives of his recommendations, in accordance with
13 the provisions of subsections 3 (b) and 3 (d) of the Wilder-
14 ness Act, except that any reference in such subsections to
15 areas in the national forests classified as "primitive" shall
16 be deemed to be a reference to the wilderness study areas
17 designated by this Act and except that the President shall
18 advise the Congress of his recommendations with respect to
19 all such areas within five years after the date of enactment of
20 this Act: *Provided, however,* That the Secretary shall give at
21 least sixty days advance public notice of any hearing or other
22 public meeting concerning such areas.

23 (d) Nothing herein contained shall limit the President
24 in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress;
25 the alteration of existing boundaries of any wilderness study

1 area or recommending the addition to any such area of any
2 contiguous area predominantly of wilderness value.

3 FILING OF MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

4 SEC. 4. As soon as practicable after enactment of this
5 Act, a map of each wilderness study area and a map and a
6 legal description of each wilderness area shall be filed with
7 the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United
8 States Senate and House of Representatives, and each such
9 map and description shall have the same force and effect as it
10 included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction
11 of clerical and typographical errors in each such legal de-
12 scription and map may be made. Each such map and legal
13 description shall be on file and available for public inspection
14 in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department
15 of Agriculture.

16 MANAGEMENT OF AREAS

17 SEC. 5. The wilderness areas and, until Congress deter-
18 mined otherwise, the wilderness study areas designated by
19 this Act shall be managed by the Secretary in accordance
20 with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas
21 designated by that Act as wilderness areas.

Mr. MELCHER. Please proceed, Mr. Lloyd.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JIM LLOYD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Mr. LLOYD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.R. 10618 and H.R. 11143, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness bills, of which I am the prime sponsor. With your permission, I would like to submit my statement for the record at this point.

Mr. MELCHER. Your entire statement will be made a part of the record at this point as if read, and you may proceed as you wish.

[The prepared statement follows:]

JERRY GIOVANELLO
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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222 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MISSING PERSONS IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA

JIM LLOYD
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 29, 1976

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of H.R. 10618 and H.R. 11143, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness bills, of which I am the prime sponsor. These bills would authorize a two-year study to determine if 52,000 acres in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation system.

The need for this legislation was apparent to me early in my first term in this Congress. Feb. 6, 1975 I introduced H.R. 3030, which would have created the Sheep Mountain Wilderness in this area. The Senate took up an identical bill, S. 74, sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston and Senator John Tunney of California, and an amended version, authorizing a two-year study prior to the granting of wilderness status, as contained in the current bills, was passed last year.

With Senate passage of these bills already achieved, I believe the mood of Congress is right to gain final passage and establish the Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

The 52,000 acres which are the object of my bills are located in the back of the Los Angeles basin. This region offers a wilderness experience within one hour's drive of 10 million people. It is a rugged, precipitous area dominated by five peaks up to 10,000 feet. The area contains beautiful waterfalls, deep pools, deep canyons and perhaps the best wild trout fishery in Southern California. The area is also inhabited by the Nelson bighorn sheep, now considered vulnerable to extinction. About 150 of these wild animals have been spotted within the boundaries of the 52,000 acres proposed for study, which also corresponds to the range of the bighorn sheep.

They need the protection afforded by wilderness status. Although nearby ski areas are outside the wilderness proposal area, commercial encroachment is an ever-present danger. Road-building and the detrimental effects of motorized vehicles would be prohibited under wilderness status, and these protections are necessary to the ecological balance of the area.

There are no conflicts between ecology and commerce. Much of the research for the study area has been done by the Forest Service and it is favorable to inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I believe it is imperative, especially with the Senate's affirmative action of last year, to move forward with this legislation and establish the Sheep Mountain Wilderness.

Mr. LLOYD. Thank you. I have had the opportunity personally to go over the total of this area, and I am one of the few people who have actually seen some of the sheep up there. If I may walk over to the map here, the Forestry Service has indicated by the green area on the map where they would be interested in a wilderness belt. However, the major problem is that the sheep travel beyond those areas that they have designated, and we are fearful of what will happen to the sheep. As a matter of fact, we are very much concerned, because this portion in here all burned off in the most recent fires of last year, but it has been reseeded and is in better shape than it was. However, we did destroy some of the grounds for the sheep. We are very much concerned about it.

I think this is fundamentally a good piece of legislation. I think it is a thoughtful piece of legislation. I think we still have things to work out with the Forestry Department, and certainly we intend to fully cooperate with them. There is no antagonistic situation. The only existing thing that there is some concern about is a ski area on the north side about where that hatched green area is at the top, and people say they have to have that for skiing.

There is no skiing there at the present time, and on the back side of those hills there, on the north side, the town of Wrightwood has an extensive ski area. Obviously, this would be the closest wilderness area to a tremendous metropolitan center, that is to say, Los Angeles, and it would have a great beneficial effect as far as that is concerned.

I thank the committee and I thank the chairman for the opportunity to make this presentation today. That concludes my statement, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Jim, since you have introduced both types of bills, one to designate it as wilderness and one to study it, are you convinced that the best approach at this time is a study?

Mr. LLOYD. Yes. The reason is to let all parties have an in-depth input into the situation. I really believe, Mr. Chairman, that when they get through, that the Forestry Department and others will be in accord. The only holdup that the Forestry Department has, and I do not speak for them, but one reservation they have expressed to me is access into some of these wilderness areas because of the forest fires, and they want some kind of a change in the wilderness designation so that they can bring a couple of major roads in there, major meaning so that they could move their equipment in case of forest fires, which we have had a long history of in these areas. The underbrush builds, and then we have had fires, as evidenced last year. I think that should be incorporated in the study, and that is the reason I put in the second bill, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. I was in Los Angeles last Friday, and I noted your usual smog, only people said it was not the usual smog, it was some fires that helped to cause it. How far is this from the airport?

Mr. LLOYD. From Los Angeles airport directly to where this area is, is about 40 miles. It is about 25 miles from downtown city hall Los Angeles on a bearing of roughly 35 degrees, or on a northwesterly bearing from Los Angeles—northerly. I am sorry.

Mr. MELCHER. Where would it be from Arcadia?

Mr. LLOYD. Due north. Arcadia would be, where the tape is, right straight down the tape on this side, on the edge there [indicating].

Mr. MELCHER. I see. The question of forest fires that you are experiencing, as during this year.

Mr. LLOYD. Yes; that we are having right now.

Mr. MELCHER. Under the 1964 act, for purposes of safety and administration, the Forest Service could enter a wilderness area with vehicles. However, your reply would indicate that they would like to have specific mention of this in the legislation.

Mr. LLOYD. Yes; they would like to have that, and they are interested in an access into the area, which is not provided for.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, in some wilderness areas, the Forest Service is recommending that forest fires just be allowed to burn themselves out in order to maintain the untouched—

Mr. LLOYD. Appearance?

Mr. MELCHER. Yes; and let nature work its will. In this case, it would be extremely dangerous.

Mr. LLOYD. That is right. It is not an acceptable situation. In the south here, they have breaks, which have been started, but not completed. Had they been completed, we would not have had the very disastrous fire of last year.

Mr. MELCHER. I am going to accept—that is, as one person on the subcommittee—I am going to accept your recommendations of designating Sheep Mountain as a wilderness study area rather than designating it as wilderness. I do not believe I have any more questions.

Does staff have any questions?

Mr. CRANDELL. No.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you, Jim.

Mr. LLOYD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today.

Mr. MELCHER. I see we have another vote on, but I want to ascertain before I go what witnesses are left on the Sheep Mountain proposal.

Mr. Morrill, you are here?

Mr. MORRILL. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. You are representing the Sierra Club from California. Would you approach the witness table, please? Do you have a prepared statement?

Mr. MORRILL. Yes; I do.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, it will be made part of the record as if read, and, Donald, would you mind if I asked you just a couple of questions about this? I would like to have your thoughts on this.

[The prepared statement of Donald Morrill follows:]



SIERRA CLUB

324 C Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 547-1144

STATEMENT BY DONALD MORRILL, SIERRA CLUB
ON H.R. 11143 TO DESIGNATE SHEEP MT.
WILDERNESS STUDY IN CALIFORNIA, BEFORE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, INTERIOR
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON,
D.C. JUNE 29, 1976.

I am Donald Morrill from Chico, California representing the Sierra Club. I am pleased to be able to testify in support of H.R. 11143, introduced by Representative Jim Lloyd to designate a 52,000 acre Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

The Sierra Club has had long standing interest in the Sheep Mountain de facto Wilderness and in protecting the dwindling and precious Nelson Big Horn Sheep herd. The Club had initially supported the inclusion of the entire area by law into the National Wilderness Preservation System-- as so-called "instant" wilderness. We believe that the entire 52,000 acre area qualifies for Wilderness designation, under the definition in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Furthermore, we believe that the Forest Service made a serious error in not designating the entire 52,000 acre area as wilderness study under administrative classification. They have identified only 32,000 acres as a wilderness study area. Representative Lloyd's bill would go far to correct this error and assure adequate and careful study of the area's wildlife and wilderness values.

We do propose one important change in the language of H.R. 11143, however. In Section 2, the bill gives the area protection for a two year review period, and for four years following the President's submission of his recommendations

Sierra Club
Sheep Mt.
Page 2

to Congress. This means that if the bill is merely delayed for four years, the area could be developed afterwards with no legal restraint. Since more than 110 different wilderness proposals are already pending in Congress, such delay would be rather easy for development interests to achieve--especially if local legislators or committee leaders sympathetic to wilderness are no longer in office at the time. We believe that the standard provision of the 1964 Wilderness Act be used, giving the area interim protection "until Congress has determined otherwise". This approach insures that Congress will be able to make an up-or-down decision on the President's recommendation, rather than allow the area's wilderness qualities to be destroyed by default at the end of the four year time limit.

The major opposition to the designation of this wilderness, has come from ski interests. A recent California Department of Fish and Game report indicates that the wild sheep of the eastern San Gabriels have undergone "the most startling recent loss of habitat". This can be attributed in part to the presence of the ski lift and restaurant between Telegraph Peak and Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy). The report goes on to state with regard to the area within the proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness that "sheep need every acre of the habitat they now occupy to sustain their present numbers". This, most simply, is a vitally important reason for protecting the entire 52,000 acre area (which includes the entire sheep habitat) as Wilderness.

The Sierra Club does not ignore the need for downhill skiing. In fact, we have excluded an area from our proposed boundary north of Devils Backbone to allow for an addition ski lift to add to the Mt. Baldy facilities. However, we believe that the proposed massive expansion of the ski area to the north of the Mountain would irreparably damage fragile sheep herds by disrupting vital lambing grounds.

Sierra Club
 Sheep Mt.
 page 3

I will list portions of the proposal which might possibly be cited as unqualified for wilderness designation. Here we would like to make two points most clear. First, we believe that the entire 52,000 acre area, including the areas listed, could be included in the Wilderness System. Secondly, in no way can these particular areas be legitimately used as arguments against wilderness study. Wilderness study only assures that the area's wild values will be carefully considered.

1) Coldwater Canyon The primitive road to several little used cabins in the canyon could be closed and quickly revert to a natural state, if the few cabins were purchased. Regardless, there is provision in the Wilderness Act for protection of existing private rights.

This area is superb wilderness country--Nelson Big Horn Sheep have been spotted from the road-- and should without a doubt be included in any wilderness.

2) Gold Dollar/Eagle Mines These are extremely historic, unobtrusive mines served only by foottrail. The last use was some fifty years ago.

3) Narrows. A road was built in the 1950's to serve as an evacuation route to fallout shelters. It was never completed and the road itself has virtually disappeared. A rather substantial bridge was also constructed, and is still standing. We believe that the bridge, although large, has considerable historic value, and could be included in a wilderness, and that surrounding wilderness values including sheep habitat are paramount, and must be protected. A tunnel near the bridge has almost entirely collapsed. None of these facts are arguments against a wilderness study.

4) Big Horn Mine An inactive gold mine which has not been worked since the late 1930's is present in the north west part of the proposed wilderness study. A deteriorating and virtually impassable road leads to it. This, again is an example of a historic value, and could be included in wilderness.

Sierra Club
Sheep Mt.
Page 4

The Sheep Mountain Wilderness proposal of 52,000 acres has broad, virtually unanimous public support. City Councils of seven local communities have passed resolutions supporting outright wilderness designation, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has passed a similar resolution.

We strongly urge prompt passage of H.R. 11143, with the suggested amendment.

Thank you.

STATEMENTS OF DONALD MORRILL, THE SIERRA CLUB, CHICO,
CALIF., AND STEVE PAYNE, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. MORRILL. Not at all.

Mr. MELCHER. You are in favor of the study area rather than creating the wilderness area at this time?

Mr. MORRILL. We believe that is the best approach at this time.

Mr. MELCHER. Were you present when Mr. Lloyd testified?

Mr. MORRILL. No; I was not.

Mr. MELCHER. He told us he thought the study approach would be best, to allow for citizen input, to allow everybody to consider it. Are you of that opinion, too?

Mr. MORRILL. Yes; and we have been in consultation with him and the Senators from California, and we think this is the best approach to take at this time, although we believe the entire 52,000 acres qualifies for wilderness now.

Mr. MELCHER. To work out some provisions for fire protection.

Mr. MORRILL. There is a wilderness area near this one that I think your committee dealt with in the last Congress that has a fire lane.

Mr. MELCHER. I think we dealt rather specifically with that, did we not, Harry?

Mr. CRANDELL. It was explained in the report, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. Under the terms of the Wilderness Act, I think control of fire is definitely a safety factor. The Forest Service is allowed a great deal of discretion in using motorized vehicles to control fires. I think a wilderness study will benefit everybody by identifying just what types of equipment should be used for fire protection. I agree that being located close to suburban Los Angeles, the area needs to be well guarded against the potential fire dangers that might exist.

Mr. MORRILL. I think the importance here is that the Forest Service has not identified enough of the sheep range for study, and not enough of contiguous roadless land, and the fact that they excluded some more is just more reason that local groups feel that the Congress should be the one to make the decision on this area.

Mr. MELCHER. Are you Steve Payne?

Mr. PAYNE. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. Could you approach the witness table?

Mr. Payne, you represent the Wilderness Society. Do you share the same viewpoint as Mr. Morrill?

[The prepared statement of Steve Payne 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. 3030
TO DESIGNATE AS WILDERNESS
SHEEP MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

June 29, 1976

Mr. Chairman, I am Steve Payne, representing The Wilderness Society, a national environmental organization dedicated to the protection of our remaining natural resources.

On behalf of The Wilderness Society and our 10,000 members in California, I wish to express our continued support for H.R. 3030, as originally introduced by Congressman Lloyd, which would provide instant wilderness designation for Sheep Mountain. We recognize Congressman Lloyd's alternative study proposal, but we feel this area categorically qualifies for immediate wilderness recognition under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Almost unbelievably, within miles of the vast population and sprawling development of southern California, lies this 52,000 acre defacto wilderness area. On adjoining and nearby forest lands lie the roads and dispersed recreational developments which attract thousands of people weekly. Only the ruggedness of the area has allowed it to remain relatively untouched to this date.

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

The proposed wilderness contains lands of varied topography, probably representing the most spectacular scenery in the San Gabriel Mountain range. Nearly reaching an elevation of 10,000 feet Mt. San Antonio, or more popularly called Mt. Baldy, is one of five peaks within the area which exhibits coniferous forests, deep canyons, cool streams and lively waterfalls. The area is teeming with animal life, such as bighorn sheep, black bear, coyote, and fox as well as native trout, golden eagle and other numerous varieties of birds and small mammals.

Scientific studies of the vulnerable Nelson bighorn sheep, including a 1972 report by the California Department of Fish and Game, have concluded these animals may be jeopardized by further intrusions of roads, campgrounds, ski developments, or heavy human visitation.

These magnificent animals have adapted to the rugged, precipitous terrain in order to avoid advancing human incursions. But now, rugged topography is no longer a deterrent to economic and dispersed recreational development. We must exhibit necessary foresight to assure continued natural existence of this rare species. The Wilderness Society believes wilderness designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act affords the greatest protection to the dwindling habitat of the Nelson bighorn sheep.

The boundaries of this 52,000 acre primitive area represents what is believed to be the principal range of the bighorn. Though this encompasses scattered evidences of human activity, we must recognize that these remnants can largely revert to natural conditions over time. Evidence of human activity should not be used as an excuse to reduce needed habitat

for the bighorn sheep. Fifty-two thousand acres provides a necessary habitat buffer between the sensitive Nelson bighorn sheep and the constantly encroaching human development and activity in this extremely populous state.

We heartily endorse H.R. 3030 and urge its prompt enactment. We commend Congressman Lloyd for his interest and help to attain just protection for the Sheep Mountain wilderness and the valuable habitat of the Nelson bighorn sheep.

Thank you.

Mr. PAYNE. We take a slightly different approach, in that we favor instant wilderness designation as originally introduced by Congressman Lloyd, H.R. 3030, and as recently introduced by Congressman Udall, H.R. 14524.

Mr. MELCHER. Did the Senate bill pass?

Mr. CRANDELL. Yes; it did.

Mr. MELCHER. It is a wilderness study bill. They seem to have drawn a pretty hard line over there in the Senate of wanting further studies on these areas. I hope they do not have that line drawn on Glacier. If we enact a Glacier bill, I hope they take it up this year, and not create another study.

That being the case, it probably would be futile for us to change the Senate bill for a wilderness and then go into conference and find out that they have a pretty hard line drawn and they want a study first.

Mr. PAYNE. Well, in the past, Senators Cranston and Tunney have endorsed instant wilderness designation as well.

Mr. MELCHER. I do not think either of them would be on the conference committee, though, would they? We have to deal with Senator Metcalf and Senator Haskell, and I think Senator Haskell has drawn a pretty hard line on making instant wilderness at this time. I hope he deviates on some points, but they have passed the bill, and it is a study bill, is it not?

Mr. CRANDELL. That is right.

