

**ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS  
PRESERVATION SYSTEM**

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**HEARING**  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, H.R. 3304**  
NEVADA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC

OCTOBER, 10, 1985

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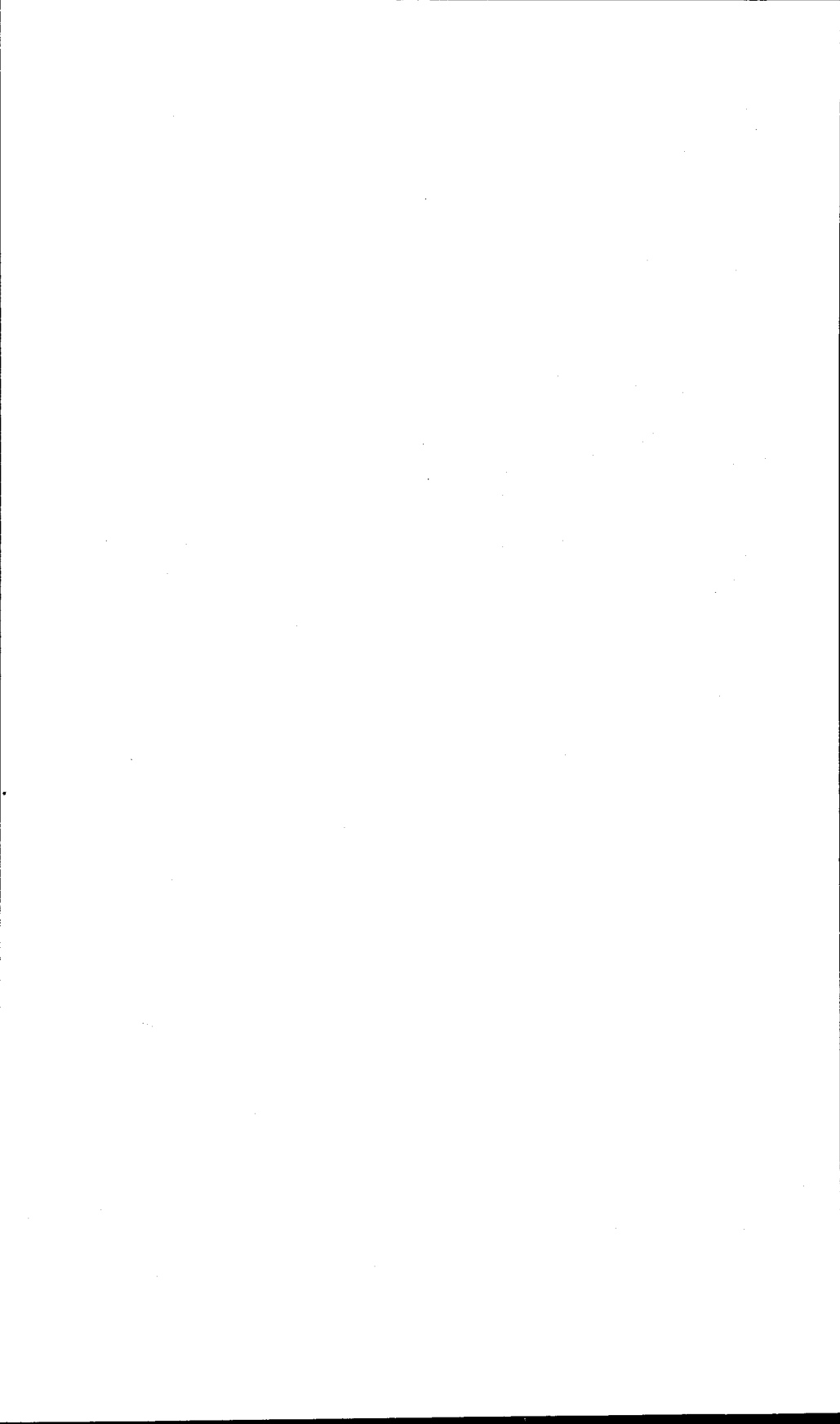
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# ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

## Nevada Wilderness Proposals

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1985

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met at 10:45 a.m., in room 1324 of the Longworth House Office Building, Hon. John F. Seiberling (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The Subcommittee on Public Lands will belatedly come to order.

Today we are having a hearing on three wilderness bills all dealing with the State of Nevada—H.R. 1686, introduced by our colleague, Mrs. Vucanovich; H.R. 3302, introduced by our colleague, Mr. Reid; and H.R. 3304, introduced by Mr. Weaver, Mr. Darden, Mr. Kostmayer, and myself. All three bills include standard release language. The principal differences are the number of areas and the acreages. I think everybody is probably familiar with them.

I'm not going to further delay matters by making an opening statement. Let me just say, as I said when I was in Nevada, that they have been hiding their wonderful light all these years as the general public and the rest of the country is concerned, in terms of some absolutely magnificent areas in their mountains. Most people think of Nevada as a desert. It has some wonderful desert, which is also magnificent, but what most people in this country don't know is that it has some fabulous mountain scenery with lush meadows, sparkling streams, waterfalls, and I could go on and on.

We were privileged to take a trip to those areas this summer, flying in a National Guard helicopter, and it was an unforgettable experience, as I think all those who were on the trip would recognize.

And I hereby yield back the balance of my time and recognize our distinguished colleague, Mr. Marlenee.

Mr. MARLENEE. I thank the chairman, and I'm not certain but what I should yield to Mrs. Vucanovich, because she is the one that represents the bulk of the area, and I am going to say a couple of words first, and then I am going to yield.

I am very concerned about what I see transpiring here in the committee. I am glad to hear that the chairman did go to Nevada

before a 1.4-million-acre bill was introduced, which is what—approximately 10 times the amount of acreage represented by my colleague's bill from Nevada, Barbara Vucanovich, who serves on this committee, and also supported by the two Senators from the other body that support that position. I'm not certain that one long weekend is sufficient to draw the boundaries of a wilderness area of that scope. I am also concerned, Mr. Chairman, and wonder if this is setting a precedent, and if it is the intention of the chairman to introduce a bill into every other Member's district when we consider wilderness area in those districts. It seems to be that—and I would yield to the chairman—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARLENEE. I'd be happy to yield.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All but about four of the principal States where there is wilderness potential have already been dealt with.

Mr. YOUNG. Sometimes over the carcass of the representatives of those States too.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I did yield to the gentleman from—

Mr. MARLENEE. Well, the answer to your question is no?

Mr. SEIBERLING. No.

Mr. MARLENEE. Well, I'm pleased to hear that, because most of us take the stand that we're going to let the delegations from those States deal with their own wilderness problems. I am concerned in this case, however, that we see a bill of 1.4, and then we see a bill of 700, and then we see a bill of considerably less acreage and even the good intentions of my colleague who's now at the witness table seem to be eroded, but seem to be half way between the two, and I'm not certain that that's the compromise at all. But that remains to be seen, and that's what we're here for for these hearings. I'm concerned about what appears to be the precedent.

And with that, why, if the gentlelady desires my time at this time, I'd be happy to yield to her, otherwise, I yield back.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I'd be happy to recognize the gentlewoman on her own time.

Mr. MARLENEE. Well, I yield back the balance of my time then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I really would like to express my appreciation to you for holding this hearing today. I also want to welcome my many fellow Nevadans who traveled here to testify on this issue.

As you can see by the turnout, Mr. Chairman, the wilderness issue is one of tremendous importance in our State. And as we start talking about wilderness in Nevada, I can't overemphasize the importance of our task. Without wilderness legislation, more than 3.6 million acres of our national forestland will be virtually locked up as de facto wilderness; however, despite this fact, I would hope that we would not act in haste or begin this hearing with firmly set notions about what should and should not become wilderness.

We have an extensive witness list for today's hearing, as well as the comments from many others who could not be here and couldn't spend the money to come to Washington. I think we ought to listen to the people on both sides of this issue, and perhaps by

utilizing their expertise, we could begin to fashion an acceptable wilderness compromise.

Today we have three different bills in front of us, all of which would designate wilderness areas in Nevada. The bills differ significantly, both in the amount of acreage involved and in the special provisions that have been included.

I will first address myself to acreage issues and then follow up with discussion on the importance of the special language that I've included in my wilderness bill.

The bill that I've introduced is deliberately conservative. It's the result of more than 2 years of discussion and study on the part of the Nevada delegation. We sought information from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey on the minerals and mining potential that were known and identified on the acreage under study for wilderness designation. We talked with our constituents who live near those areas and held meetings with environmental groups and others who would use the areas or wished to express their opinion. And as long-time Nevadans, we shared our firsthand knowledge of our State and the wilderness qualities of the areas under consideration.

As an enthusiastic camper and a private pilot, I have flown over, driven, and camped in most of the areas for more than 20 years. What we discovered was that a large portion of the acreage that we evaluated is likely to contain significant mineral resources, including strategic minerals. Added to those areas with known, but unexplored potential, were areas which had not yet been inventoried and areas with existing mining claims. In addition, far from roadless, in the true sense of the word, many of the areas were crisscrossed with gravel roads that are used by miners and ranchers to access claims and livestock.

We also considered the fact that the Forest Service wilderness is only the first of many proposals and that the Federal Government already has a disproportionately large percentage in the management of Nevada lands. The Federal Government controls 87 percent of my State's lands. Of those, roughly 12 percent are already withdrawn from mineral entry. At the present time, the Fish and Wildlife Service has about 1.7 million acres currently proposed for wilderness designation. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management is in the process of studying their lands for possible wilderness designation. Final recommendations have not been made, but more than 1.8 million acres have been identified as being suitable for wilderness designation.

I believe it's important to look at the whole picture when we discuss wilderness designation for any of our Nevada lands. We consider the importance of the continued multiple use of our public lands to the local economies in our State. Mining's share of the total assessed land value, and consequently, the local tax base, in most of Nevada's rural counties is significant. Mining is also a major industry in many rural counties, account for the bulk of available employment and acting as the driving force for many local economies.

Least I give the impression that only the Nevada counties benefit from the presence of the mining industry in Nevada, let me add that last year, mineral leases, rents and royalties paid by the min-

erals industry were approximately \$20 million. Half of this money is returned to the State and is applied directly to the Distributive School Fund, which benefits schools throughout Nevada. In addition, for every person directly employed in the minerals industry, roughly 2½ jobs are created in support industries, most of which are located in the metropolitan areas.

And last, but certainly not least, I felt that it was important to begin the wilderness designation process on a conservative note, knowing that somewhere down the road, we would be called on to compromise with interests both within and outside of our State that are strong advocates of wilderness. As any card player knows, a game can never be won by showing the other players at the table all of your cards before you start to play. Therefore, I felt that it was best to introduce a wilderness bill that responds to the State's needs, while leaving some room to maneuver as we move through the legislative process. In developing wilderness legislation, I was not only concerned about the number of acres but also about provisions to protect those who have either established rights or historically used the lands in question.

And as someone who had dealt firsthand with the frustrations of my constituents over Federal redtape and regulations, I was committed to designing a bill that offered the maximum amount of protection for those who live or make their livings off the land. From the standpoint of those who enjoy outdoor recreation and camping in secluded areas, we also studied the strict regulations governing wilderness areas. These regulations prohibit the use of any motorized equipment, campers or even bicycles, and limit access in areas that cover hundreds of thousands of acres only to those who choose to travel either on foot or on horseback.

Unlike a State or national park, Federal wilderness areas are locked away only for those physically fit enough to pack into them carrying their equipment. Ironically, when the subcommittee toured Nevada, we had the unique advantage of traveling in and out of those areas by helicopter, though I recognize that limited time and a lengthy tour agenda made this mode of transportation necessary, I regret that I visited areas of my State that many will never be able to enjoy, once they are designated Federal wilderness.

It's generally being bantered about the State that voters in Nevada overwhelmingly support wilderness; however, it's my firm belief that most Nevadans who support wilderness have no idea what wilderness designation actually means. I suspect that if those who support wilderness were to realize that wilderness is not synonymous with national park, then they would be less likely to support additional wilderness designations in Nevada.

For these reasons, I decided to include provisions in my bill which address the use and nonuse of the areas that are designated as wilderness. Many of the provisions do nothing more than restate the intent of the Wilderness Act or other applicable law. Other provisions address issues that currently are, by Forest Service regulations, left up to the discretion of the individual administering the wilderness. And finally, there are provisions which admittedly have not been included in other wilderness bills, but which I felt

were of importance to protect those who hold mineral or water rights within the designated areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I urge this subcommittee to take into consideration the concerns of the people of Nevada and to follow my lead and adopt conservative wilderness areas and wilderness legislation.

I would like to repeat that I appreciate the chairman holding these hearings today. Thank you very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you, and I certainly appreciate the hospitality shown by you during our trip out to Nevada, and I certainly intend that we do take into consideration the interests and concerns of the people of the State. And that was one of the reasons we went out and held informal meetings in many places.

One of the people accompanying us was our colleague, Peter Kostmayer, who I now recognize, if he has any opening remarks.

Mr. KOSTMAYER. Mr. Chairman, I know we have a long list of witnesses, and I will not burden the subcommittee with any additional remarks. I look forward to hearing from our colleagues, Mr. Reid and Mrs. Vucanovich, in the course of the proceedings.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you. Are there any other opening remarks to my right? Mr. Hansen.

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to agree with the remarks of Mrs. Vucanovich, which I thought were very aptly stated. I think she is going to find, as many of us have, that very few people, really understand the 1964 definition of "wilderness." As I have traveled around the State of Utah, I have talked to different groups, many of our environmental groups, and asked, "Can anyone here give me the definition of 'wilderness,' as it is contained in the bill?" So far, I've yet to find one person who can give it to me verbatim. Some came relatively close, but the vast majority didn't even know what it was. Some of the sporting groups said they can hardly wait for the State of Utah to become wilderness, so they can drive their RV's in and enjoy it. Others groups had other ideas, and I don't think people really understand it. So we sent out a report to all the papers and many postal patrons in the State of Utah, pointing out what wilderness really was. What a change we got in people's views on wilderness. It made a direct and dramatic change in their thinking.

I appreciated the comments from my colleague from Montana, Mr. Marlenee, regarding the precedence here that worries me just a wee bit, as we just completed the wilderness bill in Utah last year. I appreciated the chairman working with us, and many others who did a good job on it, but I appreciated also that those in the State of Utah had that option to run it. And I am sure if there had been a heavy outside influence that the Senators, our two Senators who both felt differently than I did in some areas, would have gone against it. And we also had assurance from the White House that they would go against it. I would hate to see this as an exercise in futility because of influences that do not represent the best interests of the State of Nevada, and I would hope that would not be the case, and that we would work together, Republicans and Democrats and the people of Nevada, to work toward a solution to this problem.

Many times in Congress and the State legislative bodies, we win a battle, but we lose the war, and I think we should all keep that in mind. Compromise is the name of the game in this thing. I appreciated the remarks of the gentlewoman from Nevada regarding her introduction of this bill, which she kept in a rather conservative way.

Mr. Chairman, I would just add with you my feelings toward the people who have come a long way to testify on this matter, and I hope out of this we can come up with something that is good for our sister State of Nevada. Thank you very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thanks. I'm glad the gentleman liked the record of this subcommittee in respect to Utah wilderness, and I hope we can do the same sort of job for this bill, these bills before us.

Mr. Lehman.

Mr. LEHMAN. No comment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Any other comments to my left?

Mr. DARDEN. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Darden, who also accompanied us on our trip.

Mr. DARDEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was my pleasure to visit Nevada in July along with you and the members of the subcommittee, Senator Hecht and Representatives Vucanovich and Reid, and to meet a number of State and local officials there. I believe as a result of my visit to Nevada, I believe I do have a better working knowledge of the areas under scrutiny. I want to thank the citizens of Nevada for the kind hospitality they extended to us and especially the staffs of Congresswoman Vucanovich and Congressman Reid and the Senators there. We traveled extensively throughout the State, as you recall, and viewed many areas that were so remote that, as Representative Vucanovich said, many Nevadans had never even visited those areas.

The situation in Nevada is certainly different, though, from our home States in the South and in the East. In Georgia, the Federal Government, for example, only owns a little over 6 percent of the land, and as has been stated earlier, the Federal Government owns about 85 percent of the land in Nevada. I realize there is a serious disagreement about the amount of land to be set aside in wilderness, and I certainly don't mean to be presumptuous and try to tell the people of Nevada what to do by someone from the South or the East, but I would point out that when it comes to a percentage of wilderness from the surrounding States, Nevada is dead last, almost less than one-tenth of 1 percent. I think that needs be emphasized many times.

The situation is also unique, in that to set aside this land for wilderness, we point out there are no acquisition costs, and consequently, because much of the land in Nevada, as had been earlier said, is de facto wilderness anyway.

Finally, I want to thank in advance all the witnesses for being here. It seems to have brought about a good bit of interest. It looks like a reunion of the people that we met earlier out in Nevada in July. I want to say welcome to all of you, and we look forward to hearing from you later on and determining, along with your representatives, what's best to do in this situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



Mr. SEIBERLING. Any other preliminary remarks? Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, we would be remiss if we couldn't rehash old times. I would suggest—the gentlelady from Nevada has said she introduced a conservative bill. I would say it's too liberal.

Why wilderness? Why designate lands by a committee and by a special interest group with no knowledge? And that's been my theme song for 13 years, the lack of knowledge. The locking up of land that has mineral potential. It has maybe agricultural potential. Certainly, scenic potential. But the lack of knowledge that continues to exist. We sit in this committee time after time and disregard the representatives of the districts where we set aside wilderness. That is morally wrong, and it's wrong for the Nation, because we're doing it through ignorance and through pressure of special interest groups. It's wrong for the Nation, because we are still dependent on minerals, still dependent on fossil fuels, and we're setting aside through designation, prostituting the act of 1964, misleading the people of America, saying this is going to be preserved for your use, when it cannot be used.

What's wrong with inventorying land, finding out what's there, and if there's nothing other than wilderness, then just leave it as wilderness. But I challenge the chairman of the subcommittee to show me any fact that any of the areas that he's picked doesn't have a conflict in interest. Otherwise this room wouldn't be so crowded. What is wrong with finding out what's under the ground, as well as on top of the ground? We have never addressed that issue.

As I have said, I think the gentlelady from Nevada's bill is too liberal. If her bill is too liberal, Mr. Reid's bill is really liberal. And if his is really liberal, than the chairman's bill is ridiculous. [Laughter.]

So I'm suggesting to the committee, and I'll do everything in my power to see that we come to some reality of setting aside lands as wilderness, once we know what's there. I will say that the two Senators have introduced identical bills, and they represent the State statewide. And this bill has a long way to go. I won't be an obstructionist, but I will be definitely watching what occurs and do everything in my power to line up the votes that are necessary to make sure that we face the realism that we are doing something through ignorance and that we could do it correctly through knowledge by knowing what's under the ground.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LEVINE. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you. All right. One more.

Mr. LEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had not intended to make an opening remark, but to complete the cycle after the previous opening remark, I'd like to just express perspective from this end. I have the privilege of representing a district which is near Nevada in the State of California. I have visited Nevada more times than I can possibly count and have driven through extensive parts of the State of Nevada.

And I also would like to join in welcoming the Nevada representation here today.

Having reviewed this situation somewhat in advance of this hearing, and having discussed this subject with several friends

from Nevada, and having looked at these bills, the proposal of the distinguished gentleman, who is sitting at the witness table, strikes me as extremely conservative. I say that so that we understand that we are each looking at this from a somewhat different perspective. I would like to commend the chairman. I would like to commend the other members of this committee who have visited the State, as well as both members of the Nevada delegation. We are in a unique situation now, in that we have the entire Nevada delegation involved in this issue. And as I understand the bill of the gentleman from Nevada, and he will, I'm sure, explain it in much greater detail to the satisfaction of the committee, it sounds to me like he's talking only about 20 percent of the available potentially designated wilderness in the State of Nevada. Its my understanding that, in fact, his legislation is very much a compromise position between the two alternative positions reflected in the other bills.

I have had the privilege of working with the gentleman very closely on the other committee in which we serve—Foreign Affairs—and know that the legislative direction that he seeks is consistently extremely thoughtful. In looking at his bill and in looking at this extremely difficult subject, I feel we have here a very modest compromise before us and one which definitely bears very thoughtful and presumptively positive review by this committee.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I want to thank our distinguished colleague, Mr. Levine, because I think his remarks are right on target.

Let me just make one or two other observations. They say that comparisons are invidious, and yet I would say that marvelous as California is, and as marvelous as are all of the wonderful areas that are covered by the California Wilderness Act of 1984, which we enacted last year with the support of our colleagues on this subcommittee from that State, Nevada has areas that are every bit as magnificent. They are a national treasure that belong to the people of all of the country, as well as the people of Nevada, and they all deserve to be taken into account in coming to a decision. I took about 700 slides while we were there, and while neither the slides nor the small number of prints which are to my left that I had made from the slides can possibly do justice to the areas in question, I at least thought they'd be helpful, in case our colleagues want to see a representative sample of the kind of terrain that we're talking about.

If they want to, I have a small slide show, which we can put together sometime for those who are interested.

With those remarks, I want to welcome our colleague, Harry Reid, who flew with us throughout our trip and who has introduced his own bill, and I'm not going to take any more of his time.

Before proceeding to our first witness, and without objection, let us have printed at this point in the hearing record; namely, H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304.

[The bills H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304 follow:]

99TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1686

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 1985

Mrs. VUCANOVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Agriculture

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## A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3                    **TITLE I—SHORT TITLE, FINDINGS AND**

4    **PURPOSES**

5    **SHORT TITLE**

6        **SEC. 101.** This Act may be cited as the “Nevada Wil-  
7        derness Act of 1985”.

8                    **DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSES**

9        **SEC. 102.** (a) The Congress finds that—

1           (1) certain areas of undeveloped national forest  
2 lands in the State of Nevada possess outstanding natu-  
3 ral characteristics which give them high values as wil-  
4 derness and will, if properly preserved, be an enduring  
5 resource of wilderness for the benefit of the American  
6 people;

7           (2) review and evaluation of roadless and undevel-  
8 oped lands in the National Forest System of Nevada  
9 have identified those areas which, on the basis of their  
10 landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location,  
11 will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share  
12 of a quality National Wilderness Preservation System;  
13 and

14           (3) review and evaluation of roadless and undevel-  
15 oped lands in the National Forest System in Nevada  
16 have also identified those areas which should be avail-  
17 able for multiple uses other than wilderness, subject to  
18 the Forest Service's land management planning proc-  
19 ess and the provisions of this Act.

20           (b) The purposes of this Act are to—

21           (1) designate certain National Forest System  
22 lands in Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilder-  
23 ness Preservation System in order to preserve the wil-  
24 derness character of the land and to protect watersheds  
25 and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic re-

1 sources, and promote scientific research, primitive  
2 recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and  
3 inspiration for the benefit of all of the American  
4 people; and

5 (2) insure that certain National Forest System  
6 lands in the State of Nevada be made available for  
7 uses other than wilderness in accordance with applica-  
8 ble national forest laws and planning procedures and  
9 the provisions of this Act.

## 10 TITLE II

### 11 ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS

#### 12 PRESERVATION SYSTEM

13 SEC. 201. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilder-  
14 ness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890), the following National  
15 Forest System lands in the State of Nevada, as generally  
16 depicted on maps appropriately referenced herein, are hereby  
17 designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the  
18 National Wilderness Preservation System:

19 (1) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
20 which comprise approximately thirty-two thousand  
21 acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mount  
22 Charleston Wilderness Area—Proposed", dated March  
23 1985, and which shall be known as the Mount Charles-  
24 ton Wilderness;

1           (2) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
2           which comprise approximately twenty-three thousand  
3           acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Jar-  
4           bidge Additions to the Jarbidge Wilderness—Pro-  
5           posed", dated March 1985, and which are hereby in-  
6           corporated in and which shall be deemed a part of the  
7           Jarbidge Wilderness as designated by section 3(a) of  
8           the Wilderness Act;

9           (3) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
10          which comprise approximately seventy-three thousand  
11          acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mount  
12          Moriah Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1985,  
13          and which shall be known as the Mount Moriah Wil-  
14          derness; and

15          (4) certain lands in the Inyo National Forest,  
16          which comprise approximately eight thousand nine  
17          hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled  
18          "Boundary Peak Wilderness—Proposed", dated March  
19          1985, and which shall be known as the Boundary Peak  
20          Wilderness.

21       **LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES**

22       **SEC. 202.** As soon as practicable after the enactment of  
23 this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a  
24 legal description of each area described in title II with the  
25 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United  
26 States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular

1 Affairs of the House of Representatives, and each such map  
2 and legal description shall have the same force and effect as  
3 if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and  
4 typographical errors in each such legal description and map  
5 may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be  
6 on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the  
7 Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

8       **APPLICATION OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964**

9       **SEC. 203.** Subject to valid existing rights, each wilder-  
10 ness area designed by this Act shall be administered by the  
11 Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of  
12 this Act and the Wilderness Act, except that any reference in  
13 the provisions of the Wilderness Act to the effective date of  
14 the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the  
15 effective date of this Act.

16       **TITLE III—RELEASE OF LANDS FOR MULTIPLE**  
17                               **USE MANAGEMENT**

18       **ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF**  
19                               **ROADLESS AREAS**

20       **SEC. 301.** (a) The Congress finds that—

21               (1) the Department of Agriculture has completed  
22               the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation  
23               Program (RARE II); and

24               (2) the Congress has made its own review and ex-  
25               amination of national forest roadless areas in Nevada

1 and the environmental impacts associated with alterna-  
2 tive allocations of such areas.

3 (b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby  
4 determines and directs that—

5 (1) without passing on the question of the legal  
6 and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environ-  
7 mental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to  
8 national forest lands in States other than Nevada, such  
9 statement shall not be subject to judicial review with  
10 respect to National Forest System lands in the State of  
11 Nevada;

12 (2) with respect to the national forest lands in the  
13 State of Nevada which were reviewed by the Depart-  
14 ment of Agriculture in the second roadless area review  
15 and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to  
16 in subsection (d) upon enactment of this Act, that  
17 review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for  
18 the purposes of the initial land management plans re-  
19 quired for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Re-  
20 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (Public Law  
21 93-378), as amended by the National Forest Manage-  
22 ment Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588), to be an ade-  
23 quate consideration of the suitability of such lands for  
24 inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation  
25 System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be



1 required to review the wilderness option prior to the  
2 revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness  
3 option when the plans are revised, which revisions will  
4 ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every  
5 fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary  
6 finds that conditions in a unit have significantly  
7 changed;

8 (3) areas in the State of Nevada reviewed in such  
9 final environmental statement or referred to in subsec-  
10 tion (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment  
11 of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in ac-  
12 cordance with land management plans pursuant to sec-  
13 tion 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
14 sources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the Na-  
15 tional Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That  
16 such areas need not be managed for the purpose of  
17 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
18 prior to or during revision of the initial land manage-  
19 ment plans;

20 (4) in the event that revised land management  
21 plans in the State of Nevada are implemented pursuant  
22 to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable  
23 Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the  
24 National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other  
25 applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness

1 designation need not be managed for the purpose of  
2 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
3 prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas rec-  
4 ommended for wilderness designation shall be managed  
5 for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilder-  
6 ness designation as may be required by the Forest and  
7 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of  
8 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management  
9 Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

10 (5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the  
11 Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any fur-  
12 ther statewide roadless area review and evaluation of  
13 National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada  
14 for the purpose of determining their suitability for in-  
15 clusion in the National Wilderness Preservation  
16 System.

17 (c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6  
18 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning  
19 Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Manage-  
20 ment Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an  
21 "amendment" to a plan.

22 (d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to—

23 (1) those National Forest System roadless areas,  
24 or portions thereof in the State of Nevada, which were  
25 identified by unit plans listed at the end of this sub-

1 paragraph, which are not designated as wilderness by  
2 this Act:

National forest	Unit plan
Humboldt.....	Santa Rosa
Humboldt.....	Ruby Mtn./E. Humboldt
Toiyabe.....	Mt. Charleston
Toiyabe.....	Central Nevada

3 (2) National Forest System roadless lands in the  
4 State of Nevada which are less than five thousand  
5 acres in size.

6 **TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

7 **GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS**

8 **SEC. 401. (a)** Within the wilderness areas designated by  
9 this Act, the grazing of livestock, where established prior to  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to con-  
11 tinue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and  
12 practices as the Secretary concerned deems necessary, as  
13 long as such regulations, policies, and practices fully conform  
14 with and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing  
15 in such areas as such intent is expressed in section 4(d)(4) of  
16 the Wilderness Act and section 108 of Public Law 96-560.

17 (b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all  
18 policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Ag-  
19 riculture regarding livestock grazing in National Forest  
20 System wilderness areas in Nevada in order to insure that  
21 such policies, practices, and regulations fully conform with

1 and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in  
2 such areas, as such intent is expressed in this Act.

3 (c) The use of motorized equipment for the maintenance  
4 and care of livestock and supporting facilities for historical  
5 purposes related to grazing activities is permissible in wilder-  
6 ness areas in the State of Nevada. Such use of motorized  
7 equipment shall be expressly authorized in individual grazing  
8 permits or allotment management plans for the area involved,  
9 or by agreement with the wilderness management agency.

10 (d) Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of this Act, and at least every five years thereafter, the  
12 Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on  
13 Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of  
14 Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natu-  
15 ral Resources of the United States Senate a report detailing  
16 the progress made by the Forest Service in carrying out the  
17 provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section.

18 STATE WATER ALLOCATION AUTHORITY

19 SEC. 402. (a) As provided in section 4(d)(6) of the Wil-  
20 derness Act, nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or  
21 implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Govern-  
22 ment as to exemption from Nevada water laws.

23 (b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the  
24 exercise of valid water rights as provided under Nevada  
25 State law, nor shall it constitute an express or implied reser-  
26 vation of water rights in favor of the Federal Government.

## 1 STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

2 SEC. 403. As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilder-  
3 ness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting  
4 the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Nevada with  
5 respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Nevada.

## 6 PROHIBITION OF BUFFER ZONES

7 SEC. 404. (a) Congress does not intend that the designa-  
8 tion of wilderness areas in the State of Nevada lead to the  
9 creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each  
10 wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or  
11 uses can be seen or heard from within any wilderness area  
12 shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the  
13 boundary of the wilderness area.

14 (b) Any air quality redesignation shall remain the pre-  
15 rogative of the State as provided in section 164(a) of the  
16 Clean Air Act.

17 (c) It is the intent of Congress that wilderness designa-  
18 tion shall not in itself provide for protection under the visibili-  
19 ty provision or any other provision of the Clean Air Act  
20 beyond that provided for adjacent public lands managed for  
21 multiple use.

## 22 MINERAL RESOURCES

23 SEC. 405. (a) In furtherance of section 4(d)(2) of the  
24 Wilderness Act and the policies of the National Materials and  
25 Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act (94 Stat.  
26 2305), the Secretary of the Interior shall continue to make

1 assessments of the mineral potential of national forest wilder-  
2 ness areas in the State of Nevada on a recurring basis, con-  
3 sistent with the concept of wilderness preservation, in order  
4 to expand the data base with respect to the mineral potential  
5 of such lands.

6 (b) The use of motorized equipment for transportation,  
7 construction, and earth moving purposes and the construction  
8 of facilities related to development and mining of valid mining  
9 claims located prior to enactment of this Act is permissible in  
10 wilderness areas in Nevada. Reasonable access by road may  
11 be permitted.

12 WATERSHED PROTECTION

13 SEC. 406. (a) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to  
14 limit motorized access and road maintenance by local munici-  
15 palities for those minimum maintenance activities necessary  
16 to guarantee the continued viability of whatsoever watershed  
17 facilities currently exist or which may be necessary in the  
18 future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in such  
19 wilderness areas within the State of Nevada, subject to such  
20 reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secre-  
21 tary of Agriculture.

22 (b) Within the wilderness areas designated by this Act,  
23 the provisions of the Wilderness Act shall not be construed to  
24 prevent the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, mete-  
25 orologic, climatological, geologic, or telecommunications fa-  
26 cilities, or any combination of the foregoing, or limited motor-

1 ized access to such facilities when nonmotorized access  
2 means are not reasonably available or when time is of the  
3 essence, subject to such strict environmental safeguards as  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior  
5 deem desirable, where such facilities or access are essential  
6 to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation  
7 purposes, or for conducting essential surveys and tests.

8 (c) As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act,  
9 such measures may be taken within wilderness areas desig-  
10 nated by this Act as may be necessary in the control of fire,  
11 insects, and diseases, subject to applicable laws and such ad-  
12 ditional reasonable conditions as the Secretary deems desira-  
13 ble. This shall include the use of herbicides for plant and  
14 noxious weed control and the practice of reseeding a badly  
15 damaged area.

16 **PREDATOR CONTROL AUTHORITY**

17 **SEC. 407.** Nothing in this Act shall limit or affect the  
18 jurisdiction or responsibilities of the Federal Government, in  
19 cooperation with the State of Nevada, with respect to preda-  
20 tor control activities in the national forests in Nevada.

99TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3302

To designate certain national forest lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1985

Mr. REID introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Agriculture

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## A BILL

To designate certain national forest lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3        That this Act may be cited as the "Nevada Wilderness Pro-  
4        tection Act of 1985".

5                    ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS

6                    PRESERVATION SYSTEM

7        SEC. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilder-  
8        ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the  
9        State of Nevada are hereby designated wilderness, and,



1 therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preser-  
2 vation System—

3 (1) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest, which  
4 comprise approximately one hundred and forty-six thousand  
5 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Arc Dome  
6 Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September 1985, and which  
7 shall be known as the Arc Dome Wilderness;

8 (2) certain lands in the Inyo National Forest, which  
9 comprise approximately eight thousand and nine hundred  
10 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Boundary  
11 Peak Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September 1985, and  
12 which shall be known as the Boundary Peak Wilderness;

13 (3) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
14 which comprise approximately twenty-seven thousand  
15 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “East  
16 Humboldts Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September  
17 1985, and which shall be known as the East Hum-  
18 boldts Wilderness;

19 (4) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
20 which comprise approximately fifty-four thousand  
21 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Jar-  
22 bidge Wilderness Additions—Proposed”, dated Sep-  
23 tember 1985, and which are hereby incorporated in,  
24 and which shall be deemed to be a part of the Jarbidge  
25 Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

1           (5) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
2           which comprise approximately eighty-eight thousand  
3           acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt.  
4           Moriah Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
5           1985, and which shall be known as the Mt. Moriah  
6           Wilderness;

7           (6) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
8           which comprise approximately thirty-three thousand  
9           acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt.  
10          Rose Wilderness—Proposed", dated September 1985,  
11          and which shall be known as the Mt. Rose Wilderness;

12          (7) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
13          which comprise approximately seventy-four thousand  
14          acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Ruby  
15          Mountains Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
16          1985, and which shall be known as the Ruby Moun-  
17          tains Wilderness;

18          (8) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
19          which comprise approximately one hundred and twenty  
20          thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
21          "South Snake Wilderness—Proposed", dated Septem-  
22          ber 1985, and which shall be known as the South  
23          Snake Wilderness;

24          (9) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
25          which comprise approximately forty-seven thousand

1 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt.  
2 Charleston Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
3 1985, and which shall be known as the Mt. Charleston  
4 Wilderness; and

5 (10) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
6 which comprise approximately one hundred and twenty  
7 five thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map en-  
8 titled "Table Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated  
9 September 1985, and which shall be known as the  
10 Table Mountain Wilderness.

11 MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

12 SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this  
13 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal  
14 description of each wilderness area designated by this Act  
15 with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the  
16 United States House of Representatives and with the Com-  
17 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United  
18 States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the  
19 same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that  
20 correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such  
21 map and description may be made by the Secretary. Each  
22 such map and description shall be on file and available for  
23 public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
24 ice, Department of Agriculture.

## 1 ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS

2 SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness  
3 area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Sec-  
4 retary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the  
5 Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as  
6 wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to  
7 the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to  
8 be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

## 9 WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS

10 SEC. 5. (a) The Congress finds that—

11 (1) the Department of Agriculture has completed  
12 the second roadless area review and evaluation pro-  
13 gram (RARE II); and

14 (2) the Congress has made its own review and ex-  
15 amination of National Forest System roadless areas in  
16 the State of Nevada and of the environmental impacts  
17 associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

18 (b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby  
19 determines and directs that—

20 (1) without passing on the question of the legal  
21 and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environ-  
22 mental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to  
23 National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada;  
24 such statement shall not be subject to judicial review  
25 with respect to National Forest System lands in the  
26 State of Nevada;

1           (2) with respect to the National Forest System  
2 lands in the State of Nevada which were reviewed by  
3 the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless  
4 area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands  
5 referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation  
6 or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the  
7 initial land management plans required for such lands  
8 by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
9 Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National  
10 Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate  
11 consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclu-  
12 sion in the National Wilderness Preservation System  
13 and the Department of Agriculture shall not be re-  
14 quired to review the wilderness option prior to the re-  
15 visions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness  
16 option when the plans are revised, which revisions will  
17 ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every  
18 fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary  
19 of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have sig-  
20 nificantly changed;

21           (3) areas in the State of Nevada reviewed in such  
22 final environmental statement or referenced in subsec-  
23 tion (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment  
24 of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in ac-  
25 cordance with land management plans pursuant to sec-

1       tion 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
2       sources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the Na-  
3       tional Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That  
4       such areas need not be managed for the purpose of  
5       protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
6       prior to or during revision of the initial land manage-  
7       ment plans;

8           (4) in the event that revised land management  
9       plans in the State of Nevada are implemented pursuant  
10      to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable  
11      Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the  
12      National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other  
13      applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness  
14      designation need not be managed for the purpose of  
15      protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
16      prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas rec-  
17      ommended for wilderness designation shall be managed  
18      for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilder-  
19      ness designation as may be required by the Forest and  
20      Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of  
21      1974, as amended by the National Forest Management  
22      Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

23           (5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the  
24      Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any fur-  
25      ther statewide roadless area review and evaluation of

1 National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada  
 2 for the purpose of determining their suitability for in-  
 3 clusion in the National Wilderness Preservation  
 4 System.

5 (c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6  
 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning  
 7 Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Manage-  
 8 ment Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an  
 9 "amendment" to a plan.

10 (d) provisions of this section shall also apply to:

11 (1) National Forest System roadless lands in the State  
 12 of Nevada which are less than five thousand acres in size.

13 (2) Those National Forest System roadless areas,  
 14 or portions thereof in the State of Nevada which were  
 15 indentified by unit plans listed at the end of this sub-  
 16 paragraph, which are not designated as wilderness by  
 17 this Act:

National forest	Unit plan
Humboldt.....	Santa Rosa
Humboldt.....	Ruby Mtn./E. Humboldt
Toiyabe.....	Mt. Charleston
Toiyabe.....	Central Nevada

18 **GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS**

19 SEC. 6. (a) Grazing of livestock in wilderness areas des-  
 20 ignated by this Act, where established prior to the date of  
 21 enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance

1 with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and section 108 of  
2 Public Law 96-560.

3 (b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all  
4 policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Ag-  
5 riculture regarding livestock grazing in national forest wilder-  
6 ness areas in Nevada in order to ensure that such policies,  
7 practices, and regulations fully conform with and implement  
8 the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas, as  
9 such intent is expressed in this Act.

10 PROHIBITION ON BUFFER ZONES

11 SEC. 7. Congress does not intend that the designation of  
12 wilderness areas in the State of Nevada lead to the creation  
13 of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilder-  
14 ness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can  
15 be seen or heard from within any wilderness area shall not, of  
16 itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of  
17 the wilderness area.

18 STATE WATER ALLOCATION AUTHORITY

19 SEC. 8. As provided in section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness  
20 Act, nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied  
21 claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to  
22 exemption from Nevada water laws.

23 STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

24 SEC. 9. As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness  
25 Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the



- 1 jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Nevada with
- 2 respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Nevada.

99TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3304

Entitled the "Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985".

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1985

Mr. SEIBERLING (for himself, Mr. DARDEN, Mr. KOSTMAYER, and Mr. WEAVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Agriculture

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## A BILL

Entitled the "Nevada Wilderness Act of 1985".

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SHORT TITLE

4 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Nevada  
5 Wilderness Protection Act of 1985".

6 ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS

7 PRESERVATION SYSTEM

8 SEC. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilder-  
9 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the  
10 State of Nevada are hereby designated wilderness, and,

1 therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preser-  
2 vation System—

3 (1) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
4 which comprise approximately forty-five thousand  
5 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Alta  
6 Toquima Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September  
7 1985, and which shall be known as the Alta Toquima  
8 Wilderness;

9 (2) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
10 which comprise approximately one hundred and forty-  
11 six thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map en-  
12 titled “Arc Dome Wilderness—Proposed”, dated Sep-  
13 tember 1985, and which shall be known as the Arc  
14 Dome Wilderness;

15 (3) certain lands in the Inyo National Forest,  
16 which comprise approximately eight thousand nine  
17 hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
18 “Boundary Peak Wilderness—Proposed”, dated Sep-  
19 tember 1985, and which shall be known as the Bound-  
20 ary Peak Wilderness;

21 (4) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
22 which comprise approximately forty-nine thousand  
23 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Cur-  
24 rant Mountain Wilderness—Proposed”, dated Septem-

1 ber 1985, and which shall be known as the Currant  
2 Mountain Wilderness;

3 (5) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
4 which comprise approximately twenty-seven thousand  
5 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "East  
6 Humboldts Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
7 1985, and which shall be known as the East Hum-  
8 boldts Wilderness;

9 (6) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
10 which comprise approximately twelve thousand six  
11 hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
12 "Elk Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated Septem-  
13 ber 1985, and which shall be known as the Elk Moun-  
14 tain Wilderness;

15 (7) certain lands in the Inyo and Toiyabe National  
16 Forest, which comprise approximately one hundred and  
17 twenty-two thousand acres, as generally depicted on a  
18 map entitled "Excelsior Wilderness—Proposed", dated  
19 September 1985, and which shall be known as the  
20 Excelsior Wilderness;

21 (8) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
22 which comprise approximately sixty thousand acres, as  
23 generally depicted on a map entitled "Grant Range  
24 Wilderness—Proposed", dated September 1985, and  
25 which shall be known as the Grant Range Wilderness;

1           (9) certain lands in the Humboldt National Forest,  
2           which comprise approximately fifty-four thousand  
3           acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Jar-  
4           bidge Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated Sep-  
5           tember 1985, and which are hereby incorporated in,  
6           and which shall be deemed to be a part of the Jarbidge  
7           Wilderness as designated by Public Law 88-577;

8           (10) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
9           Forest, which comprise approximately ninety-eight  
10          thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
11          "Mt. Moriah Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
12          1985, and which shall be known as the Mt. Moriah  
13          Wilderness;

14          (11) certain lands in the Toiyable National Forest,  
15          which comprise approximately thirty-five thousand  
16          acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt.  
17          Rose Wilderness—Proposed", dated September 1985,  
18          and which shall be known as the Mt. Rose Wilderness;

19          (12) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
20          Forest, which comprise approximately ninety-five thou-  
21          sand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
22          "Quinn Canyon Wilderness—Proposed", dated Sep-  
23          tember 1985, and which shall be known as the Quinn  
24          Canyon Wilderness;

1           (13) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
2       Forest, which comprise approximately one hundred and  
3       forty-three thousand acres, as generally depicted on a  
4       map entitled "Ruby Mountains Wilderness—Pro-  
5       posed", dated September 1985, and which shall be  
6       known as the Ruby Mountains Wilderness;

7           (14) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
8       Forest, which comprise approximately eighty thousand  
9       acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Santa  
10      Rosa Wilderness—Proposed", dated September 1985,  
11      and which shall be known as the Santa Rosa Wilder-  
12      ness;

13          (15) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
14      Forest, which comprise approximately one hundred and  
15      twenty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map  
16      entitled "Schell Peaks Wilderness—Proposed", dated  
17      September 1985, and which shall be known as the  
18      Schell Peaks Wilderness;

19          (16) certain lands in the Humboldt National  
20      Forest, which comprise approximately one hundred and  
21      twenty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map  
22      entitled "South Snake Wilderness—Proposed", dated  
23      September 1985, and which shall be known as the  
24      South Snake Wilderness;

1           (17) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
2           which comprise approximately forty-seven thousand  
3           acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt.  
4           Charleston Wilderness—Proposed", dated September  
5           1985, and which shall be known as the Mt. Charleston  
6           Wilderness;

7           (18) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
8           which comprise approximately one hundred and  
9           twenty-five thousand acres, as generally depicted on a  
10          map entitled "Table Mountain Wilderness—Proposed",  
11          dated September 1985, and which shall be known as  
12          the Table Mountain Wilderness; and

13          (19) certain lands in the Toiyabe National Forest,  
14          which comprise approximately seventy-nine thousand  
15          acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled  
16          "Toiyabe Crest Wilderness—Proposed", dated Sep-  
17          tember 1985, and which shall be known as the  
18          Toiyabe Crest Wilderness.

19                                    MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

20          SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this  
21          Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal  
22          description of each wilderness area designated by this Act  
23          with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the  
24          United States House of Representatives and with the Com-  
25          mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United  
26          States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the

1 same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that  
2 correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such  
3 map and description may be made by the Secretary. Each  
4 such map and description shall be on file and available for  
5 public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
6 ice, Department of Agriculture.

7                                   ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS

8           SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness  
9 area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Sec-  
10 retary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the  
11 Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as  
12 wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to  
13 the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to  
14 be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

15                                   WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS

16           SEC. 5. (a) The Congress finds that—

17                   (1) the Department of Agriculture has completed  
18 the second roadless area review and evaluation pro-  
19 gram (RARE II); and

20                   (2) the Congress has made its own review and ex-  
21 amination of National Forest System roadless areas in  
22 the State of Nevada and of the environmental impacts  
23 associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

24           (b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby  
25 determines and directs that—



1           (1) without passing on the question of the legal  
2           and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environ-  
3           mental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to  
4           National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada;  
5           such statement shall not be subject to judicial review  
6           with respect to National Forest System lands in the  
7           State of Nevada;

8           (2) with respect to the National Forest System  
9           lands in the State of Nevada which were reviewed by  
10          the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless  
11          area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands  
12          referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation  
13          or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the  
14          initial land management plans required for such lands  
15          by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources  
16          Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National  
17          Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate  
18          consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclu-  
19          sion in the National Wilderness Preservation System  
20          and the Department of Agriculture shall not be re-  
21          quired to review the wilderness option prior to the re-  
22          visions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness  
23          option when the plans are revised, which revisions will  
24          ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every  
25          fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary

1 of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have  
2 significantly changed;

3 (3) areas in the State of Nevada reviewed in such  
4 final environmental statement or referenced in subsec-  
5 tion (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment  
6 of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in  
7 accordance with land management plans pursuant to  
8 section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-  
9 sources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the Na-  
10 tional Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That  
11 such areas need not be managed for the purpose of  
12 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
13 prior to or during revision of the initial land manage-  
14 ment plans;

15 (4) in the event that revised land management  
16 plans in the State of Nevada are implemented pursuant  
17 to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable  
18 Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the  
19 National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other  
20 applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness  
21 designation need not be managed for the purpose of  
22 protecting their suitability for wilderness designation  
23 prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas rec-  
24 ommended for wilderness designation shall be managed  
25 for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilder-

1       ness designation as may be required by the Forest and  
2       Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of  
3       1974, as amended by the National Forest Management  
4       Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

5               (5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the  
6       Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any fur-  
7       ther statewide roadless area review and evaluation of  
8       National Forest System lands in the State of Nevada  
9       for the purpose of determining their suitability for in-  
10      clusion in the National Wilderness Preservation  
11      System.

12      (c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6  
13      of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning  
14      Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Manage-  
15      ment Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an  
16      "amendment" to a plan.

17      (d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to:

18               (1) National Forest System roadless lands in the  
19      State of Nevada which are less than five thousand  
20      acres in size.

21               (2) Those National Forest System roadless areas,  
22      or portions thereof in the State of Nevada, which were  
23      identified by unit plans listed at the end of this sub-  
24      paragraph, which are not designated as wilderness by  
25      this Act:

National Forest	Unit Plan
Humboldt.....	Santa Rosa
Humboldt.....	Ruby Mtn./E. Humboldt
Toiyabe.....	Mt. Charleston
Toiyabe.....	Central Nevada

1  
2                   **GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS**  
3       **SEC. 6. (a) Grazing of livestock in wilderness areas es-**  
4 **tablished by this Act, where established prior to the date of**  
5 **enactment of this Act, shall be administered in accordance**  
6 **with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and section 108 of**  
7 **Public Law 96-560.**

8       **(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all**  
9 **policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Ag-**  
10 **riculture regarding livestock grazing in national forest wilder-**  
11 **ness areas in Nevada in order to insure that such policies,**  
12 **practices, and regulations fully conform with and implement**  
13 **the intent of Congress regarding grazing in such areas, as**  
**such intent is expressed in this Act.**

Mr. SIEBERLING. Welcome to this subcommittee. We look forward to having your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF HON. HARRY REID, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA**

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear here today, as you consider a matter of utmost importance to the State of Nevada—the designation of national forest lands as wilderness. I would also like to welcome those of you who have traveled from Nevada and other parts of the country and taken the time from your schedules to be here on this matter, which is of importance to Nevada.

Members of the committee, you must initially understand that the State of Nevada is more than an area to set off atomic bombs, more than an area to test the fighting capabilities of fighter aircraft that come from all over the free world. It's more than a dumping ground for high-level or low-level nuclear waste, and it is not, in fact a desert wasteland. Nevada, to those of us who see it as something other than what I have just described, think of Nevada as the great Lake Tahoe; the only alpine glacial lake in the United States and only one of two in the whole world; the other being in the Soviet Union. We think of Nevada as the great Lake Mead, formed when Boulder Dam was constructed and one of the largest manmade lakes in the world, at one time, the largest manmade lake in the world. A place of recreation and enjoyment that has been part of the Western United States for over 50 years.

In addition to these things that we hear much about, there are, of course, the bright lights of Reno and Las Vegas.

But among those things that we do not hear much about is the topic of conversation and testimony here today.

Nevada is a vast State—the seventh largest in the Nation. It contains some of the most beautiful desert land in the world and some of the most beautiful mountains and mountain peaks in the world.

Virtually the only State in the Nation that has not adopted wilderness legislation, Nevada has more than 100 national forest roadless areas, totally 3.6 million acres and spanning 70 percent of the national forests in our State. Currently, all roadless areas are administered as de facto wilderness, pursuant to a 1980 court decision. That is why it is critical to resolve the wilderness impasse and release certain areas for multiple use.

Before addressing the specific provisions of H.R. 3302, which is the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act, the one that I sponsored, I would like to share with you some background regarding the evolution of the act. Early in 1983, I was contacted by the U.S. Forest Service personnel to discuss the importance of designing a wilderness bill for Nevada. Over this 2-year-plus period, I have met with various organizations, Federal officials, State officials, Members of Congress, and individuals here and in Nevada to become acquainted with their concerns about wilderness. The Nevada congressional delegation met on several occasions in an attempt to fashion an acceptable proposal.

Although I was born in Nevada and have represented the State as its Lieutenant Governor and as chairman of its Gaming Commission, I frankly had not visited many of the proposed wilderness areas in our national forests. I felt it was important to do so if, in good conscience, I was to play a major role in resolving the Nevada wilderness impasse.

You'll recognize the other bill being talked about was introduced prior to the tour having been taken. Because of this, I participated in a 4-day tour of many of Nevada's wilderness areas with Chairman Seiberling, Representatives Vucanovich, Weaver, Darden, Kostmayer, and Senator Hecht and a staff member from Senator Laxalt's office.

This journey began in Clark County, where the city of Las Vegas is located. We saw Mount Charleston, the nearly 12,000-foot mountain, which is just a few miles west of downtown Las Vegas. The relatively small area which is being considered for wilderness designation has two dozen indigenous plant species, stands of ponderosa and bristlecone pine, numerous springs and some hiking trails. It's beautiful.

It took us nearly 2 days by helicopter to see the proposed 750,000 acres of unbelievable beauty in Nye County—a proverbial wonderland. We saw Toiyabe Crest and Arc Dome with the high peaks, wild valleys, and trout streams.

And departing from my prepared remarks, this is an area where there is a 72-mile trail that you can walk over mountain peaks and through very high terrain, which is very safe, and it's absolutely fantastic.

We then flew to Mount Jefferson, a place where 100 years ago John Muir confirmed the glaciation of the Great Basin. The crest of the area has been designated a Research Natural Area by the Forest Service. Archeologists have also discovered the highest Shoshone Indian encampment in Nevada prehistory just below the summit of this mountain.

A favorite in Nye County was Table Mountain. A long, broad, flat-topped mountain, this area is gentle, providing opportunities for walking, fishing, horseback riding, and hunting. Elk, deer, and mountain lions roam freely in these aspen-dominated forests.

Currant Mountain, which is 35 miles southeast of Ely covers the most scenic portions of the White Pine Range. Dominated by towering limestone crests and cliffs, the area embraces a fascinating mix of cliffs, slabs, towers and talus slide. The area's rugged geology is home to antelope, mule deer, and small relic bighorn sheep.

On the third day, we visited White Pine County. Within White Pine County is the Wheeler Peak area, probably one of Nevada's best-known wilderness proposals. The area has also been studied and proposed for national park status since the 1950's. And I've talked to Congressman Vento about that on a number of occasions, and I hope we'll speak more about that.

At the 13,013-foot summit of the diverse terrain is the world's largest bristlecone pine. Wheeler Peak also contains the State's only permanent glacier.

The group then flew over Mount Mariah, a beautiful area where wilderness attributes are high and resource conflicts low. The Schell Peaks contain Nevada's largest elk herd and is a sports-

man's paradise. In addition, the side canyons and basins contain numerous trout streams which offer excellent fishing.

