

ARIZONA WATERSHED PROGRAM

Cooperating

Arizona State Land Department-Water Division
Salt River Valley Water Users' Association
University of Arizona

PHONE
ALPINE 3-1351

210 WEST ADAMS ST.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

June 27, 1956

Mr. Jake West
SRVWUA

Dear Jake:

*To Our Senators
And Representatives*

and Copy to Senator Watkins, Utah

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation Act

we I have gone over the bill drafted by Howard Zahniser and here are ^{OUR} my reactions.

**omit*
The proposed bill would endanger our economic abundance that is so vital to our democratic way of life. ^{*}(See my enclosed book review.) The requirements to exclude lumbering, mining, grazing, dams for water impoundment and reservoir storage, roads and other commercial enterprises from designated wilderness areas would suppress economic development of the west. To illustrate how the proposed bill can hamstring economic development, let us consider some of the possible effects on specific resources.

Water. The National Wilderness Preservation Act would clearly curtail watershed management practices now being considered in Arizona to increase water yields, to meet the growing demands from metropolitan communities like Phoenix and Tucson. Our program aimed at removing trees and shrubs that have little or no commercial value from our watersheds would be crippled. Our proposals cannot be presently applied to existing wilderness areas such as Mt. Baldy, Sycamore Canyon, Beaver Creek, West Clear Creek, Fossil Creek and Sierra Ancha. Nor would watershed management practices be allowed on the Mazatzal and Superstition wilderness areas. Exclusion of dams and access roads hamper watershed management. So to satisfy the desire of a few people to use wilderness and wild areas, our much larger populations around Phoenix, Tucson and Safford, would suffer.

Timber. The requirement of the proposed bill to exclude logging from wilderness areas would affect our logging industry and the consumer demands for wood products. Forest Service inventories have repeatedly forecast the dire consequence of timber shortages. In face of these reports, is it logical to lock up timber resources in wilderness areas?

It is debatable whether timber resources should be locked up in our national parks. Infestations of insects, diseases and mistletoe and the resultant death of many trees in the Grand Canyon National Park have become the concern of many farsighted foresters. Light logging could be done even in national parks to remove infected trees and to improve recreational values.

Forage. The NWPA would seriously curtail the increase in livestock production. Although we now have adequate supplies of livestock production, it is questionable whether we can increase production to meet the demands of a growing population. Economists tell us that our national cattle population will have to be increased from our present 95 million to 120-125 million by 1975. To contribute towards this increase, we will have to remove useless trees and shrubs and grow more forage for grazing. The proposed bill would hamper this needed increase.

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Game. The NWPA would seriously hamper sound game management. The wastefulness of Federal Game Refuges is illustrated by the North Kaibab here in Arizona. As a game refuge, the North Kaibab was protected against hunting. Game numbers increased to a point where the range suffered from overuse. Starvation and disease finally reduced the overpopulated game herd of the North Kaibab. This wasteful loss has been reduced since the refuge was opened up to hunting. Does the NWPA propose the type of wastefulness experienced on the North Kaibab?

Mining. The proposed bill could clearly hamper the exploitation of gas, oil and mineral deposits. It could have a serious effect on the mining of strategic minerals needed in time of war. We have noted in recent years how existing reserved areas have prevented mining.

Recreation. The NWPA would limit the full development of forms of recreation other than those that might be satisfied by wilderness areas. Grand Canyon National Park is now engaged in an expansion program to meet increasing recreation pressures. The expansion calls for more roads and more buildings to house and feed the increasing numbers of visitors. It is unlikely that expansion of this type could be made once the provisions of the proposed bill became effective.

The exclusion of dams for "water impoundment and water storage" not only limits the development and use of water resources but also limits such other forms of recreation as fishing, swimming and boating.

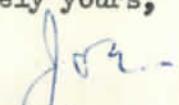
We can only conclude that the proposed bill would restrict full development of all forms of recreation.

^{we} I think the proposed bill would seriously cripple the activities of our federal agencies such as the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service and Indian Service because these agencies are dedicated to the use of our resources.

The proposed bill would endanger the full economic development of our Indian tribes in Arizona. Our Indian tribes are presently being encouraged to work out their own economic independence by making more efficient use of their natural resources of water, timber, forage, minerals and recreational possibilities. The Indians are only now beginning to develop the resources they have available on their reservations. The requirements of the proposed bill would prevent the Indians from achieving full economic independence.

These are my reactions to the proposed bill to be enlarged on as you see fit.

Sincerely yours,



Joe Arnold

JFA:R