Mr. MORRILL. A major problem with the study bill is your limit on congressional action. That is something we are concerned about in several pieces of wilderness, and I think Congressman Lloyd—I do not know what he said this morning.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, if it is similar to one other bill we have had, it is just a 4-year limitation, it is not actually a limitation forever. It stated that for 4 years, it is a mandate to the Forest Service that they cannot manage it other than as wilderness. It is not a limitation on what they might do on their own initiative after that.

Mr. MORRILL. That is right, and that is what we are concerned about, is what happens after the 4 years, because it is so difficult to get wilderness bills.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, I do not agree with that. I do not think it is difficult to get wilderness bills once the people in the area have agreed on it.

Mr. MORRILL. The problem is that it is so easy to delay bills for some special interests to come in.

Mr. MELCHER. That is a problem around here. It does not even take a special interest. I find that terribly frustrating myself, not particularly on wilderness.

But I will have to recess again. I am sorry about this.

[Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.]

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order.

I think that ordinarily I would agree with you, Steve, that by the time we get these bills hammered over and discussed long enough, we ought to just enact a bill and get it over with, but in this instance, we have Mr. Lloyd, who agrees that there should be a study, and we have had the Senate act on a bill for a study, and apparently Senator Cran-

ston and Senator Tunney agreed to it, or were unable to convince a sufficient number of their colleagues in the Senate to disagree with the study proposal, and so I frankly would bow to the judgment of Mr. Lloyd and to the Senate on the matter.

Mr. PAYNE. Well, certainly, appearing before this committee, and our interest and our belief is that the area does qualify for instant wilderness designation, and in light of rare bighorn sheep within the area, we feel that it deserves immediate protection, and we feel that by one means or another, if the House should accept instant wilderness designation, something in the Senate could be worked out, perhaps taking the bill before the floor again, by Senators Cranston and Tunney.

Mr. MELCHER. They have that option now. They have the option to take a new bill before the Senate floor. That option is open to them now, regardless of what we do. If they were going to attempt such heroic action, it would serve us well if they would do it now, and we could be guided by that and not get involved in a fruitless conference.

Well, that is another issue, and, as I say, ordinarily I would agree with your position, that we make the decisions now and move forward. Are there other sponsors?

Mr. CRANDELL. Yes; Mr. Lloyd has other sponsors for the study provision.

Mr. MELCHER. For the study provision; yes. He is the sponsor, and so I for one on the subcommittee would defer to his judgment and act on the situation the way it is here. But I am only speaking for myself. I am not speaking for the other members of the subcommittee, obviously.

Does either one of you have more to add?

Mr. MORRILL. On this 4-year provision, I just wanted to amplify a little bit.

We are concerned about it, quite concerned, and we feel that there really is not any strong reason for it, and we believe there is good reason not to have that provision, but to have the language until Congress determines otherwise.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, I have not spoken to the designers of that particular section in these bills, and I do not know who originated the idea, but I would like to listen to their viewpoints, particularly Senator Haskell and perhaps Senator Metcalf, but I can consider one reason for doing it.

First of all, if you specify a time for a study of a year, which I presume is in this bill—

Mr. MORRILL. It is 2 years.

Mr. MELCHER. Two years. I think in the case of the Great Bear, it is 1 year. But if you specify a definite time for a study, it does not specify when something is done after that. Does the President ever, or does the Forest Service after they study it, do they ever get something before the President, and does the President ever do anything about it? The combination of 4 and 2 is obviously 6 years, and you might even guess who is going to be President after 1976, and you can figure out whether or not his recommendation would come up during his term, his or her term, and then beyond that, if it did not come up under the terms of the bill, who is going to be the President after that?

But there is a reason for Congress to set some sort of a time frame, because obviously Congress thinks it is important to get a decision, and if you leave it open ended, it could be forever.

Mr. MORRILL. Well, really what we are talking about is the kind of provision similar to what we have now with primitive areas. I mean those areas that are primitive, or classified, or were classified as primitive areas. I guess some of them currently are.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes.

Mr. MORRILL. Congress will make the final decision on those areas, and not by default. That is what we are concerned about, that we will have decisions made by default.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, if we accept the language that is in the Great Bear bill, that was passed by the Senate, and I presume in this bill as passed by the Senate, I assume we would mandate the Forest Service to run it as wilderness and prohibit anything that would conflict with wilderness.

Under the primitive areas, it is a lot looser. I think they could have a lot more leeway on what they would allow to happen in a primitive area. You are not forbidden in a primitive area, for instance, to allow vehicles, are you?

Mr. RESLER. We manage them essentially the same as wilderness.

Mr. MELCHER. I know, but they are not prohibited by law—

Mr. RESLER. We make no distinction between primitive and wilderness areas. In wilderness, we apply the same constraints, except we permit the continuation of any lawful, existing right, and that is not an issue here.

Mr. MORRILL. Actually, the Forest Service allows motor vehicle use in roadless areas in California, and where they are on designated trails that they have specified as study areas. So there is a different area in the current administration of a study area like this and a primitive area.

Mr. MELCHER. If the Senate-passed bill on Sheep Mountain is similar to what was passed in Great Bear, it does not allow them any discretion with respect to vehicles. They say that they would be operated as if it were wilderness. Do I interpret that correctly?

Mr. CRANDELL. They have to maintain the wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the wilderness area. It carries some flexibility.

Mr. MELCHER. I am not so sure about that. As I would read that, that would say no vehicles.

Mr. MORRILL. The language is in their regulations, and it is very similar to the language in their regulations, and they will manage, for instance, the Sheep Mountain study area, and part of it is administratively designated a study area.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes.

Mr. MORRILL. Apparently there is hardly any for vehicle use, but nonetheless, the study provision says they have to maintain the potential, and they interpret that to mean they can allow motor vehicle use.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, I am glad to have that testimony, because if that is what they feel it is, we had better be explicit in the language itself and say that they can run it as wilderness during that time frame or have a greater degree of discretion than what we believe is allowed under the Wilderness Act.

Mr. MORRILL. I think that would be good.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I think the point attempted to be made is that we have something in the bill similar to Public Law 93-262, which places other eastern areas into the system as well as the proposed study areas, and we feel that should a study bill be accepted that it provide similar protection as that particular bill did, with language that the wilderness study area will be managed in accordance with provisions found in the Wilderness Act. I think that is the key to the issue.

Mr. MELCHER. Does staff have any questions?

Mr. CRANDELL. Mr. Chairman, I have one question, a kind of a clarification question.

In the Glacier primitive area, to drop back to that—

Mr. MELCHER. Would you wait, if it does not bear on this?

Mr. CRANDELL. It does as far as interim management in a primitive area is concerned. In the Whiskey Mountain area, that is presently in primitive area status, right?

Mr. RESLER. Yes.

Mr. CRANDELL. And what you are asking the committee to do is enact legislation declassifying it from primitive area status.

Mr. RESLER. That is right.

Mr. CRANDELL. You have stated that you do not permit vehicles in primitive areas, but you do in this particular case, and that if the area were declared wilderness, you would be precluded from using vehicles.

Mr. MUMMA. We do not permit any vehicles in the red area now.

Mr. CRANDELL. I understood from your testimony that you permit vehicles in Whiskey Mountain to manage the bighorn sheep herd.

Mr. RESLER. No. A proposal has been made to use vehicles and aircraft in the red area, but the primitive areas are treated the same as the rest of the wilderness system.

Mr. CRANDELL. That is where I was confused. I thought the area was in primitive area status, and that you did use vehicles and you were saying you could not continue to use vehicles under wilderness area status. I could not understand what the change was.

Mr. MELCHER. I think that is a valid point. Under primitive area status, if the Forest Service decided to do something different, you do it. Is that not true?

Mr. RESLER. I do not think we have interpreted the Wilderness Act that way.

Mr. MELCHER. How are you going to trap the bighorn sheep?

Mr. MUMMA. I will speak to that. There are wintering sites, and three sites they trap off of now are not on the national forest lands within the primitive area. The area that we do not trap on is within the existing primitive area now.

Mr. MELCHER. You mean the red area?

Mr. MUMMA. Yes; and we feel it is important to have equal access in there. There was, prior to 1971, and there has been a closure in that area.

Mr. RESLER. The basic point is that if the red area were declassified, it would expand the area for that purpose.

Mr. MELCHER. I do not think you are trying to evade the point, but I think it might appear on the record that you are. The point is that under the classification that that land now has, if you decide that in order to manage the bighorn sheep properly, you want to trap in that area, and you would be able to do it under your own regulations.

Mr. RESLER. Mr. Chairman, we would not so interpret on that portion which is primitive area. If that portion were declassified as suggested in the administration proposal, then we would have a different situation.

Mr. MELCHER. You make your point clear. You want leeway granted by the Wilderness Act itself. Is that right?

Mr. RESLER. Yes; and that is in our testimony. We would propose that that area be declassified.

Mr. MELCHER. Do you give that flexibility?

Mr. RESLER. It still would be managed essentially the same.

Mr. MELCHER. Are there other questions?

Thank you, Mr. Morrill and Mr. Payne.

Without objection, Mr. Payne's testimony will be made part of the record as if read when he first spoke.

Now, let us have Mr. Resler provide us with his testimony. His testimony regarding Sheep Mountain will be made part of the record at this point.

[The statement referred to follows:]

STATEMENT OF REXFORD A. RESLER, ASSOCIATE CHIEF,
FOREST SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON SHEEP MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA,
AND GLACIER WILDERNESS, WYOMING, JUNE 29, 1976

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for this opportunity to present the views of the Department of Agriculture on proposals to study or designate the Sheep Mountain area in California as wilderness, and proposals to designate the Glacier Wilderness in Wyoming.

Sheep Mountain, California

Beginning in California, the Sheep Mountain area is about 35 miles east of Los Angeles in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.

S. 74, H.R. 10618, and H.R. 11143 would require us to study an area of about 52,000 acres to determine its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness. H.R. 3030 would designate the same area as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness without a formal wilderness study.

The 52,000 acres within the Sheep Mountain proposals include the 31,680-acre Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area and 20,320 acres of contiguous land. The study area resulted from our 1972-73 review of National Forest roadless areas.

On the display map, the black line is the boundary of the originally reported Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Shortly thereafter, we discovered that a salvage timber sale area--shown as a green crosshatch--had been erroneously included in the Study Area. Deletion of this area and other boundary adjustments resulted in the

revised Study Area boundary shown as a green line. The blue line is the boundary of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area proposed by S. 74, H.R. 10618, and H.R. 11143. The blue line is also the boundary of the area that would be designated as wilderness by H.R. 3030.

The areas north and south of the Study Area contain several works of man. The yellow squares represent structures; the red lines are roads; and the purple lines are fuelbreaks.

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. About 47,500 acres of the Snow Mountain area are within the San Gabriel Planning Unit of the Angeles National Forest, and about 4,500 acres along the northeast boundary are within the Cajon Planning Unit of the San Bernardino National Forest. Inventory data has been collected within the San Gabriel Planning Unit, and we expect to file a Draft Environmental Statement analyzing management alternatives within a year. Inventory data collection within the Cajon Planning Unit will begin next year with a Draft Environmental Statement on management alternatives to be filed in about 3 years. On both units, final management plans and final environmental statements will not be developed until the public and agency review of the draft statements have been completed.

The Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area (and any additional acreage identified and selected for wilderness study during the land-use planning process) will be studied in detail to determine its suitability or unsuitability for possible designation as wilderness. Information on minerals within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be available from the U.S. Geological Survey and the

U.S. Bureau of Mines by the end of this year. 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 the 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 Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Area will be managed so as to protect it from activities that would change the land characteristics in such a way as to disqualify the area from wilderness designation.

We believe the study process just described should be allowed to continue, and we recommend that neither S. 74, H.R. 10618, H.R. 11143, nor H.R. 3030 be enacted.

I would now be happy to answer questions about the Sheep Mountain area, or I could briefly review the Glacier area and then answer questions about both areas.

Glacier Wilderness, Wyoming

In Wyoming, the proposed Glacier Wilderness is about 50 miles west of Riverton and 50 miles east of Jackson. The area is east of the Continental Divide in the Wind River Mountains of the Shoshone National Forest.

The Administration's proposal for a Glacier Wilderness of 182,510 acres resulted from our study of the Glacier Primitive Area in accordance with the Wilderness Act. The proposal was transmitted by

the President to the Congress on February 8, 1972. Section 2(f) of H.R. 3507 embodies the Administration proposal, and we recommend that H.R. 3507 be enacted, insofar as it affects the National Forest System. We also recommend that the primitive area status be lifted from 7,518 acres of the Glacier Primitive Area that are not recommended for wilderness designation.

We do not recommend enactment of H.R. 9265 or section 2(a)(7) of H.R. 5893 to designate a larger Glacier Wilderness which, according to the bills, would contain 196,000 acres. Our estimates, however, indicate that this alternative proposal contains nearly 200,000 acres.

I wish to briefly describe the Administration's proposal and the major differences between it and the other proposal.

The topography of the proposed Glacier Wilderness is very rough with high jagged mountain peaks, deep precipitous canyons, and large alpine plateaus covered with broken rock. Gannet Peak, the highest mountain peak in Wyoming, rises to 13,804 feet on the west boundary of the proposed wilderness. There are seven other mountain peaks within the area that exceed 13,000 feet in elevation. More than 40 active glaciers dominate the area and provide a unique scenic attraction. The glaciers cover about 7,800 acres. Thirty-two named lakes and over 540 unnamed lakes are dispersed throughout the area.

About 13,300 acres of the Administration's Glacier Wilderness proposal are covered with mature forest. Because of shallow soils, steep terrain, and short growing seasons, the timber growing potential and commercial harvesting prospects of the forested areas are poor to very poor. The allowable timber harvest on the Shoshone National Forest would not be reduced as a result of the Administration's proposal.

About 11,200 acres are suitable for grazing. Six ranches depend partially upon the forage from these lands. Grazing would be continued under wilderness management.

The watershed of the area provides high quality water to dependent downstream lands and users. There are 52 miles of fishing streams and numerous lakes within the area.

The area supports only a small population of elk, deer, and moose. However, the bighorn sheep herd is one of the largest found in the contiguous 48 States.

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines examined the proposed wilderness to determine mineral values. Their studies disclosed no mineral deposits that can be economically mined. None of the several mineralized localities appear to have possibilities for future development.

A public hearing on the management alternatives for the Glacier Primitive Area was held in Riverton, Wyoming on June 28, 1971. Thirty-two individuals testified at the hearings, and 947 written responses were received from individuals or organizations. Nearly 95 percent of the response favored having the Primitive Area designated as wilderness. A summary of the responses by groups, individuals, and governmental agencies is included in the Secretary's report which accompanied the President's recommendation.

On the display map, the heavy black line is the boundary of the Glacier Wilderness, as proposed by the Administration. The large light green area, containing 168,785 acres, is the portion of the present Glacier Primitive Area that is proposed for wilderness classification.

The dark green area, containing 13,725 acres, is outside and contiguous to the present Primitive Area. It has predominantly wilderness values and is included in our wilderness proposal. It affords excellent opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Wildlife is relatively abundant in the area. Timber stands within the dark green area are not significant for timber production because of their poor quality and inaccessibility.

A total of 7,518 acres of the Glacier Primitive Area were considered not suitable for wilderness classification and are proposed for exclusion and declassification from Primitive Area status. The proposed exclusions are shown in red on the display map and are numbered 1, 2, and 3.

Area 1 adjoins Trail Lake and contains 870 acres. Trail Lake is customarily used for motorboating. Moderate recreational use is concentrated along the lake and a nearby road. The hillside facing the lake is exposed to the sights and sounds of human activities. We therefore recommend that the boundary be drawn back to the ridge line above the lake and road. Area 1 would be designated as wilderness by H.R. 9265 and H.R. 5893.

Area 2 contains 151 acres. This area was excluded from our proposal to provide a needed trailhead facility that will be cooperatively developed by the State of Wyoming and the Forest Service to serve the proposed Glacier Wilderness. H.R. 9265 and H.R. 5893 would also exclude area 2 from the wilderness.

Area 3, known as the Whisky Mountain area, contains 6,497 acres, and it provides critical winter habitat for the largest bighorn sheep herd in the contiguous 48 States. Since 1958, about 1,000 bighorn sheep have been moved from this area for restocking at many locations in the West. Truck access is vital to this annual restocking program which is carried out by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The animals are trapped and removed during the winter when helicopter access is frequently unsafe and uncertain because of high winds and other severe weather.

H.R. 9265 and H.R. 5893 would designate area 3 as wilderness. We strongly recommend, however, that area 3 be excluded from the wilderness and that its primitive area status be rescinded. Our recommendation is essential if the current restocking program is to continue and if other wildlife management options are to remain in the Whisky Mountain area.

The blue areas on the map were recommended for wilderness designation by some during development of the Administration's proposal. These areas were not included in our proposal, but they would be designated as wilderness by H.R. 9265 and H.R. 5893.

Area A-1 contains 3,450 acres. We do not consider it to be suitable for wilderness. A resort camp is located at Simpson Lake, and the use of recreation vehicles has been established in the area around Marion Lake. The area is considered to be needed to provide for nonwilderness recreational opportunities in the future.

Area A-2 contains 1,713 acres. This area is adjacent to area 3, and it is part of the same bighorn sheep winter range. A four-wheel drive road through the area is now closed to vehicles. The option to possibly reopen the road for seasonal uses would remain so long as area A-2 was not included in the wilderness.

In addition to the areas already mentioned, H.R. 9265 and H.R. 5893 would designate the yellow area as wilderness. This 4,500-acre area, including Moon Lake and Union Lake, is not, in our judgment, suitable for wilderness designation. There are about 2½ miles of constructed road and several four-wheel drive routes within the area. Snowmobiling is a very popular activity in this and other areas around Union Pass. The yellow area and the surrounding country is generally rolling, open terrain that is easily accessible to off-road vehicles. Lacking any natural topographic barrier to vehicles, it would be nearly impossible to manage the yellow area as wilderness.