We found Elko County to be blessed with the incredibly unique Ruby Mountains. A classic wilderness area, the Ruby Mountains have more than 30 lakes and abound in wildlife populations of deer, mountain lion, bobcats, beavers, ruffed grouse partridge, blue grouse, and even mountain goats.

The East Humboldts lie to the northeast of the Rubies and are highlighted by a nonpareil "hole" at 11,306 feet, known as Lizzie's Window. Like the Rubies to the south, the area is rich with wildlife, including mountain goat and a large deer population.

On the final day, we visited the Jarbidge area, the only existing wilderness area in Nevada. Much of the State's existing outfitting and guiding business occurs in the Jarbidge area. All parties agree that the area can be expanded.

Twenty miles south of the Oregon border lies the Santa Rosa wilderness proposal. Rising some 4,000 feet above the surrounding high desert, the area is an important water producer with good trout fishing. Wildlife in the area include deer, mountain lion, bobcat and perhaps more golden eagles than any other area in the State.

Reno has an area that is similar in some respects to Mount Charleston and Las Vegas. It is Mount Rose, an area which lies just a few minutes from the outskirts of Reno, and it contains a lovely mix of forested lands, vast open meadows and peaks.

And Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would ask to allow to be made part of the record, a resolution that was introduced by Council Member Wilson from the Reno City Council and was adopted unanimously by the Reno City Council, adopting this wilderness proposal that I'm speaking about.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection, that will be included at this point.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned resolution may be found in the appendix. See table of contents for page number.]

Mr. REID. Before, during and following the trip, I met with a myriad of interest groups, ranging from ranchers and miners, to skiers, hikers, sportsmen, and senior citizens—and of course, just plain people. Together we developed a wilderness proposal that would be a practical solution to the wilderness dilemma.

After careful deliberation and literally hundreds of hours of study, I introduced the "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act," H.R. 3302, which designates 10 areas totaling approximately 723,000 acres in Clark, Esmeralda, Nye, White Pine, Elko, and Washoe Counties. The areas are Arc Dome, 146,000 acres; Boundary Peak, 18,900 acres; East Humboldts, 27,000 acres; Jarbidge Additions, 54,000 acres; Mount Moriah, 888,00 acres; Ruby Mountains, 74,000 acres; South Snake, which includes Wheeler Peak, 120,000 acres; Mount Charleston, 47,000 acres; and Table Mountain, 125,000 acres.

Although all of the proposed areas meet the criteria for wilderness designation, political and economic realities deem that a different approach be taken. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that H.R. 3302 received thoughtful deliberation that a proposal of this magnitude deserves. I believe this bill is a well-balanced compromise in the best interests of the State and this Nation.

Mr. Chairman, in the remarks I made on the House floor when I introduced this bill, I thought that we should pay—you, as a committee, should pay particular attention to the Mount Rose area, because there may be some slight boundary adjustments that need to be made there, the Table Mountain area on the east boundary of that. There likely will have to be some boundary adjustments made on the east side of the Table Mountain area, because of some problems with mineral encroachments. And also, we need to look at Boundary Peak, there are some adjustments that I believe should be made there. And there may be some others. And certainly I would like to be reasonable and would ask that the committee look closely at the testimony that is given to find out if there are any significant problems with any of the areas that I talked about and have in my bill.

Mr. Chairman, the areas with significant mineral and oil and gas potential have been excluded from my bill. In response to my friend from Alaska, indicate that there have been studies made, and the chairman knows that there have been studies made dealing with the mineral potential. And I would state at this time, that even the miners in the State of Nevada got together and suggested a bill sometimes about 2½ times what has been introduced by my colleague from Nevada.

I say that where potential mineral conflicts may arise, I have already stated that I have worked with the affected parties in the proposed area to address their concerns.

The Nevada mineral industry does not oppose wilderness designations in the Rubies, Mount Moriah, Mount Charleston, Boundary Peak and the extension of the existing Jarbridge Wilderness Area. The industry has stated its support for further study of Arc Dome, East Humboldt, and the Mount Wheeler areas.

Questions have been raised as to the wisdom of designating wilderness in mineralized areas, due to this Nation's dependence upon foreign imports—and these are statements that have been made in the press in Nevada the past month, Mr. Chairman—particularly in light of the deteriorating situation in South Africa. Mr. Chairman, you know that we import four strategic materials from South Africa, which are manganese, cobalt, chromium, and the platinum group metals. At this time, there is no evidence indicating deposits of these materials within the proposed wilderness areas in H.R. 3302, and of course, there is absolutely no evidence that there is any cobalt, chromium, or the platinum groups in these areas. There is some evidence that there might be a little manganese in one area. And the mineral industry has been asked to address that.

In an emergency situation, of course, the President would always have the authority to go into wilderness areas to get these metals. Common sense dictates that our national security takes precedence over environmental preservation.

Webster's Dictionary defines "wilderness area" as an often large tract of public land maintained essentially in its natural state and protected against introduction of intrusive artifacts, such as roads and buildings. To many Nevadans—and to my chagrin—the term "wilderness area" means that Federal officials will close all lands to the public. In fact, a Nevadan wrote to me stating that he understood the wilderness designation would require all privately owned



land to be converted to wilderness. I am particularly concerned about the perpetuation of these myths and inaccuracies surrounding wilderness designation.

First of all, many individuals have alerted me to their opposition to more Federal control of Nevada land. As has already been indicated here, approximately 87 percent is controlled by the Federal Government. I couldn't agree more. The lands we are addressing here today, though, are already federally owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. My bill would release more than 2.8 million acres currently administered as "de facto" wilderness, releasing 4 out of every 5 acres for further uses and development.

Mr. Chairman, at a meeting of our county commissions in Fallon about 3 weeks ago, a resolution was introduced by—I'm sure it was on a nonpartisan basis—by one of my Republican friends from Washoe County. He stated how bad it would be to have the Federal Government taking over more land, and that he was opposed to my wilderness bill, and he supported the smallest wilderness designation that would be possible. There was a motion made and a voice vote taken, and the newspapers said "County Oppose Reid's Bill."

I thought it would be important that those county commissioners be contacted. My staff and myself contacted 90 percent of those county commissioners. I wrote each of them a letter. Mr. Chairman, I report to you and the people from Nevada, that the county commissioners that we spoke with are opposed to the Federal Government controlling more land in Nevada. If wilderness means that the Federal Government is going to take over more land, they're opposed to it. That's the purpose of this voice vote.

They stated, however, that they recognize that there must be a wilderness bill to release the "de facto" wilderness, and I found general consensus for the actions that's been taken to move this bill along. I state without qualification or hesitation, that the majority of the county commissioners that we spoke with did not oppose a reasonable wilderness bill.

Now I'm not here to tell you that they endorsed mine wholeheartedly, but I am here to tell you that they didn't endorse my colleague's bill wholeheartedly either.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise a second point, namely, that grazing, of course, will not be discontinued in wilderness. I hear rumors of problems encountered by ranchers who operate in other wilderness areas. In this case, I am certain that this committee would like to have the details, because we have been unable to find any written problems from ranchers where wilderness has been created in those areas. In fact, quite to the contrary, the ranchers in many areas would rather have wilderness areas, because they're grandfathered in. They have ongoing problems in regular Forest Service land.

My bill, Mr. Chairman, also prohibits the creation of clean air buffer or line of sight zones. New wilderness areas by law are treated the same as nonwilderness national forest lands.

Wilderness will not impair water rights, nor will it impair national forest revenue sharing with local governments because the current payment under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act will remain the same after wilderness designation.

The development of existing valid mining claims is permitted. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted in wilderness areas as well. These opportunities may be increased because wilderness protects wildlife and fish habitat from the adverse effect of roadbuilding and other development.

These areas will not become inaccessible to senior citizens and the handicapped, as all the lands in question are roadless now.

There is a famous Woodie Guthrie song that we are all familiar with called "This Land Is Your Land." Well, the State of Nevada I believe is my land. It is my State, it is your State. It is a land that covers lakes and rivers and deserts and mountain peaks. It includes bighorn sheep, mountain lion, cougar, eagle, beaver, bobcat, chipmunk, elk, deer, and antelope, all far removed from the vision of atomic bombs and nuclear waste.

Truly, Nevada is your land and it is my land, and it is our duty as Members of this Congress to try to set a balance to preserve wilderness and allow development, so that in the years to come this land will still be your land and still be my land, a place where the deer and antelope can literally play, a place where your children and my children will have the opportunity to see elk prancing on a hilltop or an eagle gliding through the sky because we had the foresight to select these unique and beautiful areas as wilderness.

Mr. Chairman, there are many here today who can address each and every technical aspect of the Wilderness Preservation Act. I will leave that specific aspect of the legislation to them, but I do know that the act provided for wilderness to become an ongoing part of American civilization, to give these wild areas legal protection amidst progress.

Aside from releasing more than 2.8 million acres of national forest lands in Nevada for other uses, the crown jewels of Nevada will be preserved for generations to come.

I am reminded, Mr. Chairman, of the quotation that today I think is so pertinent: "We never understand how little we need in this world until we know the loss of it."

Thank you very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Before we get into questions, let me make one or two observations. Because of the enormous number of witnesses we have today, I am going to follow very strictly the 5-minute rule, both with respect to witnesses and with respect to members' questions, and I am going to ask the staff to run the timer here so there isn't any question about when we have reached the 5 minutes.

And second, there is an old saying I remembered when I was a schoolboy that if all the students that slept in class were laid end-to-end they would be much more comfortable. [Laughter.]

If all the people who stand in hearings would sit down in the seats in the lower tier or at the ends of the upper tier, they will be much more comfortable, and I invite the standees to do so if they wish.

All right, I have no questions. I want to commend my colleague for his assiduous work in this issue, for having taken the initiative of introducing his bill, and for his testimony today, and I will certainly work with him and the other members of the delegation to

work out a result that I think will be protective of the national interest and also the local interests of the people of Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. REID. If I could accept the invitation you extended to me earlier to sit—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, I was going to say I would now like to invite him, but maybe we ought to wait till the questions are over, if there are questions, and then I would like our colleague to join us on the upper level here to sit through the hearing.

Are there any questions?

Mr. Lehman.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank each of the authors for their very eloquent opening statement? I am kind of excited about the prospect of the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

A big portion of my district, a couple of hundred miles, borders Nevada. I have extensive wilderness in my district on the other side.

In addition to that, I fly over Nevada twice a week on my way to Washington. So I have seen most of these areas from about 30,000 feet.

I kind of feel, in looking at the disparity in the numbers here between the three bills, that you have moved a high-low poker game back here to Washington, and it will be interesting to see how it plays out.

I just have a few general questions to satisfy my own ignorance here, and I think what I will do is I will ask the question of Mr. Reid, since he is in the middle. If anybody wants to answer or add in, I will certainly go from there.

Now, Harry, it is my understanding these are Forest Service bills?

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. LEHMAN. They don't affect BLM land?

Mr. REID. Not at all.

Mr. LEHMAN. And there will be some subsequent bill later on with respect to that?

Mr. REID. Yes. We understand 4 or 5 years down the road.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, now, as I look at all three bills, I notice that there are differences not just in the acreage within the bills but in the manner in which they treat wilderness, and you just listed with respect to your bill some of the idiosyncracies.

Generally, how do the three bills vary in how they treat the land that they would create as wilderness?

Mr. REID. I think generally the same. I think that we have included in our respective bills maybe some things, as Congresswoman Vucanovich mentioned in her opening statement, that are part of the act anyway. But to amplify that and to satisfy some of the concerns that the people in the State of Nevada have, they have been mentioned in some of the various bills even though they are part of the Wilderness Act; for example, the buffer zones and some of the water situations.

Mr. LEHMAN. How about grazing rights and mining claims?

Mr. REID. Yes. We feel that those are covered in the bills. The Cattlemen's Association, in fact, in 1980 agreed as to how they wanted grazing treated in the wilderness areas, and that in effect has been ongoing, and that would be part of this bill. I don't think there is any question about that. We don't know of any, anyway.

Mr. LEHMAN. So generally, the three bills treat the area designated as wilderness the same?

Mr. REID. Yes, I think we have tried to. As I indicated, Congresswoman Vucanovich has tried to amplify certain things in her bill, and I have in mind that I think are part of the act anyway. But so there would be no misunderstanding they were outlined in the bills.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK. Is the release language the same in all the bills?

Mr. REID. All the same.

Mr. LEHMAN. Is that release language the standard language, same as we used in California?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, and what percent of the State would be wilderness under your proposal?

Mr. REID. Nevada has about 71 million acres in it, so it would be 723,000 as it relates to approximately 71 million.

Mr. SEIBERLING. About 1 percent.

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, and what was the RARE II recommendation?

Mr. REID. The RARE II recommendation was less than 500,000 acres, 460 approximately.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, I am told then that—

Mr. REID. You mean the Forest Service recommendation? Is that what you are talking about?

Mr. LEHMAN. Right.

Mr. REID. Yes. It is my understanding about 460,000 acres.

Mr. LEHMAN. So about three times—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, actually, if the gentleman would yield—

Mr. LEHMAN. Certainly.

Mr. SEIBERLING [continuing]. I am advised by staff that the RARE II wilderness and further planning was 811,000.

Mr. REID. 111,000 acres?

Mr. SEIBERLING. 811,000.

Mr. REID. Yes, OK.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Including the further planning areas.

Mr. REID. Yes, I didn't add the further planning, Mr. Lehman.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK. As I look at the list that I guess was prepared by the committee here, I see they have it well organized into what is in all three bills, what is in just two of the bills, and what is in only one of the bills.

As I look at the stuff that is in Mr. Seiberling's bill but not in either one of the bills, since Mr. Seiberling's bill list is substantially higher, are there any characteristics in common among that property? Is it a specific part of the State?

Mr. REID. Mr. Lehman, if I could just state, one of the big differences between my bill and the chairman's bill is that there is a central part of the State of Nevada that has some ongoing oil interests. In fact, this year we will pump in that area about 1.5 million

barrels of oil, which is up from 400,000 last year. It is an area that is really developing as an oil-producing area of this country.

And I felt, that that area in Railroad Valley, was a sensitive area, a very beautiful area off to the east. But that is why I excluded the Grant, Quinn, and Currant Ranges, three areas that I excluded simply because of the oil and mineral potential in that area.

Mr. LEHMAN. So it doesn't have to do with the character of the land?

Mr. REID. Oh, no.

Mr. LEHMAN. It has to do with the potential use?

Mr. REID. Absolutely—you know, one of the areas is so remote that they haven't even named the mountain peaks there. I mean, it is very nice real estate, but I excluded it because of the mineral/oil potential.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, thank you very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Any questions over here?

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Chairman, I don't have a question. I do welcome you to the committee, Harry, and you did have a very good statement here, and we appreciate your coming to the committee.

I do wish to point out to you, though, a different interpretation of what wilderness means, and that is on page 6. You said:

"To many Nevadans, to my chagrin, the term 'wilderness area' means that Federal officials will close our land."

Well, let me guarantee you that the designation of wilderness does mean that you are going to have more intrusion of the Federal Government into the management of Nevada's lands. The terms "limits of acceptable change" have been accepted as management of wilderness, and I would like to point out to you, Harry, what has happened in one of the big wilderness areas up in Montana with regards to limits of acceptable change.

Class 1 areas—they developed four classes, and this is what the article says:

A draft plan for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex has called for dividing the area into four classes with an eye toward controlling—controlling—the level of recreational traffic in each area.

Class 1. Wilderness users rarely, if ever, will encounter other people.

In other words, they intend to manage it to see that there are not too many people or enough people so that you ever encounter another person.

No new trails would be built. No new signs or facilities of any kind would be permitted.

And that goes from class 1 on down to class 4, in which trails will be maintained for heavy use and travelers can expect to see other people but seldom more than six parties per day.

The draft plan, whose aim is to set "limits of acceptable change" within the 1.5 million-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, was developed by four national forests and a Citizens Advisory Committee.

For example, the plan lists the popular lake country at the head of Gordon Creek as a class 2 area, still highly pristine despite its popularity. The plan notes that there are 14 too many campsites

around George Lake, 5 too many on Lick Lake, and excessive camping impacts around Doctor and Kuesters Lakes.

The designation of a wilderness area I think spells and forebodes a direct impact on the recreational users of the State of Nevada, and I warn the people of Nevada and the Representatives who are responsible for drafting the bill that that adverse effect, impact on the recreational users can be very great, and I will point that out later in my questioning and discussion with the Director of the Forest Service.

Mr. REID. Mr. Marlenee—

Mr. MARLENEE. I appreciate your being here, Harry, and this is not a criticism, but I simply use this time because we are going to be limited to 5 minutes, and I saw the opportunity to use a little more time.

I thank you.

Mr. REID. I appreciate that. Your sending a staff person to Nevada was very helpful. He toured the whole area with us, and I think he learned a lot about the State.

In just brief response, I would say that of course there are areas where we have wilderness. For example, we were given a number of examples in California, where the areas are so overused because of the population explosion in the western part of the United States that they have had to limit access to some of these areas or they in effect would ruin them.

Now, I think that that is an obligation the Forest Service has. I don't think that we have the same problems in Montana or Nevada that exist in California, but I think this is something that we should all be aware of. The Forest Service is ever present. We have had problems with the agency before, and I think they will continue.

Mr. MARLENEE. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Any other questions?

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. VENTO. I think that, you know, this proper designation, we have 87 percent of the lands in Nevada are under Federal responsibility or national responsibility, both State and Federal in a sense, and the question is as we go forward, you know, how are we going to classify them and provide for use?

I mean, that is the concern here, and obviously it isn't—in other words, if we don't resolve this, you have no release language with regards to the—actually to the other lands.

So that you are suggesting that some of this, I guess about 15 or 20 percent of these Forest Service lands, be classified as wilderness and then they would be under a certain type of use, while the other lands would be under the conventional Forest Service use, along with other Forest Service lands.

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. VENTO. So that totally you are only talking about 10 percent of the Forest Service lands in your proposal, aren't you—

Mr. REID. That is right.

Mr. VENTO [continuing]. To be classified this way?

So the others would remain open, and you have tried to avoid conflict.

I don't know how else we can do it. We have the study, we have the data, we have had the onsite investigations.

Now, along the way, of course, you pointed out that there have been other recommendations for these sites, such as the Wheeler Peak site, where you have the bristle cone pines, and there is a national monument on that site right now, isn't there? Lehman Caves?

Mr. REID. Yes, that is right.

Mr. VENTO. How large an area is that, Harry? Can you tell me?

Mr. REID. The Lehman Caves area?

Mr. VENTO. Yes.

Mr. REID. It is very small. I don't know in acreage. I really don't know, but very, very small in comparison to the 110,000 acres that is in my bill for Mount Wheeler.

Mr. VENTO. These areas that you are suggesting now, would this preclude further designation of them as national parks?

Because some of them sound as though they should be designated as national parks.

Mr. REID. I think, Mr. Vento, from the information that I have, the only one that has ever been suggested or is now being suggested as a national park is Mount Wheeler. That was attempted some 30-odd years ago. There was a public outcry from White Pine County, the city of Ely, that they didn't want that.

There were a number of reasons at the time. One was that Kennecott was operating at full bore a very large mine mill operation there. They opposed the national park.

There is some consensus—and I don't know if Congresswoman Vucanovich picked any of this up—that people would like a national park. Kennecott is closed. They feel it would stimulate—

Mr. VENTO. Well, I don't want to add to your—

Mr. REID. But anyway, that is something we can talk about later.

Mr. VENTO. I want to commend you for what you have offered and the work that the chairman has done here, and I don't want to complicate this.

But I will be asking some questions about that because I think that once we sort of make a commitment here that there is a feeling that maybe then we can't go back and ever modify that, and I think that that is the case if we are really going to deal with this particular issue, and I hope that we can.

You know, it is very easy for us to not be deliberate and not come to grips with these issues and just never resolve anything, and I think that would be the greatest disservice to the—and I commend both of you for getting into this and saying you are going to work on it and resolve it because it means taking some political risks.

But that is what it is all about. That is what serving in Congress and serving in public office is about—is attempting to solve problems, and I want to commend you for the courage and for engaging in this issue because I think it is an important issue, the land use. There is an important issue and people ought to know where we are going and that Members are willing to make decisions on things, and I think that is one of the most important roles that we play, and it is all too easy, I think, to postpone things all the time

and not get down to dealing with issues. And I think that is more frustrating to the public than almost anything.

So let me commend you and our chairman, who is so able to bring things to the front.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Vento.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Any other questions?

Mr. SUNIA. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Sunia.

Mr. SUNIA. I have no question. I am aware of your concern about the time.

I do want to say a brief word to commend our colleague for his fine description of the issue. I am a bit worried, though, that I think with this description it is beginning to sound to me like someone had moved paradise from the South Pacific and put it in Nevada. [Laughter.]

Maybe they did that when I was not looking.

Since I won't be here for very long, I do want to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for the quality of your photography. Beautiful pictures. I would think that if I was your opponent back in Ohio I might suggest that you concentrate in this field that you do so well. These are beautiful photographs.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you.

Mr. DARDEN, do you have questions?

Mr. DARDEN. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Congressman Reid, a number of us who serve on this panel have previous experience as State legislators, I am always interested, as well as I am sure most of the fellow members of the committee are, in what our counterparts in the State legislatures feel about these issues, especially with the administration's emphasis on federalism and more State input.

Could you tell me what position, if any, the Nevada Legislature had adopted and what seems to be their overall view about this issue?

Mr. REID. Yes, I would be happy to do that, Mr. Darden.

The Nevada Legislature—and I have a copy of it right here—adopted a joint resolution. Now, there has been a lot of talk in the State that the legislature approved the bill that was introduced by my two colleagues in the Senate and my colleague here in the House. I will make this resolution part of the record, Mr. Chairman, so that all the members can review it.

Mr. DARDEN. Excuse me.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection, the document will be included in the record.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—At time of printing, the above-mentioned joint resolution had not yet been supplied. When received, the information will be placed in the committee's files of today's hearing.]

Mr. DARDEN. You say they have adopted an official resolution?

Mr. REID. Yes, and I will make that part of the record.

But I just wanted to add that there has been considerable discussion, and this resolution of course was adopted a long time ago because the session adjourned in May or June.

But anyway, the resolution the Congress to designate as wilderness areas Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak, and the Jarbidge area, as identified in Federal legislation now pending



in Congress, and be it further resolved that this is the key language that most people ignore—that the Congress of the United States is urged to keep the Committee on Public Lands of the Nevada Legislature informed of additional discussions regarding potential designations of wilderness in the State of Nevada.

And that is, in effect, what we have done. So the legislature approved the four areas and said if there is going to be any more areas talked about or designated we would like to be kept advised, and I have done that. In Elko on Tuesday—I am sorry, on Monday—the Public Lands Subcommittee met and they discussed this very issue, and the various bills now pending before you.

Mr. DARDEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Reid, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Does that complete the gentleman's questions? The chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the State senate flew around with us on our trip, and I don't recall—

Mr. REID. Senator James Bilbray.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, Senator Bilbray. And I think he was as impressed as we were with what he saw.

Mr. REID. And that, Mr. Chairman, was in keeping with this resolution that I just spoke about. That was the reason he was there.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I think that at this point we'd better take a short recess, in order to vote on the rule on the textile bill, and we will then return in about 10 minutes.

It is my intention to go through the luncheon period without a break. I'm going to have a sandwich and something while sitting here, and I will apologize to those who might think it isn't quite dignified enough, but in any event, anybody else that wants to do the same is free to do so.

So we will recess until approximately 12:15.

#### AFTER RECESS

Mr. SEIBERLING. The subcommittee hearing will resume.

Our next witness will be Mr. Douglas W. MacCleery, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Welcome.

[Prepared statements of Hon. Douglas W. MacCleery and Robert C. Horton may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF HON. DOUGLAS W. MACCLEERY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY JEFF SIRMON, DEPUTY CHIEF FOR PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION, U.S. FOREST SERVICE; AND ROBERT C. HORTON, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF MINES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Mr. MACCLEERY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I'd like to make a suggestion, and that is that we also get Mr. Robert Horton, Director of the Bureau of Mines to come to the table, and we will try to take you as a panel, administration panel, and then get into questions.

All right. Mr. MacCleery.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Agriculture appreciates this opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss the three bills before the committee.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I am going to ask you also to limit your oral testimony to 5 minutes. And without objection, all prepared statements will be included in the record in full, but all oral testimony will be limited to not more than 5 minutes. Thank you.

Mr. MACCLEERY. OK. With me at the table this morning is Jeff Sirman, who has recently been appointed to the post of Forest Service Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation. Mr. Sirman recently came from the Pacific Northwest region, where he was regional forester. He was also regional forester in the intermountain region and has some knowledge of the areas before the committee this morning.

Seated behind me for technical support are Carl Haaser, in Forest Service Land Management Planning in the intermountain region, Steve Fitch in Land Management Planning in the Washington office and Keith Evans, in legislative affairs in the Washington office.

I will summarize my statement and hope to keep below the 5 minutes that you've provided.

Since 1979, when RARE II was completed, intensive planning, with extensive public involvement, has gone into the draft forest plans which have been released on the Humboldt and the Toiyabe National Forests. The wilderness potential of each area being considered by the committee here today has been fully and carefully considered as part of this ongoing planning process.

Since the forest plans are in draft form only, but are through the final public review process, they will be subject to some revisions after all public comments are analyzed. The draft preferred alternatives for the forest plans include recommendations of about 452,000 acres for wilderness designation in the State of Nevada. We would prefer to complete a review and analysis before making any wilderness recommendations; however, we feel that the planning has progressed far enough that there is a basis for making recommendations at this time and USDA support for wilderness is based upon these preliminary planning results.

In essence, we are endorsing wilderness designation, with two exceptions, for the areas which have been proposed for wilderness in the draft forest plans. We are opposing wilderness designation for those areas that are in H.R. 3202 and 3204, which go beyond those proposed for wilderness in the Draft Forest Plans.

I was planning to go through some of the reasons for those recommendations and why we do not support additions beyond the forest plans, but the 5-minute rule would prevent that at this time.

I'd like to, though, summarize some of the considerations that went into our deliberations as to why we feel it's the greatest public benefit to support the wilderness proposals that we have laid on the table here. As a result of the planning process, we opposed designation of East Humboldt, Mount Rose, Table Mountain, Current Mountain, Elk Mountain, Excelsion, Quinn Canyon, Santa Rosa, Schell Peaks, and Toiyabe Crest proposals.

Each of these areas was evaluated independently. In spite of that, there are several common elements which weighed heavily in our reasons for not recommending wilderness designation for those areas. The primary reasons are a relative lower amount of special ecological and geologic features as compared with the areas pro-

posed. The second consideration was existing and potential mining developments. The third was conflicts with ongoing recreation uses, such as helicopter skiing, snowmobile or other off-road uses, private land holdings, and conflicts with commodity uses, such as pine nut collection and fuel wood activities. And another consideration was limitations on management which would occur under wilderness.

The draft forest plans prescribe low development management for several of the areas under consideration here today, but which were not proposed for wilderness in the draft plans. Some uses and structural improvements for wildlife and watershed protection would go beyond those authorized in a wilderness area.

We also oppose several provisions in the bills which purport to iterate existing provisions of law, or in some cases, allow activities inconsistent with wilderness management direction. My testimony describes these concerns, and we'd be happy to provide a supplementary statement which analyzes the various problems associated with these provisions.

In summary, we do not oppose designations listed in H.R. 1686 nor do we oppose designation of additional wilderness areas which are consistent with proposals in the draft forest plans, except for the Grant Range and the Arc Dome areas, where we urge that consideration of these two areas be delayed until mineral surveys have been completed. We have an ongoing mineral survey in Grant Range that will be completed this year and Arc Dome is planned to be surveyed next year, and we feel that the consideration of these areas for wilderness should await this minerals information which will be available in the relatively near future.

We oppose H.R. 3202 and H.R. 3304, to the extent that these bills would designate wilderness beyond that proposed in the draft forest plans.

That summarizes my statement, Mr. Chairman, we'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have or members of the Committee.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thank you. I appreciate very much having such explicit testimony.

Before we get into questions, let's hear from Mr. Horton.

Mr. HORTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a particularly appealing opportunity for me, in that I have spent most of my professional mining life in Nevada. I am pleased to appear before the Subcommittee on Public Lands on the status of the mineral studies of the National Forest System lands in Nevada being considered for designation as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, has investigated the mineral resource potential of only a few of the areas proposed in the three bills pending before this subcommittee. The Mount Moriah area and parts of the South Snake and Jarbidge addition areas were studied by the Bureau of Mines during the second roadless area review and evaluation. Mineral information on these areas was provided to the Forest Service. The Grant Range and Quinn Canyon Range areas are presently being studied at the request of the Forest Service; and investigation by

the Bureau of Mines of the Arc Dome area has been started this fiscal year.

Details on our findings to date on these areas that we have studied or for which we have some information are included in my formal statement.

I cannot urge you too strongly that you postpone action on areas we have not examined so the Bureau of Mines can provide the mineral appraisal data that you should consider before removing these large areas from the ever-shrinking reservoir of available lands with mineral production potential.

You should be aware that the unknowns in mining geology, even after study by the most competent geologists, still exceed the known. As an example, in 1960, there was but one gold mine operating in Nevada. It was generally agreed by all geologists that there were few gold deposits remaining to be discovered. In 1961, the Carlin gold mine was discovered. Its character and geologic setting were unlike any previously found. Using data from the Carlin mine, and adding to that data with each new discovery, many more gold mines were discovered. The dean of the Mackay School of Mines recently advised me that the gold reserves in Nevada mines, the newly discovered gold mines, are approximately 60 million ounces with a value of \$20 billion, a resource totally unknown a short 25 years ago.

I could give similar examples for uranium, tungsten, and beryllium.

New or increased demands for minerals, new geologic theories, new exploration equipment and techniques always lead to new mineral discoveries, often in areas previously thought barren or unproductive. New discoveries can be made only when land areas are available for exploration.

I plead with you to balance the desires of those who wish thousands of square miles of wilderness areas with your responsibility to assure reasonable and attainable mineral industry supply independence to the United States. The ability of the domestic mineral industry to help you meet that responsibility is diminished each and every time the land areas available for exploration are reduced.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement, and I would be pleased to answer any questions which you and members of the subcommittee may have.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you, Mr. Horton.

Does the Forest Service favor the transfer of these national forest areas to the BLM in Nevada?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Which areas?

Mr. SEIBERLING. All of them.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, that is—certain lands around Lake Tahoe would not go to the BLM, but the bulk of the areas in Nevada, under the proposal, would go. But that, I might add, is something we have under consideration and final recommendations—our final administration position has not been formulated. We have made a proposal, and we're getting extensive public comment on it, and we will be formulating our final position in the next couple of months.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Did it originally favor this or only after it was decided that it should be considered?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Pardon me?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Did the Forest Service originally favor or oppose the transfer of these lands to the BLM?

Mr. MACCLEERY. The Forest Service did favor the consolidation of management of these lands under BLM ownership.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Now if they're turned over to the BLM, they'll be under different management mandate, will they not, than they are in the Forest Service?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Somewhat different, but very similar. The multiple use concept, as you know, is very similar in FLPMA as it is in the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, they do have different histories, though, and different traditions and different ways of doing things.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, they do. Now, though, in spite of those histories, they both are under multiple use mandate, and they are, under statute, required to manage those lands under that direction.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes. Now I note that on page 5 of your testimony, you state that you oppose incorporating a reference, as all three bills do, to the grazing guidelines that were referred to in the Colorado wilderness bill. Why do you continue to take this position, in view of the fact that we've repeatedly done it in wilderness acts that have already been signed into law?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, we feel that the Wilderness Act itself, plus associated legislative history is enough, and it's not necessary to continue to reiterate this in wilderness acts. It may tend to confuse and raise questions as to why this same statutory language is reiterated in bills which have already been passed, in which these lands are already governed by, without this language.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I suppose the reason is to make sure that the Forest Service would comply with the same guidelines in connection with any wildernesses designated by these bills. It was like pulling eye teeth to get the Forest Service to publish the guidelines in the first place, even though they were negotiated with the Chief of the Forest Service himself. And so, having gone through that, we just want to continue to nail it down.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, that has been done, and it's our feeling that it's not necessary to do so, and—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Does it really do any harm?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It just raises a question as to why it was done, in spite of the fact that we have this existing statutory direction.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thanks.

Mr. Horton, I'm a little unclear as to the basic position of the Bureau. Is it your position that wherever there are potential commercial minerals, that that area should not then be considered for wilderness designation, or merely that we ought to know what all the minerals are before we make the decision?

Mr. HORTON. It would not be my position that because there were commercial minerals there, it not be a wilderness. Those minerals that were in large supply, more particularly, some of the common minerals, that might not be a serious consideration, but I think Congress would be well-advised to have a good understanding of the mineral potential. One of the problems comes, as I noted in my testimony, that it is impossible to know the true mineral value or mineral potential of any area, because of unknown deposits.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, on that basis, I guess we'd never designate a wilderness area 50 years ago, uranium was not a commercially important mineral, and today it is. So tomorrow, it might be something else.

Mr. HORTON. That is exactly correct, and something that must be considered while designating wilderness areas.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thanks. My time has expired. Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Secretary MacCleery, there is a lot of confusion in Nevada about what wilderness designation actually means, and many people I talk with think it's another kind of national park.

Would you describe for me what kind of recreational activities you can and cannot engage in while visiting a wilderness area.

Mr. MACCLEERY. The kinds of activities you can engage in are hiking, fishing, hunting, any recreation that is associated with low development, nondeveloped sites, no hardened campgrounds, for example. So hiking, fishing, horseback riding. Things that cannot be engaged in are developed recreation with vehicles, any off-road vehicle activities, anything that's associated with a mechanical device. A bicycle, for example. Anything that's associated with roads. There are no roads permitted in wilderness. If there are roads, when Congress designates wilderness, they are closed and access on those roads by vehicles is prohibited.

In terms of the management activities which are prevented, are developed kinds of activities, generally active wildlife habitat modification or improvement. The use of check dams, for example, to stabilize stream sides, are restricted, or if permitted, would be very expensive. A case in point is the Table Mountain in Nevada. One of the bases we have for our opposition to wilderness designation for the Table Mountain area is that we would like to engage in some watershed protection measures that would be prohibited in wilderness—put in some check dams. There has been down cutting of streams through meadows, which has caused undercutting and streamback erosion, which has down cut the stream channels, and we would like to use improvements to try to arrest that. The result of that is, these meadows are drying up and being converted to trees rather than remaining meadows.

And we'd also like to engage in more active habitat modification for elk, which would, in our view, be prevented by wilderness designation.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. If you should shoot an elk there, you have to carry that out, obviously?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, a hunter would have to carry the elk out by horseback or on his own back or her own back.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Then there is absolutely no motorized access?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That is true.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Let me ask you about helicopter skiing. I notice that in Congressman Reid's testimony he said that he had made some arrangements with the man who has helicopter skiing in Ruby Mountains, and I think he is going to testify and I will ask him later on if he has made an arrangement with Mr. Reid.

But is helicopter skiing allowed in wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No, it is not. A helicopter is a vehicle and would be prevented by the Wilderness Act except in an emergency situation to save a life, or something like that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. To save a life or something?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. May I just ask you one more question because I would like to ask the Director of the Bureau of Mines a couple of questions?

Can you develop valid mining claims in a wilderness area?

Mr. Secretary, I am speaking to you. I am sorry. Can you do that?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, they can be. If you have a valid mining claim, it can be developed, the Forest Service would require an operating plan, which hopefully would minimize the impact on wilderness, but we would not prevent that claim from being operated and being developed.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. From being developed, yes.

Mr. MACCLEERY. That is right.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. But that would have to be done with, obviously, a pick and shovel, or something; it certainly couldn't be done with any kind of a motorized vehicle?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No, they would be permitted to use mechanized equipment if that was absolutely essential to develop that mine, although we would try to discourage that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. And who would make that decision? Would that be up to the local Forest Service management?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It would be something that would have to be worked out with the local forest manager.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you. One other question: do you ever limit the number of visitors who can go into a wilderness area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. We try to avoid that, and it is our objective to try to deal with use by education. There have been various suggestions for more use of permits. And I can't say for sure that in all cases we don't require permits, but it is something that we try to avoid. In a very high impact area, where we have much use, though, we are having deterioration of these sites and we are looking at various ways to try to minimize that impact. And permits is one vehicle available to do so—that is an option.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I realize my time has expired.

I wonder if I could ask the Director of the Bureau of Mines at least one question.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Horton, as you know, Nevada has important deposits of gold and barite and magnesite and mercury.

Can you clarify for us the strategic importance and the availability and the uses of these minerals?

Mr. HORTON. In Nevada, gold was the leading commodity produced in terms of value, accounting for \$390 million, or 63 percent of the total nonfuel mineral value produced in the State. Gold is not normally thought of as a strategic and critical mineral, but throughout the world you will find that people prefer gold over all other metals.

Nevada has continued to lead the Nation in the production of barite, magnesite, and mercury.

Barite had a 64-percent net import reliance in 1984, the major sources being China, Morocco, Chile, and Peru. The principal use is as a weighting agent in drilling muds. It seems a rather simple use, but without it one cannot drill most oil wells.

Mercury had a 60-percent net import reliance in 1984. The major foreign suppliers are Spain and Japan. The principal uses have been in electrical applications.

With magnesite, we are largely self-reliant. It had a 6-percent net import in 1984. Over 80 percent of the consumption was for the production of basic refractories used in high temperature metallurgical furnaces. Without magnesite or an equivalent refractory, the iron and steel industry and most of our ore industry could not operate.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Horton.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Vento.

Mr. VENTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Horton, it is good to see you again. We were out in St. Paul together when we were celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Bureau of Mines facility there, if you recall.

The testimony, of course, indicates that under existing law you can in fact go forward with making assessments of the mineralization of these areas and wilderness really wouldn't change it at all.

Isn't there a mandate in the Wilderness Act that in fact the Department of the Interior, USGS has to go through with mineral evaluation? Isn't that a mandate of the law?

Mr. HORTON. There is a mandate of the law that we do mineral assessments, theoretically I guess, prior to designation as wilderness areas, but that has not always happened.

Mr. VENTO. Well, prior to and continuing even after they are designated?

Mr. HORTON. There is provision for recurring studies. One of the problems—

Mr. VENTO. I mean, there is a requirement, isn't there?

Mr. HORTON. Yes. But that requirement is only met in the presence of funding.

Mr. VENTO. Well, I mean that is a limitation that we have all the time.

Mr. HORTON. Yes.

Mr. VENTO. I mean, the point is if you had adequate funding you probably wouldn't be here discussing that you hadn't done the necessary assessments, isn't that accurate? I mean, if there had historically been adequate funding for this.

Mr. HORTON. Yes, there has.

Mr. VENTO. I mean, what is the existing—I mean, can you give this committee any assurance that if we were to not take action, for instance, in this matter, that in fact we would have the necessary assessments done?

I mean, you can't because you can't predict what Congress will give you, what the administration or administrations might request; isn't that accurate?

Mr. HORTON. That is accurate.



Mr. VENTO. So I mean, the point is that—I am just trying to get out here, you know, what is the decisionmaking framework that we have here; in other words, what is the reality of that and what does it cost.

So all valid existing mining claims actually would be protected whether it is wilderness or whether it is managed as other than wilderness in Forest Service lands; is that right, Mr. MacCleery?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That is correct.

Mr. VENTO. You have commented in response to the permitting system with regards as there has been a permitting system set up in Montana, which my colleague Mr. Marlenee pointed out, but there has also been one set up in Minnesota in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness because we wrote it into the law, and for the exact reasons that have been articulated here; that is, because of the impact in that area. To permit unregulated use of that particular area would destroy it. So—and would actually—and of course even with a permit system there is a lot of damage that is going on there.

So I think that these are the points that have to be brought out with regards to what the reality is of some of these areas where you have permit systems. I don't anticipate that the use today or in the near future in these areas in Nevada that are very remote would come under a permit system.

Do you, Mr. MacCleery?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No, they wouldn't. Their usage is quite low now, though I would expect that designation of wilderness would result in more use than is occurring now and more impacts from people.

Mr. VENTO. Well, more use but what kind of use? In other words, here you are advocating—you are saying the reason that we don't want to do it is because they lack special ecological or geologic features, existing or potential mining developments. In other words, these activities would, I assume, be OK.

Conflicts with ongoing recreation uses, such as helicopter skiing, snowmobile, or other offroad vehicle use. I mean, nothing portends the greatest threat, I don't think, to some of these remote areas and these fragile areas than offroad vehicle use. As I go around this country in a different capacity and as I have gone around with this chairman, nothing has caused more damage than these damn offroad vehicles, I will tell you that.

Private land inholdings. What is the amount of private land inholdings, for instance, in these areas? Can you give us any type of overview of that, Mr. MacCleery? What are the inholdings here in terms of mining claims, and so forth? What are we talking about? What are we talking about with regard to private land inholdings in these areas?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, it varies, as you might imagine, considerably, depending on the particular area. I could provide you with information.

Mr. VENTO. Well, I think that it might be useful.

Mr. MACCLEERY. In some areas, like East Humboldt—

Mr. VENTO. Well, I will go with the direction here of the chairman. If he wants to have this question answered for the record, if you think it is necessary.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I think that would be helpful if you could submit that for the record.

Mr. VENTO. We don't want to send you off on a dissertation here, but can you give us any examples for any available data you have with you today with regards to one of the areas, maybe Mt. Moriah?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, the East Humboldt area, for example, one of the reasons we recommended that it not be designated is that it has extensive private lands which are in a checkerboard ownership pattern.

And I will provide you with the figures on private land ownership in these areas.

Mr. VENTO. Well, you know what my request is, so I guess we don't need it today, but I think that down the road that this could be helpful. If you could summarize that and provide us with that information as far as inholdings and patented claims.

Mr. MACCLEERY. We will provide it to you—yes—on an area-by-area basis.

Mr. VENTO. Yes. Well, I think especially in the areas that have been suggested for legislation, as it is available.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Response to Mr. Vento's request may be found in the appendix, under cover of a letter dated December 6, 1985, from R. Max Peterson, Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture to Chairman Seiberling. See table of contents for page number.]

Mr. VENTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Marlenee?

Mr. MARLENEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MacCleery, recreation use, according to your report from the Forest Service, recreation use away from facilities in undeveloped forest areas accounted for 146 million RVD's, or about two-thirds of the total use, demonstrating the continued popularity as the more unconfined, unregulated recreational opportunities.

In other words, the general public of the United States of America has indicated to you, to you the Forest Service, and they should have indicated to this committee and the duly elected representatives, that recreation is the most important aspect of the public lands, the most important thing that the public lands can provide the broad spectrum of recreation, not the narrow spectra of the 3.6 recreation percent of the days used by those who use wilderness.

Is the 3.6 figure correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That is correct.

Mr. MARLENEE. From your report.

The 146 RVDs, or two-thirds of the use, is that correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. I see.

Now, much has been made about recreation, and I have outlined to you the limits of acceptable change.

You made a statement, Mr. MacCleery. You said that horseback riding and hunting, and so forth, could all be utilized in the wilderness area, yet we go back to this limits of acceptable change. Class 1 areas, wilderness users rarely, if ever, will encounter other people.

You made allusions to the permit system. We have the example of Gordon Creek as a class 2 area, is highly pristine despite its pop-

ularity but the plan notes that are 14 too many campsites. Undoubtedly, these campsites will be closed.

And it goes on to say some areas should be posted with temporary signs to advise campers to camp elsewhere.

It appears to me that wilderness, wilderness brings on increasingly stringent Federal intervention and regulation of use.

I would like a yes or no answer on the following questions.

Can you use trail bikes in wilderness areas?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No, sir, you cannot.

Mr. MARLENEE. No, sir.

Can you use bicycles that are not motorized in wilderness areas?

We have seen the development of a new recreational vehicle, the Alpine bicycle.

Mr. MACCLEERY. No, sir.

Mr. MARLENEE. No, sir, they cannot be used.

Can you gather firewood, using a chain saw and go out to gather firewood in a wilderness area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No.

Mr. MARLENEE. You cannot do that.

You can't use an offroad vehicle?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No.

Mr. MARLENEE. You can't have a pickup camper?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No.

Mr. MARLENEE. So the guy with the five kids, the wife, and the pickup camper that has maybe a day and a half to get out of Reno or Las Vegas or someplace else really can't utilize this area that you have set aside for 3.6 percent of the population of the United States and probably not Nevadans.

We have already covered the chain saw.

No snowmobiles?

Mr. MACCLEERY. No.

Mr. MARLENEE. In the areas where we have a heavy snowfall and the temperature drops to 15 below zero or even around zero, or at least below freezing, when there is no animals around, with controlled use, do the snowmobiles have a negative impact on the game population?

Mr. MACCLEERY. If they are appropriately controlled, they do not.

Mr. MARLENEE. I see.

Now, do you not have—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARLENEE. My time is very limited, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I will recognize the gentleman again.

Mr. MARLENEE. OK.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The corollary of your statement is that if they are not properly controlled they do have a negative impact, is that correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. They can, yes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. They can.

Mr. MACCLEERY. In certain situations—and here again we try to work and educate people about what is the etiquette of the use of these vehicles and what is proper and improper use.

Mr. MARLENEE. I just—

Mr. SEIBERLING. If the gentleman would yield further.

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is like—

Mr. VENTO. Have they invented silent snowmobiles since I last saw them or not?

Mr. MACCLEERY. The technology—well—

Mr. VENTO. Thank you.

Mr. MARLENEE. I think we need to recognize the fact that the snowmobile is an accepted family recreational vehicle, utilized by thousands and thousands of people, and that wilderness areas preclude such use, vast areas of wilderness.

Now, let me ask you this. You have—and again I think you can answer very briefly, and I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection.

Mr. MARLENEE. You have within your ability to regulate how many people visit a wilderness area, do you not, a certain area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. You have within your ability to regulate how long they will be in that area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. You have within the ability of the regulatory body of the Forest Service to say what method of travel they will use?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes. I think that we don't usually do that, but I suppose we could.

Mr. MARLENEE. You have within the ability to regulate the route of travel?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. You cannot establish or create an established campground within a wilderness area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Nothing that requires a hardened site like pit toilets or hardened facilities. That is correct.

Mr. MARLENEE. Well, Mr. MacCleery, some of the forests that we see throughout the United States—and this may be true in Nevada, I don't know, but I am looking at huge amounts of wilderness proposed here—some of the forests throughout the United States are 50 percent—50 percent wilderness or special designation for that 3.6 percent of the people.

The guy with the camper and the wife and five ice cream smeared kids that has the short weekend to get out and visit out there in the forest with those kids to create and instill in them an appreciation of the outdoors is left with 25 percent because a lot of these forests are also designated 25 percent for timber harvest, and of that 25 percent maybe 5 or maybe 10 percent is pristine or of recreational value.

So you have put over 80 or 90 percent—over 90 percent of the people—this Congress is channeling in to one small segment of our national forests for their recreation. That guy with those kids and that wife and that camper has every bit as much right to prime recreational property as the guy that has the 2 weeks vacation and can come out and backpack into the wilderness or somebody that does not have gainful employment that can go out and utilize the wilderness area.

And I yield back the balance of my time and thank the chairman for his indulgence.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Mr. Lehman.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Before you proceed, would you yield to me?

Mr. LEHMAN. Very briefly.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Just for the record, before we get too far off in flights of fancy, the Reid bill would designate 14 percent of the National Forest land in Nevada as wilderness, the Seiberling bill 26 percent.

There was no 75 percent or anything like that in any of the bills before us, and I just think the record ought to so indicate.

Thank you.

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. Chairman——

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Chairman, if the chairman would yield on that point.

Mr. LEHMAN. If I have any time left, I would be glad to yield to the gentleman.

I want to ask Mr. MacCleery a couple of questions, following up on Mr. Marlenee's comments.

Is the type of property we are talking about here that is at stake in this bill the kind regularly used by snowmobiles, pickup campers, bicycles, chain saws, and permanent campgrounds?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Some of it, yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. How much of it?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I would have to——

Mr. LEHMAN. Is that really a problem here, closing these areas off to pickup campers, snowmobiles, bicycles, and chain saws?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, that was part of our consideration for some of the areas, such as the Mount Rose area right near Reno and where there is intensive use. One of the big reasons would have been the limitations which would be imposed by wilderness designation and the inability to respond to these people pressures.

Mr. LEHMAN. I must say I have been all through Nevada many times, over, under, around, and through it, and I have not seen that kind of a problem.

You stated yourself, I think, in your comments that in many instances designating this area as wilderness would increase the use in the area, is that not true? You said you might have to put restrictions on use in some areas because of additional people using them?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, I didn't mean to imply we would have to put restrictions. I am——

Mr. LEHMAN. Those are your words, not mine.

Mr. MACCLEERY. I didn't refer to any particular Nevada area.

Mr. LEHMAN. Permits?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I said in wilderness areas where we have intensive use we have to put some limitations.

Mr. LEHMAN. Are these areas in Nevada areas that you would consider have intensive use now as a whole?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Some of them will be, like I said the Mount Rose area——

Mr. LEHMAN. That is one.

Mr. MACCLEERY [continuing]. By Reno, and I think——

Mr. LEHMAN. Let me ask——

Mr. MACCLEERY. Maybe Jeff Sirmon, who has more familiarity with these specific areas, would like to comment on that.

Mr. SIRMON. I think, in general, you have very light use of these areas. However, in Mount Charleston, there are areas in the bill that has a larger area that you might have some conflict.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, and getting back to the issue of what's permitted on this land, is grazing permitted in wilderness areas?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. Is hunting permitted in wilderness areas?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. Fishing?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you. So those recreation and those business uses, commercial uses of the area would continue, regardless of the wilderness designation, in the manner that they have been used in the past? Is that not correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Recreational uses not involving vehicles.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEHMAN. Certainly.

Mr. SEIBERLING. How about horseback riding?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. MacCleery, I have a very difficult time understanding, and maybe you can clarify this for me, how putting aside 1 percent of the land or less—I think the Reid bill is just 1 percent—but 1 percent of the land in Nevada for wilderness is going to destroy the mineral base of the West and seriously damage the country.

Could you clarify for me what there is on that 1 percent of property that is so valuable that we can't look at it and put an emphasis on some of its other values instead?

Mr. HORTON. That question has been asked in most all wilderness areas and the obvious answer for each wilderness area is no, but if the multiplication continues, it slowly becomes yes. Less than 1 percent of the land surface of the United States has been disturbed by mining. If you look at any wilderness area, I am quite confident you will find a very tiny fraction of that wilderness area involved in mining.

That brings up the question, well, then it will not have any impact on mining. Mining takes up very small fractions; it will have an impact. There is a cumulative impact now and it will increase as more and more wilderness areas are added. For a particular wilderness area, the answer is no, that's not going to have any impact.

But, for the cumulative effect, yes, it has an impact and it has one today.

Mr. LEHMAN. I know. But, to impress me, you're going to have to quantify that impact with specific reference to this property and taken in the whole context of the State and the need for that mineral. And I haven't heard those arguments yet.

Mr. HORTON. If I could quantify it, I'd be out there drilling holes right now, because I'd know where the mineral resources are.

Mr. LEHMAN. My time has expired.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. MacCleery, before coming to Congress, I practiced law and was a trial lawyer. And one of the standard jury instructions that was given all the time is that if a witness testifies and any part of their testimony is deemed to be not credible, then the whole testimony can be discounted. And I feel your testimony has been very, very subject to being untrue.

Tell me, in answer to a question Mr. Lehman asked, how could you sit there and say that there was no other place for people to go in Reno.

Isn't Mount Rose that part of the Sierra Mountains? And we're only talking about a few thousand acres that we want to make wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Those recreational activities——

Mr. REID. How much of that total mountain would be Wilderness? About one one-thousandth. And you're saying that would impact upon the recreational areas around Reno?

Mr. MACCLEERY. There are wilderness areas on the other side of Lake Tahoe.

Mr. REID. We're talking about Nevada. I thought this was a Nevada wilderness bill.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, we're talking about people in Reno who have access to areas outside of Nevada as well, for wilderness uses. They're not limited to the boundary. They can go to California.

And we're not, as I say, testifying against——

Mr. REID. Well, it sure sounds like it.

Mr. MACCLEERY. We're not testifying against the concept of Wilderness. We are proposing a——

Mr. REID. 450-some-odd thousand acres, isn't that right?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's correct.

Mr. REID. Is there anything wrong with the 450,000 acres that you—your agency has suggested should be wilderness? Any reason it shouldn't be wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. We are recommending that it be designated wilderness.

Mr. REID. So, as a theory, as a concept, the Forest Service isn't against wilderness, is it?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's definitely true. But—the administration is not against wilderness.

Mr. REID. Great. I'm glad to hear that.

Mr. MACCLEERY. It's a subjective judgment as to where it should go.

Mr. REID. I'm going to Nevada tonight and I'm going to tell them that.

Let me also ask you this. You can ski in a wilderness area, can't you?

Mr. MACCLEERY. You can cross-country ski.

Mr. REID. Well, what do you mean? You get on a set of skis and go shooting through the wilderness area, can't you?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, that's correct.

Mr. REID. You understand that, in the Rubies, the recommendation of the environmentalists is over 100,000 acres. Are you aware of that?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. REID. The recommendation I've made is around 70,000 acres. You're aware that somebody could take a helicopter and land it on one side of the wilderness area, dump out their skiers, have them shoot through the wilderness area and pick them up on the other side, couldn't they? There wouldn't be anything illegal about that, would there be?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, that would be possible.

