

Lewiston, Idaho
November 6, 1961

Important Information
on the
WILDERNESS BILL (S.174)
As Amended and Passed by the Senate

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TO: All persons interested in conservation and full multiple use of our nation's natural resources.

FROM: The Inland Empire Multiple Use Committee

This bill (S.174) if enacted into law will affect you -- your job, your cost of living, your recreation.

This may be your last chance to voice your opinion on this dangerous and unnecessary legislation. We urge you, for your own interest, to write to your congressman before it is too late.

The present Wilderness Bill (S.174) is the latest attempt by strong preservationist groups to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System by federal law. S.174 was passed by the United States Senate in September, 1961, after several amendments. The bill is now being studied by the House of Representatives. If the bill comes out of Committee the House will likely vote on it early in 1962.

The Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held hearings on S.174 in Idaho, Colorado and California. Idaho's Gracie Pfof is Chairman of the Subcommittee. Mrs. Pfof conducted an efficient and fair hearing in McCall, Idaho, on October 30-31. She is to be complimented on calling these hearings in the west close to the people who are most affected by this dangerous legislation. (The Senate Committee refused to hold western hearings on S.174.)

McCall hearing

A brief summary of the McCall hearing may be of interest.

A total of 106 persons testified in person. Of these, 28 spoke in favor of the bill and 78 against. In addition, Mrs. Pfof announced that of 147 written statements analyzed up to that time, 113 were for the bill and 34 against. This gave a score of 141 for and 112 against. A complete tally of the statement record from all three hearings is not yet available.

Of interest is the fact that at the McCall hearing the majority of people speaking in favor of the bill represented such groups as the Sierra Club of California (N.W. Chapter), the Mountaineers Club of Seattle, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Eugene, Oregon, the Olympic Parks Association, Washington garden clubs, and numerous fish and wildlife clubs. Those speaking against the bill represented primarily people dependent on natural-resource-using industries for

their living -- forest products, minerals, livestock. Officers of four sawmill labor unions gave excellent statements against the bill. The president of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association also spoke strongly against the bill.

Of particular interest was the presence of two full-time executives of the Wilderness Society from Washington, D. C. While Mrs. Pfof did not permit them to speak they were extremely busy organizing and directing support for the bill and attempting to run their spokesmen in ahead of opponents to the bill.

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The Inland Empire Multiple Use Committee has carefully studied the Wilderness Bill (S.174). While we strongly support a reasonable program of wilderness preservation we are still opposed to S.174, even as amended and passed by the Senate.

We presented a statement opposing S.174 at the McCall hearing. Following is a summary of the main reasons for our opposition.

We are convinced there is no justifiable reason for enacting special wilderness laws which would so severely restrict the use of 55 million acres of public lands -- an area larger than the State of Idaho. We feel S.174 as amended is still not in the best interests of the Western public land states because the amendments made to date do not correct the basic defects of the original S.174.

The amended bill still prohibits any commercial use of the proposed 55 million acre wilderness system, except packer and guide service. There can be no permanent camps or lodges on federal lands and provision is made for federal acquisition of private lands and property within the wilderness system. Travel is almost entirely limited to foot or horseback because roads and the use of motorized equipment is prohibited, as is the use of aircraft and motorboats except "where well-established" and for emergencies. Grazing of livestock is prohibited except where "well-established."

There can be no mineral prospecting and mining by methods which are incompatible with the strict wilderness regulations, except through special permission of the President of the United States. This would prohibit the general use of helicopters and other modern tools and would severely hamper the search for and development of rare minerals so urgently needed for our nation's space and atomic progress.

If S.174 passes, as now amended, 4,700,000 acres* of commercial forest land would automatically come under the severe regulations governing the use of the wilderness system. There could be no intelligent forest management because timber harvest would be prohibited by law. This would also make impossible the use of timber harvesting to open over-dense forests so as to increase the growth of big game browse so urgently needed in critical winter range areas.