This completes my prepared statement. I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Mr. John Mumma, Supervisor of the Shoshone National Forest, is here with me to answer any detailed questions about the Glacier area.

Mr. MELCHER. Have we left out anything regarding your position on this?

**STATEMENT OF REX RESLER, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY R. K. GRIS-
WOLD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT
AND JOHN MUMMA, FOREST SUPERVISOR, SHOSHONE NATIONAL
FOREST**

Mr. RESLER. A couple of quick points, if I might, Mr. Chairman. First, there have been many changes in the geography of the Sheep Mountain area because of man's activity. These include roads, firebreaks, mines, buildings, and things of that type shown on the map in the red and brown color schemes. The small yellow dots are cabins of one type or another. The purple lines are major firebreaks that lie across both sides of the major drainages. Some of the firelines are included in the study proposal.

Now, the key point I would like to make is that we have identified this as a roadless area under our review process. We are currently involved in a land-use planning process that will lead to the development of an environmental impact statement and a proposal which very likely will include a wilderness recommendation on a portion of it, and other management prescriptions, primarily for habitat improvement and protection work, on the rest.

Our basic position is that we do not feel any legislation is necessary for this planning process to continue. At the same time, since we do have it under study, it is obvious that we could also live with a study bill. We would interpret the bill to mean 2 years of study, followed by a 4-year period before Congress.

I would remind the chairman that we have completed all our primitive area reviews established by the 1964 act, and we have every intention of doing so in this case.

Mr. MELCHER. The primitive area is identified by the green boundary?

Mr. RESLER. No; there is no primitive area there. It is a selected roadless area. It is one of 274 units we have identified for wilderness study throughout the national forest system.

Mr. MELCHER. So it is not a primitive area you are mandated under the act to study, but one that you are mandated under the act to review under the roadless portion of the act?

Mr. RESLER. No; the roadless area review was not required by the Wilderness Act. It is part of the review process the chief initiated 3 years ago.

Mr. MELCHER. You would have no objection to passage of H.R. 10618 or S. 74?

Mr. RESLER. It would provide for the study period.

Mr. MELCHER. If we would pass H.R. 3030, which is a broader area than what you are proposing, you would have some problems?

Mr. RESLER. Yes. That would include the instant designation which we oppose.

Mr. MELCHER. And that is a broader area than you are prepared to recommend at this time?

Mr. RESLER. That is right.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, I hope if we do enact S. 74 or H.R. 14524 in the House calling for the study area that after the conclusion, or by the time 2 years are up that the bill could then be moved forward in the Congress to designate the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area.

Without objection, the Department of Agriculture report dated June 25 will be made part of the record.

[Editor's note: Departmental report referred to has been inserted at the beginning of the hearing, on p. 8.]

Mr. MELCHER. The report recommends that neither H.R. 10618 or S. 74 be enacted, but as I understand the testimony, it is that you would not find it an impediment if either bill were enacted?

Mr. RESLER. No, sir. It basically would carry on what we are doing now. We just feel it is unnecessary to have that enactment to get the job done.

Mr. MELCHER. You do not think it would be recommended for a veto, do you?

Mr. RESLER. I do not think the issue is there, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Any questions?

Mr. TERRELL. You never did answer my previous question. Apparently we differ on the interpretation of the act so I will send you a letter concerning this difference. You said you would have to manage these areas pursuant to the act. I will not argue with your interpretation of the act, but you never told me whether or not you believe such authority is in the act. I recall Congressman Ruppe sitting in this subcommittee earlier this year during which he addressed the Forest Service concerning certain Forest Service policy and its derivation, and I am wondering if that is what your policy is now based on. Is it your interpretation of the act? That is what I was getting at earlier.

Mr. RESLER. Our interpretation is quite strict and in full accord with the chairman's comments.

I wish you would send us a letter on that, I would be happy to see that it gets fully clarified.

Mr. TERRELL. All right. It has been asked several times. We could ask Mr. Nelson how the Forest Service arrived at its policy concerning roads access in wilderness study areas.

Mr. RESLER. There are several classifications of land. There is the primitive area, the roadless area, and so forth. It would be helpful to have your question in writing so that we could elaborate on it.

Mr. MELCHER. That concludes the hearing.

The hearing record will remain open for other statements. The hearing is concluded.

[Whereupon, at 12:15 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned, to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows:]

1301 E. Meda Avenue
Glendora, Ca. 91740
June 30, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sir:

Please include the following materials as part of the hearing record for the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Study Bill, HR 10618. The hearing was held on June 29, 1976, by your subcommittee.

Resolutions for establishment of wilderness from the foothill cities of Azusa, Claremont, Duarte, Glendora, LaVerne, Monrovia, San Dimas, and Upland.

Resolution for wilderness from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Support for wilderness from the following local colleges and professors:

Pomona College, Prof. Larry Oglesby
Pomona College, Prof. William Wirtz
Los Angeles State College, Prof. Richard Vogl
Chaffey College, Life Science Dept.
Citrus College, Biological Science Dept.
Citrus College, Physical Science Dept.
California State University, Pomona, Prof. Glenn Stewart (Zoology)
California State University, Pomona, Steve Kaufman (Urban Planning)
Center for Public Affairs of Claremont Colleges, Thad Tryzna, President.

Resolution for wilderness from the San Gabriel Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America.

We also have many other indications of support for a Sheep Mountain Wilderness from individuals, other schools, groups, and scientists, but the above material should give you a fair sample of the widespread interest and support for wilderness. Please act promptly and positively on HR 10618.

Yours truly,

Robert L. McDonnell, Jr.
Robert L. McDonnell, Jr.
Chairman, Sheep Mountain
Task Force, Sierra Club

RESOLUTION NO. 73-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VERNE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA IN THE ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS

WHEREAS, the Sheep Mountain Region area contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrains in Southern California, and

WHEREAS, said area is the home for a healthy remnant band of Nelson bighorn sheep, and

WHEREAS, said area has clear water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population, and

WHEREAS, consideration is now being given by the United States Forest Service and others for the creation of such a wilderness area,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Verne as follows:

1. That the City Council does hereby endorse and support the creation of such a wilderness area with boundaries to be established which would include the currently remaining range of the East Fork Herd of bighorn sheep.

2. That the City Council hereby urges that the boundaries for said wilderness area specifically include the Narrows, Allison Gulch and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and also the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

3. That the City Council hereby directs that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Senators Alan Cranston and John Tunney, Congressmen Jerry Pettis, John Rousselot and Charles Wiggins, Supervisor Peter Schabarum, Assemblyman William Lancaster, and John McGuire, Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and thereupon the same shall take effect and be in force.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of February, 1973.

Mike M. Morales

Mayor of the City of La Verne

ATTEST:

Ruth S. Hogan
City Clerk



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
383 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

JAMES S. MIZE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
RICHARD A. SCHOENI, ASST. EXEC. OFFICER

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PETER F. SCHABARUM
KENNETH HAHN
ERNEST E. DEBS
JAMES A. HAYES
BAXTER WARD

April 12, 1973

Mr. Robert McDonnell
1301 East Meda Street
Glendora, California 91740

Dear Mr. McDonnell:

At the suggestion of Mr. Joseph Covell, Deputy in Chairman Schabarum's office, please find enclosed a copy of an action taken by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting held March 27, 1973, pertinent to Sheep Mountain Wilderness area.

Very truly yours,

James S. Mize

JAMES S. MIZE

Encls.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

184 HAYE OF ADMINISTRATION LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

JAMES S. MIZE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
RICHARD A. SCHENI, ASST. EXEC. OFFICER

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

PETER F. SCHABARUM
JESSE H. HARRIS
EDWARD L. BLY
JAMES A. HAYES
PATRICK L. LEE

March 28, 1973

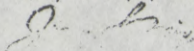
The Honorable Earl L. Butz
Secretary of Agriculture
Administration Building, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Sir:

At its meeting held March 27, 1973, on motion of Chairman Peter F. Schabarum, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles unanimously approved and went on record as supporting the creation of a new wildlife sanctuary, comprised of portions of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, designated as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area.

Creation of this new wilderness preserve is much needed in this day and age of creeping urbanism.

Very truly yours,



JAMES S. MIZE

Personalized letter sent to
Chief, Forest Service

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Mr. Pollard

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR PETE SCHABARUM

MARCH 27, 1973

The U. S. Forest Service is presently considering designating a sprawling portion of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests as a new wildlife sanctuary--specifically known as the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area.

The area under consideration contains a sizeable population of Nelson Big Horn Sheep. It has a number of clear water streams and a self-sustaining native fish population.

Designating the area--generally bounded by the Narrows, Alison Gulch and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and Dawson Peak in the San Bernardino Forest--would create a new wilderness preserve, much needed in a day and age of creeping urbanism.

I WOULD, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT this Board go on record supporting creation of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area by the U. S. Forest Service and that we so notify the appropriate federal authorities of our position.

#

S/De MAR 27 1973
MOTION

Hahn	_____
Debs	_____ <i>Adams</i>
Hayes	_____
Ward	_____
Schabarum	_____

BSD 38

RESOLUTION NO. 2462

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UPLAND,
CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND
DESIGNATION OF THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA IN
THE ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS

WHEREAS, the Sheep Mountain Region area contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, said area is the home for a healthy remnant band of Nelson bighorn sheep; and

WHEREAS, said area has clear water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population; and

WHEREAS, consideration is now being given by the United States Forest Service and others for the creation of a Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Upland:

SECTION 1: The City Council endorses and supports the creation of such a wilderness area with boundaries to be established which would include the currently remaining range of the East Fork Herd of bighorn sheep.

SECTION 2: The City Council hereby urges that the boundaries of said wilderness area specifically include the Narrows, Allison Gulch and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and also the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

SECTION 3: The City Council hereby directs that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Senator Alan Cranston, Senator John Tunney, Congressman Jerry Pettis, Congressman John Rousselot, Supervisor Dan Mikesell, Assemblyman John Quimby, and Mr. John McGuire, Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and the same shall thereupon take effect and be in force.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of March, 1973

/s/ bner B. Haldeman
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF UPLAND

ATTEST:

/s/ Doreen K. Carpenter
DOREEN K. CARPENTER, CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 73-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIMAS, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA IN THE ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS.

WHEREAS, the Sheep Mountain Region area contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, said area is the home for a healthy remnant band of Nelson bighorn sheep; and

WHEREAS, said area has clear water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population; and

WHEREAS, consideration is now being given by the United States Forest Service and others for the creation of such a wilderness area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIMAS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council does hereby endorse and support the creation of such a wilderness area with boundaries to be established which would include the currently remaining range of the East Fork Herd of bighorn sheep.

SECTION 2: The City Council hereby urges that the boundaries for said wilderness area specifically include the Narrows, Allison Gulch and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and also the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

SECTION 3. The City Council hereby directs that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Senator Alan Cranston, Senator John Tunney, Congressman Charles Wiggins, Congressman John Rousselot, Supervisor Peter Schabarum, Assemblyman William Lancaster, and Mr. John McGuire, Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and the same shall thereupon take effect and be in force.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1973.

Thomas F. Nuss

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAN DIMAS

ATTEST:

Barbara A. Henderson
CITY CLERK

~~I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted~~

by vote of the City Council of the City of San Dimas at its regular meeting of February 12, 1973, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN BROGAN, LOUGH, SALISBURY, NUSS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCILMAN HOOPER

Barbara A. Henderson
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 6070

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AZUSA, ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA IN THE ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS.

WHEREAS, the Sheep Mountain Region area contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, said area is the home for a healthy remnant band of Nelson bighorn sheep; and

WHEREAS, said area has clear water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population; and

WHEREAS, consideration is now being given by the United States Forest Service and others for the creation of such a wilderness area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AZUSA AS FOLLOWS:

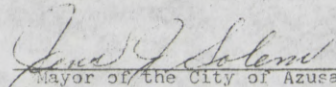
SECTION 1: The City Council does hereby endorse and support the creation of such a wilderness area with boundaries to be established which would include the currently remaining range of the East Fork Herd of bighorn sheep.

SECTION 2: The City Council hereby urges that the boundaries for said wilderness area specifically include the Narrows, Allison Gulch and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and also the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

SECTION 3: The City Council hereby directs that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to U. S. Senator Alan Cranston, U. S. Senator John V. Tunney, Congressman Charles E. Wiggins, Congressman John H. Rousselot, Supervisor Peter Schabarum, Assemblyman William Lancaster, Assemblyman Harvey Johnson, and Mr. John McGuire, Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

Approved and Adopted this 5th day of March, 1973.

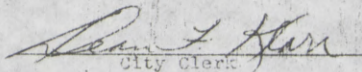

Mayor of the City of Azusa

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Azusa at a regular meeting thereof held on the 5th day of March, 1973, by the following vote of the Council:

AYES: Councilmen: Rubio, Decker, Clark, Solem

NOES: Councilmen: None

ABSENT: Councilmen: Snyder


City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 73-003

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDORA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA IN THE ANGELES AND SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FORESTS.

WHEREAS, the Sheep Mountain Region area contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, said area is the home for a healthy remnant band of Nelson bighorn sheep; and

WHEREAS, said area has clear water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population; and

WHEREAS, consideration is now being given by the United States Forest Service and others for the creation of such a wilderness area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLENDORA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council does hereby endorse and support the creation of such a wilderness area with boundaries to be established which would include the currently remaining range of the East Fork Hard of bighorn sheep.

TO SENATOR RICH CLARKSON, SENATOR JOHN LAMMY, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES WAGGNER, CONGRESSMAN ROUSSELOT, Supervisor Peter Schabarum, Assemblyman William Lancaster, and Mr. John McGuire, Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and the same shall thereupon take effect and be in force.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of January, 1973.

ATTEST:

CITY OF GLENDORA

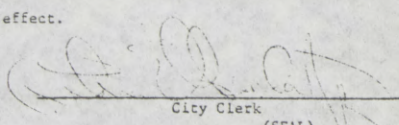
/s/ Culver E. Heaton, Jr.
City Clerk

BY: /s/ Joe M. Finkbiner
Mayor

(SEAL)

I, Culver E. Heaton, Jr., City Clerk of the City of Glendora, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original RESOLUTION NO. 73-003, as same appears on file in my office; that same was duly adopted by the City Council; and that it is now in full force and effect.

Dated: January 10, 1973


City Clerk
(SEAL)

73-003



City of Duarte

1634 E. Third Street Box 218 Duarte, Calif. 91010
Area Code 213 Telephone 358-3207

March 7, 1973

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ROBERT C. HARBICHT

Mayor pro tempore

ELWOOD L. ANDERSON

Councilmen

KURT MAHN

JAMES J. COUGHLIN

DONALD R. WATSON

ADMINISTRATION

City Manager

ROBERT R. MITCHELL

Director of Public Services

J. KENNETH CARESIO

Supt. Parks and Recreation

RICHARD A. SAHAGUN

Building Inspector

PAUL A. SCHNURIGER

Public Works Supervisor

JACK J. STANTON

Mr. Grant R. Brimhall, City Manager
City of Glendora
116 E. Foothill Boulevard
Glendora, California 91740

Dear Grant:

This is to advise that City Council during their regular meeting held on Tuesday, February 13, gave their unanimous support to your efforts in endorsing and supporting the creation and designation of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.

City Council also concurred to send copies of a letter of support to local legislators, Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture and Mr. Robert McDonnell of Glendora as requested by Mr. James Sharpsteen during his address to City Council.

Sincerely yours,

Robert R. Mitchell
City Manager

RRM:gr

Home of the City of Hope National Medical Center



Same letter to: Rousselot, Lancaster, Pettis, Tunney, Cranston, and
Schabarum, t McGuire

March 13, 1973

Congressman Charles E. Wiggins
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wiggins:

At the February 27 Claremont City Council meeting, the Council unanimously voted to solicit your support of the creation and designation of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. This area is presently under consideration by the United States Forest Service, as well as others, for creation of a wilderness area and is the home of a healthy remnant band of Nelson Bighorn Sheep as well as several clear-water streams with a self-sustaining native fish population.

The Council is particularly interested in recommending boundaries for the wilderness area that would specifically include the Narrows, Alison Gulch, and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and the Dawson Peak Region in the San Bernardino Forest.

We are very hopeful that this area will be declared wilderness area, not only to help preserve the remaining Bighorn Sheep, but also to preserve additional wilderness area for the present and future enjoyment of citizens in Southern California, the State of California, and the Country.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge your support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

R. CRAIG McMANIGAL
Mayor

skr

City of Claremont / City Hall, 207 Harvard Avenue, Claremont, California 91711. (714) 624-4531



City of Monrovia

Incorporated 1887

415 SOUTH IVY AVENUE - MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA

Phone- 330-3231

91016

March 1, 1973

Mr. John R. McGuire
Chief Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
S. Bldg., 12th & Independence Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

Please be advised that the Monrovia City Council at its regular meeting held on February 6, 1973 unanimously adopted a motion endorsing and supporting the creation and designation of a Sheep Mountain wilderness area in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.

This motion clearly manifests our concern for the future welfare and preservation of the Nelson Bighorn Sheep.

Bands of the Bighorn Sheep commonly roam the wilderness areas of the Narrows, Allison Gulch and Goldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest and they can also be found in the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

We are respectfully requesting your personal support in this important endeavor and ask that every effort be made by your office to assist in making our request a reality.

Thank you for your consideration and if we can be of any assistance to you relative to this project, please feel free to contact my office.

Very truly yours,

Richard L. Mountjoy
Richard L. Mountjoy
Mayor

RLM:EG

POMONA COLLEGE
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA 91711

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
SEAWER LABORATORY

20 June 1974

Mr. William T. Dresser, Forest Supervisor
Angeles National Forest
150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 300
Pasadena, California 91101

Dear Mr. Dresser:

Recently the Forest Service has held hearings concerning public use in the Angeles National Forest. These hearings seemed to receive very little publicity, but I did hear about them in a round-about way; however, I was unable to attend any of the three hearings.