Mr. REID. What do you mean, "possible"? I said it's legal. It's legal, isn't it?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. REID. Pardon me?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. REID. No, not right now. I will just in a brief second. One last thing.

You may see some slight disagreement among the Nevada Delegation on what area should be designated wilderness. But one thing to take back to homebase is, as far as transferring BLM and Forest Service, there is no disagreement. The Governor, the Senators and the Members of the House, we don't want any transfer. And make sure you take that back. There's no disagreement there. OK?

[No response.]

Mr. REID. Isn't it fair to say that, with respect the permit system, that that has no relation to Nevada at this stage and not in the foreseeable future? The permit system that Mr. Marlenee talked about?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I wouldn't anticipate it being necessary.

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Montana.

Mr. MARLENEE. My colleague from Nevada is interested in this recreation, but with regard, Mr. MacCleery, to the skiing question.

Yes, they could land the helicopter outside of the wilderness area, and they could ski down through that wilderness area if there were no mechanical devices involved. But if somebody filed a lawsuit or claimed that there was an adverse impact, would not that stop the skiing through that wilderness area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, depending on the outcome of the lawsuit—you know, one of the things that—

Mr. MARLENEE. If there were an adverse impact, determined an adverse impact, that would stop it?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, if that—

Mr. MARLENEE. Could cross-country skiing in fact develop if there were lots and lots of people doing that, into an adverse impact?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It conceivably could. These high elevation areas are fragile.

Mr. REID. Reclaiming my time. If that could happen, in a—

Mr. MARLENEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. REID. Yes, of course.

That could also happen in a nonwilderness area, with somebody skiing through it. There could be an impact wherein somebody could file a lawsuit. Isn't that right? It wouldn't have to be wilderness.

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's possible, although the requirements for maintaining the integrity of the wilderness would be more rigorous



than for a general, multiple use area in which skiing would occur. For example, a developed ski area.

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Chairman, because the gentleman is from Nevada and has one of the bills, I ask unanimous consent he be given extra time.

Mr. REID. Just one additional question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The gentleman is recognized for 1 additional minute without objection.

Mr. REID. Mr. Horton, you have indicated your opposition in general terms because wilderness encroaches upon mining. Isn't that right?

Mr. HORTON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. You understand this is one of the last wilderness bills? So I don't see any reason Nevada should be punished because of what's happened in other States. Do you?

Mr. HORTON. Your logic in that matter is impeccable if I thought this was an end for either Montana, Idaho, California, Arizona or any of the other Western States. I have not noted any termination in designation of wilderness areas.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Moody.

Mr. MOODY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to yield my time to Mr. Reid, if he wants.

Mr. REID. Thank you very much. The time is short, Mr. Chairman. I take no additional time at this juncture.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Lehman.

Mr. LEHMAN. I'd like to have 1 minute if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you.

I just want to say before I ask my question I'd really like to see the day that the Forest Service determined that cross-country skiing in Nevada had an adverse impact on wilderness.

My question though concerns a specific provision in the bills with respect to the proposed Excelsior wilderness. I notice in your statement, Mr. MacCleery, you indicate as an aside on that that the California portion of Excelsior was left out of the California bill. Well, the Excelsior portion is in my district. It is true it was left out. It was left out though at the end of that discussion not because of any characteristic that the land had, it was a noncontroversial portion of the California bill. There were not interests, that I recall, in my district opposing the inclusion of that. It was taken out merely for cosmetic measures to get the total acreage down to a number that would be acceptable to Mr. Wilson. That was done, and the area is pretty remote and not used anyway.

So, in addition to that objection of making Excelsior in wilderness, I'd like to know what the other problems are.

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes. We have had new minerals information that has come to light since RARE II when we considered it for wilderness, which has indicated that there is a high potential—it has a high potential for minerals.

We can provide that information to the committee if you would like it.

Mr. LEHMAN. I would certainly like the information but your point is that there's no mining claims there that are at stake. It's just that you think there's a potential for minerals there?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I'll have to look in my notes to see. I don't have all of them.

Mr. SIRMON. Yes, it does have mining claims.

Mr. LEHMAN. Since it borders my district.

Mr. MACCLEERY. It does have some mining claims. Some were recent discoveries.

Mr. LEHMAN. OK, well, I would just like to ask that you provide me with further information concerning that piece of property.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Is the gentlewoman from Nevada seeking additional time?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes, I just would like to ask Mr. MacCleery a little bit further—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection, the gentlewoman is recognized for 2 additional minutes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you.

Mr. MacCleery, in your original RARE II, the areas of Arc Dome and Grant Range were included in your recommendation for wilderness. Is that correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Is it true that you have now asked the Bureau of Mines to do a mineral survey?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, we asked them a couple of years ago to do that, and they agreed under a cooperative agreement, that we have. In Grant Range, that investigation will be completed this year. Arc Dome will be completed next year.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Why would you have put them in the wilderness designation then in your RARE II study?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Well, we had to work on the basis of the information we had, recognizing that information was incomplete. We do have less information than we are comfortable with on some of these areas, but we feel that, in the interest of moving legislation forward, we can come out with a recommendation on a number of these areas. We don't feel that it would be appropriate to move forward on these two areas, with the information as imminent as it is. We have actual plans to go forward. They're doing a minerals survey this year in one area, and next year in another.

Let me point out that a delay in designating these by the Congress will not affect the management of these areas. If an area is—

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. What do you mean by that?

Mr. MACCLEERY. If an area is recommended as part of the forest planning process for wilderness, we will protect the wilderness quality of that area and manage it as wilderness during this 10 to 15 year planning period.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. And you would stop your looking to see if that had mineral impact? Is that what you're saying?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Not necessarily, but we would not carry out any management in that area that would be contrary to the wilderness principle during the planning horizon.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Then, in essence, it would stop? In essence then, it would all stop if there were any minerals?

Mr. MACCLEERY. The mineral surveys could go forward.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. But, that's, well, I'm not going to take time to try to get into that. I just was going to comment about Mr. Lehman's talking about Excelsior Mountain. One of the reasons, as I understand it, that that was left out of the original thing was because there were no conflicts and it really is de facto wilderness anyway. Is that correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes, much of it is de facto wilderness. And the basis for our decision, as I pointed out, is that we do have some new claims and new information.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Wouldn't that continue to happen, unfortunately, in a lot of this area that has mineral potential in our State? Isn't it true that we would discover that there were some mining importance in these areas that might be locked up as wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. There's no doubt that, as time goes on and we know more about these areas and the economy changes as to what is a valuable mineral and what is not, and the technology—

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. The technology, yes.

Mr. MACCLEERY [continuing]. Changes as to extraction, that there will be valuable minerals involved here.

It's really a balancing of what is in the public interest here, and it's a judgment that has to be made. We feel we've made an appropriate judgment as part of our forest planning process, given the information we had.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. There are so many conflicts, I think, about the Indians who use our pinenut, particularly, harvest that every year. It's got to be a real conflict for them, too.

And, you know, some of these areas concern me greatly because they certainly are used by the people, and that's a very important to them, not only with what they use as their lifestyle, but it has a very important significance to them.

Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. MacCleery and Mr. Horton.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. MacCleery, could the Indians still harvest pinenuts in wilderness area?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes; they would be permitted but would not be able to use any vehicles.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. How would they get in there?

Mr. MACCLEERY. They would have to hike there.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Could they use pack animals?

Mr. MACCLEERY. They could, yes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Well, thank you.

Are there any further questions for this panel?

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, just one. Just a couple of questions on the management. In other words, right now, I guess what you're testifying to is the fact that this is all being managed as wilderness now, the study area.

Is that accurate?

Mr. MACCLEERY. The—

Mr. VENTO. The study area is, under law, being managed as wilderness now? Is that right?

Mr. MACCLEERY. The areas which we have recommended for wilderness, which will be recommended for wilderness when the forest plans become final are being managed as wilderness.

Mr. VENTO. Well, when the forest plans become final, but all of the area now is being managed as wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's correct.

Mr. VENTO. All 3.6. And so we're looking at uncertainty into the future. You're telling us what you don't know as a defense against what you've recommended, what you've considered. That, in and of itself, I mean, you make a good case perhaps for not acting on the bill, but it makes a good case for not finalizing forest plans, too, I guess.

Mr. MACCLEERY. I misunderstood your question. The whole 3.6 million is not being managed for wilderness. The areas we've recommended are being managed. The areas before the committee are. But other areas outside that are being so managed according to the plan that exists now. And that may not be—it may not be a wilderness type use.

Mr. VENTO. What type of—

Mr. MARLENEE. Would the gentleman yield on that point?

Mr. VENTO. Oh, I just—yes, well, I guess, on that point, I want to take a brief amount of time.

Mr. MARLENEE. I'll be very brief.

You say they're being managed as wilderness but you can, even if they're being managed as wilderness, land there with a helicopter for management purposes, can you not? And have you not, probably?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. Yes; and you can't do that in a wilderness area.

Second question, with regard to managing of it as wilderness but not managing it as wilderness, as was pointed out in the helicopter question, is you can and do use chainsaws to clear the trails?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's correct. Outside of wilderness.

Mr. MARLENEE. And within the areas you're now managing as wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes; because it's not formally designated.

Mr. MARLENEE. Because it's not formally designated, you are using chainsaws to clear the trails, which you couldn't do if it was wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That's correct.

Mr. MARLENEE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. VENTO. Let me ask you about the management of this once it is wilderness. What do you expect to be doing—what personnel requirements are different when it's managed as wilderness, or when it is designated as wilderness, as opposed to when it isn't? Do you provide more personnel in those instances?

What do you do, for instance, today to protect the bristlecone pines from the chainsaws? I assume that the guy with the pickup truck and the hefty wife and five ice creams for their kids is not going to be permitted to cut down bristlecone pine firewood, are they?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I'll let Jeff Sirmon answer that because he was Regional Forester there.

Mr. VENTO. Very good.

Mr. SIRMON. We have areas where we do not allow cutting of bristlecone pine for firewood.

Mr. VENTO. Do you mean you have areas where you do?

Mr. SIRMON. And there are areas where some bristlecone pines aren't in need of protection.

Mr. VENTO. So that they can cut them down. Have you had any problems?

Mr. SIRMON. In places where they are plentiful.

Mr. VENTO. Do you have problems with it at all?

Mr. SIRMON. We have had some problems in the past, in some of the areas that we have set up for protection.

Mr. VENTO. In other words, it's very difficult to manage this on this basis. Is that right? You're saying, with this basis of management, it's not easily done.

What do you do to protect some of the other things, like the pictographs and some of the other types of things in terms of cultural and historic resources?

Mr. SIRMON. Well, we try to, in places where we have ready access by the public and large numbers of public, we try to interpret these resources and to protect them from vandalism, try to put up the protective measures to protect them from vandalism.

It is a problem in widely dispersed areas where we don't have many employees to look after these historic and cultural resources. And, in some places, we try not to publish the location of some of the—

Mr. VENTO. Well, I understand. I guess what I'm trying to say is that, you know, resources, keeping something a secret isn't much of a way in the future, I don't think, of protecting these particular resources. And I appreciate the type of problems and the effort that you make to protect these.

But I just want to point out that there are some problems under the existing management scheme and the existing plan, and I anticipate that these should be resolved in this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. MacCleery, I am a little puzzled about your statement you cannot use chain saws to clear trails in wilderness. I understood that national forests did allow that when necessary.

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is our policy not to, that trail clearing crews in wilderness use hand equipment to clear the trail.

Mr. SEIBERLING. But you can, where necessary, use chain saws, as I understand it. There is no regulation against it, is there?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is something that we avoid, and we can use mechanized equipment if it is necessary, you know, for emergency situations and these kinds of situations.

Mr. SEIBERLING. You can do fire fighting work in wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. That is right.

Mr. SEIBERLING. You can do insect control in wilderness?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, would you yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. VENTO. And you can land helicopters in wilderness if you deem it is necessary for management of the resource, is that accurate?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Generally, we avoid—

Mr. VENTO. You can land helicopters in wilderness for management purposes; you can have overflights with aircraft that are lower than levels that would be permissible by commercial or private use?

Mr. MACCLEERY. Yes; we can. We try to avoid that, as I said.

Mr. VENTO. Well, I am say you can use it as is necessary. I think it is good to avoid it if you can, but I think that if it is necessary you do have that option.

Mr. MACCLEERY. As an example, I used to work for the Forest Service. When we fought fire and there was an emergency, we would be taken into the fire in a helicopter. After we got the fire out, the emergency was gone and we were forced to walk out, and that was the kind of interpretation that is being placed—a strict interpretation and I think for a good purpose.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Is there a regulation that says the helicopter can't go in and pick up the firefighters?

Mr. MACCLEERY. I don't believe it is in the regulations. That was the policy.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, well, that is a policy that is not mandated though by law, correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is a policy which is designed to protect the integrity of the purposes for which wilderness—

Mr. SEIBERLING. But that is a policy that you have adopted as a matter of policy.

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is how we have interpreted the requirements of the Wilderness Act.

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Marlenee.

Mr. MARLENEE. With regard to the use of the helicopter, then it is an established policy that you cannot use that helicopter in that wilderness area or would not use it until all other available means are exhausted, is that correct?

Mr. MACCLEERY. We would try to use it as a last resort, that is correct.

Mr. MARLENEE. You would not even use it yourself. If a request were made by the State fish and game commission or the managing entity of the game departments within the State of Nevada, Montana, or wherever to use a helicopter, more than likely that would be denied?

Mr. MACCLEERY. You would have to see the situation, but like I say, this is something we would discourage. There was some considerable discussion about that earlier this year when EPA proposed to use helicopters to fly in and sample for water quality in wilderness lakes. We were under the threat of a lawsuit if we were to permit that, and we finally worked out a compromise where most of the work was done on horseback. This was a EPA contract to sample lakes for acid rain.

And so we are doing the bulk of that work through nonmechanical means and only using helicopters to provide a verification of the samples that are developed through—or that are gathered through nonmechanical means, horseback, and that sort of thing.

Mr. MARLENEE. I see. So you did deny EPA the use of helicopters?

Mr. MACCLEERY. We limited them severely and only for the purpose of verifying the samples for scientific purposes.

Mr. MARLENEE. I thank the gentleman, thank the Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. So in other words, there is no blanket prohibition on the use of helicopters; it is a question of whether it is necessary?

Mr. MACCLEERY. It is a judgment call.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you.

If there are no further questions of this panel, we will go on to Mr. William A. Molini, director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

And while we are waiting, I will offer for the record, without objection, a letter I received from Peter J. Sferrazza, mayor of the city of Reno, saying he is sorry he is unable to attend this hearing but he would like his letter entered into the hearing record, and that he supports the wilderness designations contained in H.R. 3304.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned letter may be found in the appendix. See table of contents for page number.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, Mr. Molini, welcome.

[Prepared statement of William A. Molini may be found in the appendix.]

#### STATEMENT OF WILLIAM A. MOLINI, DIRECTOR, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Mr. MOLINI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is William Molini. I am director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

I am testifying here today on behalf of the Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, considering the bills before you to designate certain National Forest lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National wilderness Preservation System.

As you are undoubtedly aware from testimony here today, there has been and continues to be conflicts between various interest groups in the State of Nevada on the subject of wilderness designation.

It is a position of the departments that we all have a responsibility to develop legislation encompassing a reasonable wilderness proposal that is defensible and equitable.

Representatives from Nevada State agencies have participated in numerous meetings with the various interest groups with an objective of reaching a consensus on a wilderness bill to be considered by the U.S. Congress. Unfortunately, to date, such consensus has not been forthcoming.

We are confident, however, that the efforts of this committee and the Congress will provide conclusions and compromises that will result in an acceptable wilderness bill.

I personally, together with Roland Westergard, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, participated in a tour of potential wilderness areas this past summer. We, in Nevada, welcomed the participation on that tour of Chairman Seiberling and members of your committee, including Repre-

sentatives Vucanovich, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. We were also pleased that Senator Hecht, Congressman Reid, and a representative of Senator Laxalt's office participated in the tour.

Subsequent to that tour, Governor Richard H. Bryan had the opportunity to participate in a trail ride in the proposed Table Mountain wilderness area. Those experiences confirmed for the Governor and I am sure for members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands the importance, significance, and necessity of designation of appropriate wilderness areas within the State of Nevada.

The specific areas to be included and acreages within those areas will certainly be the subject of extensive testimony before this committee, resulting, I am sure, in further consideration as the committee reaches its conclusions and processes a Nevada wilderness bill.

Representatives of the Departments of Wildlife and Conservation and Natural Resources reviewed in detail the roadless area studies and recommendations of wilderness designation included in the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

We find the roadless area studies to be generally well done, and it is the position of the departments that as a bare minimum the approximately 452,000 acres which have been identified by the Forest Service within the Toiyabe, Humboldt, and Inyo National Forests meet the test of defensible and equitable wilderness designation.

Testimony today will undoubtedly bear on which specific areas should be included. If it is the decision of this committee to add areas to those identified by the Forest Service, we suggest that the areas designated as Table Mountain, Mt. Rose, and East Humboldts be given further consideration.

In addition, adjustments in specific area acreages and boundary realignments may also be necessary, based on the testimony received.

Representatives of the Departments of Wildlife and Conservation and Natural Resources stand ready to assist this committee and the committee staff in any subsequent deliberations on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the two departments, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present this testimony.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Molini, as I read your testimony, you are recommending that at the minimum we should include the areas recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness, is that correct?

Mr. MOLINI. That is correct.

Mr. SEIBERLING. And in addition, you are suggesting certain other areas that you specify.

All right, thank you. I don't have any further questions.

Mr. Marlenee.

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Chairman, I will yield to my colleague from Nevada.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome, Mr. Molini.

Mr. MOLINI. Thank you.



Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I really don't have any questions. We were very fortunate to have Bill join us on our tour. I think it was very helpful, and he helped us a lot, and I have no questions of him.

Thank you. I will yield back some time.

Mr. MARLENEE. Sir, in Nevada, do you use a mechanical means of propagating and enhancing the environment and working with the wild game animals that you have there?

Mr. MOLINI. We do.

Mr. MARLENEE. What are those?

Mr. MOLINI. We do use helicopters, primarily for aerial survey work. It doesn't often require landing. We do, in coordination with the Forest Service, use control burning, occasionally sprays for vegetal manipulations—those types of activities—sometimes the installation of fish traps to capture fish and take spawn, that sort of thing.

Mr. MARLENEE. Don't you have in Nevada a desert sheep?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes, we do.

Mr. MARLENEE. That is unique to Nevada?

Mr. MOLINI. Well, it is not unique to Nevada, but it is our State animal, and we have one of the more substantial populations of that subspecies in the country.

Mr. MARLENEE. Does that species of sheep—is its range in any of the wilderness areas?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes, it is.

Mr. MARLENEE. It does, and do you occasionally use helicopters in counting those and being involved in that, tracking those?

Mr. MOLINI. We do occasionally use helicopters to survey those populations, yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. If wilderness designation precluded the use of helicopters and you couldn't use them to manage the game, to do the counting, to be involved in propagation of that species or that game, would it be more costly for you?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes, certainly it would be. If I might expand on that?

Mr. MARLENEE. So it might cost the State of Nevada more money?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Vento.

Mr. VENTO. I think he wanted to explain in response to Mr. Marlenee's question. I think he was trying to explain something about the extra cost, or something.

If you want to.

Mr. MOLINI. Well, my explanation would be that we have taken a long hard look at these wilderness proposals relative to our management responsibilities and obligations for wildlife.

In most cases, because we have very narrow north-south trending mountain ranges, we are able to fly those areas—and I speak specifically to those proposed for wilderness designation—without the necessity of landing the helicopter.

We are operating under the assumption that our continued activities would not be precluded, which as I understand the Wilder-

ness Act, that is the case. I suppose regulations could be promulgated that might restrict that.

Mr. MARLENEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. At what height?

Mr. MOLINI. Well, sometimes to get appropriate classification, fairly close to the ground.

Mr. MARLENEE. The Wilderness Act does preclude flights under a certain altitude.

Mr. VENTO. In any case, the point is you would have the responsibility in these wilderness areas for the management of the fish and wildlife. That would persist just as it does today; is that clear to you?

Mr. MOLINI. That is correct.

Mr. VENTO. So I mean, you retain that particular responsibility?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes.

Mr. VENTO. And there may be some limits, but, you know, I think that you work these out. We like to see a kind of a Federal initiative, in the best sense of the word, in terms of working with, and certainly there is a good working relationship today in Nevada, I hope, between the Forest Service and your agency or department.

Mr. MOLINI. In fact, an excellent working relationship currently.

Mr. VENTO. You had an opportunity to comment on most of these plans before they were recommended; is that accurate?

Mr. MOLINI. Yes, indeed.

Mr. VENTO. You did take the advantage of that.

Well, good. I commend you for trying to provide some certainty here and making some decisions in light of the fact there is a little heat probably associated with those. But that is good to see.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. Yes, I would be happy to yield.

Mr. SEIBERLING. It is my understanding the Wilderness Act does not prohibit low-flying aircraft but that under the intent of the act the Forest Service has the authority to regulate that and prohibit it if they feel it is incompatible or is unnecessary. It is a matter of again protecting the wilderness.

Mr. VENTO. Yes, I think that with regard to this discussion previously on helicopter and aircraft, I don't think any of us are advocating because obviously in preserving these characteristics, the noise and the intrusiveness of aircraft and helicopters is a problem. But I think it is necessary for emergency purposes, and so forth. I think it is wrong to try and state that they are absolutely prevented because that is not the case.

In other words, the Forest Service, in managing this, has made this determination in fulfillment of the act, and I support that, but I think that we tend to give the worst case scenario. Sometimes we misrepresent and cause a misunderstanding probably of what really is the case.

But there are severe limitations on helicopter——

Mr. MARLENEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO [continuing]. And aircraft in these areas. No question about it.

Mr. MARLENEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. Yes.

Mr. MARLENEE. I do stand corrected. The Wilderness Act does not prohibit the low flying aircraft; however, by policy and regulation the Forest Service again does regulate those low flying aircraft.

Mr. VENTO. I don't want to encourage them to decrease their efforts in terms—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, they should regulate it.

Mr. VENTO. That is right. I agree basically generally with what they do along these lines.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I have no questions.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Moody.

Mr. MOODY. No questions.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Craig.

Mr. CRAIG. I have no questions at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment.

Willie, I am glad to see you here, and I am glad that you are here representing the State.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, Mr. Molini is an example of the fine people that we have in State government in Nevada. I want you to take that message back to the Governor and to the rest of the officials, that we are proud of you and all the people that worked so hard to make our State as unique as it is.

Mr. MOLINI. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you. It was a real pleasure to go around the State with the representatives from your department, and we appreciated very much the technical expertise they made available to us.

Thank you.

Mr. MOLINI. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We will now proceed with Panel No. 1, consisting of Ms. Geneva Douglas, chairperson, Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Mr. Jay Mierdierk, Lahontan Audubon Society; Ms. Lois Sagel, Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas; Ms. Marge Sill, Chair of the Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter; and Dr. Don Molde, of Las Vegas, NV.

And I will remind my colleagues now that we have been going for approximately 2½ hours and we have only gotten through four witnesses. We have 30 witnesses left to go.

I intend to fight it out on this line if it takes all night.

Mr. SEIBERLING. So I hope that we can try moving a little faster. And to the witness, I will reiterate that their prepared remarks will be included in the record, and they will be asked to limit their oral remarks to 5 minutes. And we will now recognize Ms. Douglas.

We want to welcome all the people who have come such a long way to testify here, and hope we will give you a feeling of satisfaction and not just frustration.

Ms. Douglas.

[Prepared statements of Geneva S. Douglas, with attachments, Jay Meierdierck, Lois Sagel, Marjorid Still, and Donald A. Molde may be found in the appendix.]

PANEL CONSISTING OF MS. GENEVA S. DOUGLAS, REPRESENTING FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS; JAY MEIERDIERCK, LAHONTAN AUDUBON SOCIETY AND RED ROCK AUDUBON SOCIETY; LOIS SAGEL, REPRESENTING SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS; MARJORIE SILL, CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB; AND DONALD A. MOLDE, M.D., RENO, NV

Ms. DOUGLAS. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and members of the subcommittee. I am Geneva Douglas, a 26-year resident of Las Vegas, NV. I am appearing before you today as the chair of a statewide coalition called Friends of Nevada Wilderness. And I am speaking on their behalf.

This is a new coalition of 23 independent and diverse organizations as well as businesses and individuals that support the designation of 21 wilderness areas, encompassing a little over 1.5 million acres of roadless area in Nevada's National Forest. We want wilderness. We understand what it is and we represent thousands of Nevadans, including business and professional people, housewives, real estate brokers, developers, bankers, senior citizens, physicians, and even some ranchers and miners, as well as members of organizations, like the Virginia Range Wildlife Protective Association and the Kiwanis Club of Golden K, whose 83-year old secretary told us at one of our meetings, and I quote: "Has 18 voices united as a group in support of as much wilderness as we can get."

We thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on the importance we as Nevadans place on the value of wilderness in our State. We particularly appreciate the sincere interest that you demonstrated, Mr. Chairman, as did Congressmen Reid, Mrs. Vucanovich, Weaver, Kostmayer, and Darden, in using your July 4 recess to visit many of the eligible areas in Nevada and to talk to a lot of Nevadans who met with you on the way.

We were pleased that Mr. Reid's bill and Mr. Seiberling's bill, both introduced after the visit, are significant improvements over H.R. 1686, introduced before the visit was made.

We agree with the areas and the acreages proposed for wilderness designation in H.R. 3304. And, in addition, we support designation of 23,000 acres of Pearl Peak, south of the Ruby Mountains, and 12,260 acres of the Sweetwater's on our western border. All the areas we support are described in my written testimony.

A lot of Nevada is public land, as our Congressman has already told you, and we are denied access to much of it that has been withdrawn for military purposes. The test range complex in southern Nevada alone has withdrawn 3.6 million acres. The designation of 1.5 million acres of wilderness will provide some balance in the way our State's public land is used, and will assure us that some of it will remain clean, peaceful and pristine for all to enjoy.

Only God can make the wilderness, where everything seems to work as it should, but only the Congress can designate which and how much of our God-given wild country can be preserved as wilderness and provide to posterity some options for its future use.

We thank you for hearing our concerns and urge you to do the job of preservation, as thousands of Nevadans believe it should be done.

And, Mr. Chairman, I have here copies of a petition supporting our position with close to 600 signatures. I understand there are quite a few more but they didn't make it here because of the storm. These were gathered in about 5 days last week, and I've been asked to ask you if we could have these entered in the written record.

Mr. SEIBERLING. In an effort to avoid excessive printing costs, we will include the reference to it in the record, but we would like to include the petition in our file of this hearing, if that's all right with you.

Ms. DOUGLAS. That's fine. Thank you very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Does that complete your testimony?

Ms. DOUGLAS. Yes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. My name is Jay Meierdierck. I am a resident of Carson City, NV. I am representing today the Lahontan Audubon Society of Northern Nevada, and the Red Rock Audubon Society of Southern Nevada. I have been involved in wilderness and related management throughout Nevada. I have served on committees set up by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and Congressman Reid, that attempted to reach their concensus on U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposals and legislation appropriate 1 year ago.

I have studied these wilderness areas, the RARE II plans, and I have been in many of these areas. It is with this background and a love for the truly beautiful and special areas of Nevada that I am speaking today. I will tell you that Nevada needs and wants wilderness.

Wilderness management does not categorically lock out most recreation uses, grazing or mining. Wilderness areas are economically productive in a broad sense, as well as spiritually refreshing. Less than one-tenth of 1 percent of Nevada's public lands is classified as wilderness, the lowest of any Western State.

A wide cross-section of the population benefits from the preservation of the valuable wilderness resources. Wilderness users have priorities which place a high value on scenic beauty and variety. The U.S. Forest Service administers the vast majority of the lands in Nevada amenable to hiking and walking. The vast majority of off-highway vehicle use recreation occurs on existing roads and the valleys in designated areas.

Off-highway vehicle activities have specific terrain requirements necessary for a quality recreational experience. It is not an accurate assumption that ORV's is appropriate for any remote, undeveloped areas.

Nevada is one of the fastest growing States. Over the last three decades, according to projections, it is expected to continue. According to a U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Study of 171 metropolitan places in the Nation, the Las Vegas and Reno areas are expected to lead all the rest in their general increase in demand for outdoor recreation.

A corresponding increase in wilderness recreation can be anticipated. Approximately 40 percent of Nevada park use is from out of State. Youth surveys conducted at Nevada's only wilderness area, the Jarbridge, are similar. Half are from Nevada, 20 percent from Idaho, 15 percent from California, and the remaining 15 percent

from other States, including Arizona, Oregon, Florida, West Virginia, New Mexico, and Georgia.

General tendencies in the West indicate an increasing orientation toward Nevada as an outlet for wilderness recreation needs. There are three general reasons for this.

First, in certain wilderness areas, demand exceeds supply. In California's Desolation Valley Wilderness, the closest wilderness valley to me and many Nevadans, near Lake Tahoe, a maximum permissible limit on users has been identified and is enforced through an entry permit procedure.

Second, the vastness and diversity of Nevada's landscape coupled with a relatively low recreational use of these resources at present create conditions highly prized in recreation—opportunities to enjoy travel by foot or horseback, a natural setting and meet few other people along the way.

This quality of solitude and its relation to dispersed recreation has a drawing capacity that should be protected. This summer, I spent 4 days hiking with a friend and my dog in the Arc Dome wilderness and saw no other people.

There should be remembered that Nevada's economies are uniquely characterized by the recreation and entertainment industries. Wilderness recreation opportunities are clearly an important part of the package Nevada offers to attract out of State visitors.

The Nevada Department of Economic Development and tourism is dictated to increase tourism. Their marketing plan calls for diversification and to change the image of Nevada away from glitter and to more family type activities.

Their brochures promote the wilderness and the exploration of Nevada, and I would like to enter those into the record if I could. By emphasizing the natural features of the—

Mr. SEIBERLING. We will include the brochures in the hearing file, but not in the printed record. We will include a reference to it in the record.

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Yes, sir.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned Nevada tourism information may be found in the committee's files of today's hearing.]

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. The majority of the areas appropriate for wilderness are included in the Seiberling bill. In a study I did for Nevada State parks, the two most important factors in consideration of dispersed recreation activities were, first, scenery, and second, good natural resources.

The three biggest concerns were, first, infringement on solitude by large numbers of people; second, restrictions on use of land inhibiting recreation use; and third, limited information on the various types of areas open for recreation.

The designation of the 21 areas as wilderness will protect or help all of these concerns. The outdoor recreation industry in Nevada appears to employ more people than the timber industry and is in the same general range as agriculture and mining and persons employed.

Nevada currently has one U.S. Forest Service wilderness. Nevada currently has no U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness. Nevada currently has no National Park Service wilderness. Nevada currently has no BLM wilderness. Nevada currently has no Wild and

Scenic Rivers. Nevada currently has no recreational trails, no national trails. Nevada currently has no national parks. Nevada currently has no national historic sites. Nevada currently has one national recreation area. And, Nevada currently has one national monument.

In answer to a previous question, the Lima Caves National Monument is 1 square mile. Nevada needs some of its lands protected. Surely, this State, full of grandeur and beauty, can do better than we have to consecrate its natural wonders for future generations.

Thank you.

Ms. SAGEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Lois Sagel, and I'm speaking to you as a leader in Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, as a Nevadan of 28 years, as a mother, and as one who is physically handicapped.

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas commends Congressman Seiberling and the members of his committee who took their time to visit Nevada wilderness. We do appreciate your concern on our behalf. We also thank Congressman Harry Reid for his wilderness bill. Congressman Reid is a friend of the citizens of Nevada, and his bill is a step in the right direction.

But it remains our belief that the 21 areas we're recommending will better protect our wilderness for both Nevadans and the rest of the Nation.

Soroptimist International is a worldwide service organization of professional and executive women. Soroptimists are business professionals and are aware of the value of wilderness to the State of Nevada. Tourism is our major State industry, and the positive effect on the tourism industry gained by such a small percentage of Federal lands cannot be ignored.

What is good for tourism in Nevada is good business for all.

On a more personal level, I'm a Nevadan of 28 years. I'm a mother and I'm a grandmother, but I'm also the granddaughter of a cattle rancher, and I'm the daughter of a miner. And I support the concept of preserving 1.5 million acres of wonderful mountain tops for our future. I want our grandchildren to be able to enjoy the high meadows and the wild critters.

I would like them to be able to see the glow of aspen groves in the fall and the quiet purple beauty of a snowy dusk. I want to know that this is going to be there for them.

One of the big arguments against wilderness seems to be coming from people in the name of the handicapped. As a person with a physical disability, I have very strong, strong feelings that our communities must provide equal opportunities for those who cannot gain equal access.

A young parapalegic mother told me just last week that the wilderness was right here in her own town. She only wants to be able to use the payphone in her buildings and be able to park her car where she can get her wheelchair in and out. But she also wants the Nevada wilderness bill for her two young children.

I cannot walk any distance but I used to be able to use our wilderness for camping with our family, and how I dearly loved to photograph all those bellyflowers. However, I've never climbed Arc

Dome. And I certainly do not intend to do so even if you build me a road right to the base of that mountain.

Nevada provides a number of programs to accommodate those who are disabled. I can see bristlecone pines or the big horn sheep. I can camp in Mount Charleston, enjoy the aspen. There is no need for the Government to provide me with a paved road into every area of the State that I might want to visit.

And I seriously question how many of the disabled would visit those areas, even if they are left open—not designated as wilderness.

I would love to see Table Mountain but I realize that a part of accepting a disability is the ability to make a compromise. I want a bill which will protect all 21 of Nevada's wonderful and unique wilderness areas. The time has come to put aside our many differences and work together.

As Soroptimists say, "Working together, we can make a difference."

And I do have with me letter from all of the Soroptimist Clubs in southern Nevada supporting the Friends of Nevada wilderness position for a portion of your record.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Ms. SAGEL. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Ms. Sill.

Ms. SILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Marjorie Sill. I'm a resident of Reno. I am chair of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, a chapter which has over 1,900 members in Nevada and eastern California.

Our members are diverse people. They include the people who can climb the most rugged mountains. They include fishermen. They include hunters. They include people who are unable to get into the wilderness now because of age or physical handicap, but who like the idea of having wilderness in Nevada.

I was really excited this past July at the conclusion of the trip of Representative Seiberling, Representative Reid, Representative Vucanovich, and others of the committee, to have a gathering at which we expected perhaps 200 people, and we had 350 people from all interests, all walks of life, who turned out. We ran out of food. And I know because I was in charge of the planning.

Wilderness, to me, is a very important thing. When I first came to Nevada, and I first visited Nevada and the Wheeler Peak area in the fall of 1953, which, on computation, is 32 years ago, I fell in love with it. This was an area—and I'd been used to California wilderness areas, but this was unique. And I still have the feeling that Nevada wilderness is unique. It is unrepresented almost in the National Wilderness System. I consider wilderness an investment in the future. And Nevada, unfortunately, doesn't have any, or has a very small 64,000 acre share in that investment.

I'm a teacher. I'm a high school teacher. I work with young people. I care a lot about them. I care a lot about what their future is going to be. I care a lot about my former students, people who come up to me and talk to me about wilderness. And I'm really thrilled because this is happening. It wasn't happening when I first came to Nevada; there were only a few people who cared.



Now, it seems like everyone—my students, my fellow faculty membes, people, my neighbors—are all asking about wilderness, or all caring about wilderness.

And I think that this is going to be the way of the future. I am so thankful to members of this committee for introducing wilderness legislation, for getting this discussion started, and I certainly hope that eventually we're going to have a good Nevada wilderness bill, similar to the one introduced by the committee.

Thank you.

Dr. MOLDE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Don Molde. I'm a psychiatrist in Reno. I've been in Nevada 15 years. You have my prepared remarks, I think, before you. What I'd like to do is personalize things a bit, and the first thing I'd like to do is to personalize my background.

Everybody has the unique story, I suppose, and mine includes the fact that I was raised in North Dakota for 14 years. And while I, as a child, thought that was a nice place to be, by comparison with what came later, I think there was something to be desired.

My parents moved to Oregon when I was 14 and I spent the next 20 years in western Oregon, in Eugene, during the time I went to high school, college and medical school. And I must say that's the first time I ran into the name "U.S. Forest Service", and came to appreciate the kinds of country which that agency is responsible for.

I've been 15 years in Nevada and have continued my interest in the public lands. And I must say that I am one American citizen and one Nevadan who is very appreciative of the fact that the Federal Government owns as much of Nevada and Oregon as it does. We may have some quarrels with the Federal agencies as to how they manage them, but I quarrel a lot with State agencies as well. I don't think there's anything unique about that.

So I am here to speak on behalf of wilderness and to ask for as much as we can get. And I guess, to add my perspective as a wildlife advocate, which is one of the reasons I was invited here, but let me dispense with the psychiatry part of it for a moment.

Much has been said about solitude and an opportunity to recharge one's psychological batteries. I would second that. And I think I have some sensitivity about that, since a part of my business has to do with how one goes about that. Certainly, myself and my colleagues appreciate the opportunity to visit the Nevada areas and, in fact, many of us go more frequently there than into the Sierras due to the less crowded conditions and what we regard as equal quality, scenery and opportunity for out-of-doors experiences.

I do want to say one word about wildlife since I'm here, but add something beyond that that wasn't in my testimony. Mr. Marlenee fortunately left me something to say and we often have words of one kind or another with each other.

Clearly, the benefit for wildlife with respect to wilderness is the presence of roadless areas. One of my avocational interests is that I'm on the board of directors of the Defenders of Wildlife Organization, here in Washington. I also had an opportunity to spend 2 or 3 weeks on Admiralty Island this summer photographing grisly bears. And I suppose the grisly bear is the prototype as to how

wildlife benefits if there are no roads into its habitat and how it loses if there are.

While Nevada has no grisly bears, and I wish that we did, we certainly have other large mammals that would greatly benefit by having roadless areas in which to have relative sanctuaries in which they could live and conduct their affairs.

The thing I want to add that's not in my testimony is that there's been a lot of talk, and always is, about what the people think and what Nevadans think. As far as I know, I'm the only person in Nevada in the last 15 years whose ever asked the public what they thought about wildlife matters—other than perhaps the political survey that someone might send out.

In 1980, after printing two rather inflammatory ads on trapping and predator control, I then ran a public attitude survey, a full-page survey in the newspaper in northern Nevada, that ran all across northern Nevada, included Alco and Eely and Reno. I didn't ask specifically of wilderness at that time, but I asked questions about wildlife, predator control, trapping, hunting and, at that time, the sagebrush rebellion, which was at its peak in terms of intensity of public comment.

And I think there could be an analogy drawn between public interest and the sagebrush rebellion and wilderness. In my survey, which included about 600 responses, including rural contributors, there was only 11 percent interest in the concept of the sagebrush rebellion at the very height of its public relations intensity.

I had an opportunity to discuss my results, which went on without my knowing that Steven Keller from Yale University was conducting a survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some of you may know about that. He surveyed public attitudes and found basically that his results and mine were essentially the same, or mine were essentially the same as his in terms of how public views wildlife as a public heritage with the right to live on the public lands and that it deserves a place to be.

I was quite surprised—well, actually, I wasn't—that Nevadans, in essence, looked much like people across the country in that respect. Later, Keller has done a survey on the wolf in Minnesota and, much to the surprise of many people, the wolf comes out publicly favorable. Only a few livestock producers were opposed to the wolf and had attitudes contrary to what the general public had.

So my point was, I guess, was I'd like to contribute, is that although I haven't specifically surveyed the Nevada public for wilderness and will probably do that one of these days when I can design another survey, my guess is that Nevadans are no different, by and large, than your constituents anywhere else.

And I would like to leave you with that.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I want to thank this panel for five very outstanding statements. Obviously, you've put a great deal of thought and effort into it, and have written very eloquently and very cogently.

I was particularly interested, Ms. Douglas, in your statement as a handicapped person who, nevertheless—excuse me, Ms. Sagel, yes—a handicapped person who, nevertheless, strongly supports wilderness areas. This is one of these red herrings that keeps being drawn across the trail, so to speak. Several years ago, I was up in

Vermont and we were having a hearing on the Vermont wilderness bill. And several people say, Oh, you can't put these areas in wilderness because the senior citizens can't use them. And I said, "Well, that's funny. I'm a senior citizen and yesterday I was hiking 8 miles on top of Baker Peak with an 83-year-old man and I noticed that quite a few people in the audience, who were clearly seniors, came in and testified in favor of the wilderness bill."

So I think that it's helpful also to get the statements from handicapped people, and particularly those who share my feelings that, even if they're never able to go in these areas, they think it's important to protect them so that their children and other people's children will be able to do so.

That's certainly my feeling. As chairman of this subcommittee, it's literally mouthwatering to go around and see these areas and know that, in most cases, I'll never have the time to really enjoy them but, nevertheless, I think the pleasure of knowing that a lot of other people will be able to enjoy them makes the effort all worthwhile.

I have no questions of the panel. Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions either. I would like to welcome my fellow Soroptimists. I'm a member of Soroptimist myself and it's nice to see them taking part and expressing their concerns and we certainly welcome you. And I appreciate all the rest of the testimony. And I have no questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Vento.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, just to get one point and maybe do it with this panel, as the chairman knows and Mr. Reid alluded to, I am interested in especially this Wheeler Peak proposal, the early one, to declare it as a park. And I think it's especially important for you to know that. I don't want to make this proposal, which I think is good, sort of the enemy at best, to quote one of my colleagues. I think this is a good proposal that has been brought before us, the Reid proposal, and certainly the Seiberling proposals, I think, bear very close scrutiny. And I hope that we can resolve that working with our colleague, who obviously has difference of opinion here.

But, I hope, along the way, we can because I am concerned that once we deal with this National Forest Service land, that that will sort of be the end. It's going to be very difficult to open back up. And I think that, as good a protection that wilderness provides, it doesn't provide the same sort of utilization designation from an economic standpoint in terms of using this. That is, for camping, for an interpretative program which I think would be desirable at that area; because the old stands of bristlecone, because of Lehman Cave, as you pronounced it. We call it Layman in North Dakota, Doctor. And, in Minnesota. But, the point is—and because of the petroglyphs and the other things there, I think that that designation should occur.

So I hope that I can work with the chairman, provided that we can get enough push, and maybe address that particular concern so that we can not only get some wilderness but maybe a park developed. I think that should be kept on the table, and that's one of the reasons, frankly, that I wanted to participate.

But I wanted to say to this panel, this is one of the best prepared panels of citizens that I've come across. I want to commend you and your organizations for the work you've done in background preparation because, indeed, I think that you have made some very good presentations, very telling presentations with regards to the justification for this issue.

But, rather than ask you a lot of questions, this is really what I want to get across to you, so I hope that you listen because I am concerned that, in the rush to do this, that we might not do what should be done for that area. And I voiced the concern to the chairman and Mr. Reid on other occasions. So I'll leave it at that point and thank this panel.

Maybe, if there's somebody that wants to respond to it, I'd be happy to listen briefly, but we're under the gun here, so . . . if not, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Mr. Vento, I just would like to tell you that, in last Sunday's Review Journal, there is a front-page article that support for that Great Basin National Park is brewing again, and I will forward to you a copy of that newspaper article.

Mr. SEIBERLING. You see how middle of the road I am? [Laughter.]

Mr. Craig.

Mr. CRAIG. Maybe some see that, Mr. Chairman.

I'm going to murder a name here and I don't mean to, but Jay, I'm—

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. My-a-derk.

Mr. CRAIG. My-a-derk?

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Yes. If you don't look at it, it's much easier to pronounce.

Mr. CRAIG. I agree with you. [Laughter.]

I've been looking at it for the last minute and—

Mr. SEIBERLING. It's misspelled in our—

Mr. CRAIG. What nationality is that?

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Dutch.

Mr. SEIBERLING. They left out two letters.

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Which always complicates it.

Mr. CRAIG. I was curious about part of your earlier comment. You mentioned that wilderness classification or designation does not, and I think I wrote it down accurately, does not knock out mining. Would you expand on that?

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Well, the current wilderness law does permit the exploration of mining and, as testimony was made earlier by the representative from the U.S. Forest Service, they are allowed to develop their existing mining claims.

Mr. CRAIG. Existing mining claims?

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAIG. Well, of course, that's one of the great myths of the wilderness issue. Mining claims that exist are under certain restrictions, as they probably should be allowed to operate. Newly explored and discovered mineral deposits just don't exist any more in wilderness areas. We know that as a given fact. It's very, very rare that a mining company will spend the kind of money that is necessary, if in fact they can access a given area.

Following December 1983, that all went out the window. So I think, for anyone to say that you can have new mining in wilderness areas today, it's one of the world's great myths and it's one of the myths that this committee has done a marvelous job perpetrating. It just doesn't happen any more.

And, of course, when it is even threatened, when it is even possible that a mining company might penetrate a wilderness area for the purpose of exploration or a company in the use of seismicographic effort to determine whether there might be any petrochemicals or petroleum resources in there, we've seen this committee and this Congress immediately jump on it and say, "No, you can't do that. You might risk the environment."

So I'm citing that as a fact as I understand it, because I know what the law is and I know what the regulations are. And I know what the economics of an industry is, that simply say:

Why go explore? Why invest maybe millions of dollars in exploration to find something when we will never be allowed access to it?

And I think it's important that we keep the record somewhat reasonably balanced. The chairman I and others on this committee have argued for years. We know what the law says, and we've worked hard to make sure that the regulators, the managers of wilderness areas don't extend the ramification of a regulation beyond what the law really was intended to mean.

In other words, make it so restrictive that the livestock industry finds it more and more difficult to continue to use a designated wilderness area.

We know that grazing exists today. But we know, with the increased difficulties of the grazing industry from an economic standpoint, the inability to use vehicles to access those areas that they once accessed for a variety of reasons, makes it all the more complicated.

In every wilderness area in my State, every wilderness area where grazing exists, you see a diminishing amount of grazing in part—not in total—but in part because of that classification.

So I think it's important to recognize that there is a balancing act that has to be maintained. And I find it unique that in a State like Nevada, which I happen to know reasonably well, being from Idaho and I've traveled it a good many times, that your tourism industry, which is by far your largest industry, has grown rapidly and progressively in the absence of wilderness.

The reason it's grown rapidly and progressively in the absence of wilderness is, No. 1, because you are a large public land State; and No. 2, because many of the people who come to your State for the purpose of recreating can gain access through some reasonable means—other than donning a backpack and walking miles and miles to gain access to an area. I know that is a reasonably given fact.

I also know that if you looked in Clarke and Warsha County and you compute tourism, you've got to compute major amounts of tourism into those areas because of the activity in those areas.

It's true in my State of Idaho. We talk of the very substantial growth of tourism in my State. It has grown. But it grows in the areas where it's organized. The Sun Valleys and the Coeur d'

Alene's. And maybe a few, less than 10 percent of those who come to play in the organized areas, penetrate a wilderness area.

In the States like Idaho, like Nevada, that are unique—very unique, beautifully unique in their public lands—we have that uniqueness because we have public lands today and because they, in large part, have been restricted.

But it's very important that we maintain the balance.

Thank you.

[Laughter.]

Mr. VENTO [presiding]. The gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleague from Idaho raised the point—Clark County now has over 600,000 people. It's no longer the way it used to be. In areas that I, as a young boy, used to go and look at the petroglyphs on the cliffs, they are all gone. They've been torn to pieces.

This is an example of why we have to protect areas that exist. Now, as to mining, I think you raised another good point. We are talking—and you can look on any of these maps—about less than 1 percent of the State. Much of the area we're talking about are on tops of huge mountains. I tried to describe in some of my testimony here today that, you couldn't mine in many of these areas. I don't care what kind of equipment you develop for the next 100 years.

So the area that you're talking about for future mining exploration may involve one-tenth of 1 percent of the State, where Arco or somebody else may want to step in. And that is why—I eliminated in my bill those areas that I thought there could be the need for further mineral exploration.

As Lieutenant Governor, I spent most of my time trying to develop tourism, one of the things we have tried to do in the State of Nevada. It's easier for you to do in Idaho, because everyone looks upon Idaho as the Snake River and River of No Return, and all these beautiful places. But Nevada, sorry to say, a lot of people think it's one big garbage pit. And that's why they want to dump all the nuclear waste there. That's why the atomic bombs are set off there.

And one of the things we tried to develop when I was a Lieutenant Governor and we're still trying to develop, through the State Department of Economic Development and other agencies, is the fact that Nevada does have an Arc Dome. It does have the Ruby Mountain, so that people, when we advertise the State of Nevada, know that it's something other than the bright lights of Fremont Street and downtown Reno on Virginia Street.

So I think this discussion we're having here today is really important, to bring out to the State of Nevada why it's critical that we develop a wilderness bill so that people all over the world come to Nevada, recognize that it's something other than bright lights of Reno and Las Vegas.

I would just say in passing about the panel, I really appreciate your testimony.

Lois, the testimony you gave, I think all of us here, whether we're for or against wilderness, would have to recognize it was a very courageous statement and one of the truly fine statements I've ever heard during my time in Congress.

And, Dr. Molde, you and I, when I practiced law, we were always adversaries. And it's sure nice to have you on the same side, basically, for a change. We recognize our differences, and also to recognize how the State of Nevada is really together on a concept of developing a wilderness bill. On this witness list you're designated as being from Las Vegas, and you made no big deal out of that, and I appreciate that very much.

Dr. MOLDE. I spend a lot of time there. I used to. I think I was remiss in one thing. I believe that all of you deserve great credit. Congressman Vucanovich certainly has courage in being able to bring this matter out and lay it on the table, for starters. That took quite an effort and certainly prompted a hot phonecall from me to Congressman Seiberling's office about the numbers.

Certainly, your efforts to take that starting point and I think move more into the ballpark that many of us would like to see is an outstanding effort. And, of course, the committee's effort, I just view as a national coloring, if you will, to what we have started at home.

And I think everybody deserves great credit for that. Thank you.

Mr. CRAIG. Would my colleague from Nevada yield?

Mr. REID. Of course.

Mr. CRAIG. One of the things that I have grown progressively alarmed about over my reasonably short tenure here in Congress, and all of that time, at least being spent in part on this committee, because of the drive for wilderness across this country right now, we are failing to in state in areas that really deserve to have the treatment, the National Park status, especially near heavy-growing urban areas, like Las Vegas or Denver.

And we find that advocates of wilderness from those given States come to us advocating wilderness instead of national park status.

In my State of Idaho that now probably boasts 3.8 million acres of wilderness and will probably, between BLM and Forest Service, have several million more in the next several years, one of the things we're finding, with no major population center, is that in certain, more accessible wilderness areas, we're getting human impact to a point where we're really beginning to destroy the very thing we were trying to protect.

And the reason we're destroying that is because we can't manage it. We can't provide camping areas. We can't provide the kinds of protection and people management that national park status would offer.

And I really think that those of you who advocate wilderness in areas for parks would probably be much preferable, especially near major urban areas, where you know it will be accessed and accessed heavily.

I think you're doing the environment a very real disservice. And I have pushed this committee. I have talked with the chairman about it. We had that problem in Colorado, will continue to have it in a variety of other areas, that we don't move toward national park status.

Now, it will mean the building of some roads, and it will mean the development of some campgrounds, and it will mean people management. But it will also mean the preservation of some very valuable environmental assets—the wildlife itself and some of the

kinds of things from petroglyphs, to a variety of other things, that you can actually get people in to manage them.

And I think you very seriously ought to consider that instead of everybody's move toward wilderness today. Yes, there are lands that deserve that designation. But, near our population centers, we have to manage people or people will destroy their own assets. We know that. They will trample them to death.

We have some beautiful areas today where we hauled by helicopter literally tons and tons of human garbage out because people love to go in and love the land. And I am telling you, they're loving it to death.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Let me just say, of course, there is a national recreation area right next to Las Vegas, and Reno is next to one of the biggest outdoor recreational complex areas in the country, the Lake Tahoe area. So what we're hearing from these folks here is that that's all very well, but to complete the picture, some of the pristine areas should remain so. And that's really what I distill from their testimony.

I want to thank this panel very much and move on to the next one, if no one has any other burning questions.

The next panel consists of Mr. Mark Schrader, president of the Nevada Association of Counties; Mr. Richard Reyburn, director of the Nevada Department of Minerals; Mr. Robert Warren, executive director, Nevada Mining Association; Mr. Wayne Hage, National Innholders Association.

Where have I heard that before? Excuse me, I may have mispronounced Mr. Hage.

All right. Mr. Schrader, are you ready to go?

Mr. SCHRADER. Ready to go.

[Prepared statements of Mark Schrader, with attachments, Richard L. Reyburn, with attachments, and Robert Warren may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF MARK SCHRADER, PRESIDENT, NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; RICHARD L. REYBURN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS; AND ROBERT WARREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION**

Mr. SCHRADER. Chairman Seiberling and members of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands, I want to introduce myself. My name is Mark Schrader, president of the State of Nevada's Association of Counties. That's a governing body that represents all 17 counties within the State of Nevada. We're the very primary political subdivision that this legislation will affect, not the city of Reno.

I'm not here to lobby for the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, or the Mining Association, which I seem to be paired with up here before you, but for what I believe to be the position held by the majority of the people in the State of Nevada concerning this issue.

Nevada's needs, as discussed earlier, are unique, particularly when we consider our public lands statistics and the resource compromise each county must make with respect to its own fiscal stability. Of Nevada's 70.3 acre land base, only 13 percent is held in



State or private ownership, while the other 87 percent, including 8 million acres which has already been withdrawn from the public for single purpose use, is owned by the Federal Government. As a result of that, Nevada, second only to Alaska in Federal land ownership, can be considered a weathervane State, in terms of public reaction to Federal land-use policy. Nevada's counties, singularly, are particularly vulnerable in this respect, and as a commissioner from the rural county that saw the historic Comstock Lode close its mills in the early part of this year, sending unemployment to over 17 percent, I can speak of the devastating effect upon the local economy, when our mining or ranching heritage is potentially preempted by legislation that would have otherwise allowed access to the multiple use of Federal lands for mineral, oil, gas, geothermal, livestock, or agricultural production.

