

administration. It permits no amendment of the Presidential recommendations. Any vetoed recommendation can be immediately reinstated with only slight revision. There is no limit on the number of times that a rejected recommendation can be revised.

Congress now has absolute control over administrative practices with respect to wilderness areas. It can, by legislative action and influence, direct the responsible executive department as to both policy and procedure.

AIRCRAFT AND MOTORBOATS

FICTION—Proponents of the wilderness system claim that the use of aircraft and motorboats will be permitted to continue wherever these practices have become well established.

FACT—The Senate-approved bill states such usage may be permitted to continue, "subject to such restrictions as the appropriate Secretary deems necessary."

PRIVATE RIGHTS

FICTION—Proponents of the wilderness system claim that existing private rights within wilderness areas are amply protected by S. 174.

FACT—The bill includes special provision authorizing the appropriate Secretary to acquire any privately-owned land within the system.

The Forest Service document proposing reclassification of the Selway-Bitterroot area from primitive to wilderness states specifically that "it is imperative" that the four privately-held tracts which depend on airplanes for access "be acquired in order to assure wilderness preservation."

This provision—and this administrative attitude—constitute a positive and immediate threat to private rights. It also means the end of most air access which presently accounts for a large percentage of hunting and fishing in the wilderness, because many existing landing strips are on privately-held land.

WHO ARE THE SELFISH INTERESTS?

Proponents of S. 174 brand productive resource users as "selfish interests" and stress the point that only five areas in Idaho will be affected by the Senate-approved legislation.

Yet many of these same wilderness proponents would block development of the multiple-purpose Bruce Eddy project on the north fork of the Clearwater river, which would affect only **one** small area of doubtful value as winter range for big game.

THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM BILL, S. 174—FACT AND FICTION is a publication of the Idaho Resource Development Council, whose members include:

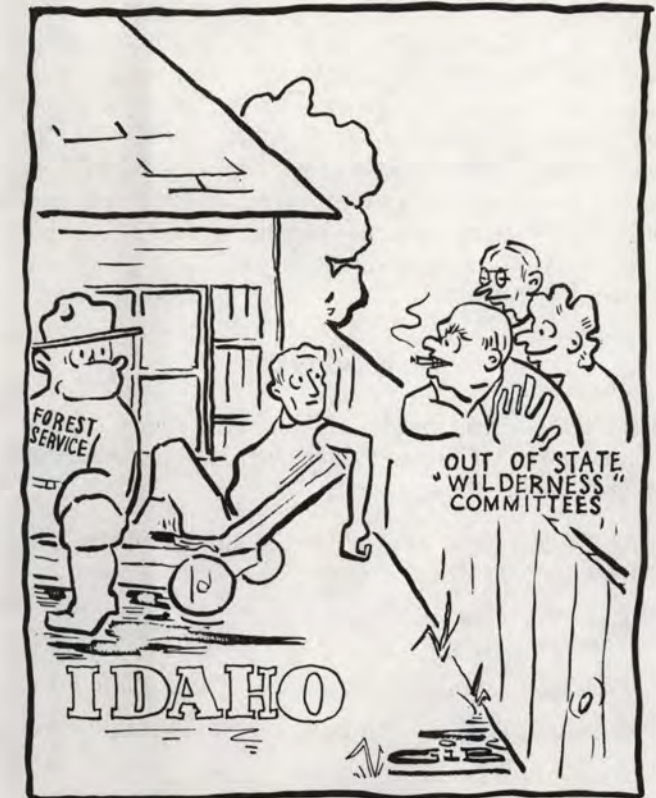
Associated Industries of Idaho
Idaho Beet Growers Association
Idaho Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Mining Association
Idaho Motor Transport Association
Idaho Wool Growers Association
Idaho State Chamber of Commerce
Idaho State Grange
Idaho State Reclamation Association
North Idaho Forestry Association
Southern Idaho Forestry Association

The Wilderness System Bill, S. 174, is pending before the House Public Lands Subcommittee; Mrs. Gracie Pfof of Idaho, Chairman. Your Representatives and all members of Congress will welcome your personal views on this proposed legislation.