I am particularly concerned that proposals for public use of the Angeles National Forest do not adequately take into account the fragility of the overall ecosystem of the San Gabriel Mountains. The San Gabriels are young mountains, geologically speaking, and are still being uplifted (as much as 7 feet in the San Fernando Earthquake of 1971!). One result is that the rock structure of the entire mountain mass is shattered and easily eroded, meaning extremely steep and unstable slopes, and fast-running narrow streams which flood readily in seasons with heavy rains. There are very few "flats" within the mountain mass. This means that public access cannot be the same as, for example, in the Sierra Nevada. Trails and roads must be sited carefully, so as not to cause scars visible from miles away, and so as not to increase already rapid erosion rates. In many areas, no roads should be built at all. *And offroad vehicles must be prohibited from all trails.*

As a biologist, and one who grew up within the chaparral zone of Southern California, I am greatly concerned over what I read and hear about the Forest Service's plans to eliminate chaparral areas within the Angeles National Forest, in order to substitute "less flammable" grasslands. There are two major types of problems with this approach to managing the resources of a National Forest. The first is practical: it won't work, or at least will not work except with the constant infusion of manpower, chemicals, and money. In general, chaparral plants are found in areas with less good soil than grasses can tolerate; at least in central California, the richer soils have grasslands and oak savannah, while the poorer soils support chaparral. Destruction of the chaparral cover will result in much more rapid erosion rates, with attendant problems of floods and mudslides; I don't see that grass will be the permanent result of killing chaparral shrubs, except through constant shrub control measures. My second reason for objecting to chaparral destruction is more philosophical. Chaparral is the natural vegetation for much of Southern California, being extraordinarily well adapted to our Mediterranean-type climate and to seasonal fires. Since the Forest Service is in the process of phasing out private inholdings in the National Forest, and is cancelling leases for vacation homes on Forest Service land, there is less and less danger to human life and habitation

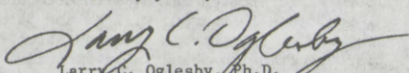
Oglesby - 2

from periodic chaparral fires in the National Forest. Since chaparral has little or no value for commercial exploitation (unlike forests), and grazing is not possible on most of these slopes (at least the southern ones that I am most familiar with), there will be no financial benefit from conversion of chaparral to grassland. I believe that chaparral, when in good condition, is much better watershed cover than the introduced annual grasses. I can see no reason at all why the Forest Service wishes to destroy an important, valuable, and attractive vegetational type. Chaparral should receive proper maintenance and management (which means occasional fires!) from the Forest Service, not destruction.

Finally, I am very concerned that the Forest Service's proposed plans for the Sheep Mountain Wilderness are inadequate. A number of areas vital for the survival of the Mt. Baldy and Lytle Creek bighorn sheep herds are excluded from the Forest Service proposal, and areas of historical interest are also excluded. If the reason for the Sheep Mountain Wilderness is to provide protection for the bighorn herds, then the entire range of the bighorn sheep must be included, and must be included intact. Thus, such places as Allison Gulch, Coldwater Canyon, the East Fork Narrows, and Pine Mountain Ridge must be included within the wilderness boundaries. These areas should remain undeveloped, and the road down Prairie Creek Fork should be abandoned. Intensive use of these areas by humans will surely disrupt the migrations of the bighorn sheep. As long as access to these and other areas within the wilderness is limited to primitive trails, human disturbance to these animals will be minimal. You should follow the guidelines of the Weaver Report (the best information we presently have) to make sure that winter range, summer range, lambing areas, and migration routes are all within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. It goes almost without saying that major roads, such as the proposed connecting road between Baldy Village and Wrightwood, . . . the extension of Angeles Crest Highway along the south side of Blue Ridge into Lytle Creek, and the paving and extension of the road up Lytle Creek into Stockton Flats -- these roads must not be built. *A properly managed Sheep Mountain Wilderness will require either cooperation with the San Bernardino National Forest, or a transfer of responsibility to just one administrative unit.

Gold mining is of great historical importance in the San Gabriels, and I hope that all attempts will be made to preserve old gold mines and their superstructures and buildings, even within the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. It may be necessary to fence off certain dangerous areas from public access. But these gold mining areas are part of our historical heritage, and should be preserved.

Sincerely yours,


 Larry C. Oglesby, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor of Zoology

* Private holdings, such as those few ranches in the East Fork area, should be purchased and included within the wilderness.

Mr. William T. Dresser, Forest Supervisor
 Angeles National Forest
 150 South Los Robles Avenue, Suite 300
 Pasadena, CA 91101

25 June 1974

Dear Supervisor Dresser:

I am writing to express my interest in the establishment of the proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness, and, in particular, to express my concern that the boundaries of this proposed area will provide adequate range for the existing herd. I have sent similar letters to Senators Cranston and Tunney and To Congressman Veysey.

Our bighorn herds roamed these mountains long before the advent of white settlers, and the ranges utilized today are a reflection both of available resources and human encroachment. Bighorn were formerly common in the East Fork of the San Gabriel, as historical records show nearly 200 animals taken in one winter to feed the miners there, but they have moved up to more inaccessible canyons today. They recognize neither county nor National Forest boundaries, and do not distinguish private land from Federally-owned land. So it is important to rely on available biological information to set aside those areas that are currently used by bighorn if the bands are to survive. Thus, I offer the following information which may aid in deciding on which boundaries are best for the sheep.

The East Fork herd currently uses Coldwater, Cattle, and parts of Cow Canyon as wintering and lambing grounds; the wilderness boundaries should abut inholdings in these canyons, and efforts should be made to buy out these inholdings. Incidentally, there are still some beautiful mines in the upper parts of Coldwater, in Allison Gulch, and at Bighorn Mine; these offer a second reason for including these areas in the wilderness, in spite of the inholdings. Bighorn rams (no ewes) are on the west slopes of San Antonio Canyon above Baldy Village from December through at least March; further development in this canyon is likely to push them off much-needed winter forage. In late spring and early summer parts of the East Fork herd are found near Rattlesnake Peak, below the East Fork Narrows, and on Pine Mountain Ridge, in spite of the fact that the latter has been burned and logged. For the last three years I have seen bighorn on these burned and logged areas in May as I take my ecology class through the area on a backpacking trip. The East Fork herd moves over Pine and Dawson in early summer around Stockton Flats in the upper reaches of Lytle Creek, at least the north and middle forks. No roads should ever be permitted in this area, such as those occasionally proposed for the Baldy ski area.

William T. Dresser, Forest Supervisor, page 2

I know that the sheep are found in these areas from personal experience. The fine California Fish and Game report by Dick Weaver details much of the movements of, and areas used by, the East Fork herd. The boundaries of this wilderness must be drawn to accomodate the needs of this herd. They cannot change their habits if political expedience dictates other boundaries. Please use the Weaver report to determine what the proper boundaries should be. No other line of reasoning is adequate to protect the East Fork herd.

Most sincerely,

William O. Wirtz, II
Associate Professor
of Zoology

BOARD OF EDITORS
ECOLOGY AND ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS

RICHARD J. VOGL
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, LOS ANGELES
LOS ANGELES, CA 90032

May 18, 1972

Angeles National Forest Wilderness Hearing

Gentlemen:

I would like to go on record as favoring the proposed Sierra Club boundary over the U. S. Forest Service boundary for the proposed Wilderness Area in the San Gabriel Mountains, Angeles National Forest. I believe that the proposed Sierra Club boundary is better because:

1.) It will provide a buffer zone between existing or potential development and the existing bighorn sheep ranges. If the proposed boundary should coincide with the boundary of the bighorn sheep range, as does part of the proposed Forest Service boundary, and development and activity of any sort meets that boundary, surely the already minimal range of the bighorn sheep will shrink as the animals avoid these encroachments.

2.) The broader acreage encompassed by the Sierra Club makes more sense because, except for a few level areas, the San Gabriel Mountains are too steep, too tectonically unstable, and the soil mantle too fragile to be developed for intense recreational use by heavy footed or motorized man.

3.) This area would lend itself well to the wilderness status because fire suppression and control above 7,000 ft. elevation is considered unnecessary because the generally discontinuous understory and steep eroding slopes make large scale and spreading fires almost an impossibility. Lightning-caused fires above 5,000 ft. could only benefit the wildlife, including the bighorn sheep in the area, by recycling the nutrients and rejuvenating the vegetation. Some managers have stated that 9/10 of wildlife management is "people management" and the rest is involved in creating favorable habitats. I believe that establishing the largest possible wilderness area would accomplish this "people management", particularly for the shy bighorn, and letting natural fire return to the landscape would accomplish the habitat improvement by providing healthy herbage and a mosaic pattern of various successional stages providing necessary diversity for this endangered species.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Vogl

Richard J. Vogl
Professor

Mr. John E. McGuire, Chief
U. S. Forest Service
14th & Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington D.C., 20520

April 10, 1973

Dear Mr. McGuire,

For nineteen years we have used the San Gabriel Mountains as a field laboratory for teaching the biological sciences. The natural ecosystems have been suffering numerous disruptive incursions during this period. What remains should be saved from further destruction if we are to have a future in field education. We believe this to be of utmost importance. Consequently, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area should contain at least the entire range of the East Fork sheep herd, including the East Fork Narrows, Allison Gulch, Coldwater Canyon and Dawson Peak. The sheep are but a symbol of the ecosystem which urgently needs protection.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Beeks
Chairman, Life Science Div.
Chaffey College
Alta Loma, Calif., 91701

cc: Senator Mike Mansfield
Senator Lee Metcalf

CITRUS COLLEGE
CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
18824 EAST FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
AZUSA, CALIFORNIA 91702

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DR. ROBERT D. HAUGH
PRESIDENT
AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE 335-0821

Dept. of Biology
Citrus Community College
Azusa, California 91702

31 January 1974

Dear Congressman Veysey,

I am a native of southern California and a long-term user and enjoyer of many areas of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests and it has recently come to my attention that a bill will soon be introduced in the Congress to establish a natural preserve for the bighorn sheep in southern California. I was gratified to learn of such proposed legislation and offer you my utmost thanks for your concern in this matter of conservation.

At the time of this letter writing I am told that the U.S. Forest Service is not definitely committed as yet to any fixed boundary for such a preserve. And the Forest Service study boundary is inadequate as it now stands in that it omits the upper North Fork of Lytle Creek, Pine Mountain Ridge, the Narrows of the East Fork San Gabriel River, Allison Gulch, Coldwater Canyon, and Bichota Canyon. My students and I, along with others here at Citrus Community College, have used and will continue to use whenever possible this omitted area for hiking, backpacking and field trips in general. In fact, the California State Department of Fish and Game claim that much of this area is important summer or winter range for the bighorn sheep.

I would therefore appreciate it very much if you would introduce legislation to establish Sheep Mountain Wilderness in southern California, to include the entire range of the bighorn, and the specific areas mentioned in the above paragraph now omitted. Thanking you very much for this I remain

Sincerely yours,
Glenn A. Gorelick
Glenn A. Gorelick

cc: Sens, Tunney, Cranston

CITRUS COLLEGE
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 AZUSA, CALIFORNIA 91702

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ROBERT D. HAUGH
 PRESIDENT
 AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE 245-0521

March 20, 1973

Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief, Forest Service
 United States Department of Agriculture
 South Building
 12th and Independence
 Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. McGuire:

The Physical Science Department of Citrus College believes the Sheep Mountain region of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests is quite unique in its physical and biological aspects. Thus, it certainly deserves the protection of being designated a wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Its proximity to the large Los Angeles metropolitan area makes this region especially vulnerable to misuse, but fortunately, wilderness designation will maintain an especially valuable locale for many activities. These activities include scientific studies of many types, as there are 6 colleges or universities located within a very few miles of the region. (The number is much higher if we consider the individual colleges of the Claremont group.) But the opportunities for wilderness experience for scouts and similar groups is very important and must also be mentioned.

Obviously, proper boundaries are a must, and it is our opinion that the currently remaining range of the Nelson bighorn sheep must be included as wilderness. Thus, the Pine Mountain and Dawson Peak areas on the San Bernardino Forest, and the Coldwater, Narrows, and Allison areas on the Angeles Forest are essential for wilderness. These regions are an important part of the range of the East Fork Herd, as outlined in the 1972 Weaver Report by the California Department of Fish and Game.

We would appreciate being informed of any future opportunities for public involvement in this matter.

Yours truly,

H E Waldorf

H. E. Waldorf, Chairman
 Physical Science Department

HEW:be

CITRUS COLLEGE
CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
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ROBERT D. HAUGH
 PRESIDENT
 AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

—
 TELEPHONE 335-0521

February 28, 1973

Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief, Forest Service
 United States Department Of Agriculture
 South Building
 12th and Independence
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McGuire,

The members of the Citrus College Biology Department strongly urge you to designate the Sheep Mountain Region of the Angeles National Forest and San Bernardino National Forest as a Wilderness Area. We feel the existant herds of bighorn sheep in this region should be offered all possible protection from human intrusion and exclusion from their preferred habitat.

It is our opinion that the Wilderness Area should include all the important bighorn sheep habitat as designated in the California Department of Fish and Game study by Richard Weaver, et al. The Narrows region of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, the upper reaches of Coldwater Canyon, and the Dawson Peak area in the San Bernardino National Forest should all be included within the proposal Wilderness Area for maximum protection of the bighorn sheep and their habitat.

Respectfully yours,

August Conklin

Dr. August Conklin
 Department Chairman, Biological Sciences

**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY,
POMONA**

3801 West Temple Avenue

Pomona, California 91768

January 31, 1974

Congressman Victor Veysey
House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Veysey:

I am writing as a professional zoologist to urge you to introduce legislation to establish the Sheep Mountain Wilderness in the San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California. With increasingly heavy use of this area and repeated demands for new roads and recreational facilities, the existing herds of bighorn sheep in this region should be given all possible protection from human disturbance of their habitat.

According to a recent report by Richard Weaver, et al. of the California Department of Fish and Game, bighorn in the San Gabriel Mountains appear to exhibit a wider range of movements than is characteristic of bighorn in other parts of Southern California. One of my graduate students currently is conducting a study of bighorn movement patterns here, and their response to human disturbance. Although his study is not yet complete and we hope to get more detailed information by outfitting several bighorn with radio transmitters, his data do confirm the need for a large area with a limited amount of human use.

Bighorn are particularly intolerant of people when people are above them. When repeatedly faced with this situation, they may abandon favored areas and stop using long-established routes of travel. Because the movement patterns of bighorn are acquired through learning (essentially, follow the leader), a prolonged interruption of the use of a certain trail or area may mean that it will be abandoned permanently. Bighorn are almost unique among the larger mammals in lacking a strong dispersal instinct.

Congressman Veysey

Page-2

January 31, 1974

Since the San Gabriel Mountains population of Nelson bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni) evidently is the largest for this subspecies anywhere in California, and since it also is the one most likely to suffer from excessive disturbance, appropriate steps must be taken now to insure its survival. Creation of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness, including Coldwater Canyon, the Narrows of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, Pine Mountain Ridge, Dawson Peak, and the upper North Fork of Lytle Creek, will be a very important step in providing for the proper management of the bighorn resource.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn R. Stewart, Ph.D.
Professor of Zoology
Biological Sciences
Department

GRS:jw

cc: Senator Cranston
Senator Tunney
✓ Bob McDonnell

**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY,
POMONA**

3801 West Temple Avenue

Pomona, California 91768

March 30, 1973

Mr. John McGuire, Chief
The Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. McGuire:

Allow me to include myself and my wife among those asking you to expand the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area to the full size recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game Study of last year. This would include the East Fork Narrows, Allison Gulch, Coldwater Canyon and Dawson Peak.

The value of preserving this habitat at the larger size outweighs, I believe, any consideration for reducing it. The sheep are a fascinating and little experienced relic of our past, one that should provide many lessons for ourselves and our children. The larger range means that there should be more of them and, thus, more opportunities to enjoy the thrill of seeing them and learning about them. This is quite apart from any scientific value they may have to professional zoologists and other scholars.

Hoping that you will accede to this and the many other requests to expand the currently proposed boundaries, I am, as one more concerned citizen,

Sincerely yours,

SAK.

Stephen A. Kaufman
Lecturer
Department of Urban Planning
School of Environmental Design

SAK:pr

bcc: Bob McDondell



Center for California Public Affairs

226 West Foothill Boulevard, Claremont 91711 (714) 624-5212 An Affiliate of the Claremont Colleges

March 30, 1973

Mr. John McGuire
Chief
U. S. Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

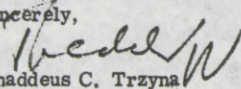
Dear Mr. McGuire:

I was pleased to see the Sheep Mountain wilderness included in the Forest Service's list of wilderness study areas. Though it is only a few miles from the edge of the Los Angeles suburbs, this area provides habitat for one of the last remaining herds of bighorn sheep in Southern California.

However, the wilderness area now proposed for study does not include the entire range of the sheep, which extends into the rugged Narrows of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, Allison Gulch, Dawson Peak, and Coldwater Canyon. None of these areas was included in the Forest Service Proposal, yet they were identified in a recent report of the California Department of Fish and Game as important parts of the sheep habitat.

I would urge the Forest Service to extend the study area to include these areas. Only by including at least all of the known habitat in the study area can a sure determination be made that this important wildlife resource will be protected.

Sincerely,


Thaddeus C. Trzyna
President

ms

Mr. John. R. McGuire, Chief
U. S. Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
South Building
12th and Independence
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. McGuire:

As you know, preserving our remaining wildreness is of great concern to the Boy Scouts of America. We in the San Gabriel Valley Council believe that we have a unique area close at hand, which should be included in the National Wildreness Preservation System. This is the proposed Sheep Mountain Wildreness Area in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests, which contains some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Southern California, and is the home of a remnant band of Nelson Bighorn Sheep (an endangered species). We are sure that you appreciate the value of such a unique area, within a few miles of our cities, for providing the outdoor experiences which are the very foundation of the Boy Scout program.

Based on studies by the California Division of Fish and Game, the boundaries for this wilderness--to be effective in preserving the sheep herd--should specifically include the East Fork Narrows, Allison Gulch, and Coldwater Canyon in the Angeles Forest, and the Dawson Peak region in the San Bernardino Forest.