In other words, what I'm talking about is the economic dependency or the lifeline of Nevada's counties. We have a county, if I may digress here, White Pine County alone, which was spoken of earlier, talked of earlier, is under severe financial crisis at this time, and they're looking for any other source of revenue that they can produce to make themselves exist.

The Honorable Chic Hecht, in his comments on March 20, 1985, before the Senate, stated that Nevadans are very suspicious toward proposals aimed at restricting their access to public lands, and indeed, we are, and how can we not be, with the likes of the MX proposal to the current nuclear waste issues before us today? The counties of Nevada want to preserve and designate those lands that will provide an exceptional wilderness opportunity and that are shown to fill a void in the natural wilderness system, but we are cautious in our support, because further legislation that could potentially impose restrictions has yet to be presented by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Wildlife Refuge Concern, and the Department of Defense. We believe in seeing all the cards, or in other words, a coordinated multiagency plan. Without this, we must endorse a conservative wilderness bill that will allow us to be minimally impacted and that does designate lands not simply for the sake of increasing wilderness acreage or for the filling of a perceived quota.

Nevadans have always been direct and independent in their actions. The presence of all of those here from our State alone certainly substantiates this, but in addition, the concept of "home rule" has risen to new popularity within our local political cadre. With this in mind, key components of the House bill 1686 must be kept intact regardless of the land amount eventually designated. This includes sections 401(c), 402(b), 404 (b) and (c), 405, 406, and 407 in their entirety, all of which allow for the cooperation with Nevada and its counties.

I spoke of the interests of Nevada and its people earlier and hope that with this in mind, this subcommittee will act accordingly and support the State of Nevada's Assembly joint resolution, which was already introduced, I believe, from Congressman Reid, which was passed in the 63d Nevada Legislature with only three dissenting votes. It was endorsed by the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands, chaired by Senator Dean Rhodes and represented by

assemblymen and senators from both rural Nevada, Clark and Washoe Counties, just recently at the public lands meeting from the State of Nevada.

I would like to just state in conclusion that on September 21 the Nevada Association of Counties also passed a resolution which I have before you, which I would like to have entered into the record also. It passed, of the 17 counties, a 15-to-2 vote, in terms of favor of the H.R. 1686 and S. 722.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned resolution may be found in the appendix following Mr. Schrader's prepared statement. See table of contents for page number.]

Mr. SCHRADER. I would also just like to make one last statement that what we're here before you is to hear, hopefully, what the Nevadans speak of. Before you, from what I've just stated, you now have two Senators who have stated in favor of this bill. You have on representative, congressional. We have 15 of 17 counties who are in favor of this bill, and we have all but three legislators in both the house and the senate of the State of Nevada, who favoring the bill that is before you, which is H.R. 1686.

I thank you for your time.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We will complete the panel, and then we'll have questions. Mr. Reyburn.

Mr. REYBURN. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee. My name is Rich Reyburn. I am the executive director of the Nevada Department of Minerals. I'll be speaking today on behalf of the Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources.

The first part of my testimony will be to present for the record a resolution adopted for the record by the commission on April 19, 1985, in which they state in part that:

Whereas, the Nevada minerals industry has concurred through the various State mining associations not to oppose wilderness designation for certain areas which include those known as Boundary Peak, Mount Moriah, Mount Charleston, and the extension of the existing Jrbidge wilderness, and

Whereas, those areas are recommended for wilderness designation in bills introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Vucanovich. Therefore, be it hereby

Resolved, by the Commission on Mineral Resources, that we do fully support those bills and urge their enactment by the Congress of the United States, and be it further

Resolved, that we urge such action to be accomplished as soon as possible to enable the release of other U.S. Forest Service lands in Nevada which are currently being held in de facto wilderness status.

Also, for the record, I would like to submit that the U.S. Forest Service in their 1985 forest plans, recognized the value and the important of the general resources on the lands studied for wilderness inclusion in the Toiyabe Forest.

In an attempt evaluate mineral potential versus wilderness, the Forest Service found that in every instance, except Mount Charleston, the mineral values far outweighed any value attributable to the use of the land for wilderness.

I think that this comparison is significant, and I would like to quote from the Forest Service table F-1 or the Toiyabe Forest plan. The amounts quoted are stated in dollars per acre.

In the Excelsior Mountain Range, the mineral value was estimated to be over \$10,000 per acre versus a wilderness value of \$115 an acre. That's nearly a 100-to-1 ratio.

In the Southern Toiyabe, again, a \$10,000 mineral value, a \$1,200 wilderness value, an 8-to-1 ratio.

In Arc Dome, there is a 4-to-1 ratio, favorable to minerals.

Mount Jefferson is 5-to-1, favorable to minerals.

Table Mountain, 4-to-1, again, with positive on mineral emphasis.

In Mount Charleston, approximately \$2,300 in mineral value, \$5600 in wilderness value, a 2-to-1 ratio for wilderness.

It is unfortunate that a similar comparison was not made for the Humboldt Forest; however, a review of those areas, some of those areas, such as the Grant and the Quinn Ranges would indicate that an evaluation would yield results which would also strongly favor development of mineral resources.

Mining in Nevada is a dynamic industry. Gross revenues nearly tripled between 1978 and 1984 and that figure is expected to triple again by 1990. According to Dr. James Taranik, dean of the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada at Reno, the total production value of Nevada minerals by 1990 will average \$2 billion per year. Dr. Taranik also points out that most of the production value of Nevada minerals is spent in Nevada. In 1981, for example, approximately 65 percent of the gross yield from mining was spent locally on payroll, supplies, utilities, and exploration.

Gaming and tourism are undeniably important to a healthy Nevada economy; however, the basis industries, mining and agriculture, provide the foundation for that economy.

Oil production in Nevada will increase by over 50 percent in 1985, and that is on top of a 135-percent increase in 1984.

Last year, Nevada mines produced 100 percent of the Nation's supply of magnesite, 99 percent of the mercury, 83 percent of the barite, and 58 percent of the gold. The minerals industry paid over \$30 million in rents and royalties and in State and county taxes and contributed up to 83 percent of local county payrolls. Yet, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines, mining in Nevada has disturbed less than 40,000 acres in the last 50 years, six-tenths of 1 percent of our land.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the preservation and the growth of the mining industry in the State of Nevada is essential to a strong economic program. Our Nation, with 5 percent of the world population, consumes almost 25 percent of all mineral materials. We enjoy the best quality of life in the world, but that lifestyle requires the production of 40,000 pounds of new mineral products each year for every man, woman, and child. Mining is vital to our way of life, to our society and to our future.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thank you very much. Mr. Warren.

Mr. WARREN. Mr. Chairman and members of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands, the Nevada Mining Association appears before this body today to request that full hearings be held in northern Nevada on the Vucanovich, Reid, Seiberling legislation to establish wilderness sites in Nevada. All of the sites, save one, are in northern and central Nevada.

We are joined in this request by the Nevada Miners and Prospectors Association, the Citizens for Mining, the Women in Mining,

the Comstock Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of Nevada, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the Nevada Wool-growers Association, Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada Association of Counties, Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources, Nevada Association of Chambers of Commerce, Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy and the Nevada State Legislature, which voted overwhelmingly to support a conservative bill.

We seek full disclosure concerning the irreversible negative impacts on Nevada's economic base and we wish to comment on the injury to Nevada's quality of life that will certainly result from lockups of excessive amounts of Nevada's public lands in Nevada. We refer not only to the proposed Forest Service withdrawals, we are equally alarmed by the huge wilderness withdrawals being proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Some 60 areas are under study now for wilderness in Nevada by these three agencies.

We believe, for instance, that all Nevadans should be aware that some wilderness proponents have failed to advise Nevadans that they will be forever prohibited from using an automobile to visit the crown jewels of Nevada's recreational areas.

Nevadans should also be told that existing roads in some of the Forest Service and other wilderness areas will forever be closed to persons who must depend upon vehicles to gain access to their outdoor recreation.

And most importantly, all Nevadans, and especially our older residents, should be told that wilderness designation will forever prohibit the Forest Service and BLM from building new roads into these prime recreational areas. We have too few recreational areas in Nevada. We should have more access, not less, but Nevadans, under the wilderness bills, must shoulder a backpack or stay out.

Nevada deer hunters should also be told that they will eventually lose even their right to backpack into these wilderness sites, some of which are prime hunting areas. They should be aware that some of the leadership of the National Sierra Club and Wilderness Society has long intended to banish all hunting in wilderness. Some Nevada members, in fact, privately state that firearms and hunting are incompatible with wilderness peace and solitude. Lending support to this hidden agenda is the fact that the Nevada Coalition for the Preservation of Animals, which has supported this group here today, has recently been formed. Its purpose? Its purpose is to support the Reid and Seiberling bills. And of course, preservation of animals will mean no hunting, no guns in the wilderness area at some future date.

Now I must take on an unpleasant task here. I must quarrel with the accuracy of the statements of our Congressman, our respected Congressman from Nevada. Nevadans should be told that most of the wilderness sites proposed by the Reid, Seiberling bills do contain valuable mineral resources, despite statements by the wilderness supporters and our Congressman. The minerals industry has present detailed documentation of this to our congressional delegation, to Senators Hecht and Laxalt and to Congresswoman Vucanovich, and the recognize this. Our Congressman Reid should likewise be concerned, for more than half of Nevada's rural coun-

ties depend on mineral and agricultural production for their base economy.

When mineral exploration is limited or ceases—and it will cease—this cutoff will deny the Nation the access and knowledge of the mineral base. The Defense Department will not be able to recommend areas to be opened, and the President, if he were to act, he wouldn't know what areas to open.

Hearings in Nevada will also let the public know that ranchers will eventually lose their prime summer ranges, when they are designated as wilderness. Congressman Reid has pointed out that a 1980 agreement between the National Cattlemen's Association and the Forest Service promises continued vehicle access for grazing purposes, but the Nevada Cattlemen and other western associations point out that this agreement is merely administrative. They believe that the agreement can and will be overturned by future Forest Service Administrators.

I will add one more paragraph, Mr. Chairman, and close, and leave the rest of it for the record.

The Vucanovich bill contains language to guarantee that ranchers will, by law, be able to continue use of vehicles to maintain their essential high mountain summer grazing range. The Reid and Seiberling bills pointedly abandon the ranchers in this matter. And the ranchers have asked me to enter this statement into the record, because they were unable to be here today. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I take it that Mr. Hage of the National Innholders Association is not here.

Mr. WARREN. He will testify at the hearings in Nevada, if there are hearings held, sir.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, gentlemen, I appreciate very much accepting your testimony. Of course, the views of the Association of Counties are very important, but I've learned over the years that it seems to be a conditioned reflex of county officials to react against wilderness designations. I know of only one county, in my experience in dealing with wilderness issues in practically every State in the Union, that supported a substantial wilderness designation in their county, and yet, after we enact a bill, somehow all the fears and concerns seem to evaporate. So I have to take the resolutions of the counties and Association of Counties with a grain of salt, based on my own experience.

Now Mr. Reyburn, I'm a little puzzled. You say that that you found in every instance, except Mount Charleston, the mineral values far outweighed any value attributable to the land for wilderness. Then you cite some findings by the Forest Service. I don't know where they got these figures as to mineral values or wilderness value or what entered into their calculation of wilderness value.

We have usually had access to their Wars rating, wilderness and resource ratings, which usually indicate in any area that they recommend as wilderness, that the wilderness values far exceed the other values, and I note that many of the areas in question that you referred to have been recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness designation.

How do you reconcile that?

Mr. REYBURN. You asked where that came from. It came from the 1985 forest plan, and I believe you have a copy of that table.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, we'll take a look at it, and I'll also get out the Wars ratings, but how do you reconcile your statement with the fact that the Forest Service has recommended 450,000 acres of wilderness, including a lot of the areas other than Mount Charleston?

Mr. REYBURN. I cannot answer that. I am merely quoting from their own table, and they evidently made a decision, based on something that I don't have.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I'm glad you raised this question, because we need to explore that and get down to what their position is.

Mr. REYBURN. That is in table F-1, and it was for the Toiyabe only. It was not done on the Humboldt.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you.

Now Mr. Warren, where did you get all these statements? Where did you get all this information about what you allege that the wilderness designation would do? Where did that come from?

Mr. WARREN. Would you be more specific, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Let's just go down the list. First of all, the statement that Nevadans will be forever prohibited from using an automobile to visit the crown jewels of Nevada's recreational areas.

Mr. WARREN. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. To the extent that they can go there now, the designation of these wilderness areas will not change it one bit.

Mr. WARREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But we recognize that, in Nevada, some of these proposed wilderness areas have numerous, easily traveled roads, that can be handled by two-wheel drive vehicles. Those roads will be closed. Those people will be off the—

Mr. SEIBERLING. If you have road vehicles, they will be closed to off-the-road vehicles, that's correct.

Mr. WARREN. That's correct.

Mr. SEIBERLING. But as far as automobiles are concerned, they will not be closed.

Mr. WARREN. The roads themselves, Mr. Chairman, will be closed. An automobile cannot go into the wilderness area when the road is closed.

Mr. SEIBERLING. If there's any road where automobiles can go, this bill will not affect those roads.

Mr. WARREN. We disagree on that, respectfully, sir.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Second, you—

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, though, if you would yield, would you respond to that? I don't understand. I thought "wilderness" meant roadless areas.

Mr. SEIBERLING. That's exactly right.

Mr. REID. I mean, I don't understand where Mr. Warren is getting this information.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The only vehicles that will be prohibited in the wilderness areas will be off-the-road vehicles. That's all.

Mr. WARREN. Congressman Reid, "wilderness" should mean roadless areas.

Mr. REID. Pardon me. I don't understand.

Mr. WARREN. "Wilderness" should mean roadless areas. But, unfortunately, areas have been recommended in Nevada by the Forest Service and by the BLM that contain numerous, easily transferable roads, roads that can be easily transported. Excuse me.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, as far as I know, there may be some jeep tracks in some of these areas, but there are not roads in the sense of automobile use type roads.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Would the chairman yield?

I would say that most of the people going in our areas go by jeep. That's part of the way we get around in our State, whether they're—that's part of it.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, there are not roads in the definition that would be an automobile.

Mr. WARREN. And I have driven, Mr. Chairman, with a two-wheel-drive vehicle, a passenger car that's owned by the Nevada Mining Association into the Grant Range, which is proposed for wilderness on existing roads; that will be closed.

Mr. REID. Well, see, I agree with you there. I didn't propose the Grant Range. But, still, Mr. Chairman, the point is "wilderness" means roadless. If there's a road on it now, there'll be a road on it after the Wilderness Act is in effect.

Isn't that right?

Mr. SEIBERLING. If it's truly a road. For example, the road that goes into Lamoille Canyon would not be in the wilderness area. The road that goes up to the 10,000 foot level on Wheeler Peak would be excluded from the wilderness area. That's the kind of roads I'm talking about when we talk about roads.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. CRAIG. Would you yield a moment on the road issue?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, sure.

Mr. CRAIG. I think it's a matter of definition, gentlemen. In wilderness areas, when we talked nonroaded or no roads, we're talking about those that have had some assemblance of maintenance, or maintained or improved-maintained types of roads. And they're not supposed to and they usually don't exist in a wilderness area.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right.

Mr. CRAIG. But the kinds of vehicle ways, I think the definition is, that many of us travel on a regular basis in the State of Idaho and in the State of Nevada, whether it's for livestock management or whether it's for hunting, or whether it's for recreating, which may be just a trail by appearance in which there is no annual maintenance by a county or any private individual, which there are no culverts but which may receive hundreds of vehicles per year traffic, yes, those can be included in wilderness areas and transportation by vehicles—or vehicle transportation would be excluded.

And I think, in that reference, when we talk about maintained or improved versus vehicle ways—now, in States like Ohio and other States, you probably don't have many vehicle ways because of the way the vegetation is and the way it grows. There has to be some assemblance of maintenance just so you can gain access.

In the West, in the semi-arid deserts of Nevada, that is simply not the case. And I think it's very important that the record show that, that it is possible, and if you go into Forest Service recommendations, Seiberling recommendations or Reid recommendations, you may well find hundreds of miles of vehicle ways.

Mr. SEIBERLING. OK, now the next statement was that Nevada deer hunters should be told that they will eventually lose even their right to backpack in these wilderness areas. There's absolutely no foundation in fact for that. There is nothing in the Wilderness Act that prohibits any hunter from going in, carrying a backpack or not carrying a backpack. So that's just without foundation.

You can speculate all you want maybe and say, "Well, some day, someone may try to propose that." But, you know, some day, a lot of things might be proposed. But that's not within the scope of any legislation, or that is even contemplated in the Congress.

It says that hearings will let the public know that ranchers will eventually lose access to their prime summer range when they're designated as wilderness.

I personally negotiated the 1980 agreement with the Cattlemen's Association and forced the Forest Service to publish it after they dragged their feet for 1 year, and it's in the bill, and you heard the Forest Service say they don't want it in the bill. We put it in every bill and we'll put it in this bill.

And your statement that it's merely administrative is without foundation, because we propose that it isn't going to be merely administrative; it's already in existence—

Mr. WARREN. Mr. Chairman, if I may, the Forest Service has advised me that it is an administrative—

Mr. SEIBERLING. I don't care what the Forest Service has advised you, I'm telling you it's in the bill. And you heard them complain that it was in the bill.

Mr. WARREN. The language that is in the bill does not, according to the ranchers, protect the ranching industry. There is a difference of opinion there. A very grave difference of opinion.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, if it's so—if it's only administrative, why does the Forest Service not want it in the bill?

Mr. WARREN. The Forest Service doesn't want any restrictions of any nature in its management of the public lands.

Mr. SEIBERLING. You're absolutely correct, and we're going to impose them. And, of course, the statement that I supported a buffer zone bill is a canard that was spread by the people who were trying to oppose the National Park Protection Act, which I authored, which simply said that before the BLM or the Forest Service takes action in the vicinity of a national park, which could damage the national park values, they should let the Park Service comment on it and give the Congress 30 days before it takes effect so the Congress can contemplate it, too.

That's all the bill did. There was no buffer zone. And the bill, of course, is not law and is not even being promoted at this time.

Mr. WARREN. Mr. Chairman, may I respond?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. WARREN. We are grateful that the chairman has cosponsored legislation which prohibits buffer zones at this time. This, however, we feel is a temporary tactic to disarm the Congress and to encour-



age votes for wilderness. Once the wilderness areas are declared, we feel that Congress will be approached by leaders in the Congress who are recognized as supporters of buffer zones in the national park, such as Congressman Seiberling, and we will then see a movement toward buffer zones again.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, you know, I just finished saying Congressman Seiberling does not support buffer zones around the national park, never has proposed buffer zones, has no intention of proposing buffer zones. And, furthermore, as the author of legislation which has added approximately 20 million acres of wilderness to the Nation's Wilderness System over a period of many years, I don't know that in any case anybody has proposed buffer zones around any of those wilderness areas.

And some of them have been in effect for many years. So, this is another one of these speculative things. And you can speculate all you want, but to state it as a fact is misleading the public and it gets my ire up, as you can see.

Mr. WARREN. I suggested that our public should be told that this is a very grave potential and we still—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, it's not a very grave potential and I sit here as chairman of this subcommittee and tell you that it has no potential whatsoever. In fact, you know, anything is possible. The country might go Communist in 20 years. But, as far as I can see, the likelihood of these things is extremely remote and for someone to come in here and announce that it's a fact and is going to happen, it seems to me is an abuse of the public's right to know.

Mr. WARREN. Well, again, Congressman, we disagree on this issue.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We sure do. We sure do.

All right, Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask Mr. Reyburn to comment. In Congressman Reid's testimony, he said those areas with significant mineral, oil, and gas potential have been excluded, and he's talking about his bill.

And he said: "Where potential conflicts may arise, I have worked with the affected parties in the proposed areas to address their concerns."

And then, just today, we received from the Friends of Nevada Wilderness a list of the mining claims in the Nevada's proposed wilderness areas. And just the active claims in there, and I suppose those are patented claims, we're talking about 1,232 active mining claims.

Would you say that—I can't tell exactly. Maybe you could comment on Congressman Reid's and Congressman Seiberling's bill whether they have eliminated the potential or significant mineral, oil and gas potential? Have they been excluded?

Mr. REYBURN. First of all, Congressman, I would like to say that Congressman Reid took the time to be with us. We went through and explained where the various mineralized areas were and where the oil potential areas were. And I was pleased to see that, in his bill, he had excluded the areas of prime oil exploration activity. Now the Grant, Quinn, and Current Ranges. However, we were evidently not as effective in explaining a couple of the other areas in the Arc Dome and Table Mountain, mineralized areas.

There will be a presentation a little later from the Minerals Exploration Coalition in which I believe they will present you with a document that has each one of the areas broken down. And the mineral potential that is in those areas by determination not only from U.S. Bureau of Mines and USGS Surveys where they have been completed but also from immediate activity of the companies in those areas.

So I believe that that will be forthcoming.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you very much. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. REID. Would the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Of course.

Mr. REID. Mr. Reyburn, there are some conflicts that you pointed out to me on the east side of Table Mountain. Isn't that right?

Mr. REYBURN. That's correct.

Mr. REID. And you indicated, as I recall, something less than 10,000 acres on that side where there's some claims of which you're concerned?

Mr. REYBURN. I think those are where the active claims and where the active exploration is.

Mr. REID. And do you recall my talking to you about needing some legal description to lock that part of it off. Do you recall that?

Mr. REYBURN. Yes, that's correct.

Mr. REID. And do you have that? Or, is it available?

Mr. REYBURN. No, I believe Brad Mills, one of the geologists with Smokey Valley, is going to do that.

Mr. REID. That's all I have at this time. Thank you, Barbara.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, Mr. Vento.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I think most of the testimony is helpful, but I agree, I'm a little bit dismayed at some of the testimony that is attempting—I mean, I don't believe you solve the problems by expanding them and dealing with issues that are beyond the scope of what we necessarily have before us, or what might happen.

So I think that simply is, you know, a tactic. One, two suggestions. One, Mr. Schrader says we ought to get into all the different public lands and dispose of them and do it that way. In other words, we ought to answer all those questions.

And the other is of course speculation about what might happen in the future. And I think really, you know, a misunderstanding about the way the law works right now on the part of one of the other witnesses, namely, Mr. Warren.

So I think, you know, we'd better look at it. We've been discussing here for some time how the law worked and, hopefully, you'll look back at that so that we can correct any serious misunderstandings. And I don't believe by expanding the universe here that we're going to solve this particular problem.

The reason we're in this is because of the Forest Service timetable to try and deal with this. And I think that we can effectively deal with that in these large—or these size parcels. So I'm guilty of a little bit myself, I guess, in talking about the park. But I think that's a little different matter and it's limited.

But, in any case, with regards to your testimony, Mr. Reyburn, you understand that there would have to be a continued assessment even if this were declared wilderness, that assessment would still be on with regards to mineralization of these areas?

You understand that, don't you?

Mr. REYBURN. I believe that assessment would have to be undertaken though without the use of any motorized equipment, which would bring it down to maybe stream sampling and geochemical work. This may or may not be an effective tool. If a target was then delineated from this exploration effort, what would be the value of it?

Mr. VENTO. Well, I'm not so certain that that's the scope of it at all, but in other words, USGS and Bureau of Mines would still be under the same—if they can get appropriations, of course, to do that work—they can still determine mineralization possibilities in these areas.

Mr. REYBURN. I think only by nondestructive means, which would mean no drilling activity.

Mr. WARREN. Mr. Chairman, may I be permitted to comment on the Congressman's question?

Mr. VENTO. Sure. You can comment. It's my time.

Mr. WARREN. Yes. Quickly, the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the USGS simply doesn't have enough geologists. There aren't that many in the several governments of the world to evaluate the mineral resources. It's going to take all of the geologic resources of private industry to attempt to evaluate mineral resources, and even those fall short of the task and private industry will be large excluded because the costs of exploring in the wilderness area will be prohibitive.

Mr. VENTO. Well, I think that that really states what the problem is, I mean, in terms of resources and the available resources to do it in terms of postponing. I mean, I think that probably that's why we have to kind of balance what the knowledge is we have versus what the impact or the relative values are between wilderness designation or park or any other conservation unit designation based on the available information we have.

That's why we've done the studies. That's why they've recommended some 500,000 acres. And my colleagues here have recommended different amounts. So I think we're all kind of, you know, with the state of knowledge as it is. So I don't know that we should apologize for that, but I think we ought to recognize what the limitations are. And we're going to have to move ahead on that basis.

So it would help if we would focus in on what the actual effects are and not get too far afield in terms of some of our fears. We all have them. It's just that we try to limit them in terms of what we present in committees.

I thank the chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We have 10 minutes left to vote on a little matter called the textile import bill. And I wonder, before we go, are there any other questions of this panel. If not, we'll excuse the panel. If there are, we will have them when we come back.

Mr. DARDEN. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. DARDEN. Just one small inquiry. Mrs. Vucanovich, I think, very ably, made the point that there were 1,200 mining claims in existence now. Is that right?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. 1,232.

Mr. DARDEN. In the proposed wilderness areas?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. In the proposed wilderness areas.

Mr. DARDEN. How does that stack up with the total number of claims throughout the State?

Mr. REYBURN. I think there may need to be some clarifications there. I think that 1,200 patented claims.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Patented claims.

Mr. DARDEN. Out of a total of how many claims in the State?

Mr. REYBURN. I'm not sure how many patented claims there are. There are 330,000 unpatented mining claims in the State. And there are quite a number—in fact, in the Grant Range alone, there's approximately a thousand claims.

Mr. DARDEN. So we're looking only at 1,200 out of 300 and something thousand?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. No, no, no.

Mr. REYBURN. I'm not making myself clear evidently. Those are patented claims, I would assume. OK, the gentleman's shaking his head. I don't know where that 1,200 figure came from. There are nearly a thousand unpatented claims—

[Many voices.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. Do members have further questions they want to ask this panel? If so, we'll ask them to stay here until we come back.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, yes, I have some questions. I have a couple of brief ones.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, we'll ask them to stay. We'll recess for 10 minutes. Thank you.

#### AFTER RECESS

Mr. SEIBERLING. We'll resume our hearing now and I guess next is Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so we understand, Rich, I think we're talking about unpatented claims.

Mr. REYBURN. OK, that 1,200 figure was a new one when it was first brought up this afternoon. I don't know where that comes from.

Mr. REID. I own a number of patented mining claims. And even with all the activity over the many years in Nevada, there aren't too many patented mining claims even today.

Mr. REYBURN. Well, there's a lot more than 1,200 though.

Mr. REID. Oh, yes, of course there is.

Mr. REYBURN. But I think, if you'll go through the MEC publication or the one that we prepared for you, Congressman, you'll find that there are in the Grant Range, for instance, approximately a thousand claims.

Mr. REID. You convinced me of the Grant Range.

Mr. REYBURN. So I'm not sure where that 1,200 number comes from because I think we can cover that amount just in the Grant Range.

Mr. REID. Rich, there is going to be testimony, or at least some evidence given as to some conflicts in the Arc Dome area. Is that right?

Mr. REYBURN. I think that will also be in the MEC.

Mr. REID. At least in my mind there's no question about what you presented previously. But, as you know, we couldn't find anybody that had any legal description. And that is in the statement that I gave on the floor of the House, indicating that we would have to look at Table Mountain because of those mineral problems we had on the east boundary.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express to the Nevada Department of Minerals my appreciation for their willingness to work with us on this. I have found Rich Reyburn and Fred Gibson and all the people with the Nevada Department of Minerals most gracious. Even though we disagreed on occasion, I have found them to be very willing to compromise.

And I am sure the record should indicate that the Nevada Department of Minerals on previous occasions has clearly stated those areas they opposed and those areas they didn't oppose. And I appreciate that.

Mr. Schrader, and I also understand and appreciate your testimony. After having spoken to me and my staff, and as I indicated earlier, 80-90 percent of all the county commissioners, have expressed a clear feeling in the State of Nevada. It's important to note—one of the counties that didn't vote on the resolution was Elko County. And we know that there's a lot of problem in Elko County as far as wilderness is concerned.

But it indicates to me the fact that the counties in the State of Nevada are very concerned about what the Federal Government has done to them in the past. And I think that, in my talking to the county commissioners, they understand that there's going to have to be something done on wilderness and they, too, want to get it over and done with as quickly and as painlessly as possible.

And I think I would appreciate your taking that message back to the commissioners, that I certainly appreciate the time that they've spent with me these past 2 weeks. And I think that your testimony indicated that they do have some concerns, and many of them are legitimate.

But, as I indicated in my testimony, they're not all related to wilderness, as many are problems that have been ongoing for a long time.

Also, the State legislature recognized in the resolution that there would be more activity on this wilderness bill. That's why I indicated the Senator Bilbray went with us on the trip and we've tried to keep him closely informed.

Now, Mr. Warren, you've indicated that half the counties depend on minerals. You know, there's no question we all understand that. As you know, I'm probably one of the few people in here that's been in a mine, worked in a mine, for sure. And of the counties that have been affected by wilderness, I think that your groups have no problems with the wilderness designations in Clark, and Washoe, with Mount Charleston and Mount Rose?

Mr. WARREN. Low to moderate in Charleston, Mr. Chairman. We are not opposing Charleston. And we don't have minerals informa-

tion on the Washoe area because that was introduced more recently than Mount Rose. And we don't think at this time that we will be in a position of opposition to the Mount Rose area.

Mr. REID. So the problems, that you have, deal with Arc Dome and Table in Nye County?

Mr. WARREN. That is correct.

Mr. REID. And Boundary Peak, you have no mineral concerns there?

Mr. WARREN. We have taken a calculated risk on Boundary Peak and it's low to medium. We feel that the area, as the boundaries are drafted, may not be such a high level of mineral potential as to offset the advantages for wilderness.

Mr. REID. Unanimous consent for 1 additional minute, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Without objection.

Mr. REID. And we've talked here today with Rich Reyburn about Table and Arc Dome. I'll be certainly happy to listen to you, and I've already made the statement on the House floor and here with respect to the Table Mountain area. I recognize that, but nobody has a legal description. And I'm sure we'll try to get that before too long.

And the Ruby Mountains, you have recognized through written correspondence that I have that there's no mineral potential that you're claiming here at this time.

Mr. WARREN. That correspondence was a fairly early date. The USGS has done some work in there since that time, and has discovered a banding of mineralization through the center of it. Some of our companies will be opposing that area for designation; however, inasmuch as the Mining Association has already committed itself not to oppose the area, we have to stand with our commitment.

Mr. REID. The only question I have then, and the only question that we have then on the bill that I've introduced deals with Wheeler Peak. Are there any mining concerns in that area?

Mr. WARREN. Wheeler Peak has, as the USGS report will indicate and it will be made available to you—in fact, it's in the packet that was given to you earlier, Congressman—has potential for vermillion, a rare and very valuable mineral. It has some tungsten potential, though that is not of high priority at this time. It has some precious metals—gold, silver potential.

We are concerned about that and the potential for mineralization, and that is why we supported Mount Moriah rather than Wheeler Peak.

Mr. REID. Regarding, Mount Moriah, we're going to have to change the boundary there because there is something that we missed in the original introduction of the bill, and there's no question that we all agree that has to be done.

Mr. WARREN. We feel that Wheeler Peak is presently adequately protected by the scenic area designation that the Forest Service has.

Mr. REID. Well, that's the area that we have a little problem with. And I think that's the only area, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Warren and I have a problem with. And that's something that we'll try to work out at some subsequent time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Mr. Craig.

Mr. CRAIG. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I'll be brief because you shared some of your earlier time with me and I appreciate that. And I am looking at this unbelievably long list of people to testify.

Gentlemen, I hear you loud and clear and many of the fears that you express are fears that the citizens of my State express as relates to the kind of classification and, therefore, the kind of management that wilderness designation portends.

Mr. Schrader, it's interesting that you would talk about attitudes of counties and I, of course, was interested in the give and take of the chairman and you as relates to counties being status quo and against. I'll make a brief comment only to tell you that, in the 1960's, many of my counties in Idaho supported wilderness and wilderness designation quite strongly. That was before we had it.

Now we have it. And none of them support it, and they don't support it because of a very similar situation to Nevada. We recognize as unique to westerners. And I don't think easterners even begin to have an element of understanding of the relationship of westerners to their public land, not in the sense of its economic value, also it's beauty, its freedom, its access, all of those kinds of things that we westerners appreciate.

But, one thing in a State where only 13 percent of it is State and private, your wealth base is locked away until a Federal agency decides to allow you access to it. You have no tax base to speak of from private land.

And of course that's what the counties of Idaho know very well now. It's interesting that after some 15 years of wilderness in Idaho when it was once a 70-percent advocacy rate in the polls, it's now nearly an 80-percent "no more".

And so don't let anyone deceive you about what it all means, because it does mean a balance and we should have that, and we think we have that in our State as it relates to the uniqueness of Nevada, when it comes to mineralization and natural resources, and especially mining.

As mining is on the decline in this Nation, Nevada's mining and mining resource wealth is on the increase. And the uniqueness to that is Nevada and Nevada alone. It is a uniquely mineralized State, not unlike Arizona in many ways, but almost unique to the world, housing some of the very valuable minerals and metals that this country needs now and will need in the future.

And to lock up millions of acres and deny access for the purpose of exploration with the new tools and devices of our industries and our sciences is, in my opinion, a travesty to the generations to come. It doesn't mean, interestingly enough, that you destroy land. Many of our finest environmental areas are adjacent to mining areas. We know much better today how to mine than we did in the past, and we do it a great deal differently than we did with a great amount of environmental concern.

But there are a good many citizens in this society who simply oppose that and want it locked up. And that's one of the real struggles we have in trying to create that balance. I am pleased that

Congressman Reid and Congresswoman Vucanovich are being as sensitive to this as possible.

I'll listen to the Nevada Delegation and what they decide they want for a wilderness bill, and that has been the policy of this committee historically. I guess I can say very honestly I'm disappointed to see our chairman introducing a bill for Nevada. I think that that's a responsibility of Nevada and its congressional delegation to attempt to make as best a compromise decision as they can and bring it forth to the Congress.

And I hope that you'll progressively work together. I know the Senate will listen to the Nevada delegation and a fair majority of the House will, I hope.

Thank you all very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. CRAIG. Be happy to.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I'd simply note that Mr. Udall introduced the Alaska lands bill, Mr. Burton introduced the California wilderness bill, I introduced the Missouri wilderness bill, et cetera. Of course we listen to the delegation. We listen to them more than we listen to anybody else. That doesn't mean that in dealing with the lands which belong to the entire Nation, that they have exclusive veto power over decisions with respect to those lands.

And we are very sensitive to the concerns of the people of Nevada, as the gentleman from Idaho knows full well.

So I just think that the gentleman got carried away a little bit.

Mr. CRAIG. Oh, Mr. Chairman, I didn't. I meant it exactly the way it sounded. I think it is wrong. The citizens of Nevada know that—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Wrong to listen to the delegation?

Mr. CRAIG. No. I think it's wrong for someone from Ohio to decide Nevada's destiny.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, someone from Ohio won't.

Mr. CRAIG. And I say that very directly.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The decision will be made by, first of all, the majority of the subcommittee, then the majority of the full committee, then the majority of the House, then the same process takes place in the Senate.

Mr. CRAIG. Congressional delegation—

Mr. SEIBERLING. I think it's ridiculous to say that one person is going to make these decisions.

Mr. CRAIG. The congressional delegation of the State of Nevada has a mandate by a Federal law to decide this issue and to bring forth a solution, and that's what I hope they'll do. The law was the law that governed the process, I think—was it 1978—1976—that forced the Forest Service into this classification and review process?

Mr. SEIBERLING. I know of no law that gives to any State delegation the power to—

Mr. CRAIG. No, Mr. Chairman. You know exactly what I mean. I said the State delegation had a responsibility to respond to the law, the Federal law.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Oh, that's different. I agree with that.



Mr. CRAIG. And I think that many westerners very bluntly resent the kind of legislative activity that's going on and represented in H.R. 3304.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I——

Mr. CRAIG. And that's my honest opinion and you know that I've always been honest and frank with you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Many of them do because they have, in many cases, been misinformed or not informed. And when we find they see the final product, most of them wonder what the shouting was all about.

Mr. CRAIG. Usually, it's a matter of——

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Benson just said that today.

Mr. CRAIG. Usually, Mr. Chairman, it's a matter of attrition. You heave a sigh of relief. Whether you're happy or not.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, this chairman has the responsibility of moving to resolve these problems, so that in the case of Nevada—you don't have 3.6 million acres all tied up with no one knowing whether they're going to be able to move or not. That's my responsibility.

And, in the course of carrying that out, I cast my vote and the other members cast theirs. And I think, with all the years that I've spent going to Western States and listening to Western problems, to say that I, a person from Ohio, shouldn't have any say-so about it is ridiculous.

Mr. CRAIG. Oh, I'm not saying that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, then——

Mr. CRAIG. Let me conclude because of the time here. We can carry on this debate on another day when the testimony list is different.

You folks have gaming, legalized gaming, in Nevada. Let me tell you what the odds are. The high is 1.4, the low is 336,000. Somewhere along the line, as we deal the cards, because that's the way the game's played here, we'll probably split the difference one way or the other—toward the high side or the low side.

So we've got a high bid and a low bid. And don't think it isn't played that way. That's the way all of the groups and this committee plays the game.

Thank you all very much.

Mr. SEIBERLING. When we get all through and the quarters come out of that machine, we're going to hear a little computer playing "Da-da, da-da-da, da-da-da..." [Laughter.]

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, that would probably be Big Bertha at the Nugget. [Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, if there are no further questions, I want to——

Mr. DARDEN. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Darden.

Mr. DARDEN. Mr. Chairman, I was about to ask some questions a while ago. I'm going to dispense with those, but I would like to reclaim just a minute.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Certainly.

Mr. DARDEN. To make an observation to my good friend from Idaho and to share his frustration that our friends from the West-

ern States have with people in other parts of the Nation making decisions for them.

I'll respectfully remind him that we had the same frustration in the South back in the mid-1850's—[Laughter.]

And we had an engagement and we found out how it is. [Laughter.]

And we've accepted our plight. [Laughter.]

Mr. CRAIG. Would my colleague yield on that? [Laughter.]

Those of you who could not tolerate the dominance of the Northeast fled to the West and settled us, and that's why we're so damned independent today. [Laughter.]

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, all I can add is—

Mr. DARDEN. I yield back my time.

Mr. SEIBERLING [continuing]. that with all the factories moving out of the Middle West to the South, you're getting your revenge. [Laughter.]

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, Mr. Hansen.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I haven't been here for this but if it's all right, I'd like to yield my time to the gentlewoman from Nevada?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you very much. I appreciate the gentleman from Utah allowing me to ask a few more questions. I'd like to address a couple of questions to Mr. Warren. I don't think he had an opportunity to make this testimony but it is in his written testimony, that, recently, Nevada's Attorney General revealed that the Sierra Club is suing to force the Forest Service to adopt the dangerous Doctrine of Reserved Water Rights in Wilderness Areas.

And it goes on to say this would deprive the State of Nevada and private citizens of their historic ownership and use of Nevada's waters.

The Sierra Club knows that he who controls the public waters will also control use of the public lands in the West. And, of course, I just might say that this is one of the reasons that I had the special language in my bill.

But would you elaborate just a little bit, Mr. Warren, on what that's about? Is it a State's rights issue? Or is it just—what is it?

Mr. WARREN. Congresswoman, our chairman knows the issue very well, but I would like an opportunity to comment. The issue has so split the delegation in Colorado that the Colorado wilderness bill will not prosper until this issue is resolved.

Senator Armstrong has stated that the bill will not move unless there is language in the bill that protects the rights of the State of Colorado to its water resources, and the rights of the private holders.

The language is similar to that which you have in your bill, excepting Senator Armstrong's staff has advised me that your language may be a little bit too loose, too liberal, that they think it's important to even be tighter because they want to protect those water rights.

They are joined in this suit by the Attorney General of the State of Colorado, by the counties of Colorado and by numerous water

user groups. We think that the same threat is apparent, although the chairman has chastized me for speculating. I think the same threat is apparent in Nevada and all Western States that we may lose control of our waters if this lawsuit is successful.

If the lawsuit is not successful, we feel that the Sierra Club will go to the Congress and ask the Congress then to establish the dangerous Doctrine of Reserved Water Rights in Wilderness Areas.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, then this is something that, if we are talking about amendments or changes in the legislation, perhaps—I can't believe mine is too liberal. It's nice to hear that, but—[laughing], I would like to perhaps see what the Colorado bill is talking about.

I appreciate your testimony, Mr. Warren. I'd just like to ask Mr. Schrader if he would tell us very briefly what the resolution that the counties did adopt, what that says, and also what the State Legislature was saying.

In other words, there's been some implication that the State Legislature and the counties supported Congressman Reid's bill. I don't know that that's exactly what it said and I thought I would just give you an opportunity to tell me whether that's so or not.

Mr. WARREN. Congresswoman, the resolution that we adopted, the Nevada Association of Counties Annual Conference in Minden, NV, early part of this year, supported the two bills, S. 722 and H.R. 1686. Those bills. Of course, the bill that you've introduced here was adopted at that conference and was approved with only two counties against it out of the 17 we have. So it was 15 counties for and two counties against.

The other bill, in terms of the Assembly Joint Resolution Bill that was heard, was passed by both Houses with only three dissenting votes, as I reiterated earlier.

And that bill, although it does not specifically state H.R. 1686 in here, it states the equivalent of that with noting the 136,900 acres and the four specific areas that are contained in that 1686.

In addition, in terms of Congressman Reid's noting that down later on in terms of the bill, that there is reference-making towards that we keep the public lands committee. That reference was made during the legislature with reference to the Bureau of Land Management and what their proposals may be forthcoming, what that's all about.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, if I could interrupt, that is not true. I talked to Alan Glover and he put that in there because I asked him to.

Mr. SCHRADER. If I may?

For instance, we just had as of Friday—this Friday the State of Nevada's Legislature also had, as you know, a Subcommittee on Public Lands, and they met in Elko, in which Senator Dean Rhodes happens to be the chairman of which, and at that time Senator Dean Rhodes as well as the assemblymen and women that were there, including Karen Hayes from Clark County, also supported this resolution, the assembly joint resolution, at that time, and in doing so also brought forth—and it will be brought to this committee, or the congressional committee, for their support, also.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I yield back to the gentleman.

I don't—and I know Congressman Reid was using Congressman Hansen's time—I yield back to you.

Mr. REID. Thank you. I have no further questions. I would just like to thank the members of the panel very much, and we will keep in touch with you.

Thank you, Mr. Hansen.

Mr. REYBURN. Mr. Chairman, could I make an additional response here with regard to the claims that were brought up earlier?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, if it isn't too lengthy.

Mr. REYBURN. OK—and, Congressman Reid, I think this deals with some of the areas in your bill, but I just went through and totaled up the claims, the unpatented claims, within Arc Dome, Table Mountain, and Wheeler, and they total 1,001. So in those three areas alone, there are 1000 unpatented claims.

Also, you mentioned possible problem areas. I have not had an opportunity to look at the boundary that you have on the Jarbidge Wilderness. I notice that you have 54,000 acres in yours. The one that the mining industry of Nevada had been unopposed to had 23,000 acres. There has been a lot of recent exploration in that area, and I don't know what particular areas that extra 31,000 acres may have encompassed.

Mr. REID. Of course, any existing claims are protected.

Mr. REYBURN. Yes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Let me thank this panel.

Let me just say, to make sure the record is clear with respect to one of the matters raised by Mrs. Vucanovich, the reason why the bill I introduced does not attempt to resolve the water rights issue is because I don't feel that this is the vehicle to try to use to solve that problem. If we try to solve all the problems with respect to the public lands in one bill, we will never get any legislation.

At the same time, I have to say that there is nothing in my bill and I don't think there is anything in Mr. Reid's bill that prejudices the State's water rights position or that affects you, the people who have water rights, at all. That is a separate issue.

The Sierra Club can sue all it wants. If it wins, then the law has been enforced; and if it loses, then it has also been enforced.

As to its right to come to Congress, of course it has a right to come to Congress, but that again is an entirely different issue. I have no position on it. I suspect, however, knowing how this committee is balanced, that any resolution is going to be sure to take care of the interests of western water users.

So as far as I can see, that is an extraneous issue that does not need to be introduced into this legislation at all. That is certainly my position.

Well, thank you very much, gentlemen.

Let us proceed with the next panel along with breakneck speed here.

Panel No. III consists of Ms. Julie Parks of Tuscarora, NV; Ms. Jo Anne Garrett, Baker, NV; Mr. Merlin McCole, Elko County Conservation Association; and Mr. Roger Scholl of the Sierra Club Wilderness Committee, Reno, NV.

Well, no one can say this has been a dead, boring hearing so far.

Ms. Parks, do you want to start off?

[Prepared statements of Julie Parks, Jo Anne Garrett, Merlin McCollm, and Roger Scholl may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF JULIE PARKS, TUSCARORA, NV; JO ANNE GARRETT, BAKER, NV; MERLIN McCOLM, ELKO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, ELKO, NV; AND ROGER SCHOLL, MEMBER, SIERRA CLUB WILDERNESS COMMITTEE, RENO, NV**

Ms. PARKS. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Julie Parks. Thank you very much for giving me a few minutes of your time to explain why I, a resident of rural Nevada, support Congressman Seiberling's bill, H.R. 3304, designating 19 wilderness areas in the State of Nevada.

I live in Tuscarora, a small community of 30 to 40 summertime residents and a midwinter population of 16. Tuscarora is located 52 miles north of Elko in the northeastern corner of Nevada.

Twenty years ago, my husband and I founded the Tuscarora Pottery School. We continue to attract students from across the United States as well as from South America, Europe, and Australia. Our students are as excited and inspired by the rugged beauty of Nevada as we locals are.

I want to see as much of this beauty as possible preserved.

On July 1, at Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains 70 miles south of us, Congresswoman Vucanovich told those of us assembled there that the Ruby Mountains do not need the protection of a wilderness bill. I believe that they do, and I also believe that the other areas proposed by Congressman Seiberling need protection. I have seen what can happen to National Forest Service land that is not protected.

Across the valley from Tuscarora, National Forest Service land, where we often took our two sons when they were growing up, is no longer accessible to the public because of the mining activities going on there.

Local ranchers have come to us with their dilemma. Not only is exploratory drilling interrupting their springs, but this time next year one of the best grazing and watering sites for their cattle will be an open pit mine with accompanying cyanide leaching pads. A lovely canyon will be filled with debris.

Americans can no longer carry around the romantic notions about the Old West—a lonely prospector leading his burro and digging tunnels with his pick and shovel. Today D-8 Caterpillars zigzag up mountains, leaving behind huge scars. Entire mountains are sacrificed.

Even the most conscientious companies find restoration impossible. The land not only becomes useless to ranchers, but also its value for recreation is completely gone.

Trout streams are polluted, strutting grounds for sage hens are disturbed, habitat for deer is destroyed.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a letter from a local rancher, James Wright. He is a prominent rancher in the Independence Valley.

If I might?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, that will be included without objection.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned letter may be found in the appendix following Ms. Park's prepared statement. See table of contents for page number.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right.

Ms. PARKS. Yes, we need industrial growth and minerals, but we also need areas of quiet, beauty, and tranquillity.

This is not just the opinion of one who lives in the area, but also of city dwellers who come for their vacations the few weeks a year they are able to get away. This land is vital to our Nation just as it is.

My point is that without the protection of wilderness status national forest land is subject to devastation. Therefore, I urge you to support Congressman Seiberling and designate the 19 areas of Nevada he has proposed as wilderness, not just for me, my children, and grandchildren but for you and yours as well.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you very much.

Ms. GARRETT.

Ms. GARRETT. I am Jo Anne Garrett, and I thank the members of this committee for hearing us and letting us appear here, and I especially thank them for coming out and looking at Nevada.

I live in eastern Nevada on the flanks of Mount Wheeler. I am building a house there at about 7,000 feet. We are adjacent to the Moriah area and the South Snake Range and not from the Quinn, Grant, and Currant Mountain areas.

I was raised in Montana on a ranch, and I have now lived 15 years in Nevada, and I am very much aware of the differences in these areas and how much more fragile the Nevada land is, largely due to the lack of moisture.

And I have become aware through tramping around in those mountains that it is a very different matter to drive a vehicle in Nevada, in the back country, than it is in most other places.

And as we were contending with the perceived need to build the MX out in Nevada, we became increasingly aware of the hazards to our country of overuse, and that was, I think, one of the times that helped to increase the ranchers' appreciation of the fact that their traditional fear of Federal regulation might be in some cases misplaced. And that seems to be going on now, too, as they begin to suffer incursions from their mining friends and the mining operations.

And it has taken me many years to realize the extent and seriousness of the degradation that goes on from simply prospecting as well as from recreationists, and this has everything to do with the advances in technology that we have been hearing about today, which enable us to extract more mines—more mining products and to discover more ores. These things all go hand in hand.

Just as we couldn't stand the impact of the technology that was involved in the MX basing, neither can we stand the kind of mechanized impact that new mining methods bring to us and wonderful new ways of recreating, and in recreating I also include prospecting because that is the beauty of prospecting—is that it is a really good excuse to be out in the hills.

It is incredible to me the amount of destruction of watershed, to say nothing of beauty, and all the ranchers that I know have—they are sad about the freedom that miners have to deface the land without any kind of accompanying responsibility, and this may be historical, and I think there is some trend these days toward miners and prospectors learning to perhaps rehabilitate some of the damage that they do.

But I think there have to be limitations on the freedom with which the exploration is done, especially considering that, as I understand it, the mineralization in these wilderness areas that we are talking about represents not very much in the way of strategic minerals for this country.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I would just add, it was this subcommittee that took the initiative to develop, through very extensive hearings, the facts which led to the dumping of the MX racetrack basing proposal.

Ms. GARRETT. I remember that.

Mr. SEIBERLING. So, you know, we aren't all bad. [Laughter.]

Mr. McColm.

Mr. McCOLM. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I am Merlin McColm. I am from Elko, NV, and representing the Elko County Conservation Association and the Elko County Sportsman's Association.

I am a graduate of Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in biology. I am a certified wildlife biologist by the Wildlife Society. I have worked for the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

I have lived in Nevada over 30 years. I retired as a biologist in 1980, and I am now self-employed as a small businessman in Elko.

I have worked and traveled over many of the wild lands of North America and Africa. As a pilot biologist, I have logged hundreds of hours in the air on game surveys over most of Nevada, and during the last 24 years I spent working for the Department of Wildlife, I conducted range surveys over many of the areas in the State which we are concerned with today.

Because my statement is rather lengthy, I am going to depart from my written text and hit a few high points.

I am sure many of you on the committee are of the opinion that there is almost no support for a strong wilderness bill in rural Nevada, such as in Elko County, and I can really assure you that this is not true. I have with me today a number of letters I have carried from Elko County from people that want a much stronger bill than that proposed by H.R. 1686.

Some of these letters are from ranchers, and I have these right here.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We will be glad to include them in the record if they are not too voluminous. They don't appear to be.

Thank you.

Mr. McCOLM. Thank you.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above-mentioned letters may be found in the committee's files of today's hearing.]

Mr. McCOLM. I might add here—and I think you can understand part of this, Mr. Chairman—that the conservationist gets a lot of bad press in Elko County. Perhaps it is a little bit of sour grapes because of the outcome of the Sagebrush Rebellion.

At any rate, I believe the press there in Elko gives a distorted picture of really the feeling of many of the residents of that community.

For example, I know of one rancher that is strongly—was strongly opposed to wilderness a few years ago that is now in favor of it because of the loss of his range to open pit mining operations.

And, Mr. Chairman, as you recall at the stop at the Jarbidge site, that those ranchers there were not opposed to wilderness, that they got along very well with the Forest Service and the wilderness regulations and they supported the additions.

Mr. SEIBERLING. That was also true of ranchers at some of the other sites that we went to.

Mr. McCOLM. Another point I would like to make, there's several species of wildlife, such as the Rocky Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, and the Himalayan snow cock, that demand a wilderness situation, and we feel that failure to protect the habitat for these animals could have serious consequences.

The Ruby Mountains have a small population of goats and snow cocks. These species are unique to the Ruby Mountains in Nevada, and I might add that the combination of the two species occurring together is unique in the world.

Yet the Vucanovich bill does not even recommend the Ruby Mountains for wilderness, and we think this is a serious oversight.

The third point I would like to make is that 25 to 30 years ago the Nevada Department of Wildlife promoted jeep trail access into many of the roadless areas to promote higher hunter harvest of deer. We had a deer eruptions. Deer were so plentiful on some of those high ranges that they were running into each other.

I just have a little bit to go here.

Table Mountain was one such area we lived to regret this road-building action, as the increase in use of four-wheel drives in these small, fragile areas caused excessive soil erosion and threatened hunting quality. It was only after great effort that the U.S. Forest Service got this road closed and saved one of the most outstanding areas in Nevada. We do need roadless areas.

In closing, I would like to say we have great admiration for Harry Reid for his courageous proposal but do feel that the Seiberling bill is most adequate. The Seiberling bill, H.R. 3304, is still less than half of the 3,640,000 acres that was identified by the U.S. Forest Service as roadless.

In closing, I sincerely want to thank the committee for your tour this summer and the opportunity to speak here.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you for an excellent statement.

Mr. Scholl.