S.174 would automatically place all national forest primitive areas under the severely restrictive regulations of a federal law. Included would be a total of over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ million of which would be in Idaho. The bill's provisions for review of the

*On national forests only

primitive areas within 10 years are inadequate. Because these areas would be so restricted by law it would be impossible to complete an intelligent and thorough survey of all resources within ten years. This would undoubtedly lead to hasty study and would result in the virtual locking up in the permanent wilderness system of timber and mineral values which will be sorely needed in the future.

Proponents of S.174 say there is "a key to every lock" in the wilderness system. We must remember this key will be in the pocket of the federal government in Washington, D. C. What chance would Idaho citizens have to vote this key into the lock when we have only two representatives in the National Congress while Pennsylvania and California each has 30 and New York has 43.

The wilderness extremists, the majority of whom live in the larger eastern and west coast cities, have neither understanding of nor sympathy for the dependence of states such as Idaho and Montana on natural resources from federal lands.

The highly effective lobby maintained by these wilderness extremists in Washington has already demonstrated its influence by forcing S.174 through the Senate. This lobby would wield even greater power if S.174 becomes law. Once the primitive areas are placed in the wilderness system, the burden of proof for necessary boundary changes later would be on the advocates of full multiple use. Experience has shown that working out needed and reasonable changes is virtually impossible.

Our Committee believes the U. S. Forest Service can work out a well-balanced system of wilderness areas on national forests under existing laws and through local grass roots hearings.

The Service has already classified over 7 million acres as wilderness. There are 20 million acres qualifying as wilderness in national parks, already protected by law. This gives a total of 27 million acres having wilderness status and already withdrawn from full multiple use. Additional wilderness areas will be classified as the Forest Service completes its review of the remaining primitive areas. Such a vast area should be more than adequate to satisfy those of us who enjoy the stimulation of a genuine wilderness trip. Future generations are reasonably assured of adequate wilderness, simply because much of our western country is so rugged, remote and lacking in commercial values that it will naturally find its highest and best use as wilderness -- without the restrictions of another federal law. Present administrative regulations of the federal agencies involved will provide adequate insurance against abuses of the wilderness.

Our Committee reaffirms its support for a reasonable, carefully-planned program of wilderness preservation balanced with the social, spiritual and economic needs of the nation's citizens. We are opposed, however, to setting aside any additional areas under overly-restrictive federal laws until a thorough inventory and evaluation of all resources is completed on the lands affected. Specifically, we are opposed to S.174.

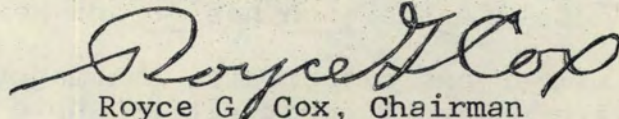
While we are opposed to any new wilderness legislation, we urge that if the final will of Congress is to pass a wilderness bill

it first be amended to assure a sound program of integrated multiple use management of the public lands involved.

Copies of the Committee's full report on S.174 as passed by the Senate are available on request. Write to P. O. Box 600, Lewiston, Idaho.

We urge every citizen of the western public land states to write to their congressmen and to the House Interior Committee to express their opinions on S.174. See the attached sheet for information.

Respectfully yours,



Royce G. Cox, Chairman
Inland Empire Multiple Use Committee
P. O. Box 600
Lewiston, Idaho

P.S. Remember, the official record of the House hearings on S.174 closes on November 20.

Information on
How to Write to Your
Senators and Representatives
in the National Congress

Every citizen of the United States has the privilege of expressing his opinion on affairs of the national government. There are two effective ways of expressing this opinion--(1) at the polls during election and (2) by letters to the elected officials serving us in the national congress.

Our U. S. Senators and Representatives welcome letters expressing our views on both existing and proposed laws. This is an efficient way of keeping them informed so they may do a better job of representing us.

In writing to your Congressmen be sure to clearly express your support for or opposition to whatever matter is being considered. Also, give at least one or two good reasons for your opinion.

If you do not know the names of your Senators and Representatives, ask your local newspaper, your Chamber of Commerce, your public library.

Address your letters: The Honorable (Name)
Senate (or House) Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

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Respectfully presented by,

The Inland Empire Multiple Use Committee
P. O. Box 600
Lewiston, Idaho

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