On February 27, 1973, our Board of Directors voted unanimously to urge the Forest Service to make a recommendation to Congress that the proposed Sheep Mountain region presently under study by your organization, and specifically including the present range of the bighorn sheep, be officially designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, with provision that Scouts and others may enter and hike, etc., within such area.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS J. ORLASKI
Scout Executive

FJO/jn
cc: James T. Sharpsteen

GLACIER PRIMITIVE AREA, SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST, WYO.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1976

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

The subcommittee met at 11:30 a.m., pursuant to other business, in room 304, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. John Melcher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MELCHER. We will now hear from our good colleague from Wyoming on H.R. 9265, the Glacier Wilderness proposal. There are other similar bills that contain a number of provisions to designate either wilderness or a study area, asking for a study area with the possibility of wilderness, but for the purposes of our hearing record this morning H.R. 9265 will be the only one considered, and H.R. 9265, without objection, will be printed in the record at this point.

Included also, without objection, will be the departmental report on H.R. 9265.

[H.R. 9265 and departmental report follow:]

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 9265

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 1975

Mr. RONCALIO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To designate certain lands 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 section 3 (b) of the Wilderness Act
4 (78 Stat. 890), the area in the Shoshone National Forest
5 in Wyoming classified as the Glacier Primitive Area, with
6 additions thereto and deletions therefrom, which area com-
7 prises approximately one hundred ninety-six thousand acres
8 and which is generally depicted on a map entitled "Glacier
9 Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1973, is hereby desig-
10 nated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the
11 National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be

1 known as the Glacier Wilderness. The map and a descrip-
2 tion of the boundary shall be on file and available for public
3 inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture.

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

13 SEC. 3. The Glacier Wilderness shall be administered by
14 the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provi-
15 sions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by
16 that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in
17 such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act
18 shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this
19 Act.

20 SEC. 4. The Glacier Primitive Area is hereby abolished.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

September 17, 1976

Honorable James A. Haley
Chairman, Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We would like to offer our views on H.R. 3507, a bill "To designate certain lands as wilderness."

Insofar as it affects the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture, we strongly recommend that H.R. 3507 be enacted. We defer to the Department of the Interior regarding section 1 of the bill which would designate as wilderness certain areas within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890) established the National Wilderness Preservation System. Subsection 3(b) of the Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to review, within ten years, each national forest area then classified as "primitive", as to its suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness. The Act provides that the Secretary is to report his findings to the President, and the President is to submit his recommendations to the Congress.

The six national forest wilderness proposals included in H.R. 3507, totaling 988,350 acres, resulted from a review of the corresponding primitive areas in accordance with the review procedures set forth by the Wilderness Act. The Secretary of Agriculture submitted a report of his findings on each of the areas to the President. The President submitted his recommendations to the Congress on March 29, 1968, for the Flat Tops and Spanish Peaks proposals, on January 17, 1969, for the High Uintas proposal, and on February 8, 1972, for the Eagles Nest, Aldo Leopold, and Glacier proposals. These recommendations are embodied in their entirety in H.R. 3507.

We believe each of the national forest areas proposed for wilderness designation by H.R. 3507 meets the definition of wilderness contained in subsection 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Each area will make its own unique contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The specific features of each area are fully discussed in our reports which accompanied the President's recommendations to Congress.

Environmental statements relating to the proposed wilderness areas have been prepared pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (83 Stat. 852).

Honorable James A. Haley

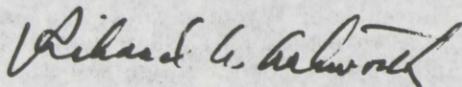
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The national forest areas proposed for wilderness designation by H.R. 3507 are under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and are being administered as parts of the National Forest System. Consequently, no new budget authority nor additional appropriations would be required by enactment of the proposed legislation.

We note an error in line 22 of section 2(d) of H.R. 3507 in that "Black Range" should be substituted for "Aldo Leopold". We regret that the draft bill which we provided with our proposal also contained this error. There is no Aldo Leopold Primitive Area. Rather, the Black Range Primitive Area is the basic unit which, with certain additions and deletions, would form the Aldo Leopold Wilderness.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report and that enactment of legislation to designate the national forest wilderness areas included in H.R. 3507 would be consistent with the Administration's objectives.

Sincerely,



RICHARD A. ASHWORTH
Deputy Under Secretary

Mr. MELCHER. Teno, please proceed.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TENO RONCALIO, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING**

Mr. RONCALIO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am happy to have this as perhaps the last appearance you and I can have on this committee. I wish the chairman good luck in his race for the Senate, and I know he will be elected and will continue to serve the area we love so much.

I am pleased to recommend to the subcommittee the enactment of H.R. 9265, because I believe it continues the policies both of us have, Mr. Chairman, to take those precious areas within our two States that should be preserved, and ought to be preserved from the socioeconomic impacts now apparent in both States and now underway and preserve them for the generations to come.

There are three such areas in Wyoming, and this is one of the three. The other is the Proposje, and the other is Cloud Peak Wilderness Area. I should like to ask unanimous consent that we insert in the record a letter from Governor Herschler of Wyoming in support of this bill, and I would like the record to ask also, Mr. Chairman, that my full statement be admitted and I will refer to highlights of it.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection.

Mr. RONCALIO. I would like to have the record refer to Mr. Shoemaker, who was at one time on the force and worked in the Crystal Valley of Colorado and was one of the pioneers in developing conservation of sensitive areas in the Roaring Fork Valley and in the 40 miles between Aspen, Colo., and Greenwood Springs, the confluence of the Roaring Fork with the Colorado River.

I have the letter.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection that letter will be made part of the record.

[The prepared statement referred to and the letters from Governor Herschler and Mr. Shoemaker, follow:]

HR 9265
GLACIER WILDERNESS AREA
STATEMENT BY TENO RONCALIO

MR. CHAIRMAN:

THE PROPOSED GLACIER WILDERNESS AREA IS LOCATED IN THE SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST, HIGH ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE GREAT CONTINENTAL DIVIDE IN THE WIND RIVER MOUNTAIN RANGE IN NORTHWESTERN WYOMING. NORTHWESTERN WYOMING CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST NATURAL SCENIC CREATIONS IN AMERICA--YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, THE GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, THE ABSAROKA MOUNTAIN RANGE, AND THE SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST, THE FIRST NATIONAL FOREST SET ASIDE FOR THE PUBLIC'S ENJOYMENT BY CONGRESS IN 1891.

THE GLACIER WILDERNESS AREA IS SITUATED APPROXIMATELY 50 MILES EAST OF JACKSON AND 3 MILES SOUTH OF DuBois, WYOMING. ITS NAME IS DERIVED BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE LARGEST GLACIERS WITHIN THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES. FORTY-FOUR GLACIERS, RANGING IN SIZE FROM OVER 1,000 ACRES TO AS LITTLE AS 20 ACRES ARE LOCATED WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES. RUGGET PEAKS, CIRQUES, SADDLES, DEEP PRECIPITOUS CANYONS, AND LARGE ALPINE PLATEAUS WITH ROCK-STREWN MEADOWS DOMINATE THIS SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE. THIS AREA CONTAINS ONE OF THE LARGEST HERDS OF BIG HORN SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES ARE FOUND HERE. BIG AND SMALL GAME SPECIES PROVIDE QUALITY HUNTING IN SEASON AND ENJOYABLE OBSERVATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THERE ARE OVER 500 NATURAL LAKES WITHIN THE AREA WHICH FURNISH THE ANGLERS EXCELLENT FISHING FOR FIVE SPECIES OF TROUT. THESE RECREATIONAL PURSUITS WILL CONTINUE UNDER WILDERNESS PROTECTION, BUT MORE EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON PRESERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

WYOMING WITH ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE ENERGY GROWTH ALSO MUST PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS FOR POPULATION IMPACT PROBLEMS. THIS GLACIER WILDERNESS AREA WILL THUS PRESERVE THIS SCENIC ALPINE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THERE ARE FOUR CATTLE AND HORSE RANGE ALLOTMENTS AND ONE DOMESTIC SHEEP ALLOTMENT LOCATED PARTLY OR ENTIRELY WITHIN THE AREA. WHERE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED GRAZING IS A RECOGNIZED ENTITY, PERMITTED BY THE 1964 WILDERNESS ACT, SUCH USE WILL CONTINUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT. EXCEPT FOR A FEW OUTFITTERS' CABINS AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES AT SIMPSON LAKE AND A SHORT SEGMENT OF AN UNIMPROVED JEEP TRAIL WHICH CROSSES THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE THROUGH MARION LAKE, THE AREA HAS PRISTINE WILDERNESS CONDITIONS. THE JEEP TRAIL WHICH CROSSES THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED LONG AGO AND ALLOWED TO REVERT BACK TO NATURE AND WILL BE CLOSED UNDER THE WILDERNESS CLASSIFICATION. ROAD CLOSURES WERE ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER OF 1974 TO ROSS LAKE IN THE WHISKEY MOUNTAIN AREA AND THE ROAD BLOCKED INTO MOON LAKE. ACCESS IS ALREADY DENIED TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN THE ENTIRE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA EXCEPT FOR NECESSARY STATE GAME MANAGEMENT PURPOSES WHICH CAN BE CONTINUED UNDER THE WILDERNESS ACT. THEREFORE THE ISSUE OF VEHICULAR ACCESS SHOULD NOT BE A MAJOR ISSUE WITH THIS BILL. THE OWNER OF THE CABINS AT SIMPSON LAKE IS AGREEABLE TO THEIR REMOVAL BY 1984, OR OTHER AGREED UPON PERIOD. THESE MINOR NON-CONFORMING INTRUSIONS PRESENT NO OBSTACLE IN ASSURING WILDERNESS PROTECTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE SEEN THIS AREA, WALKED ITS TRAILS, TALKED WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS IN COMMUNITIES AND RANCHES SURROUNDING THIS WILDERNESS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE ARE IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSAL. I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT MINOR CHANGES IN THE WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES IF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE.



WYOMING
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CHEYENNE

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

June 28, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher
Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee
House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
1324 House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

This is in reference to your Subcommittee's hearings on H.R. 9265, a bill introduced by Congressman Roncalio to create the Glacier Wilderness Area. I support the creation of the Glacier Wilderness, in order to maintain certain irreplaceable values, such as the wilderness game and plant habitat. Establishment of this wilderness area would be consistent with attempts to maintain a balance among public access, maintenance of roadless areas, and fish and wildlife management.

This portion of the Shoshone National Forest is the prime area in Wyoming for wilderness consideration. It appears to be the least controversial of the three Wyoming areas now before Congress.

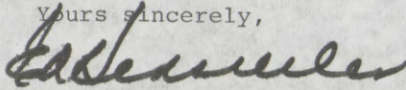
Congressman Roncalio has conducted a number of meetings with citizens in the area. He has received comments and has thoroughly studied the situation for a number of years. He has negotiated several boundary compromises in order to satisfy local demands. I understand that the Torrey Creek area has been excluded. Given the expertise of

The Honorable John Melcher
Page Two
June 28, 1976

Congressman Roncalio on this subject, he is in the position to best represent the State's interests with regard to the final boundaries.

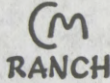
I urge your Subcommittee to take prompt and favorable action in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Earl Thomas", written in a cursive style.

EH/dsb

cc: The Honorable Teno Roncalio
The Honorable Gale McGee
The Honorable Clifford Hansen
Mr. Earl Thomas, Game and Fish Department



Dubois, Wyo. 82513

Telephone 307-455-2331

June 25, 1976

Leslie E. Shoemaker

Alice E. Shoemaker

The Honorable Teno Roncalio,
House of Representatives,
1529 Longworth Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Teno:

We have not continued to be active in decisions affecting the north boundary of the Glacier Primitive Area because of our financial interest in the cabins at Simpson Lake. We want to avoid a general belief that could prevail that our decisions were affected by that situation.

We favor the inclusion of the entire Jakey's Fork Basin in the Wilderness Area, with those exceptions as previously noted, but we are not in a financial position to amortize our investment in the Simpson cabins without reasonable compensation if we have to eliminate them.

Our very successful use of the cabins through the years is a substantial part of our business, and the availability of such an experience brings many guests to the ranch who might not otherwise come. We would be reluctant to give them up, but would do so to see the area included in Wilderness. We are thinking that the value of the cabins and our use is approximately \$60,000, of course to be negotiated.

In determination of the boundary of the Wilderness, we do feel strongly that Whiskey Mountain should be included within the Wilderness. Also, the boundary proposed by the Forest Service may prove embarrassing to that agency if they try to establish and enforce it.

Snowmobile use has practically no influence on decisions affecting the Jakey's Fork Basin because this area is not commonly used. Extremely limited use would be made of it if there were no restrictions.

I hope you will bring this brief statement to the attention of your committee.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie E. Shoemaker

C/C Ms. Leslie Petersen

Mr. RONCALIO. Mr. Chairman, this is virtually all primitive area now. As my statement indicates, I have some firsthand knowledge of the areas in question and I believe it will be incumbent upon the Government to settle, in effect, with Mr. Shoemaker on those improvements that he still has there, and the use of which are vital to the continuation of a resort operation that he has had for a good many years.

This is the least controversial of the three bills now before this committee, looking toward wilderness areas in Wyoming, and I am sure that the committee, or the chairman, if they have any particular questions on this and would want a more objective, professional answer to these questions, those will come either from the Chief, who is here, or from Bert Koehler, whom I would be happy to introduce if I am still here and if we are not over on the floor.

May I say of Mr. Koehler while he is here that he is from Cheyenne, Wyo., and is Wyoming field representative of the Wilderness Society. He has a master's degree in resource planning from the University of Wyoming, and he is one of the founders of the Wyoming Citizens Lobby, which works with the Wyoming Legislature, and he is close to me and my staff, and he has given us the benefit of his expertise in these matters.

Another witness you have is Mr. Brec Cook of the Wilderness Society, one of my former legislative assistants, and one whose services we miss on my staff. But he is going on to bigger and greater things.

That is the end of my appearance. I hope the bills move apace and that the least controversial of the three will move ahead in this session, which I think is necessary.

There is one more that I have agreed to sponsor also, but Senator Clifford Hansen will move on that first, and that is over in his portion of the State in the high country east of Jackson Valley, and then there is the real keg of worms called the Laramie Peak Wilderness which will come up next year.

That concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. A few years ago I reviewed the proposed area, the Glacier Wilderness Area, by airplane, and I was impressed with its magnificence.

What does your bill allow for? You refer to the map of March 1973. What does it allow for on the question in red there, that area in red?

Mr. RONCALIO. You mean what does it allow in the way of authorized funds for acquisition?

Mr. MELCHER. No. Do you include that area in red or not?

Mr. RONCALIO. The bill I have would include area 3, which is the area in red. Because of its sensitive value to the mountain sheep, it is included.

Mr. MELCHER. Does the State of Wyoming agree now to that?

Mr. RONCALIO. I believe the letter from the Governor would support that.

Mr. MELCHER. It was controversial before?

Mr. RONCALIO. Yes. It was before, but it has been cleaned up. A lot of things have been cleaned up in the State of Wyoming—

Mr. MELCHER. Do I gather from the letter that endorses the bill that he is in favor of this?

Mr. RONCALIO. I would certainly say so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. What about the road that went in there that the trout fishermen wanted to use and the Forest Service wanted to close?

Mr. RONCALIO. There were two roads. I would rather allude to the latest word, because I have not looked at this for a couple of months.

Mr. MELCHER. All right, Forest Service, why don't you tell us?

Mr. RESLER. The basic concern we would have is the nonconforming types of inclusions in the wilderness system itself. The administration's proposal, Mr. Chairman, as you know, includes the bulk of the area included in Mr. Roncalio's bill. There are two or three variations that we would prefer not to see in—

Mr. MELCHER. Does the bill close the road or does it not close the road?

Mr. RESLER. In our bill, that section would be left out. It would be closed, and in wilderness under Mr. Roncalio's bill.

Mr. MELCHER. And you disagree with that?

Mr. RESLER. Yes; because of the physical presence of that road, that area should not be wilderness.

Mr. MELCHER. You would rather close it, Teno?

Mr. RONCALIO. I would rather close it. I would rather start making mistakes on the side of preservation. I see so many mistakes taking place on the other side. I don't think it is all that vital. This happens in every wilderness area, not only this one.

You know, Mr. Chairman, you have seen it in a dozen bills of your own. I haven't seen that road in about 4 years.

Mr. MELCHER. I flew over it about 3 years ago, and it is a road, and if I were the Forest Service, I think I would want to keep it open, too, because it isn't going to go away very quickly. I expect the signs of the road would go away after a few decades, but not immediately.

I am glad the situation on the Sheep Mountain area has been cleared up—you don't think it has been?

Mr. MUMMA. No, sir, unless Mr. Roncalio has different information. The letter we had from the recently retired manager of the Game and Fish Department approves excluding the Whisky Mountain area.

Mr. MELCHER. Wait a minute. Am I misreading it?

Mr. RESLER. There are two maps here, Mr. Chairman. This entire area is included in Mr. Roncalio's bill.

Mr. MELCHER. In H.R. 9265?

Mr. RESLER. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. All right.

Mr. RESLER. These color codes merely show the distinctions between what we are proposing and Mr. Roncalio's bill.

Mr. MELCHER. When you say you received testimony from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, that has no official bearing on their current position?

Mr. MUMMA. No. We got a statement from Jim White, who recently retired. We do have that letter. It is my understanding that the department's position has not changed.

Mr. RONCALIO. If you would like an indication that the position has changed, we will get it for you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MELCHER. I have to assume from the Governor's letter that at least as far as the Governor is concerned, he is in support of the bill.

Mr. RONCALIO. I would like to remind the chairman that we go through this on everything. We had 35 acres to add, and the former officials wanted it included, and the Governor did not want it included. Consequently it stayed in a state of limbo for 5 years.