Mr. SCHOLL. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Roger Scholl, from Reno, NV.



During the last 15 years, I have spent many days hiking in most of the areas included in H.R. 3304 and many more days studying the issues surrounding their possible protection as wilderness.

I had the privilege of being the Nevada conservationist representative on the congressional helicopter tour of these areas.

We thank you, Chairman Seiberling, for taking the time to come to Nevada. We owe you a deep debt of gratitude for introducing H.R. 3304.

We thank you, Congressman Reid, for introducing H.R. 3302. It is a major step forward in the efforts to protect the most outstanding remaining wilderness areas in our State.

There is insufficient time for me to enumerate the wilderness values found in each of the 10 areas included in H.R. 3302. Suffice it to say that they would make a truly significant addition to the wilderness system while protecting existing uses of each area.

I am sure each of these treasures will be cherished even more by future generations than they are by us today. I am also sure a number of witnesses at this hearing will charge that H.R. 3302 includes an excessive amount of wilderness and H.R. 3304 is really extreme, but consider a few facts to place these bills in perspective.

First, is the fact that wilderness is where you find it.

Second, is the fact that these areas can be designated with virtually no impact on nonwilderness uses.

We do not frequently hear that H.R. 3304 will remove some 90 roadless areas totaling 2.1 million acres from further wilderness consideration, nor do we often hear that the 1.5 million acres of wilderness would mean Nevada would have the least designated wilderness of any Western State except Utah.

All in all, H.R. 3304 would seem to be a rather modest proposal.

We also often hear that the real problem with H.R. 3304 is that it is additive, especially from the standpoint of lands available to mineral entry, to the millions of acres of military bases already withdrawn and further withdrawals of BLM wilderness. What we never hear is the flip side. Nevada has some 53.7 million acres available for mineral entry, considerably more than any other Western State except Alaska. If H.R. 3304 were enacted and all the BLM wilderness recommendations were designated, Nevada would still rank number one in lands available for mineral entry in the lower 48 States.

Finally, we hear that the most damaging impact of H.R. 3304 is that many of these particular areas have high mineral potential. First, it is important to know that Nevada has produced many billions of dollars of minerals. Today we continue to produce roughly half a billion dollars a year from several hundred active mines. Developable minerals are clearly available in many places in Nevada, so one has to question just how high the mineral potential of the areas in H.R. 4304 really is, when one realizes these areas have no mines, nor have any developable minerals ever been found after 100-plus years of looking.

I believe the presence of mining claims is probably a better measure of demonstrable interest in an area's mineral potential than is simple rhetoric. There are roughly a third of a million mining claims on Nevada's public lands, more than on the lands of any other State. This total—I want to make clear—includes only unpa-

tented claims. They cover approximately 7 million acres or at least one-fourth of all the mountainous land in Nevada. With minerals actually being produced from a much smaller area, it is obvious that the presence of mining claims is far from definitive evidence for the presence of developable minerals.

One must assume that the claims that have been filed have been located in the areas thought to have the highest mineral potential. One must also assume, given the huge number of claims that do exist, that the absence of claims indicates areas not even worth much speculation. There are astonishingly few mining claims in every one of the 19 areas included in H.R. 3304. Three of these areas, Mount Rose, East Humboldt, and Currant Mountain, do not have a single mining claim between them. Of the entire 1.5 million acres in H.R. 3304, only 1.6 percent has been thought to have high enough mineral potential to warrant the staking of mining claims.

Finally, I want to stress the importance of boundary adjustments, as opposed to dropping entire areas for the resolution of conflicts between wilderness designation and other uses in the case of each of the 19 areas in H.R. 3304. The current boundaries have been carefully drawn to exclude even the potential conflicts of areas of concentrated mining claims, eliminating thousand of claims in the process from these proposals.

Now I want to mention some of the areas I feel should also be in any bill this committee passes out. Mount Jefferson is a truly magnificent mountain. The core of the roadless area was recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service. I believe the helicopter tour did not do justice to the area, because of low fuel, most of the mountain was not even seen. The tremendous glacial cirques that are carved on all sides of the mountain were mostly missed.

I would also mention, if I had a little more time, the Quinn Canyon Range, which I think was given short shrift, because we spent our entire discussion on the oil and gas potential of Railroad Valley, the Grant Range, which has been recommended by the Forest Service, and finally, I would remind the committee of the incredible beauty of Currant Mountain.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to appear before you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thank you for an excellent statement. All of them were very good.

I think I ought to point out, in light of the exchange I had with Congressman Craig, that the bill I introduced was not dreamed up by John Seiberling. It was a bill that was drawn up by people from Nevada. And I merely took their recommendations and put them into a bill and introduced it, so that a particular group of Nevadans would have the opportunity to have their recommendations considered.

Mr. HANSEN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. I don't think anybody claims it's the last word. I don't think Mr. Reid would claim his is the last word, and I hope Mrs. Vucanovich wouldn't claim hers is. So it's a starting point, and I think that we want all points of view to be considered.

Mr. HANSEN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I have no argument with what you're saying. I support your right to introduce a bill where you

want to introduce a bill as a Member of Congress. For the record's sake, would you tell us what group in Nevada helped draw up that bill that you did?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I think some of them are represented by the witness panel before us here.

Mr. HANSEN. Members of the Sierra Club?

Mr. SEIBERLING. And some by the panel No. 1.

Mr. HANSEN. The gentleman from the Sierra Club is one of them?

This other gentleman that is a small businessman, past pilot, you were one of them? These two ladies?

Mr. SEIBERLING. I don't say those individuals were, but they are speaking for some of the groups that has input into it.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, would you yield, please?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. REID. The group that recommended these 19 areas, plus 2 additional ones, I think, is the Geneva Douglas group. She testified here earlier, Friends of Nevada Wilderness is the name of the group, which she mentioned in her testimony—

Mr. SEIBERLING. But that was a sort of umbrella group, as I understand it that also had a lot of other groups in it; isn't that correct?

Mr. REID. Yes, I think there were 20-some-odd organizations in that group.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The point is that this something that originated there, not in the mind of—

Mr. HANSEN. I'm not arguing that, Mr. Chairman, I just think you should clarify that. And I might ask further, what about the gentlemen that were sitting at the table prior to that? Did any of these gentlemen have anything to do with that?

Mr. SEIBERLING. You mean the mining people?

Mr. HANSEN. Yes. Did you gentlemen have anything to do with that?

Mr. SEIBERLING. No, this is not the mining bill. This is the bill that the Nevada conservation groups have put together.

Mr. HANSEN. I agree with your final comment, though, the final upshot of this will be one that is put together by all of these people and not just representing one specific group, as this seems to be.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Right.

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you for your time.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Now, Ms. Parks, you brought out something I have thought many times and expressed myself many times, particularly the effect of mining activities on ranchers and other users of the public lands. The real lockup is when someone goes in, stakes a claim and starts to open a large mine without any concern for the consequences on the other users of the public lands or the surrounding people. The law gives them the right to do that, but that is the real lockup, because once that land is mined, once you have an open pit, it's worthless as far as anyone else is concerned.

When we were on Shell Creek Range, I took a photograph. You could see—I don't know whether it was an Anaconda or a Kennicott open pit that must be at least 20 miles away. So huge. And there it was gleaming. And that land is locked up forever, for all

practical purposes. And I'm not saying there is anything wrong with it, but let's be fair and candid in our use of words.

Those are the points I wanted to stress, and I think your testimony has been very helpful. Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions. I have met most of these people before and heard them when we were out on our tour and appreciate it very much and just thank them very much for making the trip back here and making their contribution here today. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thank you. Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. I have no statement or question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Hansen.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I know we're running out of time. Let me just quickly say, I join with the others, appreciate their testimony. The gentleman from the Sierra Club, on page 3, made a statement that threw me a little bit, he said, "but one has to question just how high the mineral potential of the area in H.R. 3304 really is, when one realizes these areas have no mines nor have any developable mines been found after 100-plus years of looking." He goes on to say they have spent several hundred hours. That is contrary to what we find from the Bureau of Mines. I don't know if it is a big deal or not, but Arc Dome has a mine, according to those folks, and they could be wrong. I'm not in any way questioning you. I am just saying it is a little contradictory. Table Mountain and also Scale Creek also lists mines according to the Bureau of Mines. I don't know if it is a big point, but those people, those rights and preexisting rights surely have to be protected also.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. If there are no further questions, we will again thank this panel for its very helpful testimony. We will then recess until approximately 4:20.

[AFTER RECESS]

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, let's go ahead with panel No. 4. Mr. Warner Schuster, Galena Ski Area Corp., Mr. Andy Bowers, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski, Mr. Allan Young, president of the Nevada Mining Association, and ahead of all of them, Ms. Marsha Berkgigler, director of public relations, Freeport Exploration Co. She needs to go first, so she can catch a plane.

So ladies first, anyway.

[Prepared statements of Marsha Berkgigler and Allan R. Young may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF MARSHA BERKBIGLER, DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, FREEPORT-MCMORAN GOLD CO.; ANDY BOWERS, RUBY MOUNTAIN HELI-SKI; AND ALLAN YOUNG, PRESIDENT, NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION**

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

As the chairman said, my name is Marsha Berkgigler, and I am here today not only as a concerned citizen of the State of Nevada, but also as a representative of Freeport-McMoran Gold Co.

I want to express my great concern for the future of our country and specifically the mining industry.

Like every other mother and patriotic citizen, I feel a great deal of concern for the conditions of our air, our water and of course, for the preservation for the beauty of our great country for future generations. However, as a business woman in the mining industry, I know how much our industry has already been hurt, and any decision concerning wilderness has implications far greater than any of us can imagine.

I'd like to talk a minute about the realistic picture of the future of Nevada. Scientists have proved that Nevada is the last discovered and one of the best provinces our Nation has ever known, and yet so much of Nevada has not yet been explored. Only recently has technology been developed which allows finely disseminated gold to be removed, and technology improves every single year. Now here's the problem: 48 percent of Nevada will not be mined in our lifetimes, because it is in a basin and range province and is covered by 1,000 plus or minus feet of gravel.

We don't yet know how to find or remove ore from that much cover. According to a review done by the Nevada Association of Counties in 1985, 12 percent of our State is already withdrawn from multiple use in the form of military reservations, national wildlife refuges, toxic waste dumps and wilderness. This 12 percent equals 8.3 million acres. Another 5 million acres are being considered for wilderness. All the land in Nevada only adds up to 70.3 million acres and remember, this is our most promising gold province.

Jerritt Canyon, Freeport's mine located in Elko County, NV, occurs over less than 100 acres, yet more than \$1 billion of gold revenue and 450 jobs are created from just this one mine. Do you realize how little land it takes to develop a very profitable mine? The problem, of course, is the ore bodies are where you find them. You might say that you only wish to remove 5,000 acres, but what if just one Jerritt Canyon is located in that 5,000 acres? Think of the possibility of jobs created in our industry alone, not even considering the jobs that are created in support industries.

I believe I speak for most Nevada citizens, when I say Nevada needs more industry and Nevadans want to develop more diverse economic growth other than gaming. Freeport has expanded its interest in Elko County further north, which brings us in close proximity to Jarbige, Nevada's existing wilderness. Buffer zones, visual corridors and clean air basis, which very possibly are down the road, as well as the current problem of water which exists in a wilderness area or flows through a wilderness area endanger mining outside but near wilderness areas.

In a State the size of Nevada, where roughly 87 percent is controlled in some form by the Federal Government and with an ecological system such as we have, the issues are of even greater concern. Any additional acreage to this particular existing wilderness will damage or severely jeopardize Freeport's work in the area. So of course, we frequently are one of those companies who's concerned about that. However, we at Freeport realize that gold discoveries in Nevada—the potential for gold discoveries in Nevada is

very high, and that is why we are allocating the majority of our exploration work to Nevada.

In closing I'd like to say that as a long-time resident of Nevada, I have seen it grow from a small State to a prosperous and growing State with a potential for a lot more growth. I've traveled across Nevada on many occasions, and it is true that we have a beautiful State, even after 120 years of mining. The pristine nature of our land is already protected with our present multiple use laws, so I am asking you today to protect our State and our Nation's economy and our ability to have, inhabit and make a living in our Nevada.

Mineral exploration is not designed to rip our mountain ranges apart, but we are limited by the fact that the ore deposits are where they are, and not where some people wish they were. With multiple use, we have options to keep certain areas pristine, to allow motorized transport for ranching and hunting, as well as mining, or to allow mining, if an ore deposit should exist.

With wilderness closing down our lands, we have no options. Perhaps one of the most important functions of our land in this great country is to support its citizens. Mining is an industry that allows our Nation to live off the land. This has been our heritage. The point I am making and ask you to remember most about all that I have said is this. We're on the edge of a new frontier in this State. We've only recently discovered this major gold province. We may have just found a new mother lode. Think what that did for the Western United States? Think about how important this problem could be. Much of this province is already withdrawn, and you are now considering legislation to withdraw a great deal more, as you review the information which has been put before you.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you, Ms. Berkbigler. What time does your plane leave.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. 6:15.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Oh. Well, then I guess you have time to let the other panelists go and then get into questions.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Yes, I do.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. OK. Now let's now proceed with Mr. Schuster.

VOICE. Mr. Schuster isn't here.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, Mr. Schuster isn't here? All right. Mr. Bowers.

Mr. BOWERS. Thank you. I run the helicopter skiing business in Elko that most people have heard a fair amount about today. I don't have any formally prepared remarks for you to read. I'd just like to explain to you the problems that I'm facing right now.

The purpose of this wilderness bill is to preserve scenic areas for the future generations to come. I think it's a very ideal concept, but unfortunately, it's very complex with a lot of conflicts. It's really ironic that I have to be here today to fight such a bill, since my livelihood is taking people into the wilderness and giving them wilderness experiences. By taking people helicopter skiing, I am showing them areas of the Ruby Mountains that virtually no one else sees at that time of year. I can count the groups of mountaineers that went into that area last year on one hand. No one is

going in there at this time in those winter months. I am providing hundreds of people every year with a wilderness experience that otherwise they wouldn't have. I'm giving them a safe experience and a very memorable experience. And so I do find that rather ironic.

Of the three bills that are on the table or in front of us now, Barbara Vucanovich's bill is, of course, very acceptable to me, because it doesn't have any wilderness in the Ruby Mountains and that would allow me to continue to operate my business as I always have.

Congressman Seiberling, your bill would put me out of business, no doubt about it. The proposed wilderness area of the Forest Service, that would also put me out of business instantly.

Congressman Reid's bill is very interesting. It is obvious to me, by looking at the way the lines have been drawn, that they've been drawn in such a way that I could land on ridges, ski through the wilderness area, pick up on the other side. His bill would allow me to stay in business, if some of the things that I've heard about today didn't happen, such as, if a version of his bill was passed, if I were sued for conflicting use for flying right over a wilderness area or something like that. That worries me quite a bit.

And also, the way the boundaries have been drawn, I would be able to stay in business, but I would be hindered. In order not to be hindered, I would need a number of islands in the Ruby Mountains, islands of nonwilderness, such as there are in the Idaho wilderness, to land a helicopter briefly. And this helicopter, again, never touches the land. It only sets down on snow. And so I don't see any harm in a concept of islands.

But also Congressman Reid's bill, from the way the lines are drawn, I could land on the ridges. If those lines were just moved 10 feet in the wrong direction, I would be out of business. And so I'm very nervous about the bill and would prefer and plan to support Barbara Vucanovich's bill.

Mr. REID. Mine's in second place, though; right? [Laughter.]

Mr. BOWERS. Yes, you are in second place.

And really, my question is, why hinder Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski? But it seems as though that is the way it is in the political world.

There is another problem. In the northern part of the—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Let me say, I was impressed when we were out there and impressed again today at your concept of the legislative process as being something where someone puts in a bill, and then permits no changes at all, as far as I'm concerned, we want to accommodate helicopter skiing, and yet we've heard nothing from you as to how we could accommodate you within the framework of putting the Ruby Mountains in wilderness. I'd like to hear some constructive suggestions as to how we could protect the maximum amount of wilderness there and still allow you to continue your business.

And that's what you ought to be addressing yourself to, instead of these somewhat rigid—

Mr. BOWERS. There is, of course, one way that I can exist very peacefully, as I always have, and that is by siding with my Congressional Representative, Barbara—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, in my view that ain't going to happen. So why don't you see what you can offer in the way of some constructive suggestions on the assumption that maybe that bill is not the bill that is going to emerge from the Congress?

Mr. BOWERS. OK. Congressman Reid did call me and tell me about the lines he had drawn. I have had discussions on these lines with the Forest Service years ago, before I really knew that any of this would ever really take place, of different alternatives.

But still my local Representative is advocating H.R. 1686 and encourages me to support her, and I do.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, at some point we are going to all have to sit down and draw some lines of hopefully a consensus bill.

Mr. BOWERS. Will you be sure to let me know when that point is?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Sure. We will have the staff sit down with you and see what you think you need to make out, and then we will see what happens.

Well, I just threw that in because it seemed to me a logical place to put it.

Mr. BOWERS. All right. I will just add a little time onto the dinger.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Go ahead.

Mr. BOWERS. So in answer to your comments, Congressman Reid, it appears by the lines on that map, that you took the heli-skiing into account, and islands put in with that would be very helpful, and then all I would have to worry about is what would be changed and what lawsuits, and so forth, to be brought up in the future.

But before my time runs out, I have to talk about a very important problem, and that is concerning Congressman Reid's bill or any—or your bill. In the northern section of the Rubies, there is a large amount of private land, and your wilderness bills have surrounded this private land.

This land is land that I am in partnerships with for recreational development, and to surround that land I feel is equal to the Federal Government stealing that land.

This land was owned by Tim Jones, a rancher for many years, and he used the Lamoille Canyon area for grazing sheep. When the Forest Service promoted the recreational use of that canyon and paved the road, his land for sheep grazing became worthless. He tried to sell the land to the U.S. Forest Service. They rejected his offer flatly and made no counteroffer.

And so he is stuck with this land that they have made worthless, and he has nothing to do with it.

So he has made a partnership with me to make recreational value for that land, and now as we are getting along with our plans we see the next wilderness bills that are coming surrounding the bulk of his land in wilderness, which will strongly curtail any recreational value.

I am not totally familiar with the bill on what right we would have to get into that land, but I believe that it would be very difficult to promote active recreational use and development of that land if it is surrounded by wilderness.

And so Tim Jones and I see this process as a step-by-step destruction of the value of his land. They take away the value that it has, yet won't buy it from him.



And what would you do if you were in his place?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Do you want me to answer?

Mr. BOWERS. Yes, I would.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I don't know.

Mr. BOWERS. Well, in the way of a summary, I feel it is very wrong for the Federal Government to surround someone's private land—and we are not talking about 40 acres or 50 acres. We are talking about over 3,000 acres of private land. To surround that in such a way as to ruin any opportunity that man may have with it is very wrong.

And that is the end of my statement.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. While we are hearing from Mr. Young, I am going to ask Mr. Shay of our staff to take this map of the proposed wilderness area down and let you mark out on it roughly where these private holdings are so we can discuss it when we get to the question phase.

Mr. BOWERS. All right.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Allan Young, and I am the resident manager for Sunshine Mining Co. in Silver Peak, NV and also president of the Nevada Mining Association.

My first comment on Nevada wilderness today is a very brief one and is in reference to H.R. 3304.

It is quite obvious to those of us living in Nevada that this bill is not only an unfortunate sellout to extreme positions taken by certain preservationist groups but also totally disregards the needs and concerns which the majority of Nevadans have and indeed have recently expressed on this issue.

Therefore, we find H.R. 3304 entirely unacceptable.

On the wilderness issue, we find ourselves choosing between the designation of public land for restricted use by a limited number of people on one hand and continuing multiple use management on the other.

The multiple use concept is one with which a great deal of paranoia on the part of preservationist groups seem to abound. This concept has been equated with rows of bulldozers poised at a starting line ready to ravage the land as soon as there is a release from wilderness study.

This, of course, is a ridiculous notion. The BLM and Forest Service have proven over the years that they are responsible stewards of our public lands. Planning and reclamation requirements imposed by these agencies on lands that haven't even been considered for wilderness have resulted in little permanent degradation to those values held in such high regard by preservationists. At the same time, these efforts have allowed the land to provide the most good for the greatest number of people, and isn't that what it is all about?

As evidence of how selfish we miners are, we are often reminded of the so-called modest amount of acreage that preservationist groups are asking be set aside as wilderness.

The bill sponsored by Congressman Reid, for example, asks for only 1 percent of the total area of the State. Unfortunately, these types of statistics can be extremely misleading when one uses them

to attempt to assess the impact of wilderness withdrawals on a resource-based industry such as mining.

The above percentage naturally does not take into account land which is under private ownership and, most significantly, land which has already been withdrawn by the Federal Government. Nevada has seen massive Federal land withdrawals for military, wildlife protective areas, national recreation areas, and so on, totaling over 8.3 million acres.

Finally, Mother Nature has in a way made some additional land withdrawals of her own when it comes to mining. With few exceptions, known economic mineral deposits, together with all proposed wilderness areas, are confined to mountainous areas where rock outcrops are readily exposed. Many of the extensive valleys and basins we see in the State are filled with hundreds and many times thousands of feet of alluvium, which precludes any serious exploration or mining activity.

When the acreage that the Reid bill asks for, then, is compared to the true acreage that is available or amenable to mineral exploration and development, you come up with a figure indicating an impact seven times greater than one would initially perceive. Presently proposed BLM wilderness acreages could increase this percentage severalfold.

Certainly, no one will argue that Nevada contains some surprisingly beautiful national forest areas. One must, however, look at each potential wilderness area from the standpoint of quality and uniqueness.

As we believe was the original intent of Congress, only the true crown jewels of our land should be set aside for future generations as wilderness. This intent seems to have been violated in recent years, as preservationist groups promote maximum acreages for wilderness, land which simply fulfills only the very basic requirements for wilderness.

I think you heard earlier in one of the testimony, one of the speakers put it very well. I think he said we should have all we can get. Precisely what I am talking about.

We are told that Nevada must have its fair share of wilderness, even though Congress did not specify that each State should have a comparable acreage set aside. I submit that much of the beauty of our Nevada public lands lies in their ability to provide or satisfy a variety of uses and needs, not just the desires of a few back country hikers.

The importance of mining to the rural counties in Nevada cannot be understated. Many of these counties really do not have much going for them in terms of a broad economic base, but what they do have going for them is mineral potential. To these counties and the people living there, one more area set aside as wilderness represents just another future opportunity foregone.

It also represents lost opportunity for ranchers and the majority of Nevadans who depend on vehicular access to see and enjoy our public lands.

The utter dependence which the rural counties of Nevada have on mining and other multiple uses of public land is unique to this State, and this fact must be considered when choosing which areas are to be designated as wilderness.

An area should be designated wilderness when, and only when, the wilderness values of an area and public benefits and uses that wilderness designation would provide are sufficient to offset the benefits and the resource values which would be foregone due to wilderness designation.

The bill introduced by Congresswoman Vucanovich is the only Nevada wilderness bill, the only one that recognizes the importance of this relative value-based method of decisionmaking. It is the only bill that considers the needs of the people of Nevada as well as the desires of all Americans.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thanks very much for some very interesting points.

Mr. Young, I have absolutely no quarrel with your statement at the end of your remarks that an area should be designated wilderness when and only when the wilderness values of an area and public benefits and uses are sufficient to offset the benefits and the resource values which would be foregone due to wilderness designation, and that is the principle we try to follow around here, and I would say by and large this committee does that.

The big arguments always come: well, what are the wilderness values? And then we hear someone like Mr.—I guess it was Mr. Horton—advancing the thesis that until we know all of the mineral values in an area we should not put it in wilderness.

Well, we are never going to know all of the values, mineral values in an area. So we have to make a cut at the problem based on the information we have, and that is what we do, and by and large we try to follow your principle.

Now, with respect to Nevada, in particular, I would like to ask both you and Ms. Berkbigler to comment on the point that was made by Mr. Scholl in his testimony, and let me read the parts that I am referring to.

He said, "Nevada has some 53.7 million acres available for mineral entry, considerably more than any other Western State except Alaska, and if H.R. 3304 were enacted and all the BLM wilderness recommendations were designated, Nevada would still rank No. 1 in lands available for mineral entry in the lower 48 States."

Then he went on to say, "There are astonishingly few mining claims in every one of the 19 areas included in H.R. 3304. Of the entire 1,466,500 acres in H.R. 3304, only 1.6 percent has been thought to have high enough mineral potential to warrant the staking of mining claims."

And of course, I presume when you get to Mr. Reid's bill the percentages are far less than that.

So I would like to get your comments on those statements by Mr. Scholl.

Mr. YOUNG. I would like to comment on those if I may.

Mr. SEIBERLING. How about letting Ms. Berkbigler comment first, since she testified first?

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Well, the only comment I would have is in reference to the one area, Jarbidge. Freeport is one of the—

Mr. SEIBERLING. I can't hear you.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. The only comment I have at this time, and then I will return it back to Allan, is in reference to Jarbidge. And Free-

port is one of the companies that is not supporting the Nevada Mining Association feeling that Jarbidge should be added, too.

We have a lot of claims in the area. We have the extension of our existing mine in the area, and so it is true that at one time we did some exploration, but because it was a wilderness area we backed off.

Principally—not principally, but one of the main reasons we backed off was because it was a wilderness area. We have since gone back into the area, and it looks like the potential is such that we are going to continue working for a time. But if the entire area is made a wilderness area, it would not be financially feasible for us to continue on with it.

Mr. SEIBERLING. So you are really concerned about a specific area?

Ms. BERKBIGLER. That is a specific area, just one.

Mr. SEIBERLING. And is it the Jarbidge Wilderness or the proposed addition?

Ms. BERKBIGLER. The proposed addition.

Mr. SEIBERLING. OK, well, that helps clarify your position.

All right, Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. All right. On the first point, the acreage, he is, I believe, approximately correct in his acreage. One has to remember that approximately—according to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, approximately 80 percent of the State of Nevada is covered by quaternary alluvium or very recent volcanic flows that mask or cover up outcroppings, and so you are taking that amount out of the exploration picture right away, basically. And so that leaves a much larger percentage of the available land that is impacted by wilderness.

You also have to remember that the success ratio of exploration in today's mining industry is really very low, and any areas taken out of mineral entry represents just another opportunity that won't be available.

The second item is—you know, the statement was made that some of these areas have no claims, therefore there is no mineral potential.

That statement—

Mr. SEIBERLING. That is not the statement that I read.

Mr. YOUNG. OK.

Mr. SEIBERLING. The statement I read was: "Of the entire 1,466,500 acres in H.R. 3304, only 1.6 percent has been thought to have high enough mineral potential to warrant the staking of mining claims."

I guess basically that is what—

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, that is the way I see it. It is the thinking that if an area has no mining claims then the mineral potential is probably not there. That is no more true than saying that the presence of a claim guarantees that you are going to have a viable mining property.

It is just not a true statement, really.

Another thing you have to remember is some of these lands we are talking about have been tied up for a long time, and just the fact that they have been included in a wilderness inventory process

discourages—highly discourages any responsible mining company from spending a lot of money in there.

So in the past few years, it is hard to say—since these areas have been put in wilderness study, it is hard to say what would have really happened had they not had that sword hanging over their head, so to speak.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thanks.

Well, my time has expired. Let me just say again to Mr. Bowers—first of all, when we get around to drafting a bill in this committee, why, we are going to have a lot more discussions among ourselves and with various interested parties, and I would ask the staff to sit down with you or somebody that you can designate and find out just where the areas are that you are most interested for heli-skiing and also the specific sections of land which you have an interest in in terms of ownership, and then we will try to see what needs to be done to try to accommodate those interests.

I am not saying we will succeed, but we certainly will try, and that is about all I can say at this moment.

Mr. BOWERS. OK. I expect Congresswoman Vucanovich will keep me informed on this, and if Barbara Vucanovich tells me to come out and compromise, I will. But up until then, I will support—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, let me just say that all we are asking you for is information. We are not going to be negotiating the final bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, would you yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. Bowers, this may be a surprise to you, but we don't need your support to pass the bill.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, that is certainly true. But at the same time we try to accommodate you. But I don't think Ms. Vucanovich is trying to say you got to stick with me, I won't let you give out any information until I release you to do so. I assume that she would be very happy to have you tell us where your interests lie so we can do a better job of trying to accommodate them, whatever bill finally emerges from this committee.

But I think it is a pretty foregone conclusion that there is going to be a Ruby Mountains Wilderness if this committee votes on the bill. I would guess that would be a very likely result despite the fact it is not in the Vucanovich bill.

Mr. BOWERS. OK, understood, and understood.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you very much. I have no further questions.

Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank Mr. Bowers for his approval of what I have done.

Mr. SEIBERLING. He is a loyal supporter.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes. Well, I appreciate that.

I am sorry that I wasn't here to hear all of your testimony, but I was going to ask you—I think you made reference to not only your heli-ski operation, but also you do have some interests in the area, land interests, is that correct?

Mr. BOWERS. That is correct.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. OK, and have you decided what you would be doing with those areas if there were no wilderness designation being considered?

Mr. BOWERS. One plan has been presented to Elko County for a lodge in Lamoille Canyon on private land. For the other areas of private land which have been surrounded by wilderness in proposals—in two of the proposals—there have been no plans, but the value of that land has been diminishing, and the Ruby Mountains have been looked upon more and more as a recreational area. And so we, my partner Tim Jones and I, are looking toward going along with the recreational flow.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Would you be able to have access to that land if the areas that are under consideration were included in wilderness?

Mr. BOWERS. I do not believe so, but I have been told that I would have a right to get to that land. There are no roads into that land now, and I suspect I would come under maybe even duress in trying to put a road through the wilderness area into that land.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Would the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes, I would be happy to yield.

Mr. SEIBERLING. There are court decisions that guarantee inholders in wilderness areas the right of access to their land, and if it was denied, then the Government is going to have to buy their land. I think that is what it comes down to.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gene was just going to point that out.

I am just asking because I really don't know: if the land, say an inholder's land, has not been developed or has not done anything to use it in a specific way as a recreational area, would it be possible to do that if it were designated wilderness? Would it be possible to develop it after the surrounding area had been designated as wilderness if it was not already developed?

Mr. BOWERS. I don't have the answer to that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I don't know either.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I think as long as it is private land he would have the legal right of access and he would have the right of development. Furthermore, there would be no right of eminent domain in the Forest Service to acquire his land. They would have to allow it—unless he voluntarily sold it, they could not acquire it.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. OK. Well, I guess what I really am driving at is you could not access this if it were wilderness, is that correct, though?

Mr. BOWERS. We are afraid that we would not be able to.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. You couldn't go off your private land into the wilderness. If you were surrounded, here you are and there is wilderness all around, you could not access wilderness from your enclosed land with a motorized vehicle?

Mr. BOWERS. Not with motorized vehicles.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Or with a helicopter?

Mr. BOWERS. But what we are especially concerned about is being able to reach the private land with motorized vehicles.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I think that is guaranteed, and that is what we are maybe talking about.

But then I was also questioning whether once you were in there whether you could go into wilderness with any kind of a motorized vehicle, and I think the answer is no, you could not do that.

Mr. BOWERS. Is no.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. The land that you presently use for your helicopter ski operation, is that threatened by these wilderness bills? Obviously, it is not by mine because I don't have any Ruby Mountains in there at all.

Mr. BOWERS. Yes. To repeat myself, Congressman Seiberling's bill and the proposal by the Forest Service would both immediately put me out of business if they are enacted.

Congressman Reid did—it is obvious by the odd shapes of the lines that the lines are drawn to accommodate heli-skiing, and in Congressman Reid's prepared speech it said that I approved the Rubies being added to the wilderness area, but that is not entirely true. I did actually thank him for considering me in his proposed bill, and it would allow me to stay in business.

But I would much prefer no wilderness.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Sure.

How large an operation do you have? I am sorry I missed your testimony, but we were on the floor, and just that I would like to ask that question.

Mr. BOWERS. Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is the largest heli-ski outfit in the United States and one of the oldest in the United States. It is growing very fast. In the last 3 years it has increased in size by 300 percent. It is on a very high growth rate.

To talk actual dollars in this neighborhood would be silly.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes. Well, my time is up, and I thank you all very much for the answers.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Not into the billions, huh?

Mr. BOWERS. Not yet.

Mr. REID. OK.

Mr. Young, you talked about some of the rural counties. Esmeralda you said has 73 percent of its total payroll related to mining.

How many people are in Esmeralda County? Tell the committee.

Mr. YOUNG. It is not one of the most populous counties in Nevada. It is a very small county.

Mr. REID. The population is in the hundreds, isn't it, hundreds of people?

Mr. YOUNG. I would imagine. I don't know the exact figure.

Mr. REID. And the same with Eureka, isn't that right?

Mr. YOUNG. I am not familiar with the numbers.

Mr. REID. The point I am trying to make is that my bill doesn't impact upon any of these counties.

Isn't that basically it?

We have talked about the mining interests in Elko County. You don't want to mine in the Rubies, do you?

Mr. YOUNG. You know, our position on the Rubies was one taken purely from the standpoint of mineral potential.

Mr. REID. Sure, and I am not trying to be argumentative. I am just trying to reason through this thing.

We have got—

Mr. YOUNG. The point I wanted to make—

Mr. REID. We have Arc Dome—I am sorry.

Mr. YOUNG. The point I wanted to make with that statement is how utterly dependent some of these rural counties are.

Mr. REID. But nobody disputes that. You talk about wilderness as if we are running these little counties out of business. The wilderness bill will have no impact on the counties.

Now, you have heard me and my questions with Rich Reyburn. I recognize that with Boundary Peak there is—in the information we have—three claims, 62 acres, and there may be more than that. As I recall, they believe there are about 6,000 acres where there may be something there. But whatever it is, that is something we are willing to work with.

Arc Dome—the information that we have shows, there are 88 claims in the Arc Dome area. You know, we are going to look at that.

But my problem with your testimony is that you are talking as if we are coming in and running all the miners out of business, and we are not doing that.

You talk about what is under the thousand foot of alluvial that we have all over Nevada. We have nothing to do with that. We are not impacting on that.

Mr. YOUNG. No, I realize that.

Mr. REID. But that is the problem we are having here, and I would also, Mr. Young, just say this:

I really think—and I never said this to anyone—but I really think that you are doing a disservice to the State of Nevada. There is going to be a wilderness bill, either today—and I don't mean that literally—but in the near future or 10 years from now.

Someday there is going to be a wilderness bill for the State of Nevada, whether it is the one that Barbara has suggested, the one that I suggest, the one that the chairman has suggested, or some compromise. That is why I told Rich Reyburn and Bob Warren to a lesser extent that I appreciated the mining groups—

And of course you are president of the group that Mr. Warren works for. At least that is my understanding. Isn't it?

Mr. YOUNG. That is correct.

Mr. REID [continuing].—taking a position to try to be reasonable in this, and you really were. You did not oppose more than two and a half times Mrs. Vucanovich's bill.

I think that is fine, but since that time, since the bills have been introduced, you have gone around telling about all the evils of wilderness, how, as Chairman Seiberling indicated to Bob Warren, how in effect the Communists are going to take over in 20 years.

That has really been doing a disservice. I feel you would be better off trying to work with the committee and everyone else. No one wants to do any harm to the State of Nevada. From the work that your organization did and that of Rich Reyburn's, personally I eliminated some areas that I thought were really choice wilderness areas, and I did it principally because of the mining interests and my knowledge of mining.

But I just think that you have to get off this horse, riding this horse that this wilderness is wiping out all the small counties. That is silly.

Mr. YOUNG. Can I comment on that now?

Mr. REID. Of course.

Mr. YOUNG. Yes. What I said in my testimony here is that what it represents is the future opportunity foregone.



Now, let's say that the Carlin area was not discovered, and no doubt that would have been included in a BLM wilderness area. You know, it is that kind of thing that we are worried about.

The other—well, that is—

Mr. REID. No, I understand that you are worried, and, you know, I can appreciate that. But let's not chase any bandits unless they come to our door.

Mr. YOUNG. We think we have a real legitimate concern, and it was very well—

Mr. REID. But where? Tell me where you have a concern.

Mr. YOUNG. Well, it is in those areas that were mentioned previously by Mr. Warren and also addressed by Congressman Craig very well, I think.

Mr. REID. But I mean, when I say areas, I don't mean general concepts. I mean areas in the State of Nevada that, for example, I have included in my bill.

Where do you have a problem? I have identified them, I think.

Arc Dome and Table, and now this lady did a very fine job of describing the problems that she feels exist in Jarbidge. I can live with that kind of testimony, but these vague abstractions about, things that may happen sometime in the future, I really don't think are pertinent.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Could I comment on that, please?

Mr. REID. Whatever the Chairman wants. I would love to hear from you.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. One of the things that I made reference to in my talk was that this is a relatively new type of goal—and by "new" I mean within the last 10 years—that we are talking about here. So it is a new model, and we don't know what is in there.

Mr. REID. See, but I don't dispute that. I don't dispute that. But what I am saying is you are not going to go into the Ruby Mountains and dig an open pit mine. We have got 74,000 acres proposed as wilderness there, yet you are just not going to do it. You are not going to do it tomorrow or the next day or the next 20 years. It just would not be allowed to dig up in those areas. It won't happen.

You would have Andy Bowers jumping right down your throat if you did that, among other people.

The same applies to every area that I have talked about, with the exception of Table and Arc Dome, and you might have some potential for finding gold in that area.

But talk about specific areas, not that you have developed a new mining process. I know you have, but that doesn't have anything to do with my bill, and I think you are chasing phantoms that don't exist.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I just would like to reiterate what the Forest Service and also the Bureau of Mines talked about—was that there are areas that they are concerned about and would recommend not being part of the areas under consideration for wilderness; and, namely, Grant Range and Arc Dome, and those are two that they have excluded. They are still out there next year. They are going to be studying Arc Dome, and they haven't even touched it, and presently they are studying Grant Range and the Quinn Canyon.

So I think that—

Mr. REID. But, see, Barbara—I am sorry.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH [continuing]. It is not just caring—they are not just being paranoid about it. I think that there are areas that they are concerned about.

Mr. REID. I appreciate your comments, but as an example, we have no opposition—or had no opposition from the miners about Arc Dome. I recognize that they have since developed some minor problems, and I will be happy to work with them in that regard.

Quinn and Grant? I bought their program, and I eliminated them from my bill.

My point is again, and I know my time has gone, Mr. Chairman—I can appreciate Andy Bowers being concerned because his livelihood depends on being able to take people up and drop them in the snow and let them ski. I can appreciate his concern.

But I really respectfully say that you would be better served by talking about specifics. Arc Dome is a lousy area to put in the bill, and here is why it is a lousy area, rather than these vague abstractions about Eureka County and Esmeralda County. They have nothing to do with what we are talking about here today, in my opinion.

But anyway, your testimony—

Mr. YOUNG. Well, we disagree. Of course, we feel that it has everything to do with it.

Mr. REID. Eureka and Esmeralda County?

Mr. YOUNG. Well—

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I think that those poor counties would be very unhappy if they could hear your comments because their livelihood is there and—

Mr. REID. But what does it have to do with my bill? I am not taking anything away from Esmeralda County.

Mr. YOUNG. They were used as an example.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Just as examples. They are not specific on mining there, but they are trying to demonstrate that mining in the areas, with the exception of Clark County and some parts of Washoe, really are very important to the State of Nevada, to their income and to their tax base and also to the economy as far as jobs, and so forth.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, I don't dispute that. Mining is important in the State of Nevada, but I still say rather than talking about Esmeralda getting 73 percent of its total payroll in mining-related businesses, I think it is important to talk about the three wilderness bills that are before us, plus the Forest Service proposal and why those specific areas that have been designated as wilderness in the proposals are bad, not generally why wilderness is bad.

I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I suppose this discussion could go on indefinitely. You know, we go through this every time we have a wilderness bill practically. People come in and they say wilderness is terrible, it will kill the mining industry, it will kill the logging industry, or what not, and I plead with them, look, we have heard these arguments a thousand times on general principles. What we need to know is how these bills specifically affect specific areas and where

should the lines be drawn so that they don't impact some immediate need or some mining operation.

Mr. Bowers has been very specific, and that is very helpful.

Ms. BERKBIGLER has been fairly specific, although I have a question for her, since I understand her company's interests are entirely outside the boundaries of the proposed wilderness. Exactly what are they concerned about?

Ms. BERKBIGLER. We are concerned because we have—for several different reasons. One would be, of course, that we don't know what is there. We don't know where it goes to, and we have—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, if you don't know what is there, at least you haven't lost anything.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. But maybe we have. Maybe there is another Jerritt Canyon there.

Mr. SEIBERLING. No, you haven't. You might have lost something you might—

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Maybe there is another Carlin mine there.

Mr. SEIBERLING. But if you don't have it, you haven't lost it.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Well, that is true. We, "we" being my company, hasn't, but I mean we as—I am referring to we as a State.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. In that respect.

But the other things is is that—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, maybe we had better open up the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone, and every place else—

Ms. BERKBIGLER. No.

Mr. SEIBERLING [continuing]. Because in the sense we have lost opportunities there.

But you see my point, I am sure.

Ms. BERKBIGLER. Yes.

Mr. SEIBERLING. So my question is: are you immediately impacted by the proposed wilderness boundaries? And I gather the answer is "no"?

Ms. BERKBIGLER. That is correct.

Mr. SEIBERLING. OK. Well, Mr. Hansen, do you want to add to this?

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I know you are pressed for time. May I just ask you, if I may—of Mr. Bowers, of the helicopter skiing in the Ruby Mountains—was the question basically the same one we faced in the Alta area in the Utah wilderness bill?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, basically the same.

Mr. HANSEN. Is the answer basically the same that we draw it out—

Mr. BOWERS. Is what the same?

Mr. SEIBERLING. It depends on which bill. The bill I introduced would bar him from operating. Mr. Reid's bill would allow him to operate but not to the extent—not with the freedom of action he would like. Mrs. Vucanovich's bill wouldn't impact him at all. The Forest Service's proposal would put him out of business.

So my only point was, well, we will be glad to sit down with you, find out exactly where your operating are, and then see what we can do to try to accommodate them, and that is about where I am at.

Mr. HANSEN. Well, let me just say, if there is any precedence established in last year's bill in the Utah wilderness bill, that was a consideration that did come up. It would have been devastating to some people in that area, and all of a sudden many of the skiers, who were devout wilderness advocates, turned into they didn't like it so much because they didn't want to go up the hill other ways, and it was very interesting to see that strange bedfellows fall apart at that instance.

Be that as it may, the chairman was very gracious in working that out, and we did come to a conclusion by drawing that out, and I would hope that could be a precedence if it comes to push and shove in this particular bill.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Actually, I was rather ungracious.

Mr. HANSEN. Oh, I thought you were very gracious. [Laughter.]

As I recall, you and Jake had each other by the throat and one of you gave up. [Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Well, thanks very much, gentlemen and Ms. Berkbigler.

OK, let's grind along here. Panel No. 5: Mr. Howard Booth, Las Vegas; Mr. Dan Allison of Las Vegas; Ms. Liz Warren of Las Vegas; Ms. Amy Mazza of Reno; Mr. Greg Ebner of Sparks.

It looks like we have lost one or more members of our panel.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Please have a seat. All right, Mr. Booth, are you with us? OK.

Mr. BOOTH. Am I on?

Mr. SEIBERLING. You're on.

[Prepared statements of Howard Booth, Daniel Allison, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Louise Mazza, with attachments, and Paul Ebner, with attachment, may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF HOWARD BOOTH, LAS VEGAS, NV; DANIEL ALLISON, LAS VEGAS, NV; ELIZABETH WARREN, CULTURAL FOCUS, AMY LOUISE MAZZA; AND PAUL EBNER, SPARKS, NV**

Mr. BOOTH. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am Howard Booth of Las Vegas, NV. I'm speaking as an interested citizen. I am truly delighted to come to Washington to attend these hearings and let you know directly of my concerns that a strong Nevada wilderness bill be passed this year. I'd like to express my appreciation to Congressman Reid for the great advances in his bill over, if you'll pardon me, Congresswoman Vucanovich, your bill.

But I think that a strong bill, since I'm supporting basically the 19 areas that are included in Congressman Seiberling's bill, I think that's the vehicle for the kind of bill that I'm looking for.

My concern stems from the 30 years of observation of growth and development in the Las Vegas area. You're a little bit paranoid about developing when you live in a city and you see your favorite areas being whittled away, all the time by growth and development.

And I think now what we're seeing throughout Nevada is an acceleration of this trend, particularly in mining. I've been hiking in the back country of Nevada for 30 years, and in that time have been into three-quarters of the areas included in H.R. 3304. I've

been actively involved in studying the wilderness values and boundaries of some of these areas since the RARE I effort of the early 1970's.

I think I've learned to recognize good wilderness, so I am confident each of these areas is exceptionally well-qualified and compares well with Alpine areas I visited in other States.

My written testimony will elaborate on what I'll have time to say in these few minutes, so I shall mostly discuss a few of the proposed wilderness areas with which I'm most familiar.

I feel that some of the areas that Mr. Reid has left out of his bill should be considered on the basis of the fact that there's nothing speculative about the wilderness values in some of these areas, but there is a good deal of speculation about the value of the minerals that we might find there.

Some of these areas have given me some of the finest experiences in wilderness in Nevada. For instance, the Grant Range was just one of the greatest climbs of my memory. It has a grand, 6,000 foot escarpment that rises on the west over from 6,000 feet to 11,000 feet. And it's complemented by a vast complex of eastside canyons that contain such things as aspen groves and ponderosa groves. And when you stand on the top of one of these mountains and look out over the surrounding country, and you have the feeling of what you've done to get up there—this particular climb was not a technical climb, it was a hike. But it required some challenge. And the Grant Range certainly gives you that kind of challenge.

There are sitings of big horn sheep that are quite common on the Grant Range. And there are very fine stands of fir and gnarled bristlecone pines along the ridge. These are just things that I don't think that we can pass up at this time. I think we really need this kind of wilderness.

The Shell peaks are another range, where there are just fantastic opportunities and grand memories that I have. There's a row of peaks extending some 25 miles along the crest of this range. And there are numerous canyons that break away on either side with beautiful streams in them.

On a 3-day backpack there, I remember one in particular, where I sat on the top and gazed across all of this open desert to ranges way over into Utah. And I watched eagles soaring up and down the updrafts, along the edge of the range. And I would hate to see mining, for instance, destroy these opportunities.

Alta Tokena is another one. That's the Jefferson area. I go back there time and time again because of the values I see there. That high, windswept plateau above and you stand up there and look down into the Big Serks. And you can think of the prehistoric Indian relics on the top. And these are tremendous values.

So I think that, you know, with some strengthening, Mr. Reid's bill would go a long way towards solving this impasse of wilderness areas versus mining.

I thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you.

Mr. Allison.

Mr. ALLISON. Mr. Chairman, my name is Dan Allison and I'm from Las Vegas, NV. I am working currently as a computer pro-

grammer but I have experience in outdoor education and wilderness management with the Forest Service in the past.

I would like to thank Congressman Reid for introducing his bill, which recognizes that there are a lot of outstanding wilderness areas in Nevada that deserve protection. I would also like to thank Mr. Seiberling and the other congressmen who introduced a bill for 19 areas. And I would like to say that that bill does represent the interests of at least some Nevadans. And I thank him for introducing it.

I would like to talk mostly about three areas which are in H.R. 3304, but not in H.R. 3302. These three areas are Quinn Canyon, Grant Range and Current Mountain. As Mr. Reid has said, he eliminated those areas from his bill because of concern primarily about energy resources—oil.

That concern is very understandable. Railroad Valley, which is adjacent to these three ranges, is the biggest producing area in Nevada. And, in fact, until recently, it was the only producing area in Nevada.

But I want to make clear that the setting which produced oil and the oil finds in Railroad Valley is unrelated to the geologic setting of the mountain ranges we are talking about.

The ranges contain some of the same kinds of rocks but have been upfaulted between 2 and 3 miles. These ranges are separated from Railroad Valley by a fault. No one in Nevada has located oil resources in the mountain ranges themselves; all of the discoveries to date have been in the valleys.

And I think it's reasonable to expect that that will continue to be the case. No one can project where oil may be found in the future, but if we're to go on present experience, I think we can safely say that designating these three ranges—the Grant, Quinn, and Current—would not prevent the development of any known oil resources in Nevada.

As far as mineral resources in these three ranges go, the Quinn Canyon Range had a large number of claims a few years ago, primarily established by big energy and mineral companies. These have all been abandoned.

No assessment work was done. The companies didn't feel that there was enough value there to continue to maintain their claims. There are still some claims left but, in drawing up the proposals, an attempt was made to eliminate most of those claims. And there are relatively few left in the proposal.

In the Grant Range, the story is similar. The Troy mining area, which was the area of historical interest, has not produced anything since the 1950's. Despite that fact, we tried to draw the boundaries so that it eliminated that area from the wilderness proposal.

The Forest Service completely eliminated the area of interest from their proposal by pulling boundaries way back. I don't feel that that was appropriate. I think a better compromise could be made to maintain the area of mining interest and still have a strong Wilderness there.

The Current Range, though it had a mining area immediately adjacent to it, doesn't have any areas of significant mining interest right now. People have identified some tungston and flouride de-

posits in an area inside the proposal, but nobody has expressed enough interest to actually file a claim there.

These are not speculative things; these are known. Nobody feels they're valuable enough.

Several times, the issue of how you judge whether an area has mineral potential has been brought up here. I think that looking at existing mining claims is a valid way of assessing that potential. Of course it's not the only one; other studies need to be done. But, certainly, it's an indication.

The fact that there are so few mining claims in these areas indicates to me that the people who actually work in the mining industry, both prospectors and large companies, are not that interested in these areas as compared to other areas in Nevada.

And I think that's important. We have really tried not to propose areas where the miners had strong interests. And I think we've done a good job of that.

I also have experience, as I said, as a wilderness ranger with the Forest Service and I'm going to make some brief comments about some issues there. And I want to make clear that I'm not representing the Forest Service but, because of my experience, I can comment on them.

And since my time is up, I'll just make one brief comment. Mr. Bowers, in his comments just previous to us, was concerned about his helicopter use over the wilderness. And I would like to reassure him and everybody else who has raised that question today that the Forest Service has absolutely no control over air space over wilderness areas.

The FAA is the only agency that controls that area. The Forest Service has worked with agencies to try to control over-flights because people understand that, in some cases, it does damage Wilderness values.

The Forest Service actually has no control whatsoever and cannot prohibit overflights.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I thank you.

Ms. Warren.

Ms. WARREN. Chairman Seiberling and members of the subcommittee, my name is Elizabeth Warren. I live in Las Vegas, NV, and I'm here as a citizen in support of the position of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. I wish to thank Mr. Seiberling and the others on this subcommittee who have put so much time and effort into a wilderness bill for Nevada, and especially those who made the effort to come to Nevada to see our backcountry firsthand.

I also wish to thank Mr. Reid for his fine bill and look forward to working with him to produce an even more meaningful wilderness bill for Nevada, perhaps closer to Congressman Seiberling. And I do want to commend Congresswoman Vucanovich for getting all of this started in the first place.

I speak from the perspective of tourism, Nevada's No. 1 industry. I was trained in history and anthropology. I have advanced degrees in those areas. And I am a former Clarke County community college instructor. My current business is tourism. I am director of cultural focus for the Allied Arts Council. Our market in cultural focus is domestic and international visitors who spend 4 to 7 days

of any given year when their convention meets in southern Nevada, in Las Vegas.

In the next 15 years, tourism is expected to become the No. 1 industry in the world. Nevada's economy is clearly linked to tourism now and certainly will be in the future.

Wilderness areas are a plus in a tourist State. American and foreign visitors alike are fascinated with the rugged scenery and primitive recreational opportunities in the backcountry of the American West.

Wilderness can also help ranchers. It protects the grazing rights they now enjoy and ranchers who wish to tap into the tourism industry can benefit by sharing the beauty of their ranches and the wild country nearby with paying guests.

Dude ranches were once important tourist accommodations in Nevada and they can be again.

Mining is extractive. Sooner or later, the miners are gone because the ore is gone. And, therefore, so are the jobs. Eely lost Kennicott, not necessarily because the oil was gone but for other factors, outside factors, that were beyond local control.

Eely now has reversed its position to some extent on the advisability of a national park in the nearby Wheeler Peak area.

Wilderness protects also the very valuable assets of historical and archeological sites, both important to a well-rounded tourism market. Lack of roads is the best way to protect these sites, which are irreplaceable.

In 1979, I participated in a study of damage to the sites in the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert Conservation Area. By far, the most significant source of destruction proved to be accessibility by road. Within 1 to 3 years of the opening of any type of road into a backcountry area, or any isolated area, the sites became vandalized and they disappeared.

The attraction such places have for tourists is well substantiated. Virginia City on the Comstock is a good example of historical sites. The various petroglyph sites in Nevada and elsewhere in the West are good examples of prehistoric sites.

Sites in wilderness areas will continue to be protected, to a large extent simply because of the lack of roads.

Nevada needs wilderness areas to support its new stress on diversifying its tourism economy by promoting Nevada as a family and outdoor recreation destination.

Fiscal year 1985 figures on room tax revenues in Nevada indicate these new efforts are working. We need your help now to give these new directions a chance to pay off for Nevada.

Finally, I would like to suggest to the committee and to Nevada's Representatives in Congress that the best planning tool of all is hindsight. We have a chance to use that tool in planning for Nevada because the wilderness that so attracted our forefathers when they landed on the coast of North America and headed West has been obliterated in many of those once wild frontiers.

Two hundred years ago, the east coast had vast forests, seemingly limitless. People almost starved, as a matter of fact, when they got off the boat because they really didn't understand how to exploit that wilderness to survive.



