

## S T A T E M E N T

This statement concerns recent proposals by the U.S. Forest Service concerning the Salmon River Wilderness, the Idaho Wilderness, and the inclusion of the Salmon River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

It is my recommendation that the Forest Service proceed with the Salmon River and Idaho Wildernesses as outlined in its proposal of September 24, 1973. The inclusion of fewer acres than proposed by the Forest Service would result in the failure of the entire project; the inclusion of a greater area is unnecessary and would be costly to the economy of Idaho.

With regard to the proposal that the Salmon River be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: I recommend that a moratorium be declared on this proposal, and on further development of the river and its banks, until further studies are initiated and completed.

In view of the fact that the United States appears to be entering into a long period of energy shortages, it seems to me rather unwise that we decide now to forego forever any possible energy sources.

I would refer to data outlined in House Document 403, dated May 10, 1962--a period when energy in most forms was more plentiful and less expensive than it is now, and far more so than it will be in the near future. According to that document, the installation of the Crevice, Freedom, and Lower Canyon projects alone would return revenue of more than \$100 million annually. This contrasts with the Forest Service estimate of \$9.1 million annually in hydro potential for the entire river.

Additional costs which must be figured into the proposal include the price of energy in some form or another which will have to be imported to replace the source forever foregone, if the Salmon is included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The fact that Idaho has, in effect, no other source of energy than its hydro potential should also be considered.

I do not recommend that the Forest Service proposal for the Salmon River be forever ignored. I do, however, feel that a moratorium should be placed on it pending the outcome of a study which should: (1) arrive at a true and accurate estimate of the total hydro potential of the Salmon River; (2) arrive at solid estimates of the future power requirements of the area which would be served by hydro development on the Salmon; and (3) determine the future availability of alternative sources of power to meet those requirements.

--William G. Guernsey  
1806 Harrison Boulevard  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
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