Mr. MELCHER. This bill certainly stayed in the state of limbo for 5 years, or at least 3 years as far as I know, because I think it was 3 or 4 years ago that I flew over the area, and the bill had the same points in contention then, whether or not to have the area identified in red within the wilderness bill, and the corridor concerning that road.

Mr. RONCALIO. I am sure the following witnesses can throw more light on this than I can.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Teno.

Mr. RONCALIO. Thank you very much.

Mr. MELCHER. We will hear from Mr. Rex Resler, Associate Chief, Forest Service.

STATEMENT OF REX RESLER, ASSOCIATE CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN W. MUMMA, FOREST SUPERVISOR, SHOSHONE NATURAL FOREST, AND R. K. "MIKE" GRISWOLD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. RESLER. I think in the interest of time, it probably would be easier for us to discuss very briefly the differences between the administration proposal, which we are proposing be enacted, and the differences between Mr. Roncalio's bill.

The chief area we are concerned with is the Whiskey Mountain area, which we are proposing be left out of the wilderness, because of its high values as far as bighorn sheep habitat are concerned, and the necessity for trapping and removing and exporting to other areas some 70 to 80 animals a year. It has been very effective in helping the transplanting program.

Now, the basic area can be managed essentially as it is, under present authorities, without being a wilderness and still provide the State an opportunity to make the entrapments and use vehicles to accommodate that purpose.

The dark green area that is shown on that map, we would propose to include in the wilderness, and that would bring our proposal to something like 183,000 acres, I believe, instead of some 200,000 acres in Mr. Roncalio's bill.

The area in yellow has a number of roads in it, and it is very heavily used by snowmobiles. The gentle terrain is so accessible that it would be quite difficult to manage as a separate management unit; as a portion of the wilderness, that is.

Mr. MELCHER. Is the yellow in H.R. 9265?

Mr. RESLER. Mr. Roncalio's bill; yes. It is that upper portion.

The basic concern we have with that is that it is close to a lake that is rather heavily used. It is not the most desirable boundary for wilderness. The line we propose is an escarpment or a sharp break in the topography.

Mr. MELCHER. I am familiar with it. I have viewed it.

Mr. RESLER. I think those are the key points, except that some resort cabins are included in the blue area. We have pictures that I would like to leave with you, Mr. Chairman, that show the kinds of developments contained in this area.

Mr. MELCHER. That resort area, if it is put into wilderness designation, how would you handle it?

Mr. RESLER. Under the present philosophy of management of the Wilderness Act, we would be obliged to buy out the property and, I think, attempt to restore it.

Mr. MELCHER. Attempt to do what?

Mr. RESLER. Attempt to restore the area, remove the buildings.

Mr. MELCHER. How much would it cost?

Mr. RESLER. Mr. Mumma?

Mr. MUMMA. The latest figure we have from the owner is about \$30,000.

Mr. RESLER. That is the value of the improvements as we understand it.

Mr. MUMMA. Those are his figures.

Mr. RESLER. Our preference, Mr. Chairman, is not to include that area in the wilderness. It provides a different form of recreational use. As far as protecting it in its present state, that can be done outside the Wilderness Act. We are primarily concerned with the inclusion in the wilderness of manmade features, including roads, that will tend to be present for many decades, or even centuries in some cases. We do not believe they ought to be in there.

Mr. MELCHER. Does the eastern boundary of that about the reservation in any area?

Mr. RESLER. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. Has the tribe expressed any position on this bill?

Mr. MUMMA. Yes; they have. They are interested in the area, that it be managed as a roadless area, with a provision that livestock grazing be permitted.

Mr. MELCHER. It is being managed as a roadless area? Does your answer imply that they are in favor of it staying a primitive area?

Mr. MUMMA. Primitive or wilderness.

Mr. MELCHER. Then they are in favor of the bill, as far as their boundary is concerned? They support the bill, because not only your proposals—none of them have anything to do with the tribe?

Mr. RESLER. That is correct.

Mr. MELCHER. We don't hear from the tribe sometimes, and it is important that we know their position on this.

Mr. RESLER. Under the Wilderness Act, of course, grazing could continue.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, Teno's testimony is to the effect that there are only four users. I don't know if one of them is the tribe. There are four cattle and horse allotments and one domestic sheep allotment.

Mr. MUMMA. Two of those allotments are under permit to the reservation.

Mr. MELCHER. To the tribe, which could include a lot of individuals.

Mr. MUMMA. There are actually two tribes on the reservation.

Mr. MELCHER. Is only one tribe involved?

Mr. MUMMA. The Shoshone and the Arapahoes have a joint council, and they each have an individual council, and the letter they furnished us is from both councils.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you.

Does staff have questions?

Mr. CRANDELL. Just one question, Mr. Chairman. This resort, is that a proper term for that facility? That conjures up a picture of people in bathing suits and diving boards.

Mr. RESLER. We have pictures here. It is more properly a series of three or four cabins.

Mr. CRANDELL. Is the land privately owned?

Mr. RESLER. No; it is under permit.

Mr. CRANDELL. Could this be considered as a prior right, like grazing, and handled in that way?

Mr. RESLER. We wouldn't treat it as a right rather as a privilege. It is a terminable permit.

Mr. CRANDELL. Like grazing?

Mr. RESLER. Yes; except under the Wilderness Act, the continuation of creature comfort type of accommodations would not be allowed.

Mr. MELCHER. If they stay there, they are going to have to have a road, aren't they?

Mr. RESLER. They could access it by livestock, but here, again, the basic Wilderness Act obviously frowns on those types of creature comforts.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much, Rex.

Mr. RESLER. Thank you.

Mr. MELCHER. We have Mr. Koehler here, who can answer some of our questions from the viewpoint of the Wyoming Wilderness Coalition and the Wyoming Outdoor Council. Mr. Koehler.

Mr. Koehler, I am going to make your entire testimony part of the record as if read at this point.

[The prepared statement of Bart Koehler follows:]

STATEMENT OF

BART KOEHLER

for

WYOMING WILDERNESS COALITION
and
THE WYOMING OUTDOOR COUNCIL

before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

on

GLACIER WILDERNESS, WYOMING

June 29, 1976

My name is Bart Koehler, and I am currently living in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I am employed as a regional representative for The Wilderness Society -- responsible for wilderness matters in Wyoming and northern Utah.

Today, I am speaking on behalf of the newly-formed Wyoming Wilderness Coalition, an ad-hoc citizen group that is dedicated to protecting wilderness, wild and scenic rivers and open space values in Wyoming; and on behalf of the Wyoming Outdoor Council-- a statewide federation of some 15 conservation organizations in Wyoming.

Over three years ago, I made a statement to this sub-committee concerning the Glacier Primitive Area and at that time I spoke on behalf of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, and supported a wilderness area of some 196,000 acres. The legislative process did not act favorably on Glacier at that time. Today, I have returned to offer similar testimony, with the hope that Congress will resolve this issue and make Glacier a valuable addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. For your information, I have visited the Glacier area several times, and have seen most of the lands that are under question at this hearing.

Despite the fact that short notice of the hearing severely limited the availability of Wyoming people to come here and testify, ... it is with great pleasure that I can strongly support Congressman Roncalio's proposal to establish a 196,000 acre Glacier Wilderness Area in Wyoming.

Roncalio's proposal, HR 9265, accomplishes the following in the northern reaches of Wind River Mountain Range:

1. Retains Whiskey Mountain in Wilderness-- similar to its present Primitive Area status.
2. Includes the lower Jakey's Fork --the commendable addition proposed by the Forest Service (Addition "A") .

3. It includes the Ross Lake Corridor (now closed to all motorized vehicles)
4. Includes the Trail Lake Area.
5. Excludes the Torrey Creek trailhead. (in agreement with the F.S. proposal)
6. It allows for vehicular access to the Moon Lake area.
6. It includes the remainder of the Jakey's Fork drainage that was excluded by the Forest Service. (Simpson Lake, Moon Lake, Union Lake, etc.)

I would like to briefly describe the major components of the Roncalio Bill --HR 9265:

1. Torrey Creek -- it recommends the exclusion of the area in accordance with the Forest Service proposal.
2. Trail Lake -- It recommends that the area be retained in wilderness protection, and be utilized as an undisturbed backdrop for Trail Lake and an accessible entry into the wilderness. (nothing in the Wilderness Act states that an area has to be isolated from the sights and sounds of civilization)
3. Lower Jakey's Fork-Wasson-Soapstone Creeks -- It includes this valuable addition proposed by the Forest Service in 1973(as area A).
4. Ross Lake Corridor-- It includes this corridor (former area A-2) which has since been closed to off-road vehicle traffic. The road(or jeep trail) posed resource problems by causing excessive impact on Ross Lake, and the trail presented a definite safety hazard to travellers.
5. Upper Jakey's Fork -Simpson Lake Area -- It includes the upper 1/3 of Jakey's Fork; an area of spectacular scenic beauty and high wilderness value. The Forest Service proposal of 1973 did not include this area. Furthermore, HR 9265 offers an easily definable boundary on the western and northern boundaries of the area -- something that is not offered by the Forest Service. (their boundary is ill-defined and hard to defend) On the northern fringe, HR 9265 offers the hydrographic divide between Jakey's Fork and Warm Springs Creek-Little Warm Springs Creek as the boundary; on the western fringe, it offers the Continental Divide as an easily definable boundary.

Additionally, the upper reaches of Jakey's Fork (Simpson Lake) serve as important summer range for a good size elk herd. In the past, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has felt that the elk herd would benefit from wilderness protection in Simpson Lake and that increased access or disturbance from vehicles would have damaging effects on the herd.

As you know, there are three primitive cabins along the eastern side of Simpson Lake. They are a very minor intrusion; in fact, the shelters are rapidly falling apart and will phase out of the scene before too long. The presence of these temporary structures should not cause the elimination of the Simpson Lake Area from wilderness protection.

6. Whiskey Mountain-- It (HR 9265) retains the area in wilderness protection. This will guarantee that the undisturbed character of the mountain (which contains many different peaks) will remain. This protection will definitely benefit the wilderness loving species of big game that inhabit the mountain -- the elk and the magnificent herd of big horn sheep.

The Forest Service often speaks of increasing the "management options" for Whiskey Mountain by eliminating the area from wilderness. I submit that all management options that could be contemplated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department can be retained if only the Forest Service would manage the area in wilderness and according to the Wilderness Act and the Department of Agriculture's Rules and Regulations regarding wilderness. Several sections of The Wilderness Act should be adhered to -- Sections 4(c) pertaining to administration of the area; Sec. 4(d) measures to be taken etc...; Sec. 4(d) (8) pertaining to the responsibility of the States in regard to fish and wildlife. Furthermore, in the Forest Service Rules and Regulations that apply to wilderness areas, Section 251.75 (c) directly applies to this situation; it is listed as follows:

(C) The Chief, Forest Service, may authorize occupancy and use of National Forest land by officers, employees, agencies, or agents of the Federal, State, and county governments to carry out the purposes of the Wilderness Act and will prescribe conditions under which motorized equipment, mechanical transport, aircraft, aircraft landing strips, heliports, helispots, installations, or structures may be used, transported, or installed by the Forest Service and its agents and by other Federal, State, or county agencies or their agents, to meet the minimum requirements for authorized activities to protect and administer the Wilderness and its resources. The Chief may also prescribe the conditions under which such equipment, transport, aircraft, installations, or structures may be used in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons, damage to property, or other purposes.

Fire has played an important role in creating the winter range that attracts the famous Whiskey Mountain Sheep Herd. Fire again can play an important role, under controlled burning policies, to insure that there is an ample production of forage for the wintering herd.

Finally, in regards to Whiskey Mountain, in 1973, the Sheep Technical Committee (composed of biologists from the BLM, Forest Service and The Wyo. Game and Fish) recommended that Whiskey Mountain remain in a wilderness condition in order to benefit the sheep herd. Part of this recommendation was based on the fact that no mechanized manipulation of the resources of the mountain were necessary or contemplated in the future.

Conflicts of Use

There may be some concern over conflicts of use in the area proposed by HR 9265. They are as follows:

1. Minerals-- no economic deposits.
2. Timber-- The lower Jakey's Fork is classed as "inoperable"; the remainder of Jakey's Fork and the rest of the additions are all "unregulated"-- which means that the areas are not organized for periodic harvest.
3. Off-Road Vehicles -- there is no authorized use of the Ross Lake Jeep Trail; Moon Lake, Simpson Lake, and virtually all of Jakey's Fork ^{are} ~~are~~ closed to all vehicles; and open only to foot and horse travel.

Conclusion

The Roncalio proposal for the Glacier Wilderness (HR 9265) of some 196,000 acres is a well researched and logical wilderness proposal. From a resource management standpoint, it protects existing wildland resources, offers full protection to the entire Jakey's Fork drainage system, and yet provides for vehicular access to the area. It provides for valuable wilderness protection for elk, mountain sheep, other species of wildlife, plus the trees. It does not "lock up" other economic resources. Finally, the area has received solid public support over the years for a wilderness that is comparable to the proposal offered by Congressman Roncalio.

There are no compelling reasons to oppose the Roncalio proposal -- HR 9265. In fact, all the data point up the need to protect the Glacier area in a wilderness status that is defined by the boundaries offered by Teno Roncalio today.

I speak for many Wyoming conservationists when I state that I strongly support HR 9265 and a Glacier Wilderness of some 196,000 acres.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bart Koehler

Bart Koehler

STATEMENT OF BART KOEHLER, WYOMING WILDERNESS COALITION AND WYOMING OUTDOOR COUNCIL

Mr. KOEHLER. That is all right with me.

Mr. MELCHER. I have questions, and perhaps staff has, too.

Do you know this is pretty primary, the area identified in red. That is to the west, the western portion of that is pretty primary for mountain sheep. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, as I understand it, has been exerting some management of that area?

Mr. KOEHLER. Yes.

Mr. MELCHER. Even though it is Federal land, it has a great interest in it.

I have no question that the Governor speaks for all the State departments. To your knowledge, do the Wyoming game and fish officials, the professionals, do they still feel that that ought to be outside the wilderness area?

Mr. KOEHLER. Congressman, that is an interesting question. I would say that I think Governor Herschler's statement is probably applicable at this time, since the leadership of the department has changed hands. The makeup of the commission, which as you are probably familiar with is an appointed commission, and it has virtually changed since the previous statements by the game and fish commission.

As you probably know, in 1971, we had the field hearings, and the game and fish department supported wilderness for Whiskey Run. Then in accordance with your request, in 1973, they did reverse their position somewhat.

The department itself had mixed feelings on it in 1973, and I have been on the phone with them for several days.

A biologist on the —

Mr. MELCHER. When you say "the department"—

Mr. KOEHLER. The Department of Game and Fish, which made a recommendation to the commission, and the commission made a recommendation to this committee.

There is an organization called the Sheep Technical Committee, which is composed of the department biologists, and Bureau of Land Management biologists, and there is a joint ownership pattern up there.

Collectively, when they were asked by the game and fish department what would be the best management for the area, the Sheep Technical Committee recommended wilderness for Whiskey Mountain. That was subsequently not listened to by the fish and game commission, but those are the biologists on the ground.

The other point that should be made, I believe, is the question of management options, for vehicle access, and whatever they may be. The game and fish director, now Don Dexter, was not sure what they meant. After reading descriptions by the Forest Service, I don't know what they meant. They say if it is in wilderness, you can't do certain things, but if it is not in wilderness, you can do anything you see fit.

With respect to the Forest Service guiding the use of wilderness areas in section 251.75(c), I believe that correctly applies to the situation, sir. It says, if you permit me to read this:

That the Chief of the Forest Service may authorize occupancy and the use of Forest Service land by officers, employees and agents of the Federal and State

governments, to carry out the purposes of the Wilderness Act, and will prescribe conditions under which motorized equipment, mechanical transport.

And it goes on with aircraft landing strips, and so forth, and refers to structures that may be used or installed by the Forest Service and its agents, and other State agencies or agents, to meet the minimum requirements for authorized activities to protect and administer the wilderness and its resources.

Now, from that, I would assume the sheep are part of the wilderness and its resources?

Mr. MELCHER. We don't care what their regulations say, if they defy what this committee believes is the Wilderness Act.

We get into this every now and then, too often to my liking, concerning various wilderness proposals that go through this subcommittee and through the full committee, and I think the act is pretty explicit. It says you can use a motorized vehicle for purposes of safety, and that is about it.

Mr. KOEHLER. Well, my reading of the act is probably different than yours, sir. It says that, "except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this act," and so forth.

Mr. MELCHER. One purpose of the act is to keep vehicles out. That is the basic thrust of the act.

Mr. KOEHLER. It is also the management of wilderness resources.

Mr. MELCHER. The management of the wilderness resources is to be done without bringing vehicles in. It is only safety that you can bring them in for, and if you want to apply a different set of rules, however you want to interpret their regulations, which in my judgment they are interpreting wrong, but that is just my judgment, but the act is explicit. You are to keep the vehicles out.

Mr. KOEHLER. Could I make another comment on the biologists recommendation, sir?

Mr. MELCHER. Yes.

Mr. KOEHLER. It is listed in my statement here. In conversations with Don Dexter, who is the assistant director of the Game and Fish Department, we did discuss the sheep question, which I think you should weigh carefully.

Mr. MELCHER. Let me interrupt a moment. Is it premised on the idea that since the mountain sheep are great, that the law would permit vehicles in managing the mountain sheep?

Mr. KOEHLER. That is what I am trying to get to, sir. In the Forest Service report, they do not see any need for any mechanized manipulation for the forage, which was a point in the 1972 hearings. Most of their trapping is done on the winter range, which is out of the wilderness boundary, on the lower part of the mountain.

Mr. MELCHER. What I want to be sure of is that whatever the recommendation is in the Game and Fish Department in Wyoming on how we treat this, is not based on some idea that they are going to use vehicles in that area.

Frankly, all I am concerned with is that we do not interfere to the harm of that herd of mountain sheep.