One hundred years ago, Ohio was on the cutting edge of wilderness and Custer had only just fought his last stand. Nevada is one of the last frontiers in Continental United States and we still have a chance to turn this last frontier into a frontier that lasts.

Mr. SEIBERLING. A hundred and fifty years.

Ms. WARREN. Please? Pardon?

Mr. SEIBERLING. A hundred years ago, Ohio was already——

Ms. WARREN. It was farms.

Mr. SEIBERLING [continuing]. Over the hill.

Ms. WARREN. Perhaps, but there were——[Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. A hundred and fifty years ago, it was.

Ms. WARREN. All right, we'll stretch it 150 years.

Mr. HANSEN. We'd like to give it back to you, John.

Ms. WARREN. Sure. It doesn't take very long, however. I think we would all agree upon that. If 150 years ago, Ohio was on the cutting edge of wilderness and by 100 years ago, they were no longer, according to Congressman Seiberling, then, obviously, it doesn't take very long.

We still have a chance to turn this last frontier into a frontier that lasts and I ask your support for the designation of 21 of Nevada's roadless areas as Wilderness.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. My great, great grandfather went to Ohio 155 years ago and cut down the trees by hand on his own land, planted corn between the stumps, lived with his bride of 18 in a lean-to the first winter. And that was the end of that little piece of wilderness. So it did happen, but it was a little while ago.

And there's not a single area in the entire State of Ohio that qualifies for designation of wilderness under the standards set forth in the wilderness Act.

So you're absolutely right about learning from hindsight.

All right, Ms. Mazza.

Ms. MAZZA. I am Amy Louise Mazza of Reno, NV.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I knew I'd mispronounce it. [Laughter.]

Ms. MAZZA. Representing myself. I'm a mother and an artist. I drew the maps which appear in "Hikes in the Great Basin," a wilderness guide to many of these areas.

I support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness position and have hiked in 16 of the 21 areas. And I've traveled over much of the State. I would like to thank you, Chairman Seiberling, for introducing H.R. 3304 and for your steadfast defense of wilderness.

I would like to thank you, Congressman Reid, for introducing H.R. 3302, designating 10 wilderness areas in our State. Any resolution of the wilderness issue that doesn't have at least these 10 areas would be a mistake.

I'll go to page 3 of my testimony now to save time.

I really love the Great Basin Wilderness. I don't think there's anything else like it anywhere. But the problem is, my three favorite areas are Current Mountain, the Grant Range, and the Quinn Canyon Range, are not in Congressman Reid's bill.

These areas are my favorite because they are so remote, they're so high, they're so dry, they're so vertical. You feel when you're there that maybe you are the first person whose ever been there in

the whole world. And I would like to see these areas added to the final House bill.

I think, if we don't, we'll lose three of the best wilderness areas in the whole State.

It seems that there's two main reasons why an area should be wilderness. Because of a threat, and because it has important natural integrity. And these three areas really have both.

The threat is somewhat the same for all three. Typical Nevada Forest Service low budget, general forest management, that might include cutting fenceposts, firewood or Christmas trees, blazing fire roads and allowing unrestricted ORV use.

The problem is these areas could easily occur anywhere on the forest. They don't have to come out of these precious wilderness areas.

There's also the problem, especially in these three areas—or at least in the past in these three areas—of random recreational prospecting, which the Forest Service sometimes knows about and sometimes doesn't know about.

And even more seriously, the problem of oil and mining companies creating permanent roads, when really all they want to do is look for something.

Wilderness is lost piecemeal in this way and leaving these three areas up to chance is a big gamble.

At Currant Mountain, as we show on the flight, the areas are scenery of the highest quality. Rock strata have been turned up on end. Vertical and near vertical rock faces rise above wooded canyons and wooded, rocky sideslopes. Ancient Risacone pine, some probably thousands of years old, grow out of solid rock as well as in thick, lower elevation forests.

A herd of some 20-30 indigenous Big Horn sheep, Nevada's State animal, live here. Portions of the area, especially around White Pine Peak, have pristine vegetation untouched by livestock. Forty-nine thousand acres at Currant Mountain should be protected as an ecological preserve. And wilderness is the best way to do this.

It's worth repeating over and over again, until people understand it, there's not a single mining in the Currant Mountain Wilderness proposal—not one.

I agree with you, Congressman Reid, that Forest Service recommendation against wilderness can be wrong and we've argued for so long about Table Mountain and we're so happy that you put it in the bill, but it's important to know that, at the Grant Range, it's important to remember how hard we fought for Forest Service recommendation at the Grant Range.

The trouble with wilderness is you have to win every single battle and, so far, the Forest Service has been with us on the Grant Range. And it's really important, I think, not to give that up.

The Forest Service is not an advocate for wilderness. It never is, especially in Nevada. They stand up to tremendous pressures. And when they support an area, when they support the Grant Range, it really means something.

OK, I guess my time's up. Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We can have a few more words—

Ms. MAZZA. Well, I was going to say that the Quinn Canyon Range, again, the mining problem at the Quinn Canyon Range is

just not that great. It's 9.4 percent of the area that's been claimed. There's 43 unpatented—it's important to understand that they are unpatented mining claims in 95,000 acres. And "unpatented mining claims" means anyone can go out there and write something on a piece of paper and submit something to the BLM and they have an unpatented mining claim. It doesn't mean anything.

And I don't think we'll lose anything in terms of minerals if we designate the Quinn Canyon Range.

Thanks.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I just think it's wonderful that you brought your child to this hearing, too.

Ms. MAZZA. It's been a very hard day. [Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I can appreciate that but, you know, that's why we're doing these things. I have a photograph of a child I took out in California about 4 years ago and I have it framed on the wall of my office. And people ask me, well, why do you have that picture there? And my answer is: To remind me why I'm here.

And that's why we're all interested in this, whether we're interested in mining or wilderness, we're trying to provide for the future and the children of future generations.

Well, all right, before we get sidetracked, Mr. Ebner, you're next.

Mr. EBNER. Hello. My name is Gregory Ebner. I am a native, born and raised in Sparks, NV. I'm a senior in electrical engineering at the University of Nevada-Reno. I come here out of deep concern for the preservation of land in Nevada. I'm going to take my testimony kind of in reverse. I'm going to start at the end of it and go back to the front.

I'd like to start by saying that I have very deep feelings for the State of Nevada. As I say, I was born and raised in Nevada. And I think, like most Nevadans who have lived there for any length of time, my character and my life has been enriched by the rural culture of the State. My fondest memories as a child are of going out into the country with my family—my father and brothers and sisters and mother—camping, exploring. This was done in 4-wheel drive vehicles on roads which, incidentally, would not be in wilderness areas.

And in growing up in Nevada, I learned from my father how to hunt and to fish and to enjoy myself comfortably in the outdoors and to learn basic respect for the land and a love of the land.

I don't think that there's any place else in the world that offers the type of solitude that you can attain in Nevada. When you sit upon the mountain peaks, you can look off to the distance and see the mountains just disappear off in the distance, where range after range, without seeing a road or sign of humankind. You can go sometimes for days without seeing another living soul.

It is my sincere hope that we will have the wisdom to preserve a significant portion of Nevada's wilderness heritage for the future Nevadans, as well as Americans. This is America's public lands, it is not Nevada's public lands.

Mr. Seiberling and all the members of Congress in demanding good wilderness legislation for Nevada, as it is their land as well as ours.

Now I'd like to go to a more controversial portion.

Beginning last May, I began a survey of—a distribution of all the claims in the 21 areas proposed by the Friends of Wilderness which contains all the areas in H.R. 3304, 3302 and Mrs. Vucanovich's bill. This was a very long task. It took me months of my personal time, for which I was not paid and I never request to be paid. I would like to make that comment.

And I have the results. With the exception of two areas, Pearl Peak and Sweet Water Mountains, it's completed. Both of those areas are very small acreages and, therefore, their impact on the final figures will be insignificant.

I have attached the results to my document. It will be the last 3 pages. And I would like to point out some very interesting figures on these. First of all, I would like to say that I obtained a yardstick for a claim density in the State, originally assuming a value of 53 million acres opened to mineral access. And there are 348,000 claims in the State of Nevada. Each one has an area of 20.6 acres. That comes out to an average of 13.3 percent for any given area.

However, I would like to revise that figure at this moment. Thanks to the comments of the head of the Mining Association, who very fortuitously informed me that 80 percent of the land is not claimable; therefore, that leaves 20 percent over 10.7 million acres that is really viable for minerals access.

You distribute those claims upon that 10.7 million acres, you have a 67 percent density of claims in any particular area.

Now, if you look at the figures that I gave you on the areas proposed, you will find that the very highest density is 4.73 percent. We have four areas with zero claims. We have nine additional areas with less than 1.33 percent. The average is 1.7 percent.

Clearly, there is no mineral content in these areas based upon claims analysis. And I would like to also point out that the Forest Service routinely uses this as a criteria to determine mineral potential in their forest planning. They do the same general procedure. They plot out a few claims and determine, with a very rough yardstick, whether there's high or low mineral potential. We are very valid in making this assumption.

And let me make one more quick comment if I can find it. OK. I would like to just point out two important features of the areas proposed for wilderness—that they have low mineral potential and great care has been taken to exclude all major claim blocks from the wilderness boundaries. Clearly, it is impossible to have a wilderness bill which does not include some valid claims within the areas. Yet, if H.R. 3304, plus Pearl Peak and Sweetwaters, were enacted tomorrow, 99.6 percent of Nevada's claims would be unaffected and not one mine would be closed.

Furthermore, all the mining claims could still be worked subject to the restrictions of the Nevada Wilderness Act.

Based upon the results of the foregoing study, minerals conflicts are minimal and should not constrain this subcommittee from consideration of all 21 areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

And I give up. [Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, don't blame you. Well, thank you. All of these statements have been excellent. Again, I like the comment in

Mr. Booth's statement on senior citizens and handicapped, again disposing of that red herring that we hear here, have frequently.

I particularly appreciated the excellent specific evaluation of Grant, Quinn, and Currant Mountains and Mount Charleston in terms of the mineral and wilderness values by Mr. Allison. And I thought that the eloquent statements of Ms. Warren and Ms. Mazza—I hope I pronounced it right—were really something that I'd like to read over again.

Mr. Ebner, I want to commend you for doing this work of evaluating these mining claims. That's extremely helpful. And I feel that if we could get that kind of specificity out of all our witnesses at hearings, it would make our job a lot easier here.

Just one other comment, particularly with respect to the eloquent descriptions of the experiences of going to these areas. Of course, we flew over most of them in helicopter. But, nevertheless, in the photographs, some of which I've had printed here, I've tried to capture that really startling and exhilarating experience of being on or looking across the tops of these ranges and seeing the Nevada desert in the distance and the other ranges going on and on.

I think that that is unique. I know of no place, and I've been to every State in the country looking at wilderness areas and I don't know any place but Nevada that you can get that kind of a fascinating experience.

Maybe in Texas and New Mexico in some of those ranges there, but it's really a unique place.

All right, that exhausts me. I give up. [Laughter.]

Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're all getting very tired. I'd just like to probably make an observation to all of the members of this panel, that I don't think any of us who have been involved in the wilderness designation or our various bills would argue with you that Nevada does have some of the most beautiful land in the country.

And most of us are really very happy about that. And I think the only place that I can think of that has more beautiful land is maybe in my colleagues from Utah, the State of Utah, he has some very beautiful land also. Probably much more beautiful than ours in many ways.

But I can't help but comment about the experiences that many of you have had over the last 20-30 years of being able to go and enjoy climbing certainly the Grant Range and the Shell Peak and Alta Toquima and so many of those areas. You were doing that without any wilderness designation, and I can't see any reason why you couldn't continue to do that.

Many of us feel that there are some parts of our State which are accessible and this is something Ms. Mazza mentioned, that they are so beautiful but they are inaccessible. And I guess what I'm saying is that a lot of us feel that because it is inaccessible and going to be there for a long time without any impact at all, that a lot of us—not just I, but many people in the State—feel that there is no need then to designate that wilderness. And that's just an observation I'm making.

Would you like to comment, Ms. Mazza? I hear you would like to say something.

Ms. MAZZA. I wish you were right. I really do. And I think it probably comes from growing up in California and seeing my family's ranch, which was a walnut and pear ranch, which was rich, deep, black soil, going under a subdivision, that I just can't agree with you.

Wilderness Act was set up so these areas would stay here forever. And I think we need that.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Let me just stop you with that.

Ms. MAZZA. Even in Nevada.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. You know that an inaccessible area, that you cannot get at, is not going to be developed in any way by a land development or anything like that. That's just not reasonable.

No one would spend that kind of money to try to get to some place that's totally inaccessible.

Ms. MAZZA. That's correct, as far as the land development.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I mean, that was your point. I was just trying to respond to that.

Ms. MAZZA. But all it takes is one person sometimes. Like, one person went up and cut down a tree recently in ancient bristlecone. Started. I'm not sure—they started to cut down an ancient bristlecone pine in South Snake. One person out there can get in a bulldozer and do a lot of damage, and they have. And I've seen it.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. But it would be very difficult to get bulldozers in some areas in our State. And I can't visualize them being there, regardless of what happens. A hundred years from now, it's going to look the same. And I think this is true certainly in Utah.

But, in any event, one other comment that I would like to make and I think many of the people who have testified today have simply made reference to mining and oil development. You know, there are other interests in our State and I represent a good many of them who are opposed to any wilderness and has nothing to do with mining. They would be very happy not to have any mining in our State.

But they do use recreation and I notice you have a youngster and there are many youngsters here, that most of us camp and use these lands constantly.

And most of us would like it to stay that way, without any further restrictions on the land. It is restricted enough as it is.

Ms. MAZZA. Well, that's exactly what we're talking about. We're talking about keeping the lands that are now roadless as roadless. There are so many roads in Nevada already. There are so many jeep trails for people who want to do that. And there are roads to high mountain places in Nevada.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Do you object to that?

Ms. MAZZA. No.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Most of us don't either. We think that that's fine.

Ms. MAZZA. And all we're doing is talking about what you're talking about—keeping the way it is.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. But it isn't going to stay the way it is if you can't get at it at all. And, you know, once you get into wilderness designation, people are not going to be able to use that land for

recreation unless they go in there and hike and come out that way. You cannot go in with the jeep. You can't go in with the pickup. And that's the way most of the people enjoy our land in our State.

Ms. MAZZA. But that's the way it is now, and they're not arguing about it now.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. That's exactly my point. It is that way. And there are many, many people who would prefer that it stayed that way.

I realize time is late and I am not going to occupy any further time. I appreciate personally all of you coming back here because I think it's important that you do have an opportunity to be heard and looking at some of the people on the panel; I did see them any time that we turned up on any mountain peak, they were there. So I've had a chance to talk to them and hear from them. And I think it's very nice they were able to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. I have no questions or comments.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Hansen.

Mr. HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. REID. Other than to say that I think Utah has some real ugly stuff. [Laughter.]

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that I get Mr. Reid's 5 minutes for rebuttal. [Laughter.]

Let me just say, if I may, that Mr. Reid went to Utah State University, where he got his BS degree. [Laughter.]

And he just used most of it right now. [Laughter.]

Mr. REID. You promised me you would never acknowledge that. [Laughter.]

Mr. HANSEN. Let me just say that I think some of our members on the panel, and I appreciate the excellent testimony they've all given, think that there's more of a division here than there really is. I can't really honestly believe that this committee, under the able leadership of the gentleman from Ohio, has really tried to come up with what we feel is moderation or something that makes some sense in wilderness. I personally appreciate what we passed last year in the Utah bill. Still, when you come down to it, this kind of moderation is kind of like saying "beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's what you expect."

Mr. Seiberling talked about his great grandfather, or great-great grandfather coming into Ohio, cutting out the stumps and putting the corn between them. And, very candidly, the gentleman would have died if he hadn't of done that. And if he'd left it alone for a couple of years, the forest would have probably come right back and you would never have known the farm was there.

We always talk about the fragile West, but having come from agriculture and mining stock myself and having spent as much time as anybody I know in the backwoods, and also being an avid backpacker and fly fishermen, I can tell you that a lot of those areas reclaim faster than many people think they will.

Be that as it may, I personally feel that it's a sin that the 1964 wilderness bill didn't include parts of Ohio, that it didn't get into some of those areas. Every time I drive through Ohio, I'm just taken with the beauty of the rolling hills and the hard woods that

we don't have in the West. Neither your State or my State has those in the West.

And it's just too bad we can't take a chunk of that and let those people enjoy that also, because, coming from southern Utah, where I've spent all my life with red monoliths staring me in the face, I didn't realize their unusual beauty until Mr. Seiberling came out and claimed that the area was absolutely gorgeous.

So it comes down to the idea the 1964 wilderness—see, I'm getting set up.

Mr. SEIBERLING. If we could work a trade.

Mr. HANSEN. I do, too, believe me. I have often thought what we should do is you take part of southern Utah and I'll take part of Ohio; especially if we have your tax base. We'd really be happy.

But, be that as it may, the only thing we must do is come to a consensus. The Arizona Wilderness bill that many of us worked on, the strip bill, was a good piece of legislation because we worked together on it and it came out very well. I think it was an excellent piece of legislation.

Now here, many of you compliment Mr. Chairman and Mr. Reid, I think what the gentlewoman from Nevada is trying to do is come up with a consensus, because she is a representative of all the people of Nevada, and she's taking care of all of their interests. So I would hope that you would realize the good work that they're all doing in trying to come to a consensus on this particular issue that we have staring us in the face.

The one gentleman brought up the point that he spent a lot of his own time with his own money to survey the area. We saw the same thing in a lot of areas. You've heard of the Overthrust Belt. The Overthrust Belt in Utah is where they're finding more oil than they've ever found. Years ago, in 1972, when I was in the State legislature, the geologists and others came before us and made the statement that there was nothing up there. There was no reason to mine there. And with great affinity. All these guys with their doctor's degrees.

The same has happened—if Don Young was here, he would tell you the same thing about the Alaskan Wilderness bill on strategic metals. It's hard to see under these things, so we have to be a wee bit careful when we get into this, and make these statements. I always get a little up tight, when I hear people say you're right or your're wrong. I think maybe we ought to preface what we say with in my opinion, you're right or you're wrong, because who knows, a lot of those things are yet to be found. Like the example of the Overthrust Belt in the Utah/Wyoming area.

I do appreciate the panel and compliment you for coming and stating your viewpoint. That's the great American way, and you should all be complimented. I am sure if they can come to a consensus, you will have a Nevada bill. But when we start polarizing ourselves into positions which are unmovable, it seems like nothing happens.

Thanks for allowing me to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you. I think this has been a very stimulating panel. I have to agree with Ms. Mazza, that unless we have legislation putting a particular area of the public lands off limits to roads and mining and logging, and so forth, we don't



really know it's going to stay that way. In fact, we don't really know anyway, because a future Congress can decide that we need to open it for something else. But it is the best insurance we can get.

So the real question is, where to draw the lines, and that's what this committee's job is.

We appreciate the help that you've given us in moving that job a little farther along.

Thanks again, and let's proceed to panel 6.

Mr. Joe Danni, government affairs director, Homestake Mining Co., Denver, CO; Mr. Dave Fulstone, president of the Nevada Farm Bureau; Mr. Courtland Lee, Minerals Exploration Coalition of Landover, MD; Mr. Richard Hatch, Mt. Moriah Stone, Inc.; Mr. Allan Haws, Comstock Chapter, Gold Prospectors Association of America.

OK, if Mr. Danni's there, we'll commence.

[Prepared statements of Joseph Danni, Dave Fulstone, L. Courtland Lee, and Richard Hatch may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF JOSEPH L. DANNI, REGIONAL MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS—HOMESTAKE MINING CO.; DAVID FULSTONE, PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU; L. COURTLAND LEE, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, MINERALS EXPLORATION COALITION; RICHARD HATCH, MT. MORIAH STONE, INC.; AND ALAN HAWS, PRESIDENT, COMSTOCK CHAPTER, GOLD PROSPECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Mr. DANNI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members that are left of the subcommittee.

My name is Joe Danni. I am employee of Homestake Mining Co. And we've been over a lot of this already, so I will purposely keep my remarks very brief.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer whatever comments we have regarding the wilderness lands in Nevada. As has become very apparent today, it is an issue filled with strong emotions and legitimate concerns over future consequences, legitimate concerns, I might add, on all sides.

I will not reiterate or expand on the philosophical arguments or the technical testimony offered earlier. Rather what I would like to very briefly discuss is the singular importance of Nevada to the minerals exploration industry.

First, very quickly, in order that you might understand our perspective better, a very short description of Homestake Mining Co. Homestake is North America's largest gold-producing and exploration company with other interests and other energy resources in base metals. Don't let that mislead you. We are a small company in size. Homestake has, however, been a major gold producer for over 108 years. The company was founded in 1887 to find the Homestake in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and I might add the site there has continuously produced gold up to the present time. However, in recent years, our emphasis in minerals exploration and our efforts have shifted and become concentrated on Nevada. I can assure you, Homestake is not alone in that regard.

Five of the six major gold discoveries of the past decade and significant identified, but has become apparent today, unexplored mineralized areas account for Nevada's attraction. Not only the mining industry, not only Homestake, but also the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service in their draft EIS and draft forest plans identified most of the areas recommended for wilderness in H.R. 3304 and H.R. 3302, as having moderate to high mineral potential. And we can debate how those were arrived upon, but all of those groups agreed, to some degree, that they have moderate to high mineral potential.

Because of this mineral potential has expended approximately 60 percent of its U.S. exploration budget in Nevada over the past 5 years. If you consider only new exploration, and that is exploration activity not near or adjacent to existing properties, then that percentage is even higher. We consider Nevada the most important State. I can not overemphasize how important Nevada is to the domestic minerals industry. The withdrawal of large, potentially mineralized areas in a State with proven mineral potential could have several immediate and long-term implications for Homestake specifically and the mining industry in general.

What I would like to do, respectfully, is to urge the committee to consider two parallel courses of action. One has been mentioned before, and that is, hold hearings or a hearing in Nevada. The wilderness issue particularly impacts northern Nevada. Therefore, a field hearing in a northern Nevada community appears logical. Two, give careful attention to the impacts of both bills on minerals exploration. Continue to consult minerals experts. Pay careful attention to data already available. The Minerals Coalition and Mr. Lee will introduce some specific data here in a second. Please pay careful attention to it. Please take it into consideration and then consider whether perhaps multiple use may be the best use for many of the areas suggested for wilderness. Effective multiple use management does have the capability of adequately safeguarding the environment, while in most cases allowing for mineral development.

I would hope that as this progresses, that I will have the opportunity to discuss, as time goes on, specific areas. But for the time being, I would suggest to you, that as the Director of the Bureau of Mines suggested this morning, the cumulative effects of the continued direct and indirect removal of lands from mineral exploration, the cumulative effects, are an immediate threat to the minerals industry. Rural Nevada may feel those ill effects first, but that they will eventually negatively impact all of Nevada and, by implication, the rest of the Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right. Thank you. Let me just say that I don't think we're going to hold a hearing in Nevada. We already spent 5 days in Nevada. Every day we listened to various local groups, and as far as hearings are concerned, unless something comes up that I don't foresee, this is it. So I hope that we will have a pretty thorough record here.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman, would you yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. REID. Could you explain what you would want to accomplish in Nevada? We've talked today about the areas that are in conflict. What would you hope to accomplish with hearings in Nevada?

Mr. DANNI. In general terms, and this could go on forever, but there were some unknowns when all of you toured Nevada, and that is, two bills were yet to be introduced, and a lot of people in Nevada weren't aware of what they were dealing with, what areas would impact them, or would not impact them. And the thing has progressed a great deal since that time. I think that there is a larger audience in Nevada than there was a day ago, a week ago, a month ago, that is now interested in the debate.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, we could go on having hearings ad infinitum.

Mr. DANNI. I recognize that, sir.

Mr. SEIBERLING. But I remember so many years ago when some lawyers kept wanting to reargue and file new briefs in a case before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, and Judge Learned Hand finally said, "Gentlemen, some concession must be made to the shortness of human life." [Laughter.]

We not only have to worry about the shortness of human life but the shortness of a congressional term, which is 2 years, and we have to get a lot of work done. So I don't see any point in holding hearings just for the sake of giving more people an opportunity to tell us the same things that we've already heard. So unless there were a specific case made that we should hold a particular hearing in Nevada on a particular subject, I'd be inclined to say that we don't plan to do any more hearings in Nevada.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I would just like to comment that, you know, the Senate, obviously, will be looking at these two bills. I don't know what their schedule is—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Good point.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH [continuing]. But perhaps at that time, the Senate would be willing to hold hearings there, and I think there is some consideration.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes; they may well want to.

Mr. DANNI. Yes; I realize there is a point of diminishing returns on hearings, and where that is, I suppose, is in everyone's own estimation.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, the House is way ahead of the Senate, which is often the case, usually the case, I might say.

All right. Mr. Fulstone.

Mr. FULSTONE. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

I'm Dave Fulstone. I am a fourth-generation Nevadan. My family started farming and ranching in Nevada in 1958 and have been trying to carve out a living since then.

I am the president of the Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada's largest organization of farmers and rancher. Nearly all Forest Service and BLM permittees in Nevada are members of the Farm Bureau. All of our members have a great interest in the wilderness concept, both as families who live and work on land, as well as fee-paying users of the public lands who produce food in the form of beef, lamb, wool, and other livestock products.

Agriculture is a \$250 million industry in Nevada and over 50 percent of that is in the range livestock business. Both the social and economic base of most of our rural communities is agriculture. The very existence of many of these small communities rely almost totally on the livestock industry.

We are opposed to any new wilderness designation in Nevada; however, we do realize that there will be some additional lands designated. After reviewing the three bills introduced, we believe that the only one acceptable is the bill introduced by Representative Vucanovich. All proposed wilderness areas in Nevada are within Representative Vucanovich's district.

In my estimation, the Vucanovich bill is supported by the majority of Nevadans. It is supported by Farm Bureau, cattlemen, wool growers, the State organization of county commissioners, many local chambers of commerce, as well as the Mining Association and many other users groups.

I was really pleased when I first heard that Chairman Seiberling would conduct a congressional tour of the proposed areas within Nevada and allow for participation and input by all concerned. However, when the tour became a reality, I was greatly disappointed. We received a schedule of the tour, secondhand, less than 2 days prior to the tour. No one representing agriculture was allowed to participate in the tour, and it appeared to be heavily loaded with representatives of prowilderness groups. Even the director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture was excluded. Many of us in Nevada believe that the tour was just a very expensive joyride and that Congressman Seiberling fully intended to introduce a maximum bill with or without the tour. We also question whether a 4-day helicopter tour can give anyone a realistic impression of the effects this type of legislation can impose on the citizens of Nevada. It appears to me that the Seiberling bill is just a ploy to make the Reid bill look like a compromise.

Mr. Chairman, repeated discussions with leading advocates of wilderness designation in Nevada have convinced me that these people honestly intend that grazing of livestock continue within the wilderness area, as provided by law. It is also apparent that wilderness advocates honestly believe such designation will not impair grazing in wilderness. However, we contend that economically feasible grazing can continue in these areas only if explicit policies governing grazing management are provided.

The Vucanovich bill addresses the concerns of all Nevadans. While allowing some of Nevada's most pristine areas the protection of wilderness designation, it also affords good protection for the people directly and indirectly affected by such legislation. Specifically, the Vucanovich bill contains language providing adequate protection for grazing allotments, including use of motorized equipment. The Vucanovich bill also addresses State water authority, air quality, the Clean Air Act, mineral resources, and watershed protection much more adequately than do either the Seiberling bill or the Reid bill. Another very important aspect of the Vucanovich bill is the predator control authority.

While we have serious reservations about the limited use designations of public lands, the Nevada farm bill supports passage of H.R. 1685, the Vucanovich bill, with the recommendation that lan-

guage be added to specifically allow control of noxious weeds, fire control, trail maintenance, and use of other proven resource management tools, which are essential to maintain the quality of life outside the wilderness area. We emphasize this point, Mr. Chairman, because so much of Nevada's water supply, for example, originates on public land and much of it within the proposed wilderness area.

We in Nevada feel that we are losing ground every day. Nevada is already 87-percent public land and every year more and more is lost to single use designation. Specifically, I mean supersonic bombing ranges, nuclear testing, high and low level nuclear waste disposal areas, a munitions storage depot, and expansion of Navy and Air Force flight training areas. Every time we turn around, more land is being withdrawn from multiple-use designation.

There is now more than 90 million acres of wilderness area in the United States. I think it is going a little far to force a bunch more on the citizens of Nevada.

In conclusion, Farm Bureau is interested in wilderness legislation, because many of our members use public lands for livestock grazing. Like other citizens, our members also benefit from recreation, timber, firewood cutting, and minerals provided by our public lands. We believe that the multiple-use concept has proved to be a sound management principle. We have seen instances where the "no management" concept which accompanies wilderness designation has actually resulted in degradation of our public lands and our resources.

For those reasons, Farm Bureau opposes designation of our public lands. At the same time, we realize that wilderness legislation will probably be enacted by Congress. In that case, Farm Bureau supports the Vucanovich bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thanks. You think that our going there for 5 days was a joyride and Mr. Danni thinks we ought to go out there again. So maybe you two ought to get together. Mr. Lee.

Mr. LEE. Good afternoon. My name is Courtland Lee, and I represent the Minerals Exploration Coalition, which is a group of companies and individuals engaged in nonfuel mineral exploration.

With the help of the member companies and individuals, we have assembled a book here which includes a lot of data, site-specific information, showing both claims on mostly the four service areas where we had data. I think it is important to mention, only 5 of the 18 areas under consideration have been surveyed for mineral potential by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines, as was mandated under the 1965 act.

MEC believes that areas with mineral potential should not be designated wilderness, and that until those studies are done, areas should not be included in the Wilderness Act. As you know, the 20-period for exploration in wilderness areas has expired, and since December 31, 1983, wilderness—designated wilderness is off limits to mineral exploration.

Our conviction is that wilderness values, which we agree are important to our society, can be adequately protected under land use planning procedures now in process by professional land managers.

These procedures offer a rational mechanism for weighing wilderness values against other values in our society.

We'd like to comment on the two bills, H.R. 1686 and H.R. 3302. The third bill before the House, the chairman's bill, designates an additional nine areas as wilderness, none of which were recommended by the Forest Service or included in the other bills. Five of these areas are designated as having high mineral potential, and we would oppose inclusion of these areas. We have a chart in this book—with the chairman's permission, we would like to have it submitted for the record, if you take out a lot of the typed pages, there is not as much materials there may appear here.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, we can't put the whole book in the record.

Mr. LEE. Could we have the maps showing these specific mineral claims?

Mr. SEIBERLING. We ordinarily don't print maps in the records—

Mr. LEE. Well, we would like to have it put in the record, because we've gone to considerable effort to show on these maps where the specific claims are in the individual units.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, the printing of maps in the hearing record is very expensive.

Mr. LEE. They did print them in the Colorado hearing record, and it worked out fairly well.

Mr. SEIBERLING. We'll take it under advisement.

Mr. LEE. OK. We'd like to draw your attention to several specific areas—the Mt. Charleston Area. The central part of the area is a major concern because of the likelihood of lead, zinc, and silver. The Arc Dome area has significant potential for precious base and strategic metals. Table Mountain has a high mineral potential. South Snake, Wheeler Peak, which is the Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge area, has potential for tungsten, beryllium, lead, silver, zinc, fluorine, gold, and copper.

Mount Moriah, both Forest Service and MEC rate this area as having moderate potential. The Jarbage editions of both House bills include this in their area set aside for wilderness, 23,000 acres are in H.R. 1686 and 54,000 acres are in 3302. Though all the reviewers have either rated the areas having high or very high mineral potential, we think that this area needs some more work.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the committee to hold additional hearings. We just heard you on that issue. We feel that representing the mineral specter, we have to appeal to an understanding and a knowledge of the Nation's needs. Not everywhere in a nation do you find these particular commodities. And we have a responsibility to supply a growing nation with materials that are cost-effective with the Third World. Otherwise, we'll be importing everything.

In fact, when you do put an area into wilderness that might have had a mine, those materials will have to be imported. It has national implications and we think that this could—a little more time, we could perhaps educate the public on this particular aspect of the legislation.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you.

Mr. Hatch.

Mr. HATCH. My name is Richard Hatch. I live and work under one of the proposed wilderness areas, Mount Moriah. Three Congressmen have introduced wilderness bills in the House of Representatives which, if passed, would make the wilderness open to backpacker but used by very few of the Nation's population and off-limits to the average four-wheel drive Western outdoorsman.

The four-wheel drive vehicle is as important a part of his daily life as his pants. This wilderness study makes no mention of the 40-member team, 4-year Geological Field Study in our quarry area. See Miller and Ganz, and others. Stanford University Geological Department.

The wilderness report showed no quarries in our 2,000-acre quarry area. No roads, no quarry. It just did not exist according to their study. Yet, this Mount Moriah, 600-million-year-old quartzite deposit, is the largest, highest quality natural dimension stone deposit in the entire Nation. This mica quartzite stone, natural dimensional stone, runs through and over the top of the mountain, outcropping in many areas. It could not be or have been missed by any survey team.

Yet, the 2,000-page wilderness report simply said:

"Rock types include Paleozoic sediments and Tertiary intrusives." And that's all. No metamorphic quartzite. Existing geological maps were not included in this study, obviously an intentional oversight.

On minerals, the report said only gold, garnet, building stone have been mined in the past.

I would like the Congressmen to know that we are not a has-been quarry. This quarry was producing stone, the most heavenly stone on Earth, for a \$9 million home when Congressmen Seiberling and Reid flew over it. It has been producing stone every year since 1954.

At this time, Mount Moriah quarry has also produced stone for hundreds of important Silicon Valley buildings, public, industrial, commercial, and residential buildings for the most beautiful post office in America.

During the last days of June 1985, when Chairman John Seiberling of Ohio and Representative Harry Reid of Nevada flew over the Mount Moriah quarries located in their proposed wilderness area, the Honorable Congressmen failed to see our six men working at the 9,000-foot level. They are local men living in this depressed public domain area, who drive 25 to 75 miles in this depressed area to work, showing up for work just as it is starting to get light in the East.

We plan to hire about 30 more next spring. And couldn't they see our 40 miles of road? Even in absent air photos. More than 30 open quarry places. Loading areas extending from the 6,000-foot to the 9,000-foot levels of the mountain.

They also somehow missed seeing our dozer working, compressors, drills, loaders, load graders, quarry trucks, highway trucks, et cetera, all of which can be seen from 30,000 feet above or 30 miles across Snake Valley.

Stone quarries are no stranger to Chairman John Seiberling. His home State of Ohio has relatively little public domain or wilder-

ness area. It ranks next to the top three in the employment of men working in many quarries of their stone industry.

The same U.S. Department of Commerce chart showed no recordable employment in the mining State of Nevada for building stone. Again, in the mining State of Nevada, the State which is about 85-percent public domain, the stone claim has never been patented to private ownership.

Like many other Western outdoorsmen, I have spent much of my time in life in these remote desert areas. These quarries are my sole livelihood. I have also driven a pickup truck about 60,000 or 80,000 miles a year while exploring, living, and working in these areas. I'm not a stranger here. We travel light, but to exclude motor vehicles from our lives, work, and activities would be comparable to barring the automobile from the city of Los Angeles. These bills prohibiting motor vehicles would drive an already depressed area deeper into the state of poverty.

We are a mobile traveling people not used to mountain climbing for our transportation needs. Not about to go back until they invent the wheel again while the rest of the Nation progresses. Mount Moriah needs more roads in order for the public to fully enjoy this great desert mountain, not no roads.

May I continue, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes, if you can—

Mr. HATCH. I have just a little more.

I have found the so-called environmentalists, the Sierra Clubs, Birdwatchers, et cetera, to be selfish, unreliable advisers. Not long ago, they repeatedly warned us that doomsday was near unless we limited our use of natural resources, including gas. The Arabs and large oil producing outfits were soon very happy to comply and run up their prices of gas and red flags at their stations while we paid and paid and scrambled for gas at any price.

Then some dirty oil explorers went out and discovered more oil than we had ever had before and broke the charm. No wonder the Sierra Club hates these oil companies. We have all heard the hypnotic, monotone voices of these ecology experts on the air and have read their news releases. I remember hearing David Brower of the Sierra Club tell Congress and the Nation that if the Boulder Dam were allowed to be built to generate electricity we did not need, it would destroy this beautiful boulder site and the lake it would create would fill up and become a useless, polluted eyesore, never to be paid for.

I remember when these groups did all in their power to prevent the building of the Golden Gate Bridge. They said it would ravage and plunder the beautiful entrance to the city of San Francisco by the bay.

Are these your expert representatives, Chairmen Reid and Seiberling?

However, these ecology radicals and Sierra Clubs have been so successful in stopping development, including mining in the West, that this great Nation would now have to ask permission of Russia to obtain minerals needed in order to fight a simple war.

Mount Moriah and the other areas that some would like to call wilderness are doing very well without the help offered. After 100 years they are still beautiful and practically untouched. This is no



accident. I live and worked in these hills and mountains. They are our backyards, our living rooms. We do not strip and destroy our own backyards and living rooms, as some visitors would like to do under the privacy of wilderness protection.

In conclusion, may I say we were there first. We love these Western mountains enough to live and work in them. There are no roads unless we built them; no electricity unless we generated it; no phone; no shopping centers. We drive 250 miles for our supplies.

No utilities of any kind unless we somehow provide them. No jobs unless we make them—and we did make them.

I have searched the 11 States for 50 years and I come back to this Mount Moriah Mountain because it contains the most, the best stone to be found anywhere.

And we and the other settlers have been there a long time, and we plan to stay, supplying beautiful stone for the fastest growing States in America.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you.

Mr. HAWS.

Mr. HAWS. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I just have a brief oral statement. It's been a long day already. I have nothing written.

My name is Alan Haws. I am president of the Comstock Chapter, Gold Prospectors Association of America. I represent 875 members in northern Nevada, 1,321 members in southern Nevada. Gold Prospectors Association of America is founded on the belief of recreational prospecting and protecting our rights under the 1872 mining laws.

We recognize Nevada is primarily a Federal reserve; however, may I remind you that Nevada is still a sovereign State and we resent the intervention of the proposed wilderness legislation contained in H.R. 3304. We endorse only the proposed legislation introduced by Congresswoman Vucanovich. This is a rational approach to a complex problem and we feel it adequately addresses the issue.

We of the Comstock Chapter believe that legislation should not be the province of highly organized, well-financed minority groups. That does not represent the majority of people in Nevada.

The 2,196 members of the Gold Prospectors Association within Nevada endorse the Vucanovich proposal. I trust that Congresswoman Vucanovich's views will be favorably considered in these hearings.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Congresswoman Vucanovich, who is the only Congressman who contacted our group for our opinions.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you. Does that complete the testimony of this panel? I guess it does.

Well, I'm not going to comment any further, Mr. Fulstone, on your characterization of our trip. Suffice it to say that everyone on it, including Senator Hecht, seemed to get a lot out of it, even though he turned around and said it was a waste of money afterward.

Of course, we rode on a Nevada National Guard helicopter. The time was charged to their training time, which, therefore, the cost, the money would have been expended anyway. And so it really

came down to our plane fare and hotel bills while we were there. And I thought it was a very worthwhile thing to do.

And I assume it's better to spend 5 days going around and looking at these places than not to go at all, wouldn't you say?

Mr. FULSTONE. Yes, Mr. Chairman, but I was especially upset that we saw even wilderness proponents from Washington, DC, and other States on that tour. And people that represent agriculture in our State, people that represent mining in our State, were not invited, like Willie Molini, who is a Department of Wildlife, and Roland Westerguard from the Water Resources. And I think it would have been of a lot more benefit had we been able to have some input from our industry and the mining industry and people of that sort included on that trip.

I talked to Andy Wiessner a couple of weeks before. He promised me that he would let me know when the tour was. We never heard anything. We never heard anything. And so, finally, I made some calls to some other people. Finally, through Bob Warren and the Mining Association, we did find out that we'd better get in the truck and start heading east so we could meet up with you, sir.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, of course, the helicopter could only carry so many people and there was quite a crowd on it to begin with, by the time we took the subcommittee staff, the—

Mr. FULSTONE. There certainly was. There was a lot of press. And a lot of people from out of State.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Members of Congress. There were no press on the helicopter. We did have people from the Nevada Fish and Game and some of the other Nevada State organizations. But we couldn't take everybody. We did not have a bunch of environmentalists on the trip, unless you consider the members and the staff to be.

So we did the best we could. And as far as I know, we tried to generate as much publicity as we could about the places we were going to stop, so that people could come and give us their thoughts. And we had plenty of people there. If the Farm Bureau was not represented, I'm sure it was not because we didn't try to publicize it. And you did talk to Andy. And I would imagine he tried to get across when we were going to—

Mr. FULSTONE. He didn't even return a call to us, much less even—

Mr. SEIBERLING [continuing]. These very places. But, you're here now and we are hearing you. So we did try to hear all points of view and I think we did succeed in doing so.

Now, Mr.—let's see. Who was it that handed us the book? Was that Mr. Lee?

Mr. Lee, I just took a quick look through that book and I noticed and compared it with the work that was done by Mr. Ebner in which he said he personally went over all of the areas in my bill and counted up the number of claims and the number of acres involved.

Your book shows that there are 166 claims at Arc Dome, and his shows 88. You show 300 at Currant Mountain, he shows zero. You show 300 in the Grant Range, he shows 32.

On the other hand, you show 35 in the Jarbidge Additions and he shows 94. You show a 1,000 in Quinn Canyon, he shows 43. And

you show 235 at South Snake Range or Wheeler Peak and he shows 275.

About all I can say is he took the actual boundaries that we had worked out in the bill and I take it, your book talks about the area generally rather than the specific boundary?

Mr. LEE. We started this work with the Forest Service roadless study.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. LEE. And that may be the difference. The claims as you know, are just a land position to begin to explore.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Right.

Mr. LEE. And they aren't a direct indication of the mineral potential.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I just wanted to indicate I think the discrepancies result from the fact that he was looking at the precise areas within our boundaries and you were looking at the areas in general. And so we'll have to take that into account in making use of it.

But, nevertheless, I very much appreciate your submitting it and that sort of things is very helpful to us. Oh, my time has expired.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DANNI. I'd like to ask you how many people are employed by the Homestake Mining Company in Nevada? Approximately.

Mr. DANNI. In Nevada, all we have is an exploration staff. We are part owner of an operating mine.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. How many people are in it?

Mr. DANNI. So, with that caveat, we're talking 50.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. OK, thank you.

I was going to just have more or less of a colloquy with the chairman as far as Mr. Hatch's concerns are about the quarry. I understand that your quarry is not right in the area that is being considered. Is that correct?

Mr. HATCH. It is right in the area and the indications that you normally put on to show a mine were lacking on the maps, or lacking in the context of this—

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. So they're not even shown. Is that correct?

Mr. HATCH. That's right.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. And when I said I was going to talk to the chairman, I think that the chairman would certainly be willing to try to accommodate your quarry if that's possible. At least, we could talk about that, if Mt. Moriah is one of them that's considered.

Mr. HATCH. Well, the concern I have at the moment is that we're a quarry operation. We drill and blast and we have cracked drills and this and that, and dozers, and all those other dirty words. How big a buffer zone do I get? Ten miles?

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, would the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Be happy to yield, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. First of all, we don't consider them dirty words. Second, we certainly don't intend to include an operating quarry in the wilderness area. So if it was included, it was inadvertent. And, third, you don't get any buffer zone. We don't—there is no legal requirement for buffer zones around wilderness areas. We do not

intend to place any buffer zones around wilderness areas. And if there's a lot of noise and that sort of thing, I think we try to draw the boundaries of the wilderness area so that they'd be sufficiently remote from your quarry that it wouldn't be affected.

If there are claims, and I'm not clear whether there are, that you have that are in the wilderness area, you are entitled to your property rights and to access to them. And so I don't think that you need to feel that we are about to try to do you in.

Mr. HATCH. I am offended.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I don't know why you should be offended, sir. We are not trying to do anything to impair your business.

Mr. HATCH. If I excluded your home and tried to make a wilderness area out of it without telling you or informing you, you would be offended.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I have just informed you that there was no intention of including your quarry in the wilderness area, and we will not do so.

Mr. HATCH. And I am saying that with the published works that you have it is going to be anything but an intentional oversight.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I don't need to debate that issue. We will not include your quarry in a wilderness area.

Mr. HATCH. I appreciate that.

Mr. SEIBERLING. All right, thank you.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I would like to just continue making a couple of comments and ask Mr. Fulstone—you did refer to the particular thing about the language as far as Nevada's water supply, and would you like to just elaborate a little bit? Where does our water supply come from in Nevada?

Obviously, it comes from some very important areas that might be designated as wilderness and from public lands.

Mr. FULSTONE. Yes. Living in the Great Basin, all of our water comes from our own mountain ranges, and as I said, a great deal of this wilderness area is our watershed, and of course one of the things that we are seriously concerned about are things like fire control and things of that sort, reserve water right, as was talked about a little bit earlier, and things of that sort that definitely have an effect on adjoining either public or private land and the water supply for irrigation and municipal use.

One of my other concerns on that, speaking with water, was also on noxious weed control. We have a problem in Elko County with a weed called leafy spurs. It was introduced into this country in the early 1900's for—supposedly it was good sheep feed, and it has turned out to be a very, very prolific and very, very noxious weed. It is hard to kill, almost impossible to kill.

We just started getting some out of Idaho. It has been a problem in Idaho. And you know, I think that is a concern that we ought to have in these designated wilderness areas. It could spread very rapidly through them.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, that is something we can talk about when we are marking up this bill. I think that is a very important point.

Mr. FULSTONE. I appreciate that.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, would the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Yes, I would be happy to.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I want to agree with you. If this is a particular problem that is unique to this area and there is a need to prevent this exotic plant from further incursions and if there is a way of doing it without doing a lot of damage to other things, I think we would want to consider that.

Let me say that fire, of course, fire prevention and controls are authorized in wilderness areas.

Mr. FULSTONE. I understand now it is. Wasn't there a problem in Idaho a few years ago, but—

Mr. SEIBERLING. It may have been.

Mr. FULSTON [continuing]. Where they would just let them burn.

Mr. SEIBERLING. I am not aware of it.

On the other thing, if I may add, is that one of the purposes of putting areas in wilderness is watershed protection, and in fact there are some places where we were asked to put areas in wilderness for that very purpose. If you don't do that and someone comes along and puts a big open pit mine in there, bam, there goes your water supply, and we had testimony today that that is happening to a rancher in Nevada.

So there is some merit to it from the watershed standpoint.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Do you have some further questions?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I would like to just make one more comment and thank Mr. Haws for coming to add his comments about the recreational gold prospectors. It is a very important industry, and again we are talking about a recreational use in very many instances with the gold prospectors, and I think that it is important to reemphasize that we are not just concerned about mining in wilderness but we are concerned about a lot of other issues and certainly about Mr. Hatch and so many of the other things that are important to the people in our State, and I would like to thank all of you for coming. We appreciate the support, and I particularly appreciate the support for my bill.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

Mr. Reid.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hatch, you don't live in Nevada; you live in Utah?

Mr. HATCH. I live most of my time in Nevada.

Mr. REID. You have your mailing address in Garrison, UT, or Provo, UT?

Mr. HATCH. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. Where do you live in Nevada?

Mr. HATCH. That is our mailing address.

Mr. REID. Where do you live in Nevada?

Mr. HATCH. I live on Mount Moriah.

Mr. REID. OK, and you understand Mount Moriah is an area that all the Nevada delegation put in their bills; it wasn't just me? You understand that?

Mr. HATCH. Yes, I was more or less centering my focus on Moriah because that is my interest.

Mr. REID. Well, I understand that, but while I am willing to take all the blame for things I do, you understand that it wasn't just

John Seiberling and I that flew over your quarry; it was the whole group of people?

Mr. HATCH. Yes.

Mr. REID. You just seemed to be kind of personal in this thing, and I didn't understand why. You know, you are criticizing. I don't know why you were playing to me. Why didn't you include Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Congresswoman Vucanovich in this criticism?

Mr. HATCH. I only had about 3 days to prepare this. I didn't know when you flew over it until the day you flew over it. I didn't know when the hearing was up until about 4 days ago.

Mr. REID. OK.

Mr. HATCH. I put together what I had.

Mr. REID. Well, I mean I still don't think that is any reason to be so critical of me.

I would like, Mr. Chairman, to direct my remarks to Mr. Fulstone.

Whoever got the notice of the itinerary 2 days before the trip was 2 days ahead of me. I didn't get it until the day we left. So I wish I had gotten it 2 days ahead of time.

I appreciate your testimony, as I did one of the others earlier today. I commented on their testimony being specific and critical, and I appreciate that. I don't necessarily agree with everything you said, but at least you pointed out this weed that the sheep should eat but don't eat. That is something we need to learn here.

You have been specific. We may not agree with your criticism of how the trip was conducted, but at least you came here with something specific, and again I appreciate that. I know it has been inconvenient for you to be here, but I think if we had all witnesses testifying like you, either for or against the bill, and saying, I am against it because of this, we would whip through this and we would have something at the time of the markup to really sink our teeth into.

So I wish that my bill was in the No. 1 spot with you. It isn't, but I still have to say that I appreciate very much your testimony again because it is very specific and to the point.

The one additional thing I would point out is that for most of the trip we did have a geologist with us, somebody that worked for—I think for Copper Range Exploration. His name was Brad Mills, and he was very helpful to us.

So we did have a geologist on the flight with us most of the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FULSTONE. Thank you, Congressman, I appreciate that. I guess we can just disagree and try and be constructive.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, if there are no further questions for this panel, thanks again, gentlemen, and we will take to our breasts what you have given to us.

Our last panel consists of Mr. Dave and Michael Hampton, Carson City, NV; Ms. Becky Parr of Las Vegas; Mr. Michael Scott, The Wilderness Society, director of Forest Wilderness Programs.

He who endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. [Laughter.]

OK, Mr. Hampton. I don't know which Mr. Hampton, but West Hampton or East Hampton. [Laughter.]

[Prepared statements of Dave Hampton, Michael Hampton, Becky Parr, and Michael D. Scott may be found in the appendix.]

**PANEL CONSISTING OF DAVE HAMPTON, CARSON CITY, NV; MICHAEL HAMPTON, CARSON CITY, NV; BECKY PARR, LAS VEGAS, NV; AND MICHAEL SCOTT, DIRECTOR, FOREST WILDERNESS PROGRAMS, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Congressman Seiberling and members of the House Interior Public Lands Subcommittee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present information—

Mr. SEIBERLING. Are you Dave or Michael?

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. I am sorry, I am coming to that part. Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to present information and a point of view today.

I am Dave Hampton, from Carson City, NV. I teach Nevada history and geography.

I am representing one of the Nation's fastest growing States, with a tremendous amount of roadless area and almost no designated wilderness areas.

I want to thank Congressman Harry Reid for recognizing 10 areas with superb wilderness values; however, I do not feel 10 areas alone will do justice to Nevada's need to protect more of its national forest land.

I seek your endorsement of Congressman John Seiberling's bill, including 19 wilderness areas for Nevada.

Specifically, I wish to speak to Alta Toquima, or Mount Jefferson as I prefer to call it. It is the highest point in central Nevada, at nearly 12,000 feet of elevation. This magnificent mountain has the U.S. Forest Service recommendation for wilderness designation because it lacks substantial conflict and has excellent wilderness values. I fear it may well be lost to the roadbuilders, simply because wilderness in Nevada has come down to a political game of numbers.

What does Mount Jefferson have to offer?

Well, I would first point out that this mountain has an unusually large amount of table land at very high elevations. Large glacial cirques dominate the high ridgelines. Its scenic vistas are powerful forces for the human spirit.

A considerable amount of research is underway in archaeological and paleoenvironmental studies. At present Nevada's prime ancient American hunting sites, or one of them, is on top of this mountain.

A research, natural area will not protect it from mineral entry. The mineral work—if I may add—the mineral withdrawal was not done by the Forest Service.

A timber pine community is being studied for its responses to environmental conditions through time. We must protect this priceless laboratory.

You will rightfully ask: Well, what about the conflicts here?

Miners will argue for mineral values, and I will tell you they haven't much a case with Mount Jefferson. Historically, this has been a gold and silver mining area. These, incidentally, are not

strategic metals. The only mining districts on Mount Jefferson are Moore's Creek and Jefferson Canyon districts.

In the last 100 years, Moore's Creek has had no recorded production and Jefferson Canyon averaged \$782 per year. That is hardly enough money to warrant roads to claims that will tear up the sides of this beautiful mountain.

This area has been heavily prospected, but has offered little to the miners.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines in Nevada states, and I quote: "Interestingly, except for the Jefferson Canyon and Round Mountain Mining Districts farther south, the tertiary volcanic rocks in the vicinity of Mount Jefferson are largely devoid of metallic mineral deposits."

And the source is publication 99-B of Mineral Resources in Northern Nye County, published by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and I add that this committee should look to the Bureau of Mines because considerable inventory resources have been done, and it is a myth to say this State hasn't been checked out—and forgive me for editorializing—but it is a myth. The information is there.

These volcanic rocks are chiefly riodidactic welded tuffs; that is, solidified volcanic ashes and dust, and they extend from approximately 7,000 feet around the mountain all the way to the top.

The latest argument that is popular with miners in Nevada is the disseminated gold approach. Its purpose is to claim that gold is so widely disseminated in Nevada in low concentrations that no areas should be off limits to mining.

I say hogwash. There comes a point where one must consider that wilderness values must supersede this "tear up the land for a buck" mentality.

I wish to turn your attention to a few lines from John McFee in his book "Basin and Range."

