



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BLDG. 602, CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT  
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362

NPWRE

21 January 1970

Honorable A. B. Curtis  
Mayor of Orofino  
Orofino, Idaho 83544

Dear Bert,

I am pleased and flattered that you would consider my views about policy on public lands of the United States being retained or disposed of.

I find very little quarrel with Federal retention of blocked-out, large ownerships for specific purposes, i.e., National Forests, parks and recreation areas, military or other reservations, and reservoir projects. Generally, in my opinion, these also should accommodate collateral uses consistent with the primary purpose (for example, grazing and recreation in a National Forest, grazing on reservoir projects, etc.).

I can see no rationale for retention of scattered parcels of Federal land outside the areas or projects mentioned in preceding paragraph - for instance, Weeks Law lands lying outside National Forests and any scattered public domain parcels which were not retained or acquired for specific purposes.

Having not had benefit of listening to testimony of the livestock industry, I do not know its problems; but, personally, I find it hard to believe that retention of public lands for their grazing privilege should be a Federal responsibility.

As you mention, the Corps subscribes to the concept of multiple use. The "deep freeze" concept has no place in our planning. I assume your "deep freeze" expression has to do with locking up entire regions for

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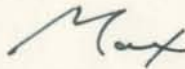
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wilderness or other purposes. I have listened to the professional foresters and sympathize with their impossible tasks of fire protection, disease and insect control, and forest management in "wilderness areas".

I suppose my biggest frustration on public lands is the difficulty in obtaining what we need from the Forest Service and BLM for our reservoir projects. Our friends in both agencies are dedicated, top-quality professionals, but they seem hamstrung by the numerous rules, regulations, and laws under which they must operate.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Best regards,



MAX K. TYSOR  
Chief, Real Estate Division