Mr. KOEHLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. Now, if there is anything that, you now, the Forest Service isn't looking at this lightly—

Mr. KOEHLER. I know that.

Mr. MELCHER. If they come in here strong, as they did 3 years ago, for excluding this because of the management of the mountain sheep, and somehow it is like coming back into a movie you have seen before. We are right where we were before, 3 years ago, when we were holding hearings on this, and this very point came up, and we deferred judgment to the State people, and the State people advised us they didn't think it should be put into wilderness, and that was the end of doing anything on the bill. That was 3 years ago.

Now, I guess we can assume that the management of this area is such that no wilderness values are going to be lost, but it is a magnificent area, and I don't think we should hold up the enacting of the Glacier Wilderness bill at this time because of this again, and because of that lake area where they would, the Forest Service, would define the boundary on the high country, and frankly, I don't know why you people don't want, or Teno for that matter, do not want to have the boundary on that high country and avoid that lake area where there is a road.

Mr. KOEHLER. Are you speaking of the Ross Lake corridor?

Mr. MELCHER. Yes.

Mr. KOEHLER. It is my understanding from conversations with the Reclamation and Land Division of the Shoshone National Forest that that road has been closed for several years.

Mr. MELCHER. Nobody goes to the lake anymore, is that right?

Mr. MUMMA. I think you are talking about two different areas.

Mr. KOEHLER. I am talking about this area here [indicating on map].

Mr. MELCHER. Excuse me. I was talking about the other one.

Can you answer my question there, why not the high areas as the Forest Service recommends it?

Mr. KOEHLER. Sir, personally, I would prefer to leave the area in. I believe the belief of the Wyoming Conservationist is that they hate to see areas lost, but with respect to compromising, I would feel that would be one area that we would not be very upset with if the boundary was brought back to the ridge.

Mr. MELCHER. All right.

Let's go back to the other area, the Ross Lake corridor, and that is where there is a road, in between the blue and the red areas?

Mr. KOEHLER. Yes; it is a jeep trail.

Mr. MELCHER. Do you feel strongly about that? If I were a fisherman, I might feel the other way.

Mr. KOEHLER. The area has been closed since September 3, 1974.

Mr. MELCHER. It is closed?

Mr. KOEHLER. Yes. I believe there are several reasons for the closure. I believe one of them was the fact that there are many people getting in close to Ross Lake, and they were having some definite impact on the fisheries, and also there were garbage and litter problems, and it is my understanding that the road is hazardous.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, you people know more about it than I do. Granted, anywhere you have a jeep trail where people come, you are going to have the signs of man, and you are going to have the litter anyway, if people are careless. It is a question of how much. You probably would have less litter if they are walking.

Mr. KOEHLER. They can't carry in as much. It is closed at this time.

Mr. MELCHER. It has been closed for 2 years.

Mr. KOEHLER. At least.

Mr. MELCHER. Now, what about this area in yellow, which is the area where there is an awful lot of snowmobiling? The Forest Service just testified that there is quite a bit of it left now.

Mr. KOEHLER. I guess our information must be different, sir, than what I have been getting from the Forest Service. It is my understanding that at the present time there is a vehicle closure in most of this area, virtually all of it. It roughly begins on this line here, and there is a closure section 32 here. This jeep trail is open to about here [indicating], and this access from Union Pass is open to about here [indicating]. This area from Union Lake south, including the Simpson Lake area, and the rest of this area here has been closed to vehicles, including snowmobiles. It is open to foot and horse trails since 1974.

The reason the yellow boundary was drawn here, and there are two key points here. One is that the gentleman who drew the boundaries is Les Shoemaker, who could not be here today on short notice. He did provide particular access to Moon Lake. Teno Roncalio had several requests to leave that access open.

This boundary here is not definable or defendable. Even though the Forest Service makes great claims that all boundaries should be extremely definable, this one is not. It crosses alongside of these cliffs here and comes down. It is extremely hard to define when you get on the east side of Simpson Lake. This is a timbered area.

Mr. MELCHER. I understand that, and from my recollection of where the boundary is, the topography in that area is rather vague, but that yellow area extends out a long ways. What is the boundary that you have established?

Mr. KOEHLER. The reason the yellow area goes out a long ways is that the boundary is intended to include the whole Jakey's Fork drainage system.

This is Little Warren Springs Creek in here, and Big Warren Springs Creek here.

Mr. MELCHER. The line between the yellow area, is that Jakey's Fork, or a trail?

Mr. KOEHLER. It is a trail here, and this trail going down from Moon Lake goes to Simpson, and it comes back up on the Continental Divide, which is fairly hard to mistake.

Mr. MELCHER. Usually.

The gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. WEAVER. No questions.

Mr. MELCHER. Staff?

Mr. TERRELL. You read your citation from the Forest Service regulations, and I assume that these are consistent with section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act. I know in 4(d) (1) there is a very definite provision for the use of roads and mechanized vehicles in Forest Service wilderness areas and in 4(c), it says "except as specifically provided for in this act, there shall be no commercial enterprise, and no permanent roads, et cetera, except for the minimum requirements," but under 4(d) (1) of the same act, it says that within wilderness areas designated, the use of aircraft and motorboats, where the uses have been

established, they may be permitted to continue under certain regulations and guidelines provided for by the Forest Service. Is that correct?

So you have a road in there now for the use of transporting these sheep out for restocking? That use could be permitted to continue under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, right?

Mr. KOEHLER. It could be. I am not quite sure which road you are talking about.

Mr. TERRELL. The ones used for restocking.

Mr. KOEHLER. I understand that is outside the forest boundaries.

Mr. TERRELL. They wanted to maintain —

Mr. RESLER. I would like to introduce Mr. John Mumma to answer specific questions you have raised.

There are two points I would like to make. No. 1, if this area was included in the wilderness system, we would not permit a continuation of motorized use unless we were directed to do so by this committee. We do not believe it is proper to continue that kind of use in the wilderness system. Second, we do not believe it is necessary to have the area in the wilderness system to accomplish the basic purpose which is protection of the habitat for those animals.

Under our proposals, the present system of entrapment and transporting of those animals could be continued without any problems at all.

There are something over 2 miles of constructed road in this area, as well as the jeep trails. These are points of concern to us, in that we do not like to see that kind of nonconformity in the wilderness system.

Mr. TERRELL. Is that provided by law?

Mr. RESLER. It has been so interpreted since 1964, and we don't even use them for our own purposes.

Mr. TERRELL. There are areas where roads are in existence and the use of such could be continued in order to protect the wilderness character of the area, that is all I am pointing out. Thank you.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, in my judgment, the proper interpretation would be that we designate that area as wilderness, and they could not bring a vehicle in to manage those sheep.

Mr. RESLER. That would be our interpretation.

Mr. MELCHER. However, there is nothing that prohibits this committee from writing into any proposed legislation definite language to say exactly what you can use that area for, and under what constraints, and I think it would be a little bit of wisdom and foresight on the part of this committee to do so in that regard, because I am afraid that a lot of the people who really feel that everything would work out lovely under the Wilderness Act with those sheep would not work out lovely in the future, because there would not be vehicles and there wouldn't be management tools that are now available. But there is nothing in the world that prevents the subcommittee from recommending to the full committee a bill that explicitly says what they can do in the area marked red in the Whiskey Mountain area.

It is Federal land, and if we want to write law and the committee and the Congress accepts it and the President signs it, we can say exactly how we want it to be managed. We do not have to constrain ourselves to the language of the Wilderness Act itself if we want to

be explicit in leaving an exception for management provisions. We can do that, and we probably will.

I think it would be improper for us to say that we are just going to designate that as wilderness and then assume that the Forest Service and, more specifically, the Game and Fish Department of Wyoming, would be able to do what they want to do in the proper management of the mountain sheep. We can set that up as a specific area, and say, "in this area it will be done this way," and that will take care of the situation without leading to a question.

Mr. KOEHLER. I believe this area might deserve that kind of protection, sir.

Mr. MELCHER. I kind of think it does. As I say, I flew over it—land that isn't as good as walking it, but you do get a concept of what is there, and it is a right fine area. But it deserves—there is a lot of forest land that is equally nice, that is not designated wilderness by an act of Congress, but what is unique about that is that that is where that herd likes to live part of the year. That is what is unique about it, and I think we should protect specifically, and I don't think we should get into a big, long argument that is going to stall the entire bill again on what does the Game and Fish Department of Wyoming think about it. I think we know pretty well what they think. I think they want a management to manage it, much the same as they have in the past, which evidently was successful, because it seems like they had a pretty good crop of mountain sheep there.

Mr. KOEHLER. I think I can agree with you, also, on another point, sir, that this does seem like a rerun of the movie. I was here 3 years ago, too, to testify on the same thing.

Mr. MELCHER. That is as far as that bill got.

Mr. KOEHLER. I would just as soon see it move.

I have one other point on the Simpson Lake area. I don't believe the Forest Service is correct that a road will be built to the Simpson Lake cabins. There are three cabins, and two are like sheds. There are no foundations under the cabins, and there is about 10 more years' use of them. I am sure you have input from Les Shoemaker, who does use the cabins at this time. I don't think there is sufficient intrusion to justify the elimination of the entire basin and the upper part of Jakey's Fork in the Roncalio bill, and I think it is an established use of the area, and the Wilderness Act realizes those kinds of uses.

We conservationists are definitely in support of the Roncalio bill, as you may assume we would be, and I would like to see, hopefully, some action that would take place in the House. I don't know whether the Senate will ever get around to doing anything or not, but it is our hope that we can move this along.

If there are more questions, I will be happy to answer them. There is no timber, or commercial timber there. I am sure if there were, the Forest Service would have brought it out this morning.

Mr. MELCHER. Thank you very much.

We are going to have to break up here in a minute for that vote, but before we do, I want Mr. Mumma to reply to this. That yellow area embraces 40 sections?

Mr. MUMMA. Roughly, 4,500 acres.

Mr. MELCHER. Roughly, 4,500 acres? That is about seven sections, then. It is not a big area, then?

Mr. MUMMA. No; it is not a big area.

Mr. MELCHER. What is the use there, or what was the use there last winter in snowmobiles?

Mr. MUMMA. We don't have exact figures for just the yellow area. Since you flew over the area, you are somewhat familiar with the rest of the country. The range here is extremely rough and rocky, and the range in the north is rocky. The Wind River Valley is aptly named.

This is the country [indicating on map] through here that they travel, so the use figures that we have are estimates of this area right through here in the Union Pass vicinity. Approximately 150 visitor-days of motorbike activity, approximately 150 days of four-wheel drive activity, and 2,000 visitor-days of snowmobile activity. Part of that is on this constructed road, and there are some jeep trails in there.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, what about that boundary in green, which you have established. What do you have to say about the topography there?

Mr. MUMMA. This boundary is just below the present road, and it is a fine escarpment, much like the edge of this table here. As Mr. Koehler pointed out, the boundary becomes less definable between this point and this point. However, because of the extensive amount of glaciation that has taken place in there, there are some well definable features in there. It is not on the Continental Divide, which is paramount throughout this other section. Throughout this section here, the divide is not very noticeable. This is rolling country. There are numerous open parks with some timber standing in there.

Mr. MELCHER. Would you identify Jakey's Fork for me?

Mr. MUMMA. Jakey's Fork is this drainage right here, sir.

If I might, I would also like to speak a bit about this controversial area called Whiskey Mountain. I am a wildlife biologist by training, and I have hiked in this area in the wintertime with the Bighorn Sheep Technical Committee. That area is one of the real, unique features of this wilderness. The other unique feature is that there are 44 active glaciers covering approximately 8,000 acres. There are four primary winter sites for bighorn sheep which summer in this country. Three of them are just off the forest, on BLM and on Wyoming game and fish lands. One of the primary wintering areas is Whiskey Mountain proper. It gets above the tree zone into the alpine tundra, but it is basically a desert. Probably less than 20 inches of precipitation fall there. The winds are extremely high, and it is a tough area to live in in the wintertime. Since the wind blows the snow off, the sheep do winter in there.

The soils are decomposed granite. You get grass that grows 2 or 3 inches high, and the grass plants are sparse. The sheep have to live on practically nothing. Most of the livestock grazing has been taken out of there. There is a three-way cooperative arrangement among the three areas used in the winter by big horn sheep. The Wyoming State land and BLM lands are managed with an emphasis on the bighorn sheep.

In reading some of the old correspondence, it mentioned that this herd was static. There were about 600 head of sheep at that time. There are between 900 and 1,000 now, and it is the biggest herd in the contiguous 48 States.

One of the problems that has existed there is that there has not been a lamb crop due to the extensive amount of use and overpopulation. The trapping efforts have been intensified to take sheep out. It is because of that that we are interested in maintaining the trapping operations.

Mr. MELCHER. In other words, if you don't keep that herd to a decent size, you are going to hurt the whole herd?

Mr. MUMMA. Yes, sir, and as you know, the history of bighorn sheep throughout the United States is that when the populations get big, they have a tendency to totally crash.

This herd contains nearly 1,000 head of sheep, and they are wintering on a range that should support 650 animals.

Mr. MELCHER. The committee will stand in recess for 10 minutes.

[Short recess.]

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order.

We will continue with our next witness on the Glacier Wilderness proposal, Mr. Brec Cook, representing the Wilderness Society.

Brec, welcome to the committee.

STATEMENT OF BREC COOK, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. COOK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Brec Cook. I am a conservation coordinator for the Wilderness Society here on the District of Columbia staff. We have heard quite a bit already today. I would like to submit my statement for the record.

Mr. MELCHER. Without objection, Mr. Cook's statement will be made part of the record at this point.

[The prepared statement of Brec Cook follows:]

The
Wilderness
Society

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

STATEMENT OF

BREC COOKE

for

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

on

GLACIER WILDERNESS, WYOMING

June 29, 1976

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am Brec Cooke, Conservation Coordinator for the Wilderness Society, a national conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the wildlands and waters of our nation. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment with respect to H.R. 9265 and related bills, to designate certain lands in Wyoming as the Glacier Wilderness.

The Wilderness Society strongly endorses H.R. 9265, introduced by Mr. Roncalio and would like to express our gratitude to him for his support of the Wyoming citizen's proposal for the Glacier area. Mr. Roncalio has also introduced versions of the citizen's proposals for the Popo Agie and Cloud Peak Wilderness areas also in Wyoming. During the past year Mr. Roncalio has held numerous public meetings throughout Wyoming to discuss his legislation on these three areas and we truly appreciate his untiring efforts in this regard and his personal appreciation and understanding of Wilderness.

We would also like to express our thanks to Mr. Melcher for his interest in the Glacier Wilderness area. It is our understanding that Mr. Melcher visited the area following the hearing held in 1973, and we appreciate his taking the time to do that, and the consideration the Subcommittee has given this proposal in 1973 and again today.

The Glacier Primitive Area is so named because of the presence of one of the largest glaciers within the coterminous United States. Forty-four glaciers ranging in size from 1220 acres to 20 acres are located within the borders of the primitive area. A wilderness mecca, the area provides irreplaceable habitat for one of the largest bighorn sheep herds in the United States. Other principle species of wildlife include elk, deer, moose, and black bear, as well as a wide variety of smaller mammals customary to the northern Rockies. Bird life in the area consists of blue grouse, ruffed grouse, ptarmigan, bald eagle, golden eagle, several species of hawk, migratory waterfowl, crows, ravens, jays,

nutcrackers and a host of songbirds.

Nearly 600 beautiful natural lakes varying in size from small tarns to 510 acres dot the highly scenic landscape. The primitive area has been managed for 50 years by the Forest Service as a semi-wilderness resource and the signs of man's intrusions in the area are extremely limited.

The soil of the area is shallow and extremely rocky. The growing season is short and timber productivity is low. Sparse and widely scattered timber stands as well as steep slopes add to the reasons foresters consider the timber in the area to be economically infeasible to harvest. No patent in mining claims is within the primitive area and a study by the U.S. Geological Survey disclosed that no mineral deposits that could be mined economically are found within the area.

While the Forest Service proposal is a beginning for the Glacier Primitive area, The Wilderness Society, Wyoming conservation organizations and other local, regional and national groups feel that the proposal is inadequate. We strongly recommend the inclusion of about 16,000 acres of adjacent wildlands--as set forth in the Roncalio bill--for a total area of 196,000 acres.

The Simpson Lake area should be given additional protection as part of the Glacier Wilderness. Besides large and beautiful Simpson Lake, the area includes a number of smaller but exquisite water filled cirques, meadows carpeted with wildflowers and spectacular glacial scenery. The proposed wilderness of the Forest Service unfortunately stopped short of providing wilderness protection to all the wild and fragile high country up to the Contital Divide on the west. By adding this area to the proposed wilderness, these important natural values will be safeguarded on the entire western boundary.

Also the Jakey's Fork and Whiskey Mountain areas are critically important as range for one of the world's largest bighorn sheep herds, elk and other wildlife.

The importance of continuing Whiskey Mountain under wilderness management cannot be over-emphasized, since this herd of bighorn sheep cannot stand the intrusion of motor vehicles and extensive contact with man. The migration routes and habitat of these animals has changed drastically in the last ten years, largely as a result of the motor travel use on Whiskey Mountain and Jakey's Fork basin. The only game management option necessary for this area is minimum disturbance.

On the west side, the Glacier Primitive Area shares a common boundary along the Continental Divide with the established Bridger Wilderness. On all other sides the primitive area is flanked by developed national forest land and the Wind River Reservation. Accordingly, no additional opportunities exist to expand the proposed wilderness.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, The Wilderness Society supports the wilderness classification recommendation of Mr. Roncalio and the Wyoming citizens in order to provide a most magnificent wilderness. We urge the Subcommittee to take immediate action to report this bill to the Full Interior Committee and finally head it on its way to inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Thank you very much.

Mr. Cook. I would like to make a couple of observations, but first of all I will put in the record the tremendous amount of thanks that the Wilderness Society and the Wyoming groups have for Mr. Roncalio for supporting our legislation, the citizens proposals on this bill, and for his kind of keen understanding of the wilderness and the wilderness concept, and I would also like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for your interest in this, both for taking the time to go out there and look at it, and giving full hearings, both in 1973 and again today.