"The environmentalists are right. A scar in this climate will last. It takes a long time for the terrain to erase a road."

And please see the enclosed information I have on John McFee and his writings to help illustrate the point and the endorsements by many mineral people as well.

I agonize over the thought that an area such as Mount Jefferson may be lost in the negotiations with the Senate. They have a four-area bill to negotiate down with Congressman Reid's and Seiberling's wilderness bill. These Senators will be negotiating for less than 10 percent of the people of Nevada. They will be speaking on behalf of purely political considerations regarding the support of ranchers and miners.

To make this all the more outrageous—I have just a few more lines—to make this all the more outrageous, they are bargaining on 4 out of 113 roadless areas eligible for wilderness designation.

When all is said and done, Nevada will probably have less wilderness than any Western State. We could have no national parks—or, I am sorry—we have no national parks. Most any other State in the Union would have made all 19 of these areas into wilderness or parks.

Please allow me to defer to my son on the issue of Mount Jefferson and the future.

Thank you.



Mr. SEIBERLING. Are you Dave?

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. My son Michael.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Or Michael, right. OK, Mike.

Mr. MICHAEL HAMPTON. Congressman Seiberling and members of the House Interior Lands Subcommittee.

I am Michael Hampton, from Carson City, NV. I am 9 years old. Thank you for letting me speak to you.

I am here to speak for kids and the future. When I am older, I want to go to Mount Jefferson and not see that mountain all torn up like so many places in Nevada. When I do not clean up my room, my mom and dad punish me for leaving a mess. When miners tear up a mountain, nobody does anything to them. They leave big messes.

Please do not let them mess up Mount Jefferson.

I took my first airplane ride 2 weeks ago. My dad and I went to Mount Jefferson. Here is some pictures from that airplane ride.

You will see that it is a very big mountain. The first picture shows your helicopter going to Mount Jefferson after we had the hottest June ever in Nevada. All the snow melted then.

The sky was kind of gray, so the mountain did not look so good to you. You could not see the aspen trees turning colors.

We could see the mountain was awesome. I hope you can see what I mean.

The rest of the pictures show you Mount Jefferson from the air and the ground.

We drove our truck to Mount Jefferson over a week ago. We took some more pictures. That is me in picture No. 6.

Please think about Mount Jefferson. It is the highest peak in the middle of Nevada. It is also very beautiful. Someday kids my age will be glad you saved it.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you, Michael. That was great.

Mr. REID. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Yes.

Mr. REID. If I could interrupt. I waited all day to hear David talk. Now, could I be excused? [Laughter.]

Mr. SEIBERLING. Absolutely, and I hope that your son does well in the soccer game.

OK, thank you.

We will now go to Ms. Parr.

Ms. PARR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Becky Parr. I am from Las Vegas, NV.

In the interest of time, I would like to depart from my written comments and read an excerpt from Dr. Bill Theo's written statement that I submit for the record. Dr. Theo is a professor of geology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

An issue that hasn't been touched on today until a few moments ago is that of water.

Nevada, like all regions, has two primary sources of water, surface water and groundwater. Several areas in our State rely largely on surface water, such as Las Vegas. Most of our surface water source is external to Nevada and is heavily allocated or overallocated.

The Colorado River is such an example.

The second source, ground water, is the only significant water source which can be utilized for the future economy of Nevada. The source of water for our underground aquifers is precipitation, sparse as it is in this desert region. There is relatively high precipitation in only one area of the State, the high mountains.

Rainfall in Nevada bears an almost direct linear relationship to elevation. The higher you are, the more precipitation you receive.

Rainfall and snowmelt infiltrates into the rocks in the mountain areas of Nevada, seeping slowly underground, and recharges the aquifers in the valleys.

Virtually, every spring and every well in Nevada is directly linked hydrologically to an adjacent high mountain area. There is only one way to protect the quality and the quantity of groundwater in Nevada, and that is to protect the highland regions of the State from development or exploitation which might adversely affect the quality or quantity of infiltrating water in the high mountains.

We have learned through bitter experience that the best water management technique to ensure a continued infiltration of groundwater in the mountainous recharge areas of a desert region is to leave the region alone. Any management techniques that attempt to increase precipitation or infiltration are almost invariably unsuccessful or not cost effective.

Development of these regions can have a serious impact on water quality. The de facto wilderness areas of Nevada have been protecting and maintaining our groundwater source throughout geologic time. Establishing these highlands as wilderness will help ensure their continued role as the suppliers of water for our future.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Thank you.

All right, Mr. Scott is going to wind us up today.

Mr. Scott. Batting cleanup.

Mr. SCOTT. Well, I have spent most of the day trying to figure out what might make my testimony the most memorable at about 7 o'clock in the evening and pretty much concluded that brevity was probably the order of the day.

So I would like to thank all of you for the endurance of putting up with us all and indicate that, as many of my friends here today, we support your bill, Mr. Seiberling. We look forward to working with Mr. Reid on his bill and adding several critical areas, including Mount Jefferson, as Michael pointed out, the Grant Range, Quinn Range, Currant Mountain, and Schell Peaks Range, and several others.

Finally, we must oppose Mrs. Vucanovich's bill on two points principally. It is inadequate in the wilderness recommendations and, second, sections 401 and 406 and the significant weakening amendments they make to the Wilderness Act.

And I won't go into any great detail on that other than to point out that my testimony does go into some detail.

And with that, I thank you for the opportunity to testify and look forward to going home like you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, thank you and thank all the members of this panel for their brevity and their cogency.

I don't think I have any further comments to make except I appreciate the fact that Father and Son Hampton both came and testified.

Yes.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Congressman Seiberling, I wanted to add one thing. It was what appeared to me to be a distortion earlier, and I wanted to clean it up, in terms of the 15 to 17 counties and county commissioners supporting it.

It is my understanding that the other 2 counties represent 57 percent of the population of the great State of Nevada.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, that is an important fact. I am glad you brought that out.

All right, Mrs. Vucanovich.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I was just going to comment to Mr. Hampton that that is true, and it also is true that there is only one area in Clark County that is under consideration for wilderness and only one in Washoe County. So the impact of the larger bills would affect more the rural counties.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. May I also thank you for including Mount Charleston. It is a love of mine because the romance of college was spent working for the Forest Service on that mountain, and I love it dearly.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. It is a beautiful area.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Please don't forget Mummy Mountain. It is extraordinary.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I think that it is certainly well established that there are many, many beautiful areas in Nevada, and I think perhaps because we have different viewpoints on the use doesn't mean that we don't all appreciate the land, and I think that conflict is one of the problems we have on these areas but that doesn't mean that we can't disagree agreeably.

And I think that the fact really that Congressman Seiberling has made an effort to listen to everyone—I don't know anyone who could have been more gracious than he was when we were on our tour. He listened to everyone, and I think that is what we are under direction to do here and represent the people and listen to them and try to do the best job we can.

But I particularly am glad I had a chance to hear Michael and see his photograph there with all the aspen because that is one of the most beautiful things in our State.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Thank you. May I add one thought in that regard?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Sure.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Might it be reported back to the people of the State of Nevada so we can all avoid the rhetoric that we fall into on both sides of this issue because the people really need to know what the facts are and at present it is not fully being reported?

And I am not sure any one side is to blame, but I think we have all gotten into this game of rhetoric and it will ultimately in the long run hurt all of us, I think.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Well, I think that one of the things we really all of us are trying to do, though, is to make people aware just

what this does mean to them and then balance that decision on how they feel about it.

But hopefully, because of the high profile we have had about the Nevada wilderness and with the opportunity for us to look at it and the opportunity for so many people to come back here today, I think it has been a remarkable day and a tiring one.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. May I make a request?

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Of course.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Forgive me.

That you and Congressman Reid have opportunities on television in both the north and south of the State to discuss this issue with the public so the issue can be heard because I think you can both speak well for your own interests.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I don't think there would be any problem with that at all.

Mr. DAVE HAMPTON. Thank you.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I have no further questions, and I thank all of the panel very much for hanging in here with us. It was very helpful.

Thank you.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Well, I want to thank the panel again and everybody else who stayed with us to the end here. I guessed we would be through around 7 o'clock, and I wasn't far off.

So I know many of you came a long way. I hope you have found it worthwhile. I certainly did myself, and I am sure that I speak for the other members of the subcommittee.

So we will now try to take into account all that we have learned and find out what other additional information we need, and I would hope that we could get a bill out of this committee and through the House before we recess for the end of this year's session.

Thank you very much. This hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 7:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

## APPENDIX

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1985

### ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 4153

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER Wilson

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING CONSIDERATION OF MT. ROSE AS  
A WILDERNESS AREA

WHEREAS, Mt. Rose is an integral part of Reno's character: it is twelve miles from the City limits: the Carson Range, of which it is a part, forms the national southwest boundary of Reno; it is a major watershed for the Reno area, providing snow-fed mountain streams that bring water to Reno throughout the long, dry Nevada summers; it makes a beautiful backdrop of extensive pine forests and snow-covered peaks for our community; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Rose retains a surprisingly wide diversity of natural opportunities: hiking trails, trout fishing streams, deer and bird hunting, dense pine forests, deep snow in winter for sports, and excellent opportunities for solitude; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Rose is ecologically significant in providing summer and winter range for large deer herds as well as homes for mountain lions, eagles, and other large predatory birds; and

WHEREAS, Reno is one of the nation's fastest growing urban areas, the need to preserve Mt. Rose is crucial to maintaining our community character, protecting our valuable water resources, enhancing our city's image, preserving unlimited natural recreational opportunities, and ensuring future citizens the same precious natural heritage that we received.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RENO DO RESOLVE TO ENDORSE THE CONSIDERATION OF MT. ROSE/CARSON RANGE AREA AS A WILDERNESS AREA, specifically excluding private lands and all

public and private lands included in the MPR for Galena Resort as approved by Washoe County.

On motion of Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Howard, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 23rd day of September, 1985, by the following vote of Council:

AYES: Wilson, Howard, Lehnert, Pine, Nunez, Wishart, Sferrazza

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Approved this 23rd day of September, 1985.

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RENO

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RENO, NEVADA.

STATEMENT OF  
DOUGLAS W. MACCLEERY  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
Public Lands Subcommittee  
House of Representatives

Concerning H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304 Bills to establish wilderness in Nevada

October 10, 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee to offer the Department of Agriculture's views on H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304, bills to designate certain National Forest System lands in Nevada as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Nevada has 5,150,000 acres of National Forests System lands. Included are the entire 2,528,000-acre Humboldt National Forest, 2,561,500 acres or 80 percent of the Toiyabe National Forest and 60,600 acres or 3 percent of the Inyo National Forest. One area, consisting of 64,667 acres, is currently designated as National Forest wilderness in Nevada--the Jarbidge Wilderness. As part of the 1979 second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), 2,060,600 acres were inventoried as roadless. Of that area, 473,500 acres, in areas considered in these bills, were recommended for wilderness designation and 261,700 acres recommended for further planning. Since 1979, extensive planning with public involvement has resulted in draft Forest Plans for the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests. The wilderness potential of each area being considered here today is being fully and carefully considered as part of this planning process. Since the Forest Plans are in draft form and are

currently going through the final public review process, they will be subject to revision after all public comments are analyzed. The draft preferred alternative of the Forest Plans (plus Boundary Peak) include recommendations of 452,110 acres for wilderness designation in the State of Nevada. We would prefer to complete our review and analysis of public input before making any final wilderness recommendations.

Wilderness designations of H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304

The first bill, H.R. 1686 would designate 136,900 acres in three new wildernesses and one addition to the existing Jarbidge Wilderness. H.R. 3302 would designate 722,900 acres in nine new wildernesses and one addition to the existing Jarbidge Wilderness. H.R. 3304 would designate 1,466,500 acres in 18 new wildernesses and one addition to the existing Jarbidge Wilderness.

Our current draft Forest Plans for the Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forests support wilderness status for some of the areas covered by these bills. The areas identified in the draft Forest Plans are as follows:

<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Toiyabe:	Arc Dome	94,400
	Mt. Jefferson (Alta Toquima)	31,000
	Mt. Charleston	32,000
Humboldt:	Mt. Moriah	81,743
	Jarbidge Addition	23,440
	Wheeler Peak (South Snake)	60,151
	Ruby Mountain	67,093
	Grant Range	53,383
Inyo:	Boundary Peak	8,900
		Total 452,110

The Boundary Peak area on the Inyo National Forest (previously identified in RARE II) has also been recommended in all three bills for wilderness designation. Most of the Boundary Peak (White Mountain) area is in California, and it was



designated as a further planning area in the California Wilderness Act of 1964. We would not oppose wilderness designation as proposed in the draft Forest Plans or the Boundary Peak area on the Inyo National Forest.

However, we feel it would be more appropriate to consider the Boundary Peak in both Nevada and California at the time planning for the California portion of the area has been completed.

The proposals for Mt. Charleston, Mt. Moriah, Boundary Peak, and Jarbidge Additions are included in all three bills and the draft Forest Plans. Although the proposed acreages are somewhat different, we would not oppose the designation of any of these areas as wilderness if kept within our recommendations. The South Snake (Wheeler Peak) proposal is listed in H.R. 3302, H.R. 3304, and the draft Forest Plans. The two bills propose a much expanded area compared to the draft Forest Plans. We recommend that the proposal for this area be reduced in size to conform to the draft Forest Plan recommendations. We would be pleased to work with the Committee on any questions involving the final boundary locations.

We would not oppose the designation of a Ruby Mountain Wilderness. However, both H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304 propose the inclusion of areas not recommended for wilderness in our draft Forest Plan. We recommend 67,093 acres, all south of Lamoille Canyon. H.R. 3302 proposes 74,000 acres and includes land north of Lamoille Canyon. H.R. 3304 proposed 143,000 acres which include roads, irrigation ditches, and other structural improvements on the lower slopes, as well as an active helicopter skiing operation. We oppose the designation of these areas.

The Alta Toquima proposal in H.R. 3304 is similar to the draft Forest Plan proposal; however, we oppose wilderness designation for the areas on the south end of Alta Toquima that were not included in the Draft Plan recommendations due to mineral conflicts.

We believe that designation of the Arc Dome and Grant Range proposals should be delayed pending completion of minerals surveys being conducted by the Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey.

In our Forest planning process, we strive to produce a management alternative that we feel will provide the greatest public benefit from each forest. As a result of this planning process we oppose the designation of the East Humboldts, Mt. Rose, Table Mountain, Currant Mountain, Elk Mountain, Excelsior, Quinn Canyon, Santa Rosa, Schell Peaks, and Toiyabe Crest proposals in H.R. 3302 and/or H.R. 3304.

Although each of these additional areas was evaluated independently, several common elements weighed heavily in our reasons for not recommending wilderness designation. The primary reasons include: (1) lack of special ecological or geological features; (2) existing and potential mining developments; (3) conflicts with ongoing recreation uses, such as helicopter skiing, snowmobiling, or other offroad vehicle use; (4) private land inholdings; and (5) conflicts with commodity uses such as pine-nut and fuel wood activities. The draft Forest Plans prescribe "low development management" for several of these areas, but some uses and structural improvements for wildlife and watershed protection go beyond those authorized in a wilderness area.

One additional specific comment regarding our opposition to the proposed Excelsior Wilderness is that the California portion of this area was released for uses other than wilderness in the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

We oppose certain provisions in all three bills which purport to reiterate existing provisions of law or in some cases allow activities inconsistent with wilderness management direction. For example, all three bills contain provisions stating that grazing shall be governed by section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act, and section 108 of Public Law 96-560 which designated wilderness areas in Colorado and elsewhere. The grazing provisions would have the effect of incorporating substantive requirements of law through a reference to a prior enactment which referred to guidelines in a committee report (House Report 96-617). We do not believe this is the appropriate manner in which to enact substantive law. The grazing guidelines enumerated in the committee report have been implemented nationally, and it is not necessary to enact these provisions of the bills.

Various provisions of the bills reiterate existing requirements of the Wilderness Act. For example, section 403 of H.R. 1686 would reiterate the provisions of section 4(d) of the Act concerning State jurisdiction over fish and wildlife. Reiteration of existing provisions of the Wilderness Act does not clarify legislative intent, but confuses it. Enactment of redundant management direction raises questions of whether Congress intends some different management over that already provided by law. While we recognize that this reiteration has become a practice in several legislative proposals, we want to point out that this practice can cause confusion over congressional intent. We would be happy to provide a supplementary statement analyzing the various problems associated with these provisions.

We are also concerned about the watershed provisions of section 406 of H.R. 1686. This section would allow telecommunications and other facilities in wilderness areas as well as motorized access. These activities go beyond the

direction of the Wilderness Act and would encourage inappropriate uses. The Wilderness Act is intentionally strict on permitting such uses, but we note section 4(d)(4) of the Act permits such exceptional uses when in the public interest.

In summary, we do not oppose the designation listed in H.R. 1686, nor do we oppose designation of additional wilderness consistent with the proposal in the draft Forest Plans except for the Grant Range and Arc Dome areas where we urge that consideration of these two areas be delayed until mineral surveys have been completed. We do oppose H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304 to the extent that these bills would designate wilderness beyond that proposed in the draft Forest Plans.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our views on H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 3304 concerning the designation of specified areas in Nevada to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I would be pleased to answer questions concerning our testimony.

Statement of Mr. Robert C. Horton,  
Director of the Bureau of Mines Department of the Interior  
before the  
Subcommittee on Public Lands  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives

October 10, 1985

I am pleased to appear before the Subcommittee on Public Lands on the status of the mineral studies of the National Forest System lands in Nevada being considered for designation as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, has investigated the mineral resources potential of only a few of the areas proposed in the three bills pending before this Subcommittee. The Mt. Moriah area and parts of the South Snake and Jarbidge Addition areas were studied by the Bureau of Mines during the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II); mineral information on these areas was provided to the Forest Service. The Grant Range and Quinn Canyon Range areas are presently being studied at the request of the Forest Service; an investigation by the Bureau of Mines of the Arc Dome area has been started this Fiscal Year.

Based on site specific studies the following information is available.

Mt. Moriah

In the Mt. Moriah area, using the proposed boundary in H.R. 3304, identified resources of about 0.5 trillion tons of high quality decorative

building stone are located in the southeast part of the area. The Hampton Creek portion of the east side of the area has placers containing low-grade garnet deposits. Lead, zinc, silver and copper resources may occur in the northeast and central portion of the area.

#### South Snake

South Snake data indicate that resources of tungsten, beryllium, precious metals, and base metals may occur in the area. There is recorded production of these commodities from six mining districts in and near the proposed wilderness.

#### Jarbidge Additions

In the western part of the Jarbidge Additions there is specific concern for gold and silver deposits associated with the Jarbidge Mining district which includes the western part of the area. Two properties, also in the western addition, were prospected for gold, silver, tungsten, and molybdenum. Barite resources are known to exist in the southeast part of the area.

The following areas are presently being investigated and this is the information currently available.

#### Grant Range

Available data for Grant Range indicate that gold, tungsten, lead, silver, and molybdenum resources may be present in the northern part of the area. The Troy mining district includes the northwest corner of the area.

The Bureau of Mines is presently investigating this area; site specific information will be available upon completion of the mineral survey.

#### Quinn Canyon Range

Major concern exists for precious and base metals, molybdenum - porphyry, and fluorspar resources in the area. The Willow Creek and Quinn Canyon mining districts are in and adjacent to the area. Over 1,000 claims, most held by four companies, are currently located in and adjacent to the area. The Bureau of Mines is presently investigating this area; site specific information will be available upon completion of the mineral survey.

#### Arc Dome

Data indicate significant past and recent mining activity concerning the area. Seven known properties in or adjacent to the area have recorded production of antimony, gold, tungsten, silver, lead and mercury, with minor copper, zinc, and barite; most was from mines in and near the northeast part. There are 166 current claims within the area. The Bureau of Mines is presently investigating this area; site specific information will be available upon completion of the mineral survey.

H.R. 1686 directs the Secretary of the Interior to continue to make assessments of the mineral potential of national forest wilderness areas in Nevada on a recurring basis, in order to expand the data base with respect to the mineral potential of such lands. We are very supportive of the concept embodied in this section. However, we understand from the Forest Service that

we can do these continued assessments under existing law. As an example of their value, in 1960, there was but one gold mine operating in Nevada. It was generally agreed that there were few gold deposits remaining to be discovered. In 1961 the Carlin gold mine was discovered. Its character and geologic setting were unlike any previously found. Using data from the Carlin mine, and adding to that data with each new discovery, many more gold mines were discovered. The Dean of the Mackay School of Mines recently told me that the gold reserves in Nevada mines, the newly discovered mines, are approximately 60 million ounces with a value of \$20 billion dollars.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement and I would be pleased to answer any questions which you and Members of the Subcommittee may have.





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

12th & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 2417  
Washington, DC 20013

Reply to: 1510

Date: DEC 6 1985

Honorable John F. Seiberling  
Chairman, Subcommittee for Public Lands  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the additional information requested during the October 10 Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 3302 pertaining to Nevada wilderness.

This information includes a listing of the acres of National Forest, private, State, and other lands in each proposed wilderness for each bill and the Forest Plans. Also included in the listing is the number of mining claims, both patented and unpatented.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Jeff M. Sirmon  
R. MAX PETERSON  
Chief

Enclosure

The Following Displays Information  
about the Proposed Wilderness Areas in the  
Forest Plan and Each Legislative Bill

## TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

NAME	FOREST PLAN (FP) or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS	
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented 1/
ARC DOME	FP	94,400	0	0	0	0	87
	1686						
	3302	146,000	0	0	0	0	168
	3304	146,000	0	0	0	0	168
TOIYABE CREST	FP						
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	78,972	0	0	28	3	189
EXCELSIOR	FP						
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	121,920	-80-	0	0	0	149 2/
MOUNT JEFFERSON	FP	31,000	0	0	0	0	6
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	45,000	0	0	0	0	12

1/ Unpatented claims that were filed or have updated assessments as of 1984 and 1985

2/ Both the Nevada and California portion

## TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST (Continued)

NAME	FP or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS	
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented
TABLE MOUNTAIN	FP						
	1686						
	3302	125,000	0	0	0	0	362
	3304	125,000	0	0	0	0	362
CARSON FRONT	FP						
	1686						
	3302	30,180	2820	0	0	0	1
	3304	30,180	2820	0	0	0	1
MOUNT CHARLESTON	FP	31,920	80	0	0	0	0
	1686	31,920	80	0	0	0	1
	3302	44,650	2350	0	0	0	1
	3304	44,650	2350	0	0	0	1

The Following Displays Information  
about the Proposed Wilderness Areas in the  
Forest Plan and Each Legislative Bill

## HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST

NAME	FOREST PLAN (FP) or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS	
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented
SCHELL PEAK	FP						
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	120,000	0	0	0	0	62
SANTA ROSA	FP						
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	80,000	0	0	0	0	72
QUINN CANYON	FP						
	1686						
	3302						
	3304	94,980	20	0	0	4	120
MOUNT MORIAH	FP	75,117	0	0	0	0	-58
	1686	73,000	0	0	0	0	72-
	3302	88,000	0	0	0	0	81
	3304	98,000	0	0	0	0	100

1/ Unpatented claims that were filed or have updated assessments as of 1984 and 1985

## HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST (Continued)

NAME	FP or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS	
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented
WHEELER PEAK	FP	46,000	50	0	0	3	181
	1686						
	3302	119,950	50	0	0	3	479
	3304	119,950	50	0	0	3	479
RUBY MOUNTAIN	FP	65,629	1,464	0	0	0	21
	1686						
	3302	67,532	6,468	0	0	0	35
	3304	131,344	11,656	0	0	0	47
GRANT RANGE	FP	53,383	0	0	0	0	0
	1686						17
	3302						
	3304	60,000	0	0	0	2	79
JARBIDGE ADDITION	FP	23,440	0	0	0	0	157
	1686	23,000	0	0	0	0	157
	3302	53,800	200	0	0	0	157
	3304	53,800	200	0	0	0	168
EAST HUMBOLDT	FP						
	1686						
	3302	19,402	7,598	0	0	0	0
	3304	19,402	7,598	0	0	0	0

## HUMBOLT NATIONAL FOREST (Continued)

NAME	FP or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS		1/
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented	
CURRANT MOUNTAIN	FP							
	1686							
	3302							
	3304	49,000	0	0	0	0	13	
ELK MOUNTAIN	FP							
	1686							
	3302							
	3304	12,600	0	0	0	0	4	

## INYO NATIONAL FOREST

NAME	FP or BILL	ACRES				NUMBER OF MINING CLAIMS	
		Net N.F.	Private	State	Other	Patented	Unpatented
	FP	6,200	0	0	0	0	0
BOUNDARY PEAK	1686	8,900	0	0	0	0	0
	3302	8,900	0	0	0	0	0
	3304	8,900	0	0	0	0	0



# City of Reno

POST OFFICE BOX 1900 • RENO, NEVADA 89505 • (702) 785-2020

506 Humboldt  
Reno, Nevada 89501

October 3, 1985

Congressman John Seiberling, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Public Lands  
Room 812, Annex #1, HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Seiberling:

I am sorry that I am unable to attend the hearing on Nevada National Forest Wilderness legislation. In my absence, please enter this letter in the hearing record.

I support wilderness designation for the roadless areas contained in H. R. 3304. There are many benefits from protecting these representative examples of our outstanding high mountains, which include only 2% of Nevada's lands. Present uses in the areas will be protected. There will be major recreational benefits to our state's rapidly growing population. Wilderness will also contribute to the diversification of our state's image and economy. I personally feel wilderness is the most conservative use of the land, guaranteeing free access to all individuals and preserving our natural resources for the future.

We in Nevada enjoy a magnificent wilderness heritage and it is our duty to ensure that this inheritance is safeguarded for future generations. Therefore I urge the Public Lands Subcommittee to recommend strong National Forest Wilderness legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

  
Peter J. Ferrazza Mayor  
City of Reno



TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM A MOLINI, DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REGARDING

HR 3302 -- A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS  
IN THE STATE OF NEVADA AS WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 10, 1985

## TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is William Molini, I am Director of the Department of Wildlife for the State of Nevada and I am testifying here today on behalf of my Department and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on the bills before you to designate certain National Forest system lands in the State of Nevada for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system and for other purposes.

As you are aware there have been and continue to be conflicts between various interest groups in the State of Nevada on the subject of Wilderness designation. It is the position of the Departments that we all have a responsibility to develop legislation encompassing a reasonable Wilderness proposal that is defensible and equitable.

Representatives from Nevada have participated in numerous meetings with the various interest groups. The objective has been to reach a consensus on a Wilderness bill to be considered by the United States Congress. Unfortunately, to date, such consensus has not been forthcoming, but we are confident that the efforts of this Committee and the Congress will provide conclusions and compromises that will result in an acceptable Wilderness bill.

I, personally, together with Roland D. Westergard, Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, participated in a tour of potential Wilderness areas this past summer. We in Nevada welcomed the participation on that tour by Chairman Seiberling and members of your Committee, Congressmen Vucanovich, Darden, Kostmayer and Weaver. We were also particularly pleased that Senator Hecht and Congressman Reid, together with

a representative of Senator Laxalt's office also participated in the tour.

Subsequent to the tour, Governor Richard H. Bryan, had the opportunity to participate in a trail ride in the proposed Table Mountain Wilderness area. Those experiences confirmed for the Governor and, I am sure, members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the importance, significance and necessity of designation of appropriate Wilderness areas within the State of Nevada.

The specific areas to be included and the acreages within those areas, as well as the total acreage to be identified, will obviously be the subject of extensive testimony before this Committee and subsequently further consideration as the Committee reaches its conclusions and processes a Nevada Wilderness bill.

Representatives of the two Departments have reviewed in detail the Roadless Area Studies and recommendations of Wilderness designation included in the Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. We find the Roadless Area Studies to be generally well done. It is the position of the Departments that the approximately 452,000 acres, as a bare minimum, which have been identified by the Forest Service within the Toiyabe National Forest, Humboldt National Forest and Inyo National Forest meet the test of defensible and equitable Wilderness designation.

As indicated earlier, testimony will undoubtedly bear on which specific areas should be included. If it is the decision of the Committee to add areas to those identified by the Forest Service, we suggest that areas designated as Table Mountain, Carson Range (Mount Rose) and East Humboldts be considered.

Obviously, in addition to adjustment in specific area acreages, adjustments and boundary realignments may also be required based on testimony received.

Representatives of the Departments stand ready to assist the Committee and the Committee staff in subsequent deliberations on this issue.

On behalf of the two Departments, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to offer this testimony.

STATEMENT OF GENEVA S. DOUGLAS, REPRESENTING  
**FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS**  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL PARKS  
ON H.R. 3304, H.R. 3302, AND H.R. 1686  
October 10-11, 1985

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Geneva Douglas, a 26-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, who has traveled extensively throughout Nevada in connection with my job and for pleasure. I am appearing before you as chair of a statewide coalition called Friends of Nevada Wilderness. This is a coalition of organizations, businesses, and individuals that support the designation of 21 wilderness areas encompassing 1,501,760 acres of roadless areas in Nevada's National Forests. Today I am speaking on behalf of Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to speak to you today on the importance we as Nevadans place on the value of wilderness in our State. We are particularly appreciative of the sincere interest you demonstrated, Mr. Chairman, as did Congressmen Reid, Vucanovich, Weaver, Kostmayer, and Darden, in using your July 4th recess to visit many of the eligible areas in Nevada and talk to numerous Nevadans who met with you in the high country and along the roads or in the towns below. And we were pleased that H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304, both introduced after your visit, are significant improvements over H.R. 1686 introduced before the visit was made.

Today I want to testify on three points that I think will show the broad base of support Nevadans bring to this issue. 1) I will describe our Coalition for you

so that you will understand it is made up of independent organizations, businesses, and individuals who went beyond the Sierra Club's proposal of 18 areas in their belief that Nevada needs as much wilderness as it can get. 2) I will describe our specific position on Nevada's national forest wilderness, in an appendix naming the areas and the acreages we recommend and a highlight of the value we see for each area. And 3) I will give you some of the reasons why I, as a middle-aged, conservative, Republican woman who will never be able to scale the high peaks of Nevada's forested mountains and who is representative of a great many others in our Coalition, feel strongly that these areas deserve the special protection that Congress can give them.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness originated when many Nevadans who, like me, are not normally environmental activists became alarmed at statements being made by public officials and mining and ranching interests that Nevadans didn't want wilderness. The only voice we heard in opposition to these anti-wilderness statements was that of the Sierra Club. When we learned that your distinguished Committee was making plans for your field trip to Nevada's proposed wilderness areas we offered our help in the hope that our voices could also be heard. We came together as a group of organizations and individuals who care about what Congressman Reid called "the crown jewels of Nevada's heritage", who are willing to donate our funds, materials, time, and labor to provide public education and information on the concept of wilderness and its value to individuals and society, and who want our concern for Nevada's "crown jewels" to be heard by the legislators who will decide their fate.

In June and July we helped show members of your Committee that it isn't only Sierra Club members who value Nevada's forested wild areas. In August, as

the new session of Congress approached, the Friends met in the north and in the south ends of the State and decided to organize a little more formally in order to enhance the visibility of their advocacy and to provide a rallying point for Nevadans who felt as we did.

At several meetings held in August in both northern and southern Nevada, we agonized over the position we should adopt and finally came to a consensus on which 18 member organizations voted unanimously to support the designation as wilderness of 21 unique roadless areas encompassing a little over 1.5 million acres of Nevada's National Forest lands, or about 2% of Nevada's total land area, thus releasing over 2 million additional acres now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service for other multiple uses and possible development.

Since we made our position public, we have gained many new members, and as I write this we list 23 organizations that comprise several thousand Nevadans who enthusiastically support our position. What makes it most exciting is that this is not a coalition of environmental groups and environmentalists alone. Some of us are speaking out on a broad issue like this for the first time in our lives.

Among the organizational members are such diverse groups as the:

- **Kiwanis Club of Golden K**, a group of retired and semi-retired professional men in Las Vegas whose secretary told us has "18 voices united as a group in support of as much wilderness as we can get!"

• **Evergreen Alliance**, a group of rural Nevadans concerned about the proposed BLM/Forest Service land swap and other environmental issues that affect southern Nevada and particularly the Mt. Charleston area where most of them live;

• **Soroptimist International of Boulder City, Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, Soroptimist International of Henderson, and Soroptimist International of Las Vegas Valley** -- all part of the world's largest classified service organization for professional and executive business women;

• **League of Women Voters of Nevada**, who you know as a group that promotes informed citizen participation in government, and which has 331 members within the State of Nevada;

• **Elko County Conservation Association**, a group of Elko County citizens concerned with conservation issues in their area;

• **Joint Study Committee on Environment** --- in itself a coalition sponsored by the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce that provides information to a mailing list of about 150 concerned southern Nevadans on environmentally aesthetic solutions to flood control problems in their valley;

• **Citizen Alert**, an organization concerned with environmental and conservation issues that sends its newsletter to over 2000 members and friends, over half of which are citizens of Nevada;



• **Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, Inc.**, a statewide affiliate of the National Public Lands Task Force, founded in 1958 and dedicated to preservation and management of Bureau of Land Management public lands;

• **Southern Nevada Zoological Park**, which has the goal of establishing and maintaining a zoo in the Las Vegas area;

• **Franciscan Center**, a religious organization dedicated to peace, justice and social services in the southern Nevada area;

• **Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association**, a rural group in Storey County consisting of property owners and developers of 37,000 acres of the Virginia Range who are concerned for protection of wildlife and the environment;

• **Northern Nevada Native Plant Society**, about 450 people interested in Nevada's native plants -- in our wildflowers, in growing native plants, or in conserving threatened and endangered species.

• **Wild Horse Organized Assistance**, a northern Nevada group founded in 1971 by Velma Johnson, also known as Wild Horse Annie, who successfully lobbied for legislation to protect wild horses. This group is concerned with land use plans, and the management and adoption of wild horses. They believe wild horses enhance wilderness, and that the agencies managing wilderness will develop new techniques to allow protection of these animals without degrading wilderness values;

- **American Wilderness Alliance**, a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to the conservation of wilderness, wildlife habitat, and wild river resources;

- **Red Rock Audubon Society**, the southern Nevada branch of the national society of birdwatchers organized for educational, scientific, literary, and historical purposes, with a membership of over 400 southern Nevada residents concerned about the preservation of wildlife habitat that wilderness will provide;

- **Lahontan Audubon Society**, the northern Nevada branch of the same national society, with a membership of about 600 northern Nevada residents;

- **Toiyabe Chapter, the Great Basin Group, and the Las Vegas Group of the Sierra Club**, a national organization of 350,000 members who explore, enjoy, and work to preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife, and wilderness, with a statewide membership of more than 1600 members;

- **Wilderness Society**, a non-profit membership organization devoted to preserving wilderness and wildlife, protecting America's forests, parks, rivers and shorelands, and fostering an American land ethic, with about 1500 members throughout the State of Nevada.

Among our individual members we have students and senior citizens; lawyers; high school and university teachers; two former State senators; scientists and engineers; a plastic surgeon and a dentist; a nun; professionals with city, State, and Federal government; museum staff and a zoo director; a disabled carpenter; a

writer and a variety of business people including publishing, consulting, accounting, travel and tours, real estate, secretarial service, photography, food store and restaurant owner. Many of us do not backpack on weekends, and we are more apt to walk the dog than hike the high country, but we enthusiastically support the preservation of 21 of the 113 roadless areas eligible for wilderness designation in the precious national forests of our desert State.

In an appendix, I have briefly described the areas and the acreages that we believe are worthy of your serious consideration for wilderness designation and our position on the bills before you with respect to these areas and acreages. A more detailed description is also attached, as is a list comparing the wilderness recommendations of the U.S. Forest Service and those of each of the three bills before you with the recommendations of our coalition, as well as a set of bar graphs illustrating the land area of western States and comparisons of designated and proposed wilderness in Nevada with that in other States.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness urges the Congress to designate as wilderness these 21 wild areas that rise high above Nevada's deserts and thus release an additional 2.0 million acres within the 113 roadless areas now under wilderness consideration by the U.S. Forest Service. We are greatly pleased that H.R. 3304 is in such close agreement with our position, lacking only the Sweetwaters and Pearl Peak comprising a total of 35,260 acres.

We believe that our position is reasonable in light of several considerations. Nevada has a great deal of public land that belongs to the American people, as you all know. Yet the public is denied access to a large portion of that land which has been reserved primarily for military bases, bombing and gunnery ranges, and the

nuclear testing activities conducted by the Department of Energy. Even more land for these uses has been withdrawn in recent years. The test range complex in southern Nevada alone has withdrawn 3.6 million acres. The designation of 1.5 million acres of wilderness will provide some balance in the way our State's public land is used and will assure us that some of our land will remain clean, peaceful, and pristine the way it was before man and modern technology arrived.

Nevada is in the southwest part of the Sunbelt where population growth is rapid and projected to increase at an accelerated pace in years to come. Las Vegas Valley, which was once "the meadows", now holds about half a million people and already population pressure has moved people into the farthest reaches of the Valley, to the lower levels of the Spring Mountain Range, and into the Pahrump and Amargosa valleys to the west and north. The Carson Valley is becoming part of the metropolitan area of Reno and Carson City, and retirement communities are springing up in the pinyon forests west of Wellington.

When I came to Las Vegas in 1959, I gloried in the wide open spaces of the desert, which reminded me of the ocean where I grew up. The mountains were like big ships or islands and they enhanced the majesty and beauty of the gigantic flats. When the spring bloom of the desert was over and the mountain snows had melted, the mountain wildflowers were there for me to enjoy. The cool, the quiet, the beautiful flora and fauna of the high country was a soothing balm to experience on weekends in contrast to the pressures, noise, heat, and concrete of my working and living environment.

Many members of our Coalition are like me. We are not apt to walk the wild areas of our State, but we want to know they are there. Our collective forefathers

came out of wilderness as our nation was settled and the western expansion began. Our roots are there. It is a thrill to experience the wild country in person or through pictures and to imagine how these people survived and prospered as they developed the society and way of life we are proud to call American today.

People need space, and Nevada has abundant space in the desert and on the hills and lower slopes of our mountain ranges. We don't want all our available space to suffer the ravages of development, at least until such development is essential to our survival. By designating these 1.5 million acres as wilderness, we are putting some of our valuable resources into a safe deposit box. We are preserving some forest, some watershed, some potential mineral sources, some glorious vistas, some pure air, some wildlife habitat, a diversity of plant and animal species and the gene pool they provide that could be survival insurance for future generations.

We are not locking them away where they will be forgotten. The safe deposit box can be opened, and the wilderness can be used in many ways while it is in safekeeping. Those who have grazing permits will still have and use their permits. Miners with valid claims can develop their claims and prospectors can prospect in a manner consistent with wilderness values. The wilderness can be used for hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, swimming, backpacking, birdwatching, camping, boating, picnicking, horseback riding, and as inspiration for the arts and for the soul --as long as no mechanized transport is involved. These lands can provide field trips for students, natural laboratories for scientists, and classrooms for amateur naturalists, and their presence can provide economic growth for publishers; sellers of hunting, fishing, and camping equipment and supplies; and for those who make their living from tourism.

**Nevadans like me want wilderness, and there are thousands of us represented in our Coalition. Only God can make the wilderness, where everything seems to work as it should, but only the Congress can designate which and how much of our God-given wild country can be preserved as wilderness and provide to posterity some options for its use.**

**We thank you for hearing our concerns, and urge you to do the job of preservation as we believe it should be done.**

## APPENDIX

to testimony by Geneva S. Douglas representing  
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS  
before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks  
on H.R. 3304, H.R. 3302, and H. R. 1686  
October 10-11, 1985

• **Alta Toquima** - a 45,000 acre roadless area of the Toiyabe National Forest in Nye County north of Tonopah where the massive summit of Mt. Jefferson crowns the Toquima Range at almost 12,000 feet, where John Muir confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains and where the U.S. Forest Service has designated a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants. We support H.R. 3304 for its inclusion of this area.

• **Arc Dome** - 146,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest also in Nye County west of Mt. Jefferson, that ranchers whose cattle have grazed the green-mantled slopes for three-quarters of a century call the "island in the sky", and the source of the Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, which with 18 other creeks in the area provide dependable water to support mountain lion and bighorn sheep as well as cattle on their summer range. We support both H.R. 3302 and 3304 on inclusion of this area.

• **Boundary Peak** - 8,900 acres of the Nevada portion of Inyo National Forest in Esmeralda County with high granite summits and tundra-covered flats below the peaks - an area that is unique because our position and all three bills before you are in agreement that this area should receive wilderness designation.

• **Currant Mountain (Duckwater)** - 49,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County southwest of Ely, an incredibly rugged and scenic area with white limestone cliffs along the crest of the White Pine range that gleam in the sun, few sources of water, but lush with pinyon pines just outside our proposed wilderness boundaries that the Duckwater Shoshones harvest each year. We support H.R. 3304's inclusion of Currant Mountain.

• **East Humboldts** - 27,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County southwest of Wells with some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada and which only recently was provided public access to its trout streams, glacial lakes and spectacular ridges through a trail for foot and horse traffic into the southern end of the area. We agree with Mr. Seiberling and Mr. Reid on their inclusion of this acreage.

• **Elk Mountain** - 12,600 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County north of Wells which is a popular area for big game and upland bird hunting and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the Congressional field trip in July 1985. We support Mr. Seiberling's inclusion of this area in his bill.

• **Excelsior Mountains** - 122,000 acres of the Toiyabe and Inyo National Forests of Mineral County west of Tonopah on the California State line overlooking the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area that are remarkably wild and pristine due to the lack of surface water and developable resources. We agree with Mr. Seiberling on inclusion of this area.



• **Grant Range** - 60,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye County southwest of Ely with over 200 species of wildflowers, more than a dozen of trees, mule deer and bighorn sheep and areas visitors can enjoy at any level of physical involvement. We support H.R. 3304 for its inclusion of the Grant Range acreage and urge the Congress to give this area the extra protection that wilderness designation affords.

• **Jarbidge Additions** - 54,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Elko County northwest of Wells which include the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, an area unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Snake River drainage. We agree with Mr. Reid and Mr. Seiberling on the designation of this area.

• **Mt. Charleston** - 47,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of the Spring Mountain Range less than an hour's drive from Las Vegas that provides a startling contrast to the noise, lights, and summer heat of that city with its dense forests of ponderosa, bristlecone, and fir that provide the only habitat in the world for the Palmer chipmunk. Wilderness designation in the high country of this range will complement the development for recreation and residential use planned and unfolding in the lower elevations surrounding it. We agree with all three bills on the designation of this area, although we believe the acreage proposed in H.R. 1686 is inadequate.

• **Mt. Moriah** - 98,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Lincoln and Nye Counties at the center of the eastern border of the State, home of a rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep, with sheer-walled gorges cutting into the mountain mass from the east. We are pleased that all three bills before you

include this area, and we strongly urge you to agree upon the acreage proposed in H.R. 3304.

• **Mt. Rose** - 35,000 acres in the Carson Range of the Toiyabe National Forest in Washoe County near Reno, which area a blend of the Great Basin area and the high Sierras to the west, truly an urban wilderness being only minutes away from Nevada's second largest city. We agree with Mr. Seiberling and Mr. Reid on this area, although the acreage we endorse is a little higher than Mr. Reid proposes.

• **Pearl Peak** - 23,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County that afford breathtaking views of the surrounding valleys, and containing the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains. None of the bills before you contains this beautiful area that we consider worthy of wilderness designation.

• **Quinn Canyon** - 95,000 acres in the Humboldt National Forest of Nye County that are a natural extension of the jumbled high country of the Grant Range immediately north of it, with high wilderness qualities that were recognized by the Reagan administration in supporting its wilderness designation in November 1981. We are pleased that H.R. 3304 includes this area and urge you to consider its high wilderness qualities and need for protection in resolving the issue of Nevada's forest wilderness.

• **Ruby Mountains** - 143,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County, truly a crown jewel as their name implies. Heavily glaciated, with multifaceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire blue lakes, the Rubies attract people of all ages who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-county ski. We are pleased that

both Mr. Seiberling and Mr. Reid recognize the outstanding value of this area, where boy scouts from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and more distant cities go to experience wilderness.

• **Santa Rosa Mountains** - 80,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in Humboldt County in which the nearly 10,000-foot crests loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys of far north central Nevada and provide habitat for a large population of golden eagles. Only H.R. 3304 includes this home of eagles.

• **Schell Peaks** - 120,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County of east central Nevada, where the peaks march above timberline for miles and the cliffs fall away into broad basins whose clear streams support elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout among forests of aspen, Douglas and white fir, spruce, and limber and bristlecone pine. We support H.R. 3304 for inclusion of this valuable area.

• **South Snake (Mt. Wheeler)** - 120,000 acres of the Humboldt National Forest in White Pine County southeast of the Schell Creek Ranger, containing Wheeler Peak that rises amid lesser peaks to 13,063 feet and has a tiny active glacier on its north face -- the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin. We are delighted that both Mr. Reid's and Mr. Seiberling's bills would designate this acreage as wilderness.

• **Sweetwater Mountains** - 12,260 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lyon County, in a range that begins in California's Mono County and rises to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet and contains an unusual ecosystem

with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species. None of the bills before you include this unique area.

• **Table Mountain** - 125,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Nye County above Monitor Valley where the aspens are not in groves along narrow canyons but in forests, and where one can walk for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing. We support both H.R. 3302 and 3304 for including this acreage in wilderness designation.

• **Toiyabe Crest** - 79,000 acres in the Toiyabe National Forest of Lander and Nye Counties northwest of Arc Dome containing the "Wild Granites", a 4000-foot granite wall carved by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns as well as habitat for a small herd of bighorn sheep and several streams that are home to Lahonton Cutthroat Trout, an endangered species. We support Mr. Seiberling's inclusion of the Toiyabe Crest in H.R. 3304.

**Attachments:**

- 1) More detailed descriptions of areas recommended
- 2) Table comparing Nevada wilderness recommendations (National Forests)
- 3) Bar graphs comparing Nevada with several western States
- 4) Map showing locations of areas recommended

ALTA TOQUIMA (MT. JEFFERSON)

Toiyabe National Forest  
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	68,570 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	31,000 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	45,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	45,000 acres

The massive summit of Mount Jefferson is the crown of the Toquima Range. This isolated summit reaches almost 12,000 feet. The uniqueness of the area is reflected in the scientific interest the area has attracted. More than a century ago, John Muir tramped its cirque-notched slopes and confirmed the role of glaciers in shaping Great Basin mountains. More recently it was designated by the Forest Service as a Research Natural Area for the study of alpine plants.

Last year the largest Shoshone encampment in Nevada prehistory--Alta Toquima--was discovered by anthropologists just below the peak itself. It is the highest Native American habitation site known and has already shown that the natives hunted bighorn sheep and collected limber pine nuts as well as those of the pinyon pine.

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ARC DOME

Toiyabe National Forest  
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	227,115 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	100,700 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	94,400 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	146,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	146,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	146,000 acres

The Toiyabe Range is the backbone of central Nevada. To the Shoshone Indians, these are the Biatoyavi or Big Mountains. To ranchers whose livelihood has been based for 3/4 of a century on grazing in the high mountains each summer, the green-mantled Toiyabes are the "island in the sky." They rise over six thousand feet above the desert valleys and, because of their 25-inch annual rainfall, have numerous trout streams lined with cottonwood, willow, aspen, birch and maple.

Wilderness adventurers can stand on rims of spectacular glacial cirques looking into aspen-filled basins a half-mile below. The Reese and North and South Twin Rivers, having their sources near the glaciated summits of Arc Dome, provide dependable water to support wildlife including mountain lion and bighorn sheep. Eighteen other creeks are included in the proposed wilderness.

Fishing and hunting are excellent in this area, attracting recreationists from all parts of Nevada. Gentle trails winding along the creeks connect with the Toiyabe Crest Trail which follows the high country of the range.

The 227,115 acre roadless area here includes approximately 126,000 acres not considered in the RARE II study--they had been dealt with in an earlier Forest Service land use plan. The Forest Service has recommended a wilderness of fewer acres than they recommended in 1979 because certain areas have since been impacted by development proposals and no longer are such outstanding wilderness.

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**BOUNDARY PEAK**

Inyo National Forest  
Esmeralda, Mineral Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	8,900 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	8,900 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	8,900 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	8,900 acres
H.R. 3302:	8,900 acres
H.R. 3304:	8,900 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 8,900 acres

At the north end of the White Mountains, Boundary Peak rises to 13,145 feet. This is the highest point in Nevada. South across the California state line an immense granite crest sweeps out--the dry, cold wilderness of the nation's highest desert mountains.

The proposed Boundary Peak wilderness includes the Nevada portion, 8,900 acres, of this area. The California portion was left in further planning by the 1984 California Wilderness bill. From the high summits of this granitic range, alternate vistas of valleys and ranges receded toward the east, while looking west you feel as if you could reach out and touch the Sierra Crest. Winter brings dense snow to the northern part of the White Mountains, and these lingering snows prolong spring through August on the fragile, tundra-covered expanses of Pelliasier Flats below the peaks.

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**CURRENT MOUNTAIN (DUCKWATER)**

Humboldt National Forest  
White Pine/Nye Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	55,998 acres (Duckwater RA)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	49,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 49,000 acres

The peak of the White Pine range, headwaters of the White River, is 11,500-foot Currant Mountain. The proposed wilderness also includes Duckwater Peak, 11,200 feet. This is an incredibly scenic area: the crest of the range is formed of tremendous white limestone cliffs with beautifully layered strata that gleam in the sun.

This area demands determined explorers, as there are no perennial streams (due to the limestone geology) and no springs near the crest. For this reason, much of the area sees few hunters or other recreationists. The lack of water also limits livestock use of the area, though bighorn sheep live here and enjoy safety from poaching because of the rugged terrain and lack of water. The western part of the range is part of the Monte Cristo Wild Horse Territory.

There are extensive stands of pinyon pine on the lower western slope of the area, and the Duckwater Shoshone harvest pine nuts here. Above about 9,000 feet elevation on north- and east-facing exposures are beautiful conifer forests of white fir, limber pine, bristlecone pine, and scattered ponderosa pines. Still higher is a subalpine bristlecone forest, mostly composed of young, vigorous trees quite unlike the popular image of the species. On exposed crests are older bristlecones, gnarled and sculpted by centuries of wind and weather. Currant bushes are--as the area's name implies--on the crest.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative for this area differs from the Forest Service roadless area boundary in three respects:

(1) Deletes lands on the west-central part of the roadless area. The roadless area extends down the alluvial fan to the Forest boundary on the west. We support a more manageable boundary along the base of the mountains. This also removes a number of livestock water developments and corrals from the area, and much of the area used by wild horses and by the Shoshone for pine nut gathering.

(2) Deletes the Corduroy Mt. Ridge. This area is off the main backbone of the range. It is heavily grazed, has many range developments, and ranchers drive in to the area to salt their cattle.

(3) Add back the "road" northeast of Currant Mountain. This "road" runs through a thick stand of white fir. The road was built to allow harvest of the firs for Christmas trees, but it is already overgrown and will quickly reforest. We strongly support protecting the fir forest.

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**EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE**

Humboldt National Forest  
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	22,962 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	27,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	27,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	27,000 acres

The East Humboldts are a northern extension of the Ruby Mountains. While they contain some of the most dramatic alpine scenery in Nevada, a nearly complete lack of public access has prevented much recreation use in the past. In 1982 the Forest Service acquired a trail access for foot and horse traffic only into the south end of the area, near Stephens Creek.

Now visitors can enjoy fishing in a half dozen trout streams, camping by small glacial lakes, the chance to glimpse a mountain goat, rockclimbing on spectacular ridges, or visiting 11,306 foot Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak (and, of course, stand in the hole that pierces the peak). All this in a setting of heavily glaciated peaks, cliffs, talus slopes, and U-shaped canyons with groves of limber pines and aspens, and high meadows carpeted with wildflowers.

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**ELK MOUNTAIN**

Humboldt National Forest  
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	12,575 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	12,600 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	12,600 acres

The Elk Mountain area lies approximately 65 miles north of Wells, Nevada adjacent to the Idaho-Nevada border and nine miles to the northeast of the Jarbidge Wilderness. It is within the Intermountain sagebrush/sagebrush steppe ecosystem, with elevation ranging from 6500 feet on the west to 8800 feet on the east. It is a popular area for big game and upland game bird hunting, and was recommended for wilderness designation by several Elko County sportsmen during the July, 1985 Congressional field trip.

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## EXCELSIOR MOUNTAINS

Toiyabe National Forest  
Mineral County

Size of Roadless Area:	124,590 acres (Nv. portion only)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	122,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	122,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 122,000 acres

From the vast rolling landscape of the proposed Excelsior Wilderness you look out at ranges twice as high--the White Mountains to the south and the Sierra Nevada to the west. The Excelsiors overlook the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, with Mono Lake at its center.

The Excelsior Range is not the high, alpine ridge country typical of many of the other Nevada wilderness proposals. It is a jumbled, complex landscape of branching ridges, rambling rock ledges, pinyon-juniper woodlands, and startling basins of evanescent lakes.

The Excelsiors have been little touched or explored by modern man. Archaeological evidence is the only sign that humans have ever traveled much of the region. The lack of surface water and developable resources have kept a remarkably large area wild and pristine. Today's visitor sees an untouched Great Basin environment: dense pinyon and juniper woodlands, many small dry lake basins, and native grasses and flowers undisturbed by livestock grazing.

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## GRANT RANGE

Humboldt National Forest  
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	101,030 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	98,904 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	53,383 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	60,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 60,000 acres

Within the grandeur of cliff-girdled peaks, the Grant Range contains a natural storehouse of over 200 species of wildflowers, including a rare Nevada primrose, more than a dozen tree species, and both mule deer and bighorn sheep.

