

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY ON RECLASSIFICATION OF SAWTOOTH PRIMITIVE AREA AS  
SAWTOOTH WILDERNESS AREA: TAKEN AT BOISE, MAY 4, 1971

- I. CHAIRED BY DEAN GARDNER, REGIONAL ATTORNEY, U.S.F.S., OGDEN, UTAH:  
Remarks: Warned that this was not an advisory type hearing. Stated that 38 speakers presented views, personal or for various groups, at Sun Valley on May 3.
- II. RICHARD HARRIS, ASST. REGIONAL FORESTER, U.S.F.S.; Presented statement of U.S.F.S. proposal to designate the area shown by the brochure map as wilderness and to remove the area from mineral entry. In general, this was a reiteration of the brochure. Additional comments included the fact that the 85 million board feet of commercial timber was valued at \$165,000. Additionally, it was noted that 2.6 million acres in Idaho are wilderness or primitive area.
- III. H.E. WEISENBORNE, U.S.G.S., SPOKANE; Reiterated findings of the U.S.G.S. surveys from 1966-68 for the area as published in U.S.G.S. bulletin 1319-D. There are 700 claims in the area, two of which are productive, having grossed \$50,000 in gold and silver so far. The niobium and other rare earths in the alluvium of the North Fork of the Payette are not at levels sufficient for commercial mining.
- IV. GOVERNOR C. ANDRUS, (TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY LLOYD HOWE); Governor favored withdrawal from mineral entry, stated that there should be no exclusions from the present primitive area, and was of the opinion that the area should be a National Park Recreation Area to be managed by the N.P.S. To this end he desired the N.P.S. make a survey and make a management plan for the central Idaho mountains.
- V. MR. BOB YOUNG, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, BOISE COUNTY; As a miner for 25 years, have mixed feelings; but feel there is not much of commercial value. As area is 1/3 of Boise County, have some concern for effect on future tax base for school.
- VI. CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WALLA WALLA DISTRICT; They support reclassification as would maintain area as a watershed.
- VII. MR. TED HOFF, IDAHO RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: support development of federal lands for multiple use; in this case support plan as presented.
- VIII. MR. VERSIE, BOISE-CASCADE CORPORATION; "Endores with very little reservation...."
- IX. MR. BROCK EVANS, N.W. REPRESENTATIVE, SIERRA CLUB; Adjustments result in loss of 6000 acres. Inclusions should also extend to Redfish Lake and the Hannson Lake group. Mineral withdrawal is not meaningful because it is proposed for mineral-poor areas only. Object to all

exclusions; should expand the boundaries. Favor National Park Recreation Area proposal.

- X. MR. FRITZ WARD, BOISE VALLEY CHAPTER, IDAHO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL; Support wilderness classification; also should include Hannson Lakes and all excluded areas, as these areas' mineral claims are not profitable. Grazing should be excluded.
- XI. MR. TOM DAVIS, GREATER SAWTOOTH PRESERVATION COUNCIL; Support park-recreation complex, withdrawal from mineral entry. All exclusions and Redfish and Hannson Lakes should be included. Noted that mining in area E would be dredge mining.
- XII. A.J. TESKE, SECRETARY, IDAHO MINING ASSOCIATION; Support as proposed except step to withdraw form mineral entry. Questioned need for this step; feared it would establish precedent.
- XIII. FRANKLIN JONES, IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION; Opposed to exclusions, should also include Hannson Lakes and other areas.
- XIV. JOHN LA GRANGE, BEAR CREEK MINING; Endorse classification as is, but oppose withdrawal of mining entry as contrary to the intent of the Wilderness Act.
- XV. ROBERT NOBIS, OUTDOORS UNLIMITED; Recommended a national recreation area status.
- XVI. MRS. DON NOBE, IDAHO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS; Object to all exclusions, otherwise support proposal.
- XVII. MR. ERNEST DAY, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION: "The Sawtooths are the glamor girls of Idaho Wilderness". Feel that exclusions were made to give withdrawal of mineral entry a chance; feel that they would be needlessly lost if withdrawal not accepted. Therefore, object to all exclusions. Should also include Hannson Lakes, Stanley Lake, McGowan Peak.
- XVIII. PAUL ESTERBROOK, INTERMOUNTAIN SECTION, SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS; Support proposal as is except for inclusions 5 & 6 and other areas which have timbered land.
- XIX. SHERMAN BEAMAN, TROUT UNLIMITED ( A LOCAL CHAPTER); favor withdrawal; oppose exclusions because of possible mining pollution.
- XX. MR. LONGWORTHY, MIDDLE SNAKE GROUP, SIERRA CLUB; didn't say much.
- XXI. JANET WARD, BELEAGURED EARTH; Objected to all exclusions.

XXII. In addition, there were fifteen speakers who did not speak for a group. Eleven favored retaining the proposed exclusions, five specifically mentioned support of mineral withdrawal, four wanted Hannson Lakes included and three mentioned inclusion of a segment of Redfish Lake. One preferred it be made a national park. One fellow wanted to cut it before it was made wilderness to "reduce the fire danger"--said the U.S.F.S. should practice "sanitary cutting". One guide, Max Bitten from McCall, feared that the trails would not be maintained if classified wilderness.

I feel I felt the wilderness interests had strong case against the exclusions. As one individual stated, "classification as wilderness would preserve our option on this area's use until such time as we have complete data on the mineral resources in the area".

Mining interests were adamant about removing the withdrawal clause, and repeatedly cited the Wilderness Act which would allow mineral exploration until 1984.

There was more criticism of area E, the North Fork of the Payette, being excluded than any other area, mostly from fears of the pollution and land scarring resulting from placer mining.

A complete copy of all the testimony will be available shortly.