Mr. MELCHER. Brec, I am glad you bought that point up. You were working for Teno at that time, and we went through the hearings and I made my trip out there to view it myself. And then the bill bogged down at the request of the people from Wyoming.

Now, we find ourselves in the same point as we were before, or at the same point, and what have you got to add regarding the mountain sheep?

Mr. Cook. Well, I don't know. I am a native of Wyoming all my life, and I grew up just 50 miles to the east of this area, and I was on Mr. Roncalio's staff when this proposal was being considered, and I guess generally I am upset with some of the things I see happening in Wyoming. Yesterday, the Supreme Court decision came down on the Eastern Powder River coal decision, and it looks like the direction there that the State is taking is one thing. We don't have any strip mining legislation, and now we hear the coal leasing bill may be vetoed. I think it is fair to say in the State of Wyoming we are beyond the threshold of energy development in that State, as well as in the neighboring States, and it seems to me that this Project Independence with the paranoia of importing foreign oil, in a lot of ways has come to mean "suck us dry first on our resources" and whether it is Montana coal or Oregon timber, or whatever. It seems it is a shortsighted policy, with long-term consequences.

I have always kind of viewed wilderness as a balance to this, not necessarily as an alternative to this, but more or less as a balance to it in a lot of ways, and I think what we are talking about here with wilderness is a public land use decision, and the use in this case for this area, for the Roncalio proposal, which the society supports, and which a lot of conservationists support strongly is as wilderness. That is as it always has been and that is as it always should be.

Mr. MELCHER. Now, wait a minute, I am going to interrupt, Brec, because we just don't have the time. I want some specific answers. It is not managed as wilderness now.

Mr. Cook. Well, I think it is, sir, and I was just going to get to some specifics here.

Mr. MELCHER. Then you don't think there are any vehicles that have been in this area.

Mr. Cook. Well, yes; there may be. There have been vehicles in this area.

Mr. MELCHER. Then it isn't managed as wilderness. I wanted to refer just to the so-called Whiskey Mountain area, and the sheep.

Mr. Cook. In that area, I would say the Wilderness Act is a very flexible act, and we have seen the precedents set by it, and the law has been reviewed. I agree with you that it is a unique resource, and perhaps we need the special management language.

Mr. MELCHER. All right. That is the point. You and I might disagree on how flexible the Wilderness Act is. I don't think it is very flexible in this regard, but be that as it may, you do want the management tools, then, for the sheep to be preserved under the terms of the act?

Mr. COOK. Well, I would say this. When we heard this case in 1973, they didn't have this trapping device that we are talking about, or the mechanism of managing the sheep that we are hearing today. They had another type of thing, they were going to improve the grass. Next year they might come up with another gimmick. I don't know whether we want to write into the act something specific on this. We might put some of it in the report.

Mr. MELCHER. I hate to rush you, Brec, but the constraints of time on this hearing with the House being in session are considerable. I want to get an explicit judgment from you before I have to go over for another vote. The truly unique feature of this area is the sheep itself and the management of the sheep, right?

Mr. COOK. In that area; yes.

Mr. MELCHER. I am only speaking of this area identified in red known as the Whiskey Mountain area, and so if we are going to be prudent land managers, that is what we should address primarily.

Now, while there were some regulations read, the interpretation of one of our staff to the effect that that would allow the Forest Service to use vehicles to continue managing those sheep, which I don't read it the same way he does, by the way, and the Forest Service doesn't, either, but even if that were the case, the lead group that manages these sheep is not the Forest Service. It is the Game and Fish Department of Wyoming, and that is correct, or that is my understanding. That is correct, is it not?

Mr. COOK. Yes; that is true.

Mr. MELCHER. So whatever regulations of the Forest Service are, unless those regulations are so broad as to include the Game and Fish Department of the State of Wyoming, they won't have much bearing on it anyway.

Mr. COOK. They do, in fact, include the various departments.

Mr. MELCHER. All right.

Would you agree as a long-term resident of Wyoming and as Teno's former staff man and now as a representative of the Wilderness Society, would you agree that if the language was written to designate this area as a—by act of Congress—as an area that is going to be utilized and managed for those sheep and allowing the cooperation that now exists between the BLM and the Forest Service and the Game and Fish Department of Wyoming to continue, and forget about this being classified as wilderness, and keep out of that morass, but direct by an act of Congress that it will be utilized for that purpose with that goal in mind, to preserve a fitting number of sheep in that herd. I understand there are too many there now, but if there are going to be fewer, I suppose this trapping method to remove some of them is by far the best method to follow.

Mr. COOK. They just mentioned that they haven't had a very good season, over the past year, and it may, in fact, continue to drop, if they continue to take them out of there.

My point is that the sheep—

Mr. MELCHER. Their point, in fairness to them, their point is that if you get too big a herd, they start to dwindle rather rapidly, and that they are afraid that it is too big a herd right now, and it is greatly bigger than when I viewed the area in 1973, I believe it was.

Mr. Cook. My point is that the sheep, as you know, Congressman, is a wilderness animal, and that it needs wilderness to survive in.

Mr. MELCHER. Sure.

Mr. Cook. It didn't get to be the largest herd by this not being wilderness. I agree they should be managed, and I don't think there is anything in the Wilderness Act that prevents the Game and Fish Department of Wyoming and the BLM and the Forest Service from managing them.

Mr. MELCHER. You have to accept my view, your view or their view, but in their view and my view there certainly is. They would not be using any vehicles in that area if we designate it as wilderness.

Regardless of how valuable those sheep are, and I think it is deplorable to take away proper management tools. The use of vehicles, if it is a proper management tool, I think we ought to write it up specifically, because that is what they are going to do, and not rely on your interpretation of the act.

Mr. Cook. My point is that they have come up with another management option which requires vehicles, and 2 years down the road they may come up with another one that doesn't. Maybe your management language could be broader as to how they managed the sheep.

Mr. MELCHER. I hope we can assume that if we give them direction to manage the sheep as a goal for that piece of land that that will be satisfactory to the Wilderness Society and the State of Wyoming and the State Game and Fish Department, and all the residents and all the people in this country that really think it is a great asset to have that particular herd of sheep.

Mr. Cook. I agree, that is the issue there.

Mr. MELCHER. I don't want to cut you off, but I will return as soon as I make the vote and we will continue.

The committee will recess for 10 minutes.

[Short recess.]

Mr. MELCHER. The subcommittee will come to order.

Now, I have one other question that concerns the use of this proposed area in Teno's bill, and it is in contrast to what the Forest Service recommends.

The yellow area up there, which they tell me is 4,500 acres, roughly, the Forest Service says in general—not meaning that all the days of reclamation would necessarily involve any of that area—but in general there are about 3,000 visitor-days of various types of reclamation that would be forbidden under the Wilderness Act, campers, four-wheel drive outfits, motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

In view of that, and in view of the rather sparse population in the area, where 3,000 visitor-days occur, that is a considerable amount in relationship to the number of people who live in the area.

Is it your feeling that it is tremendously significant to include that in the area, in the proposed wilderness area?

Mr. Cook. Yes, sir; we do. As Bart explained, the yellow area with the Simpson Lake area—

Mr. MELCHER. I am only speaking of the yellow area.

Mr. COOK. But the whole area coming down there does form the hydrographic divide of the Jakey's Fork basin, and that line is across the top up there, and that is our reason for getting in the complete ecosystem.

It has been a few years since I have been up there along that road, but there is a considerable amount of snowmobile room to the north of that, and as was pointed out, the road to Moon Lake down into this region here [indicating on map], is left open by the Roncalio bill.

Mr. MELCHER. Yes; but if you were coming from the other direction, you wouldn't get to it without going clear out and around.

Mr. COOK. This road is closed already, and most of the people, it is my understanding, have to come around all the time anyhow to access to Moon Lake, and this is a considerable amount of snowmobiling around there. We have topographic maps, and they point out that it follows the divide there. The line should have been up to here [indicating].

It was probably an error in our drafting at the time. But this up here is an area for snowmobiling, or at least it is as good an area to that purpose, and I think protection of the complete ecosystem there is an environmental concern. We did purposely leave that road open to Moon Lake, because we did have several requests to do so, and it is a very popular area.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, I think there is, unfortunately, a great deal of misunderstanding on what is permitted in a wilderness area. Congress can enact these wilderness areas, and then when the Forest Service does the job of prohibiting access, as they must, to mechanized outfits, the people that use it are greatly surprised, and they have perhaps had the opinion that, as you indicate is your opinion, that there is greater flexibility in the act. I don't feel there is great flexibility and the Forest Service doesn't either, and these people are sometimes surprised at what they are prohibited from doing, and I think unless there is some real good reason to prohibit them from doing it, I don't think we should act that way and just protect the ecosystem, that is a vague answer when you talk about snowmobiles. They disturb people who hear them, and they can certainly be abused, and I often defend the snowmobilers a lot. I have never been on one in my life, and I have no overwhelming desire to be on one, but I do have a feeling that we shouldn't interfere with forms of recreation unless they are truly harmful to the area.

Mr. COOK. Well, I would just say that as far as the management of the boundary is concerned, that it is more easily manageable, and does protect the whole watershed from a recreational overuse, from motorbikes, or whatever, and that there is an alternative to snowmobiling in that area, to the north of that and to the west. Sometimes that doesn't satisfy the people who like to go into a specific area. I appreciate that.

Mr. MELCHER. Well, it is in my area, it isn't my backyard, but people who live there consider it their backyard and they hate to be interfered with. I suspect there are probably 30 or 40 fishermen around Wyoming or around the United States that are mad because they

closed that road there, and probably there are only 30 or 40 who used it. I am talking about the one that went up toward Ross Lake.

So not too many people are disconcerted. In this case, if they closed it to snowmobiles, I am sure several hundred people would be disconnected, and maybe those are all who use snowmobiles in that area. But it is a sparsely settled area, and if they are used to using it, I don't know why we should close it to them if they haven't done any harm there, and the Forest Service doesn't seem to think they have done harm there, and they recommend it not be included in the wilderness, despite the obvious truth to your statement that the Continental Divide would make a more discernible boundary on it.

Thank you very much, Brec.

I think that concludes all the witnesses we have. Senator McGee will send a statement over for the hearing record and without objection it will be made part of the record at this point.

[Whereupon at 11:30 a.m., the subcommittee proceeded to the consideration of other business.]

[Additional material submitted for the hearing record follows.]

STATEMENT BY SENATOR GALE MCGEE
TO THE
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
OF THE
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 29, 1976

Mr. Chairman, today I am pleased to offer testimony in support of legislation which would incorporate the Glacier Primitive Area within the National Wilderness Preservation System. On November 20, 1975, I introduced a bill in the U. S. Senate, S. 2708, which would reclassify the Glacier Primitive Area as wilderness. Geographically, my legislation is similar to that introduced by Congressman Roncalio, H.R. 9265, which is being considered here today. I heartily endorse the Subcommittee's favorable consideration of H.R. 9265 in lieu of the more miserly proposal recommended by the Administration.

The Glacier Primitive Area is located in western Wyoming, east of the Continental Divide in the Wind River Range. It is an almost impenetrable region with high, jagged mountain peaks, deep precipitous canyons, and large alpine plateaus covered with broken rock. Gannett Peak, the highest mountain in Wyoming, rising to 13,804 feet in elevation, lies on the western boundary of the Glacier Primitive Area. Within this same range, seven other mountain peaks exceed an elevation of 13,000 feet.

Perhaps of greatest scientific and scenic value are the glaciers themselves, from which the region derives its name. Active glaciers dominate the higher elevations of the range. There are forty-four

glaciers present which together comprise an area of approximately 7,800 acres. The glaciers feed a surprising number of lakes, large and small. Of those lakes only 32 are named, while approximately 550 are of such incidental nature as to escape official geographic designation. While some 13,000 acres of the Glacier Primitive Area are covered with mature forests; shallow soils, steep terrain, and a short growing season make commercial prospects of timber harvesting very poor. Moreover, inasmuch as the total area which we are proposing is approximately 196,000 acres, the withdrawal of this amount of timber land would comprise no more than seven percent.

An even smaller portion of the Glacier Primitive Area is used for grazing purposes. These permits total some 11,200 acres of suitable forage land, which under the principles of the Wilderness Act should continue undisturbed. I realize that in some instances when an area was designated as wilderness, its management policy was altered and grazing activities reduced as a consequence. This area, however, has been traditionally managed for the protection of its pristine character. For that reason, I am confident the 13,000 acres of grazing land will remain under lease to the ranchers who presently use it.

No discussion of land management, for any purpose whatsoever, should be undertaken without full consideration of Wyoming's most valuable commodity, water. The protection of the pristine nature of the eastern slope of the Wind River Range is essential in the master planning for

the future of Wyoming's water resources. Creation of this wilderness will go far toward insuring the continued flow of high-quality water essential to downstream lands and users. Moreover, the Glacier Primitive Area as wilderness would continue to provide excellent fishing in its numerous lakes and fifty-two miles of streams.

Finally, this region is also to be noted for having one of the largest herds of Big Horn Sheep found within the continental United States.

Up until this point, I have refrained from referring to the one significant difference between my bill, S. 2708, and Congressman Roncalio's H.R. 9265, and that is that I propose to redesignate the Glacier Primitive Area as the Tom Fitzpatrick Wilderness. There are several reasons why I suggest this change. However, I wish to emphasize that I do not believe this proposal critical to the consideration of the Subcommittee at this time. It must be noted that the Glacier Wilderness would be descriptive of the region itself, but it would also lend to a confusion with Glacier National Park. Therefore, while the name would be descriptive, it would not be distinctive. As an illustration of how the names could be easily confused, I would refer you to the Wilderness Message President Nixon delivered February 8, 1972, when he recommended wilderness status for the "Glacier National Forest" in Wyoming.

The name Tom Fitzpatrick was recommended to me by my former colleague in the Department of History, Dr. T. A. Larson, and Mr. Ned Frost,

Chief of the Historical Division of the Wyoming Recreation Commission. Fitzpatrick was a contemporary of Jim Bridger whose contribution to the exploration of Wyoming has since been obscured. The location of the Tom Fitzpatrick Wilderness would, geographically as well as historically, complement the existing Jim Bridger Wilderness which lays on the western slope of the Wind River Range.

Briefly, Tom Fitzpatrick, born in County Cavan, Ireland in 1799, coming to the United States soon after the end of the War of 1812, proved himself to be among the greatest of the mountain men. He first came to the Rockies in 1823 with the Ashley expedition and spent that winter in the Wind River Valley of Wyoming below the great peaks which I proposed to designate as wilderness in his name. He was among the first to cross South Pass, to explore the Green River, to travel the Sweetwater, to trap in the Uintas, reach the headwaters of the Clarks Fork, travel the Big Horn, and establish the Green River Rendezvous. He covered thoroughly all the lands of western Wyoming in pursuit of the beaver until the end of the fur trade in 1840. From that time forward, he served as a guide to early settlers, as well as General John C. Fremont in his important explorations of the Rocky Mountain region. Such famous forts along the Oregon Trail as Fort Laramie and Fort Hall were established upon his recommendation to the U. S. Army. In 1846, he was named Indian agent for the region of the Upper Platte in Arkansas and conducted the largest counsel with Indians ever held in the far West, which culminated in the

famous Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851. Some three years later, while in Washington, D. C. to discuss Indian treaties, he died and was subsequently buried in the Congressional Cemetery.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to again express my hope that your Subcommittee would act favorably in the near future on H.R. 9265. We have many areas in Wyoming that are awaiting reclassification as wilderness. We have for the last several years been unable to make any progress in this direction. During that same time, the need for wilderness has become increasingly evident in the western states. I believe it is time that we rededicate our commitment to the completion of the wilderness system which we began some twelve years ago. Thank you.



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Wyoming Recreation Commission

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July 2, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
1522 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

I desire to comment for the record covering the hearings on proposals to redesignate the Glacier Primitive Area, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming as Wilderness.

My comment concerns only the name which will be given this new wilderness providing it is so designated. I understand that the U. S. Forest Service approves of the present name, Glacier, and proposes that that name should be kept for a wilderness name. I will not argue that this isn't an apt name for the area but will point out that it could also be apt for any number of wilderness areas that might be designated in certain parts of Alaska or contiguous states of the Pacific northwest.

Senator McGee has introduced a bill, S 2708, that would rename the Glacier Primitive Area the Tom Fitzpatrick Wilderness. I wish to support that bill. In my opinion it is peculiarly appropriate that a new wilderness occupying ground between the Bridger Wilderness and the Washakie Wilderness should be named the Tom Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Thus would three names of men who were close associates in Rocky Mountain Fur Trade history and the emergence of American predominance in the Oregon Country be reunited in a lasting memorial to the part that they played in an important phase of the nation's growth.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Westedt, Director and
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

PHW/mlr

The
Wilderness
Society

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

July 1, 1976

The Honorable John Melcher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Mr. Melcher:

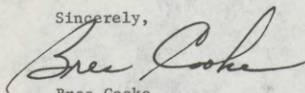
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for holding the hearing on the Glacier Wilderness area earlier this week and for your continued interest in this spectacular Wyoming region.

The Wilderness Society agrees wholeheartedly with your concern of preserving the Bighorn sheep herd in the Whiskey Mountain Region. It is because the Bighorn is a wilderness animal, dependent upon the wilderness for its continued existence, that we strongly oppose the Forest Service's recommendation to remove the Whiskey Mountain region from the wilderness protection it deserves and has enjoyed as a part of the now existing Glacier Primitive area.

I would stress once again that any special designation contained within the bill be left sufficiently broad--recognizing the uniqueness of this wilderness animal and its dependence upon wilderness; and that specific Congressional directives to the Forest Service be placed in the Committee Report.

Again, our thanks for your interest in this area and we certainly urge that the Subcommittee move the bill forward at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



Brec Cooke
Conservation Coordinator

cc: The Honorable Teno Roncalio
Bart Koehler

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