THE WILDERNESS SYSTEM BILL

S. 174

Fact and Fiction



AFTER A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL VOTE, WE NEIGHBORS
HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A PARK OUT OF YOUR YARD

NEED FOR WILDERNESS

FICTION—It is argued that the Wilderness System bill is needed now “to preserve for now and for generations unborn, areas of unspoiled pristine wilderness accessible for trails and unmarred by roads or buildings.”

FACT—Wild, wilderness and primitive areas within the national forests have been protected under Forest Service administration for more than 35 years. Wilderness Area Regulation U-1 (36 CFR 251.20) of the Forest Service Manual states:

“Upon recommendation of the Chief, Forest Service, national forest lands in single tracts of not less than 100,000 acres may be designated by the Secretary as “wilderness areas,” within which there shall be no roads or other provisions for motorized transportation, no commercial timber cutting, and no occupancy under special use permit for hotels, stores, resorts, summer homes, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, or similar uses.”

AREA INVOLVED

FICTION—Proponents of the wilderness system contend that the land area involved is insignificant.

FACT—Here is the potential area subject to wilderness system control:

Existing wild, wilderness and canoe areas	6.8 million acres
Existing primitive areas	7.9 million acres
National Park system areas ..	22.1 million acres
National wild life refuges and game ranges	<u>28.3 million acres</u>
Total	65.1 million acres

The total is equivalent to more than 37 per cent of all national forest land now under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Of the 7.9 million acres of primitive area, more than 3 million acres—or about 37 per cent—are in Idaho. This amounts to 14 per cent of the total national forest lands in Idaho and almost 6 per cent of the state's total land area.

SAFEGUARDS

FICTION—Supporters of wilderness system legislation contend that the bill, as passed by the Senate, offers adequate safeguards for Idaho's forest products, mining, grazing, water resource use and other interests.

FACT—(1) S. 174 limits the so-called review, prior to wilderness classification, only to consideration of “suitability for wilderness,” with no legal requirement that areas found to contain valuable timber, minerals, forage or other resources must be eliminated from wilderness areas.

(2) Mining exploration, even by the most primitive, hand-tool methods, would be eliminated under the bill's provision that would “permit no activity that would be incompatible with the wilderness concept.” There would be no protection of mineral location should a discovery be made.

EFFECT ON ECONOMY

FICTION—Proponents of the wilderness system contend that its enactment would have no dislocating effect on Idaho's economy.

FACT—More than 50 per cent of Idaho's 3 million acres of primitive area is classified as commercial forest land. One-third of the total commercial forest land to be sacrificed to permanent non-use is in Idaho.

Idaho's primitive areas constitute the “last frontier” of unexplored mineral area available in the state as the source for future ore reserves. Unless these areas are evaluated for mineral potential, the effect can only be an obstacle to normal development of a major Idaho industry.

GRAZING

FICTION—Sponsors of S. 174 assert that grazing of livestock shall continue wherever well established.

FACT—Over the objections of wilderness system proponents, recognition of existing rights for grazing of livestock was made mandatory

rather than permissive. But although the present bill states that these rights shall be continued, it adds that they are “subject to such restrictions and regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary holding jurisdiction over the area.”

The provision allows for no expansion of grazing rights to meet future needs. It leaves the stockman as much at the mercy of administrative edict and regulation as he now is.

RECREATION

FICTION—Those who defend the Wilderness System bill say it will bring about a tremendous increase of tourist trade in Idaho and will be a big step in anticipating the recreational needs of the exploding population.

FACT—Wilderness and primitive areas have little attraction for the motoring recreation seekers who account for the vast bulk of tourist volume.

In 1959, when 68.4 million people made recreation visits to national forest areas, only 550,000—less than 1 per cent—visited the 14.7 million acres now classed as wilderness or primitive. According to official statements, only a slightly higher percentage of national park visitors moved more than two blocks from a road.

Wilderness proponents expect trails to be maintained at the expense of all taxpayers for the exclusive accommodation of those few who hike or who can afford pack trips. They would deny the right of road accessibility to the vast majority of tourists and those in local areas who must drive within reasonable range of their outdoor destinations.

CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL

FICTION—It is contended that the bill, by allowing Congressional veto of presidential recommendations for wilderness areas, actually gives Congress more control over wilderness land administration.

FACT—The Congressional veto leaves Congress with extremely limited control over bureaucratic