The visitor can enjoy this wilderness at any level of physical involvement. But the hiker who reaches the summit of 11298' Troy Peak has indeed met the tests of route finding and endurance, with rewards of grand vistas and the exquisite subtleties of rock shape and form. The Friends of

Nevada Wilderness is willing here, as in other areas, to adjust boundaries for the exclusion of major mineral developments.

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JARBIDGE WILDERNESS ADDITIONS Humboldt National Forest  
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	94,475 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	28,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	23,440 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	23,000 acres
H.R. 3302:	54,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	54,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 54,000 acres

Surrounding Nevada's only designated wilderness area are proposed wilderness additions, including the wild and overgrown drainages of Fox and Pine Creeks, and the "pointed fir" country leading up to the peaks themselves. This area is unique in Nevada because it straddles the divide between the Great Basin province and the plateau and deep canyon country of the Snake River drainage.

The Jarbidge Wilderness itself contains the lofty heights of this beautiful area. The additions include the surrounding peaks, tablelands, canyons, and forests needed to complement the central peaks and protect wildlife habitats.

Guides and outfitting businesses bring visitors up pack trails for hunting, trout fishing, and field study classes. Last year, one of our member organizations, the Sierra Club, worked with a local rancher to urge the Forest Service not to allow construction of new roads into the area.

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MT. CHARLESTON (SPRING MOUNTAINS) Toiyabe National Forest  
Clark County

Size of Roadless Area:	38,370 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	32,000 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	32,000 acres
H.R. 3302:	47,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	47,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 47,000 acres

The Spring Mountain Range--fourth highest in the state--is less than an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas. Here spectacular 11,918 foot Mt. Charleston towers a remarkable 10,000 feet above the sprawling city. The rise above the surrounding lands is greater than for any other mountain range in the state.

Mt. Charleston provides a startling contrast to and escape from the noise, lights, and oppressive summer heat of Las Vegas. Much of the range is densely covered with relict pleistocene forests of ponderosa and bristlecone pines, and firs--survivors of the wetter and colder climate Nevada had in the last ice age. The forests are interrupted by massive cliffs and a range crest that includes the only peaks above timberline in the southern Great Basin. This mountain island is home to 25 plant species and one mammal (the Palmer chipmunk) found nowhere else in the world.

Nearly all the areas suitable for non-wilderness recreation within this unit of the Toiyabe National Forest have already been developed for such uses, so that the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative offers little conflict with future recreational development. A master plan approved by Clark County for private lands on the mountain strongly controls development there.

There has never been any conflict between preservation and mineral development here, either in the forest or on adjacent BLM lands.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative includes lands that were not counted in either the 1972 RARE I inventory unit (35,000 acres) or the "backcountry" unit identified in the 1976 Forest Service land use plan (40,400 acres). The Forest Service did not claim that the backcountry unit included all roadless lands--only those for which they recommended management essentially as wilderness in the land use plan. The Forest Service was asked by one of our member organizations, the Sierra Club, to inventory the other roadless areas in RARE II, but the request was denied.

The additional roadless lands in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative include:

--Approximately 6 square miles having excellent wilderness qualities on the slopes north of Lee Canyon, and drainages and slopes on the north side of Kyle Canyon. Included in the latter are the outstanding pristine areas in and around Fletcher Canyon and Stanley B Springs.

--Approximately 4 square miles of lower McFarland Canyon and the Mud Springs near the northeastern boundary of the forest, from Mack's Canyon to the abandoned Camp Bonanza Boy Scout use area.

--Approximately 6 1/2 square miles of roadless lands on 10,018 foot Harris Mountain, south of the Kyle Canyon private lands and the Rainbow summer home area. There have been occasional attempts to put television receiver antennas on this peak, but no mechanized equipment has been used here to date and the area still remains wild.

--Approximately 1 1/2 square miles in the Wallace Canyon drainage on the west slope, because of its pristine qualities. Flash flood hazards preclude any conflicting development here.

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## MT. MORIAH

Humboldt National Forest  
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	96,901 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	96,601 acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	81,743 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	73,000 acres
H.R. 3302:	88,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	98,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 98,000 acres

Mt. Moriah is Nevada's 5th highest peak at 12,050 feet. Sheer-walled gorges cut into the mountain mass from the east; deeper in the range, streams course through narrow, twisted canyons. A rare cutthroat trout and bighorn sheep live in this outstanding wilderness.

Moriah, just across Sacramento Pass from Wheeler Peak, is much less known but just as beautiful. John Hart (author of Hiking the Great Basin) says of Moriah that, "on the rounded peaks, more than on any other Great Basin peak, you have the sensation not just of height but of deep remoteness, of immersion in wilderness. The North Snake is broad and primitive; the arid valley floors are a long way off and a long way down."

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative is larger than the Forest Service roadless area because we have included a small portion of Bureau of Land Management land adjacent to the Forest. This is an integral part of the area and should be considered at the same time.

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## MT. ROSE

Toiyabe National Forest  
Washoe County

Size of Roadless Area:	19,838 acres (The 5,300 Hunter Creek roadless area and the 14,538 acre Carson Range roadless area are separated only by an unimproved jeep trail.)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	33,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	35,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 35,000 acres

Only a few minutes from the second largest city in Nevada lies the Mt. Rose proposed wilderness. This high snowfall area of the Carson Range is reminiscent of the Sierra Nevada to the west, but with a distinctly Great Basin flavor. Open meadow lands, several peaks over 10,000 feet, and ridges affording views as far as Mt. Shasta (200 miles to the northwest) are just a small part of the mountain experience. It is extremely popular with backpackers and hikers from the Reno area.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative is so much larger than the Forest Service roadless area acreages because the Forest Service has acquired additional undeveloped lands within the National Forest which were not included in their original acreage figures.

The Forest Service also divided the area into two along a jeep route between Big Meadows and Hunter Lake. This little-used track is in no way a road and should be closed. The Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposes leaving open the roads from the northwest corner of the area to Big Meadows and from Reno to Hunter Lake. Both are frequent destinations of local picnickers.

The Friends of Nevada Wilderness also has left the entire Galena Creek face of Mount Rose out of the proposed wilderness. This area has a pending proposal for downhill ski development.

Most of the private lands on the west side of the area belong to Fibreboard, Inc., which would like to exchange them for other forest lands.

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PEARL PEAK Humboldt National Forest  
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area: 12,892 acres  
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979: -0-  
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85: -0-  
S. 722 & H.R. 1686: -0-  
H.R. 3302: -0-  
H.R. 3304: -0-

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 23,000 acres

Pearl Peak lies about 45 miles southeast of Elko, Nevada in the southern portion of the Ruby Mountains. Elevations run from Pearl Peak itself at 10,847 feet to about 7,000 feet, offering spectacular views of the surrounding valleys, particularly that overlooking the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. A special attraction to the area is the only bristlecone pine stand in the Ruby Mountains, covering an area one mile wide and running north from Cass House Peak.

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QUINN CANYON RANGE Humboldt National Forest  
Nye/Lincoln Counties

Size of Roadless Area: 100,661 acres  
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979: 89,000 acres  
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85: -0-  
S. 722 & H.R. 1686: -0-  
H.R. 3302: -0-  
H.R. 3304: 95,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 95,000 acres

The Quinn Canyon Range proposed wilderness is an extension of the jumbled high country in the Grant Range immediately north. But here because volcanic rocks predominate rather than limestone, there is more surface water in canyon narrows and springs. If wilderness is in part "a blank spot on the map," you will find it here. The peaks and ridges, including the high point at 10,229 feet, are unnamed.

The Forest Service recommended an 89,000 acre Quinn Canyon Wilderness in 1979 because of the high wilderness qualities of the area, despite information showing possible minerals conflicts. The Reagan administration supported making this area wilderness in November, 1981. Our proposal deletes the northwest corner of the roadless area, thus eliminating the majority of the few mining claims which occur.

In the heart of this rugged high country is summer deer range and a historical home for a herd of bighorn sheep. Our proposal also includes the scenic Hooper Canyon area in the north, with its limestone cliffs and gorge and its bristlecone pines; the crest of the range and most of the summer big game range around it; most of three major drainages from the crest to the west and a large part of one from the crest to the east, and a transition to the very different country of the southern part of the roadless area. All of these areas deserve wilderness designation.

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**RUBY MOUNTAINS  
(RUBY AND RUBY NORTH)**

Humboldt National Forest  
Elko County

Size of Roadless Area:	98,967 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	65,000 acres
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	67,093 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	74,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	143,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 143,000 acres

Twenty miles southeast of Elko are the Ruby Mountains. The name alone invokes the correct image: high, multi-faceted, granite-like peaks soaring above lush green meadows and sparkling sapphire-blue lakes.

Nowhere else in Nevada is there such a spectacular glacier-carved landscape, with hanging valleys, clusters of lakes, and snow-fed streams flowing down the U-shaped glacial valleys on the west side of the range. Because they are so heavily glaciated and have such abundant water, the Rubies represent, in many minds, the epitome of classic mountain wilderness.

As such, they attract people of all ages, who come to camp, fish, horseback ride, hike, hunt, snowshoe, and cross-country ski. And they are not disappointed. The Rubies are a recreationist's paradise. Among other users are Boy Scout groups from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, and even further away.

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## SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS

Humboldt National Forest  
Humboldt County

Size of Roadless Area:	72,110 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	80,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 80,000 acres

The Santa Rosa Mountains loom above the Quinn and Paradise River Valleys in far north central Nevada. They capture the water that brings life to a seemingly lifeless land. Golden eagles, perhaps more common here than anywhere else in Nevada, ride the crests of the nearly 10,000 foot range, ever searching for rising warm currents.

\* \* \* \* \*

SCHELL PEAKS  
(S. SCHELL)Humboldt National Forest  
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	133,706 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	120,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 120,000 acres

The heights of the Schell Creek Range form the backbone of the Schell Creek Range proposed wilderness. The long and lofty range marches above timberline for miles reaching North Schell Peak at 11,883 feet. Rimrock, talus slopes, and cliffs fall away into broad basins where clear streams run. Elk, mule deer, mountain lion, beaver, and trout thrive in forests of quaking aspen, Douglas and white fir, spruce, limber and bristlecone pine.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOUTH SNAKE RANGE  
(MT. WHEELER/HIGHLAND)Humboldt National Forest  
White Pine County

Size of Roadless Area:	144,498 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	137,636 acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	60,151 acres
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	120,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	120,000 acres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 120,000 acres

At the very eastern boundary of Nevada, the massive majesty of the South Snake Range looms against the sunrise. Wheeler Peak is 13,063 feet in elevation—the second highest peak in Nevada. It stands 8000 feet above the surrounding valleys.

But Wheeler Peak is only a small part of this area. South of Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Baker Peak, Pyramid Peak, Mt. Washington, and Lincoln Peak all tower above 11,500 feet with clear mountain lakes nestled deep within their shadows.

The well-watered east side of the range is cut by streams, each in canyons lined with willows, chokecherries, aspen, and the pungent aroma of sagebrush giving way to the sweet fragrance of wild rose. High atop crumbling limestone slopes grow bristlecone pines, twisted by centuries of buffeting winds and snow. The oldest tree ever dated was found here: it was 4,900 years old.

A tiny active glacier still chips away at the north face of Wheeler Peak—the only active glacier in the entire Great Basin.

Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon proposed making this area into a National Park in the late 1950's, supported by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. That was before passage of the Wilderness Act, and their proposal foundered because of Representative Walter Baring's insistence that grazing and development of valid existing mining claims should be able to continue in the area. Those uses would be protected by a wilderness designation today, while assuring long-lasting protection of wilderness values.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SWEETWATER MOUNTAINS

Toiyabe National Forest  
Lyon County

Size of Roadless Area:	68,112 acres (12,260 in Nevada)
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	12,260 acres (further planning)
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	-0-

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative: 12, 260 acres

The Sweetwater Mountains are a unique mountain range unattached to the Sierra Nevada. They begin in Mono County, California and continue north into Lyon County, Nevada, extending from the low, surrounding valleys at approximately 6,000 feet to the high alpine area of Mt. Patterson at 11,679 feet. The crest is distinctive because of the multi-colored, rocky peaks in the core area between Wheeler Peak and Sweetwater Canyon and is an unusual ecosystem with abundant wildlife and several sensitive plant species.

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 continued the further planning status established by Rare II and there is considerable support within



California for wilderness designation of the California portion of these lands.

\* \* \* \* \*

TABLE MOUNTAIN

Toiyabe National Forest  
Nye County

Size of Roadless Area:	166,920 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	125,000 acres
H.R. 3304:	125,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	125,000 acres

Looking up from Monitor Valley, the long summit of Table Mountain dominates the eastern horizon. The aspens here are not in groves along narrow canyons: they are in forests. At the crest of the range is, in fact, a table or plateau. You can walk for a dozen miles above 10,000 feet with hardly any climbing. The plateau drops precipitously to the east. Several large creeks have abundant trout, and an elk herd re-introduced to the area a few years ago has tripled in number.

\* \* \* \* \*

TOIYABE CREST

Toiyabe National Forest  
Lander/Nye Counties

Size of Roadless Area:	108,320 acres
Forest Service RARE II Proposal, 1979:	-0-
Forest Service Land Use Proposal, 6/85:	-0-
S. 722 & H.R. 1686:	-0-
H.R. 3302:	-0-
H.R. 3304:	79,000 acres
Friends of Nevada Wilderness Alternative:	79,000 acres

The 72 mile Toiyabe Crest Trail runs down the high spine of the Toiyabe Range. Two thirds of the trail is in this proposed wilderness, which runs from Kingston to Ophir Canyons. The trail winds its way around the highest peaks and crosses broad ridges with constantly changing views of the valleys and mountain ranges of central Nevada.

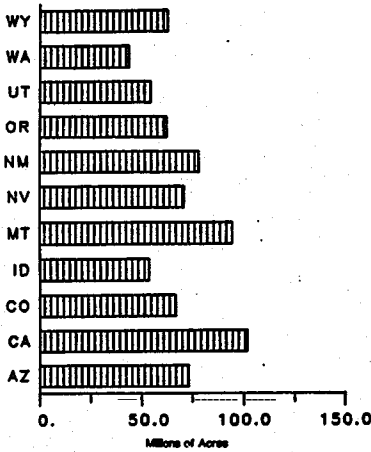
A series of peaks just under 11,000 feet loom at the head of deep creek canyons--Washington, Broad, San Juan, Tierney, and Marysville Canyons, among others. Lahonton Cutthroat Trout, a federally listed endangered species, occurs in several of the streams in the canyons, and a small bighorn sheep herd uses the southern part of the area. On the steep east side of the range are the "Wild Granites"--a 4000 foot wall of granite carved by wind and water into spectacular vertical spikes and columns.

## WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEVADA NATIONAL FORESTS

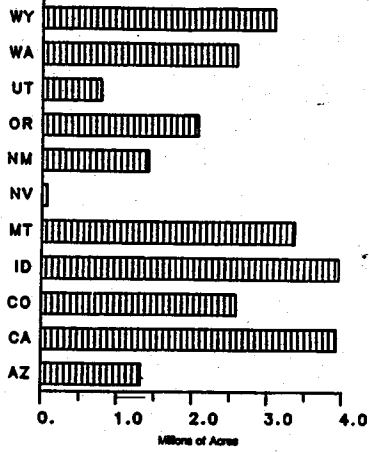
ROADLESS AREA	NEVADA COUNTY	U.S. FOREST SERVICE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS RARE II 1979 JUNE 1985		S722 & HR1686 1985(1)	FNW* REC. AREAS AUG. 1985	HR3302 REID (2)	HR3304 SEIBERLING(3)
<b>TOiyabe NAT'L FOREST</b>							
Mt. Rose	Washoe	0	0	0	35000	33000	35000
Excelsior	Mineral	122000(a)	0	0	122000(a)	0	122000
Toiyabe Crest	Lander/Nye	0	0	0	79000	0	79000
Arc Dome	Nye	100700	94400	0	146000	146000	146000
Alta Toiyama (Mount Jefferson)	Nye	0	31000	0	45000	0	45000
Table Mountain	Nye	0	0	0	125000	125000	125000
Mt. Charleston (Spring Mountains)	Clark	0	32000	32000	47000	47000	47000
Sweetwater	Lyon	12260FP	0	0	12260(a)	0	0
<b>INYO NAT'L FOREST</b>							
Boundary Peak	Esmeralda	8900	8900	8900	8900(a)	8900	8900
<b>HUMBOLDT NAT'L FOREST</b>							
Santa Rosa	Humboldt	0	0	0	80000	0	80000
Jarbridge Additions	Elko	28000	23440	23000	54000	54000	54000
East Humboldts	Elko	0	0	0	27000	27000	27000
Ruby Mountains (Ruby & Ruby North)	Elko	65000	67093	0	143000(b)	74000	143000(b)
Schell Peaks (S. Schell)	White Pine	0	0	0	120000	0	120000
Mount Moriah	White Pine	95601FP	81743(c)	73000	98000(c)	88000	98000(c)
South Snake Range (Mt. Wheeler/Highland)	White Pine	137636FP	60151	0	120000(d)	120000(d)	120000(d)
Current Mountain (Duckwater)	White Pine/Nye	0	0	0	49000	0	49000
Grant Range	Nye	98904	53383	0	60000	0	60000
Quinn Canyon	Nye/Lincoln	89000	0	0	95000	0	95000
Elk Mountain	Elko	0	0	0	12600	0	12600
Pearl Peak	Elko	0	0	0	23000	0	0
Proposed Wilderness Acres		512504	452110	136900	1501760	722900	1466500
Further Planning:		246497FP					
Number of Proposed Areas		10	9	4	21	10	19
Nat'l Forest Roadless acres:		3,640,000	(a)	Nevada Portion Only; includes area in Inyo N.F.			
Nat'l Forest Acres NOT Eligible:		1,510,156	(b)	Ruby & Ruby North Combined			
Nat'l Forest Acres in Nevada:		5,150,156	(c)	Includes BLM Acreage			
Nevada Land in Acres:		70,700,000	(d)	Mt. Wheeler & Highland Ridge Combined			
FP = Further Planning areas Under RARE II			(1)	Co-sponsors: Laxalt, Hecht, Vucanovich			
			(2)	Sponsor: Reid			
			(3)	Co-sponsors: Seiberling, Kostmayer, Weaver, Darden			

\*FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

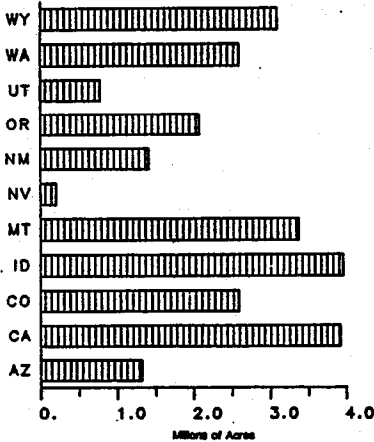
Land Area of Western States



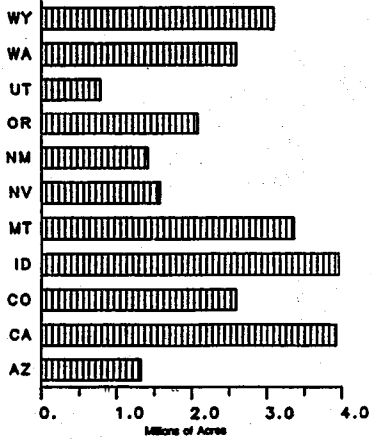
Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other Western States\*



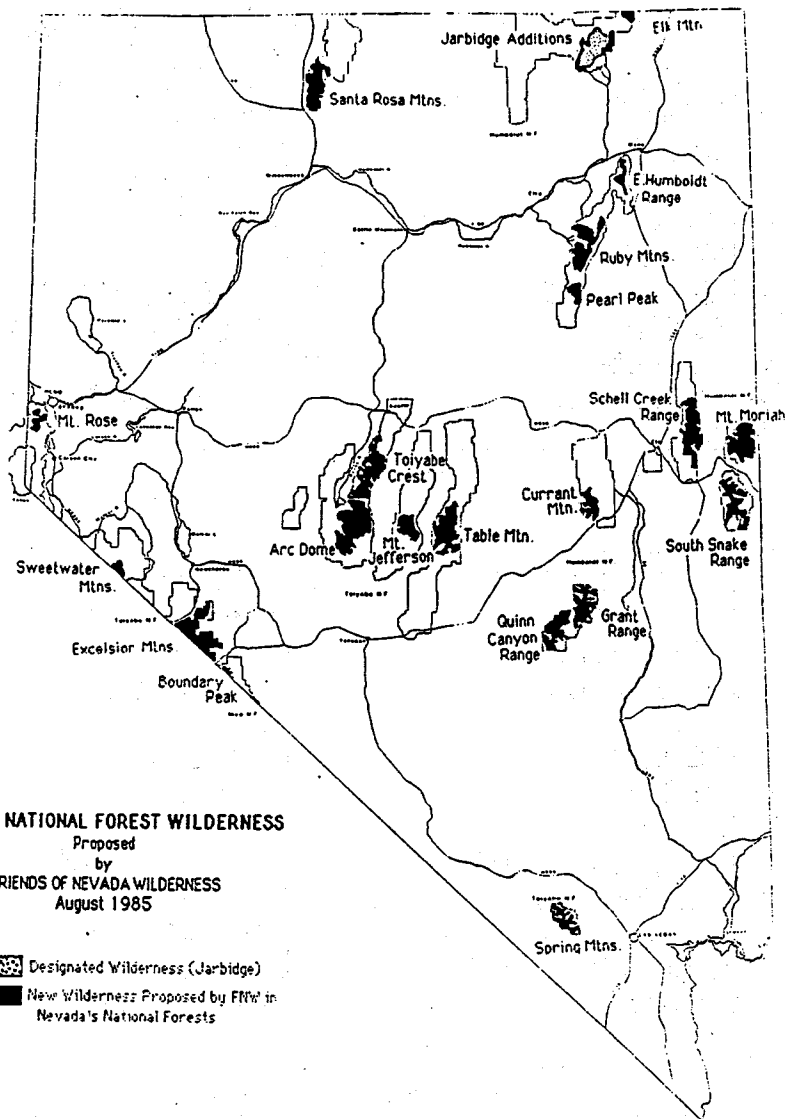
Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness & Wilderness Proposed by S722 & HR1686 to Wilderness Designated in Other Western States\*



Comparison of Nevada's Designated Wilderness & Areas Proposed by Friends of Nevada Wilderness to Designated Wilderness in Other States\*



\* Lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service only. Other states have additional wilderness areas administered by the National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.





## NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS

Proposed

by

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS

August 1985

-  Designated Wilderness (Jarbidge)
-  New Wilderness Proposed by FNW in Nevada's National Forests



**Lahontan Audubon Society, Inc.**

Post Office Box 2304  
Reno, Nevada 89505  
(702) 329-8766

Statement of Jay Meierdierck of  
Lahontan Audubon Society and Red Rock Audubon Society  
Before the Subcommittee on Public Lands  
On H.R. 3304, H.R. 3302 and H.R. 1686  
Regarding Wilderness for NEVADA  
October 10 - 11, 1985

**NEVADA NEEDS AND WANTS  
WILDERNESS**

My name is Jay Meierdierck, I am a resident of Carson City, Nevada. I am representing today the Lahontan Audubon Society of northern Nevada and the Red Rock Audubon Society of southern Nevada. I served as the charter vice-president and conservation chairman of RRAS in Las Vegas for two terms. I am currently vice-president of LAS.

Professionally I am a planner. I received a degree in Economics from Arizona State University. I was a land use planner in Clark County, Nevada, and developed a Comprehensive Regional Plan for all of Clark County, the first such plan and the one that formed the basis for the current regional plan. I was the Program Coordinator for Acquisition, Planning, and Grants for the Nevada Division of State Parks and developed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the State Parks Master Plan, the Statewide Trails Plan, the Dispersed Recreation in Nevada Study, the State Natural Heritage Study and the Economics of Recreation Study, among others.

I was most recently the state Land Use Planner for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and developed the States Policy Plan for Public Lands. This was a statewide policy plan that was developed for each city and county dealing with local policies for federal lands as requested in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA). This plan dealt with public land management, disposal and special features including wilderness, wild horses, etc.

In these various capacities I have studied, analyzed and assisted in planning for every local government. I have been involved in wilderness and related management throughout Nevada. When the MX missile system was proposed for Nevada I was the primary staff person for the Recreation and Wilderness state policy team. I served on the committee set up by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and

Congressman Reid that attempted to reach some consensus on USFS wilderness proposals and legislation approximately one year ago. I have studied these wilderness areas, the RARE II plans, and have been in many of these areas.

It is with this background and a love for the truly beautiful and special areas of Nevada that I am speaking today. I will tell you that Nevada needs and wants Wilderness.

The Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which I wrote, documents outdoor recreation, conservation and open space needs for Nevada. One of the Goals identified in the SCORP (page 2-5, #4) is that: "Unique natural and scenic areas must be managed more deliberately to offset the expanding human development and use of lands and waters that have accompanied population growth. The required actions include: classification of some lands as wilderness."

Under discussion of the Goals (page 8-6, 2A), it is recommended that, ". . . areas with potential wilderness area qualities should retain a high priority for that designation, irrespective of their remoteness from urban centers." Therefore, the SCORP supports designation of some roadless areas as wilderness to provide primitive areas for the recreational demands of hunting, fishing and hiking as well as for reasons of preservation of some areas in a natural state for educational, scientific, aesthetic, wildlife, watershed, and personal pleasures.

The discussion in the SCORP of Wilderness and Primitive Area Protection includes the following summarized comments (page 7-6 to 7-8). Recreation planning and development should not divert Nevadans from the action needed to preserve parts of the state in their natural condition. The need to do this is less tangible than the need for developed parks and recreation areas, but is no less urgent.

The term "wilderness" evokes strong feelings from proponents and opponents of the concept that some areas should remain essentially unmodified by human development. Opponents interpret it as an area "locked up" against any other uses but occasional solitary enjoyment by those whose livelihood does not depend on economic use of resources in the areas they propose for wilderness management. In Nevada, as in many parts of the West, there is resentment of the suggestion that any publicly owned open spaces should be encumbered by regulations against particular uses. Unregulated public access to these lands is jealously guarded as a birthright.

From the other side of the table, proponents argue that wilderness management does not categorically lock out most recreation uses, grazing or mining. They assert that wilderness areas are economically productive in a broad sense, as well as spiritually refreshing. They note that less than one tenth of one percent of Nevada's public land is classified as wilderness,



the lowest of any western state. They also are sure that a wide cross-section of the population benefits from preservation of valuable wilderness resources. They assert that vast areas of other suitable U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands will remain accessible to private vehicles, even if actual wilderness designations restrict such access.

The National Wilderness Act of 1964 originally mandated review of 2,022,847 acres of public lands in Nevada for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This acreage represents about 2.8 percent of the federal land in Nevada. Only the Jarbridge Wilderness has been approved, comprising 64,847 acres or .09 percent of Nevada federal lands.

It is important to keep in view the fact that even if an area is eventually approved for wilderness classification in the national system, that they will remain open for recreational use by hunters, fishermen, and hikers. The Wilderness Act of 1964 permits grazing and mineral prospecting to continue, as well as permitting continued mining on patented or valid claims. Permanent roads and private motor vehicle use are prohibited, but access by fire fighting and other service vehicles can continue.

The SCORP indicates a higher participation and desires for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and backpacking. The SCORP points out that in every planning region fishing, hunting, hiking and walking were listed among the

favorite recreational activities. Fishing ranked first in every region, except Clark County where it was third, as the favorite activity. Hunting ranked as second or third favorite activity in the rural districts and fourth in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City district.

The SCORP points out, also, that in every planning region walking and hiking were listed among the favorite activities. Particularly significant in the SCORP survey figures is the high participation rate for hiking and walking in the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area (Region I). Actual participation in these two activities was second only to bicycle riding. In the Las Vegas area (Region III) hiking and walking was listed as the fourth favorite activity while placing fifth in actual participation. Wilderness users have priorities which place a high value on scenic beauty and variety. The U.S. Forest Service administers the vast majority of the lands in Nevada amenable to hiking and walking. The SCORP also indicates that hunting, fishing and trail related activities are among the highest in forecasted increase.

The vast majority of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation occurs on existing roads, in the valleys and in designated areas. OHV activities have specific terrain requirements necessary for a quality recreation experience. It is not an accurate assumption that OHV use is appropriate to any remote, undeveloped area.

Nevada is one of the fastest growing states, on a percentage basis, over the last three decades. According to projections it is expected to continue. According to a U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation study of 171 metropolitan places in the nation, the Las Vegas and Reno areas are expected to lead all the rest in their general increase of demand for outdoor recreation. A corresponding increase in wilderness recreation can be anticipated.

Approximately 40% of Nevada State Park use is from out-of-state. Although the State Parks support a broad range of activities, use surveys conducted at Nevada's only wilderness area, the Jarbridge, are similar. Half are Nevadans, 20% from Idaho, 15% from California, and the remaining 15% from other states including Arizona, Oregon, Florida, West Virginia, New Mexico, and Georgia.

General tendencies in the west indicate an increasing orientation towards Nevada as an outlet for wilderness recreation needs. There are three general reasons for this.

First, in certain wilderness areas demand exceeds supply. In California's Desolation Valley Wilderness, the closest wilderness to me and many Nevadans, near Lake Tahoe, a maximum permissible limit of users has been identified, and is now enforced through entry permit procedures.

Second, the vastness and diversity of Nevada's landscape, coupled with a relatively low recreational use of these resources at present, create conditions highly prized in recreation: opportunities to enjoy travel by foot or horseback in a natural setting, and meet few other people along the way. This quality of solitude and its relation to dispersed recreation has a drawing capacity that should be protected. This summer I spent four days hiking with a friend and my dog in the pending Arc Dome Wilderness and saw no other people.

Third, it should be remembered that Nevada's economy is uniquely characterized by the recreation and entertainment industries. Wilderness recreation opportunities are clearly an important part of the "package" Nevada offers to attract out-of-state visitors.

In fact, the Nevada Departments of Economic Development and Tourism is dictated by Nevada Revised Statutes to promote Nevada to increase tourism. Their marketing plan calls for diversification and to change the image of Nevada away from glitter and to more family type activities. Their brochure promotes the wilderness type of image. For instance, look at the cover of the state's official map with a wilderness camp. Their brochure "Nevada's Got It" emphasizes the natural features and "exploring." There is also a full page color picture of our only wilderness area.

The majority of the areas appropriate for wilderness are included

in the Seiberling bill. These are the higher elevation forest-mountain or pinyon-juniper vegetation, and where water is available. This occurs within the areas recommended. Typically these are far removed from the two urban centers. This explains the popularity and the real need for the two areas near the urban centers - Mt. Rose and Mt. Charleston.

In a study I did for Nevada State Parks, the two most important factors in consideration of dispersed recreation activities were: #1 - scenery (83.2%) and #2 - good natural resources (78.1%). The three biggest concerns were: #1 - infringement on solitude by larger numbers of people, #2 - restrictions on use of land, inhibiting recreation use, and #3 - limited information on the various types of areas open for recreation. The designation of the 21 areas as wilderness will protect or help all of these concerns.

The primary trip purpose of surveyed non-resident motorists entering Nevada in the summer of 1975 was outdoor recreation (28.9%). This was more than for gambling (26.6%) or "passing through" (15.8%).

Campers, backpackers and other dispersed outdoor activity participants spent in the neighborhood of \$16 per person per day in 1979. This is a lot less than they spend at blackjack or at a restaurant but it is significant.

Overall, the outdoor recreation industry in Nevada appears to employ more people than the timber industry and is in the same general range as agriculture and mining in persons employed. (Outdoor recreation is below mining in payrolls produced).

Employment generated by outdoor recreation appears to be fairly stable. Establishments which serve outdoor recreation visitors and residents are generally stable small businesses which return most income and profits to local communities in the form of purchases and investments.

Nevada currently has ONE USFS Wilderness  
 Nevada currently has NO USFWS Wilderness  
 Nevada currently has NO NPS Wilderness  
 Nevada currently has NO BLM Wilderness  
 Nevada currently has NO Wild and Scenic Rivers  
 Nevada currently has NO National Trails  
 Nevada currently has NO National Parks  
 Nevada currently has NO National Historic Sites  
 Nevada currently has ONE National Recreation Area (part of one)  
 Nevada currently has ONE National Monument (and part of  
 another)

Nevada needs some of its lands protected!

The Governors Commission on the Future of Nevada identified as one of its goals:

"Preserve a representative cross section of Nevada's roadless undeveloped areas in wilderness, primitive and natural condition." It also said Nevada (Natural Resource Objective G) should "Identify, protect and preserve significant environmental communities, geologic formations and wildlife habitat."

Surely this state, full of grandeur and beauty, can do better than we have to consecrate its natural wonders for future generations!

# Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

STATEMENT OF LOIS SAGEL, LAS VEGAS NEVADA REPRESENTING SOROPTIMIST INT'L OF GREATER LAS VEGAS, AND DISABLED INDIVIDUAL, BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE ON H.R. 3302 AND H.R. 3304 WILDERNESS BILL FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA, OCTOBER 10, 1985.

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I am speaking to you as a leader in Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, as a Nevadan of 28 years, as a mother and as one who is physically disabled. Soroptimist International is a world-wide service organization of professional and executive women. These club members are dedicated to giving service in their communities, states, and nations as well as in the international community. Soroptimists are attorneys, bankers, CPA's and court reporters, they are dentists, entertainers, government workers at all levels, physicians, teachers and insurance counselors. They are miners and musicians, printers and realtors, veterinarians and writers. In short, they are the business community. There is true concern in Nevada from Soroptimists statewide for the Nevada Wilderness issue. Attached to this testimony are letters of support for the Wilderness position as stated by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness Coalition. Every Soroptimist club in southern Nevada is represented. Given time, there would have been letters from the

P.O. Box 66 Las Vegas, Nevada 89125



rest of the state as well. Soroptimist are business professionals, who are aware of the value of Wilderness to the State of Nevada. Tourism is our major state industry, and the positive effect on the tourism industry gained by such a small percentage of federal lands cannot be ignored. What is good for tourism in Nevada is good business for all.

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas would like to go on record in commending Congressman John Seiberling and the members of his committee who took their time to visit Nevada's wilderness areas in June. We do appreciate their concern on our behalf. We would also like to thank Congressman Harry Reid for the wilderness bill he introduced in September. We feel that Congressman Reid is a friend of the citizens of Nevada and his bill is a step in the right direction, but it remains our belief that the 21 areas recommended by FNW is the best protection for wilderness for both Nevadans and the rest of our great nation.

On a more personal level, I've been a Nevadan for 28 years. We've raised our family here, and are proud of our state with it's independent frontier spirit. I am the mother of three, grandmother of two. I'm the granddaughter of a cattle rancher whose herds grazed on federal lands. I'm the daughter of a miner and logger. And, I support the concept of preserving the 21 areas for the future; 1.5 million acres of wonderful mountain tops within our arid state. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy picnics in high meadows, fishing in ice-cold creeks,

wild critters roaming at will; to be able to watch the clouds racing through the high mountain tops on the unseen winds, the glow of virgin aspen groves in the fall, the quiet purple beauty of a snowy dusk. I want to know this will be there for them, as well as for others. I was raised in a mountain resort in Southern California, and I've seen what ski resorts, discos, highways and condos can do. Have you seen the pine trees along a highway die because of carbon monoxide poisoning? And what about those quaint little towns full of bars, snowmobiles and motorscooters; the resort homes with their five foot lot lines, and satellite dishes among the tree tops. With development, there are no longer meadows, deer, raccoons, and birds. No longer do the pines sigh in the wind, they are now firewood, fenceposts, or hazards. The creeks dry up and lakes are polluted. We know on very clear evidence the air/water/noise and ground pollution. And developments, even with promises to the contrary, do NOT preserve our areas of natural beauty.

One of the big arguments against wilderness areas seems to be coming in the name of the handicapped. As a person who has a physical disability, I have very strong feelings that our communities must provide equal opportunities for those who cannot gain equal access. A young paraplegic single mother of two told me last week that the wilderness was in her own town. She wants to be able to get on a bus, to use a payphone, and be able to park her car where she can get her wheelchair in and out. But

she also wants the Nevada Wilderness Bill for her young children.

I cannot walk any distance, nor stand for any time. And I know what it is not to be able to go shopping because I can't walk across the parking lot, or get into a building with steps. But, I really believe that the issue of Wilderness has to be a question of balance. At one time, I could go into these wilderness areas, to use them for camping and fishing with my family. I dearly love to get those "Belly" flowers with my camera. However, I never climbed Arc Dome, and I certainly do not intend to do so now, even if you build me a road right to the base of that mountain.

The State of Nevada provides a number of programs which accommodate those who are disabled/handicapped. They have made it possible for me to drive to Bristlecone Pines, I can drive to see Big Horn Sheep, I can use our Forest Service campgrounds in Mount Charleston and enjoy the Aspens and camping. There is not the need for the State or the federal government to provide disabled persons with a paved highway into every area of the state I might want to visit. And I seriously question how many of the disabled would visit those areas even if they were open. Certainly, I would love to see Table Mountain. But I realize that part of accepting a disability is the ability to compromise.

The whole thrust of our Nevada Wilderness bill has taken on the guise of "us" versus "them," complete with petty bickering

and emotionalism. I am here, representing that ordinary citizen who is guilty of the "SIN OF SILENCE", who is looking for a bill to protect "NEVADA," to let a bit of our frontier heritage live. But, this common goal is clouded with the vocal minority concerned with personal gain, not the good of Nevada. The time has come for the citizens to put aside these petty differences of opinion and work together to achieve a comprehensive wilderness designation for the State of Nevada THIS YEAR. As the Soroptimists say, "Working together, we can make a difference."

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL  
CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB  
BEFORE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE/REGARDING  
NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS (H.R. 3302 & H.R. 3304)  
OCTOBER 10, 1985

My name is Marjorie Sill. I reside in Reno, Nevada, and am representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has over 1900 members in Nevada and Eastern California.

When we have polled our members on their conservation concerns, we have found that wilderness, and particularly National Forest Wilderness, is the overwhelming priority. The members who do not or cannot use the wilderness themselves want the wild areas preserved for their children or grandchildren or for generations to come. Preservation of lands in the National Wilderness System is really a form of insurance for the future.

However, Nevada is, at the present time, grossly underinsured, and the nation is also underinsured in the kind of wilderness which Nevada contains. Great Basin country is geologically and ecologically different. It is characterized by long valleys cut by enormous north-south directed mountain ranges which are indeed "Islands in the Sky." These islands are unique because they catch the moisture that blows across arid Nevada, and because they offer a rich variety of wildlife, plant-life, rock forms, and riparian areas; all of which enhance their value to those seeking solitude, beauty, and the thrill of a primitive recreational experience.

My own experience with Nevada has been an important facet in my life. I first visited Nevada as a small child when my father brought me to Reno. At that time much of the country east of Lake Tahoe was in wilderness condition, and I remember my pleasure in walking in the area now included in the Mount Rose wilderness proposal and seeing the deer. This area is now extensively used by the residents of Northern Nevada and California for recreation. Since I moved permanently to Reno in the fall of 1959, I have climbed Mount Rose at least thirty times, have participated in trail building and restoration, and have explored the creeks, ridges, and meadows in all seasons. This is an extremely important watershed and wildlife area and needs protection from unrestrained ORV use, particularly in wet meadows in early summer.

In 1953, on our way to California, my husband and I accidentally stumbled onto the spectacular regions of the South Snake Range and spent a week exploring such beautiful areas as the upper reaches of Lehman Creek, Snake Creek, and Theresa and Stella Lakes. This region is of such high scenic quality that it has been proposed for a Great Basin National Park. Later we returned to discover the ancient grove of bristlecone pines and the only active glacier between the Sierra and the Rockies. I have returned to Wheeler Peak year after year to renew my acquaintance with its wild values or to show others this area I love so much. Thirty years of acquaintance with the South Snake have convinced me that it must have wilderness protection to keep its superb wilderness values, a conclusion that is echoed in the

recommendation contained in both bills for this area.

I and many of my Sierra Club friends have spent a great deal of time in the Ruby Mountains complex, including the East Humboldt and Pearl Peak. This is a large wilderness area with lakes, stream, a profusion of wildlife and plants, and an alpine atmosphere to its highest peaks. The Ruby Mountains are indeed a backpacker's paradise because of their hunting, fishing, photographic, and wildlife viewing opportunities and the excellent trails. I personally have seen a variety of people hiking in these mountains--ranging from small babies being carried by father or mother, children of six or so, boy scouts, young adults, middle-aged fishermen, and some hikers who were undoubtedly 70 or older. If you polled the citizens of Nevada, you would undoubtedly find that the Ruby Mountains are the best-known, and most beloved, of the wild areas. While the East Humboldts do not receive the same level of use, they also offer some spectacular attractions--lakes, peaks, wildlife, and a myriad of flowers. This is indeed magnificent wilderness.

Nevada's only designated wilderness at the present time--the 64,000 acre Jarbidge--is representative of a different kind of country. Its stark peaks stand against the sky. But to date, the country surrounding these peaks is unprotected by any formal status. The name Jarbidge means "monster that lurks in the canyon" in Shoshone, and it is these canyons and their overgrown creeks that must be included in the wilderness system along with the "country of the pointed firs"--the slopes leading up to the peaks. Again the wildlife and botanical values of the Jarbidge

are outstanding.

In Northwest Nevada, far removed from most of the big mountain ranges, lie the Santa Rosa Mountains, headwaters of the Little Humboldt and Quinn Rivers. This important watershed area is a favorite with trout fishermen and the very few recreationists who know the area. Granite Peak is almost 10,000 feet high, and surprisingly rugged to climb because of the rocky approaches. I have camped many times at Lye Creek and explored the area between Granite Peak and Santa Rosa Peak. It is a subtle country of rock outcroppings, lush meadows, lingering snowbanks, ephemeral lakes, and vivid patches of bright green or gold aspen, depending on the season. Wilderness status will ensure its survival from ORV damage, particularly in the meadows.

The three ranges of Central Nevada are each enormous and contain some spectacular wild country. Both the Toiyabe Crest--the "Wild Granite" country--and Arc Dome in the Toiyabe Range are representative of Nevada wilderness at its best. Recently I led a group of women on a climb of Arc Dome from Columbine Camp. The youngest member of the group was 30 and the oldest--a retired woman from Hawthorne--was 68. All but one made it to the top in spite of a cold front and thunderstorm that blew up without much warning. There was a warm feeling of achievement among us around the campfire that night as we talked about the glories of the area.

Mount Jefferson in the Toiyama Range is equally as impressive, particularly because of its archeological and historical values. To climb to Alta Toiyama, the highest



Shoshone encampment at 11,800 feet, is a thrill to those who visit the area centuries later.

The third range to the east is the Monitor Range with its enormous wild area of Table Mountain. The Table itself is vast and spectacular with its giant groves of aspen--new green in the early summer and golden in the fall, its streams which descend slowly to the west and plunge across cliffs to the east, and its wildlife. Tracking the elusive elk just to take pictures is the epitome of a wilderness experience. All of these areas must be protected under the wilderness system if they are not to be scarred with roads built to explore for questionable minerals.

I have mentioned only a few of the National Forest Areas in Nevada which qualify for wilderness, the ones I personally know the best personally from explorations during my years in Nevada, but they are all equally important. Every member of the Sierra Club has a stake in all these wilderness areas--a personal commitment to seeing that they are preserved.

We endorse whole-heartedly H.R. 3304--cosponsored by Congressmen Seiberling, Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver--to designate nineteen areas as wilderness. This bill will do much towards preserving some of the real wilderness values in Nevada and the Great Basin. We also wish to thank Representative Reid for introducing his ten-area bill, H.R. 3302, and hope that he will consider adding several other crucial areas to this bill. After so many years of working for wilderness in Nevada, both personally and as a Sierra Club activist, it gives me a warm feeling to realize that at last some of the magnificent values

that Nevada wilderness possesses are beginning to be recognized, and may finally be permanently protected. This is wilderness of the highest quality, previously known to only the few who were lucky enough to become acquainted with its values. But its very remoteness cannot save this wilderness from exploitation. Only wilderness designation can accomplish this goal.

The fight to achieve any recognition of wilderness values in Nevada has been a long and difficult one. Most of the areas were so remote--far from major centers of population, and accessible only by primitive roads--that they have been little used except by ranchers, miners, and some hunters. However, in the past ten years, with the growth in the Las Vegas and the Reno-Carson-Tahoe areas and the overcrowding of many of the wilderness areas in the Sierra, the use of Nevada wilderness has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, these new pioneers have come to what they presume to be a pristine area, only to find an abandoned mining "road" cross-crossing a beautiful trout stream or snaking its way up the wide expanse of an otherwise pristine slope. With these discoveries has grown support for formal wilderness designation for these spectacular areas. But there are still a few, mostly in rural Nevada, who do not want to see any restrictions put on what they see as their private domain. There are others who look upon these areas from the point of view of their own economic advantage. Neither of these groups realize that the national forests are "national," reserves for all of the people of the United States, as well as the people of Nevada.

Slowly opinions are changing. Slowly even residents of

rural Nevada are beginning to appreciate the values of wilderness. In ten years or less, with wilderness firmly ensconced as a reality, the controversy will be over because everyone will realize that wilderness benefits us all. Thank you for introducing the bills that will help effect this change and for the opportunity to speak before you today.

STATEMENT OF DONALD A. MOLDE, M.D., RENO, NEVADA, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, AT THE INITIAL HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR U.S. FOREST SERVICE LANDS IN NEVADA, OCTOBER 10-11, 1985.

My name is Donald A. Molde, M.D. I am a 15 year resident of Nevada, having moved to Reno in 1970 to begin my career as a psychiatrist in private practice. I am here to strongly support wilderness designation for Nevada's U.S. Forest Service Lands. Before proceeding, I wish to thank the Chairman and the Committee members for the personal honor and privilege of addressing you regarding this matter.

By way of background, my interest in U.S. Forest Service lands began during the 20 years that I lived in Western Oregon prior to moving to Nevada. I have spent many a pleasant day hiking and camping in the magnificent Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington. Places such as the Three Sisters, Mount Jefferson, Mount Hood, Mount Adams and others will always be special for me.

After moving to Nevada in 1970 I continued my interest in mountainous areas. In addition, over the last several years I have spent considerable energy, time and personal funds learning about wildlife and its proper place on public lands in the West. This interest has lead me to new opportunities which include a seat on the Board of Directors of Defenders of Wildlife, and the Nevada Humane Society. I am also the Chairman of the Wildlife Committee of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. Last year I served as a member of the National Wildlife Committee of the Sierra Club.

My professional interests have led me to additional opportunities to serve on Boards and Committees within realm of organized medicine. I am a past president of the Washoe County Medical Society and of the Nevada Psychiatric Association.

All of these things I mention to support my belief that I have maintained contact with a certain segment of urban Nevadans and that my views are not totally idiosyncratic.

When my wife and I moved to Reno in 1970 we were impatient to begin to explore those areas of the State that were thought to be scenic and beautiful. The first, which was recommended by nearly everyone, was the Ruby Mountains. We visited the Rubys and were struck by the beauty of the high peaks, the alpine lakes, the incredible fall color in the aspen groves, the vistas which were apparent in all directions as well as the solitude of those magnificent mountains.

We have returned many times over the years to hike the trails from Lamoille Canyon and also from Harrison Pass. We regularly visit the Ruby Marshes National Wildlife Refuge from where the Rubys can be viewed with ease and great clarity. We have explored the access roads to many of the canyons along its flanks. The Ruby Mountains remain among the most favorite of our areas in Nevada.

The Wheeler Peak area in the South Snake Range was equally incredible for us when we first drove to the beautiful campground at the 10,000 foot level of the mountain. The campground was deserted at the time of our first visit and the hiking, including a trip to the top of the peak, was equally uncrowded. Since then, we have returned several times, including a trip this past summer to observe the National Guard helicopter bring several of you into the very campground of which I speak.

Another favorite area of ours is the Santa Rosa Range north of Winnemucca. I remember one occasion when, far behind on my journals and professional magazines, I took myself, my reading material and my Volkswagen camper to a solitary small canyon in the south portion of the Santa Rosas. While it may have seemed a waste of good wilderness country, I spent a most enjoyable day seated under a tree near the creek which tumbled down the canyon catching up on my reading from months past. Later in the day my dog and I continued our perennially unsuccessful efforts to hike the ridges of the Santa Rosa's in search of a view of the illusive mountain lion.

We have hiked in the Jarbridge area from the west and also from the Pole Creek Ranger Station on the eastern flank. We have visited the Schell Creek Range, mostly in the winter. We have seen the Toiyabes in both summer and winter. This summer we hiked into the Arc Dome area from Stewart Creek on the west side of the Toiyabes. Mount Charleston has also provided some spectacular refreshment during visits to Las Vegas when we have had time to drive to the road's end. The view, smell of the pine trees and the views of the incredible rock formations on the upper reaches of that mountain make that trip very worthwhile.

A definite human benefit is derived from a wilderness experience in these or similar areas. In essence, one can recharge his or her psychological batteries through the opportunity to partake of the beauty, the solitude and the peacefulness of such places. This subtle but well appreciated benefit is so important to many from urban Nevada who seek such experiences as a respite from the stresses and strains of day to day urban pressures.

This benefit has even been made more formal through programs such as the Outward Bound programs for wayward youths. These programs capitalize on the benefits of a wilderness experience for improving the psychological health of those individuals.

Wildlife would definitely benefit from wilderness designation. While I am quite aware that hunting and trapping would continue in designated wilderness areas, I remain convinced that maintaining roadless areas would have definite benefit for large mammals and predators. Experience in trying to preserve the grizzly bear in Montana and Wyoming has made this concept very clear. While Nevada no longer has grizzlies, we do have mountain lions, elk, deer, bighorns and other animals and birds which would benefit from wilderness designation through the implementation of roadless areas.

Humans too, would receive a philosophic benefit from wildlife protection through wilderness designation. John McPhee, the author, in one of his books on Alaska, writes that for him, the presence of grizzly bears in an area defines that area as wilderness whether he actually sees the bears or simply has knowledge of their presence in that area. Similarly, Nevadans would appreciate the knowledge that wildlife had relative sanctuaries which could offer some additional protection for them above and beyond what ordinary habitat might provide.

I am aware that there has been controversy regarding wilderness designation particularly from some of the rural areas which include mining agriculture interests. I believe that much of the anti-wilderness sentiment has been misdirected through a lack of understanding of what is involved in wilderness and that critics fail to see the benefits of preserving their current use patterns through the protection that wilderness designation would provide. They also fail to see what appears to be the possibility of a clear economic benefit that wilderness designation could bring to small rural communities such as Elko, Ely, Tonopah, and Austin through increased tourism.

It is an irritant to me that the views of a few rural Nevadans (ranchers and farmers comprise less than 2% of the State's population) appear to have some precedence or priority over the wishes and desires of the bulk of Nevadans who are urbanites and who need the opportunities which wilderness could provide for them, and who are also the economic backbone of the State of Nevada.

It also seems only proper that Nevada be given it's fair share of wilderness to compensate for the considerable land and air space in our State which is utilized by the military for it's own purposes. This military land and air space is generally unavailable for public use and an adjustment in kind seems definately in order.

In closing, I would like to thank Congressman Harry Reid for introducing his bill which contains many worthy areas for wilderness designation. I am also very appreciative of the bill introduced by the Chairman and three of the Committee members. This Committee bill provides a more attractive package for the Ruby Mountains which in my opinion, is highly warranted. It also includes one of my favorite areas, the Santa Rosa's, as well as the spectacular Schell Creek Range, and the Toiyabe Crest. Also the total of 1.5 million acres is more in keeping with what I believe Nevadans would want for their State. Hopefully these two excellent bills can be blended in such a way as to provide a maximum number of worthy areas with wilderness designation.

This committee has an excellent opportunity to make a courageous and farsighted recommendation to the congress which would not only do credit to the committee itself but would be appreciated by generations of Americans yet unborn. I hope your deliberations will have such an outcome.

Finally, I wish to thank those committee members who took of their time and energies to visit Nevada this summer to see firsthand the beauties of our part of the Great Basin. Your interest, on behalf of all Americans in trying to assess the best use of these public lands, and your willingness to put your observations and beliefs into an attractive Nevada wilderness bill is greatly appreciated by many of us.

Thanks again for this opportunity to speak on behalf of wilderness for Nevada.

Sincerely,

DONALD A. MOLDE, M.D.



NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR INSULAR AFFAIRS  
AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Thursday, October 10, 1985

Chairman Seiberling and Members of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands:

I would like to introduce myself, as I am Mark Schrader, President of the State of Nevada's Association of Counties which is a governing body that represents all seventeen counties within the State of Nevada or, the primary political subdivisions that this legislation will affect. I am not here to lobby for the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club or the mining industry but for the position held by the majority of people in Nevada concerning this issue.

As the distinguished Nevada's delegation has stated in their prior comments before Congress, it is important for us to design and pass legislation to preserve and protect the diverse needs and interests of Nevada and it's people.

It is with these interests in mind that I address you today. Nevada's needs are unique, particularly when we consider our public lands statistics and the resource compromise each county must make with respect to it's own fiscal stability. Of Nevada's 70.3 million acres land base, only 13% is held in State or private ownership while the other 87% including over 8 million acres which has

already been withdrawn from the public for a single purpose use, is owned by the Federal Government. As a result, Nevada, second only to Alaska in Federal land ownership, can be considered a weather-vane State in terms of public reaction to Federal Land use policy. The economic well-being of this State, particularly of its more rural communities, has depended heavily on access to, and use of, the Federal public lands for mining and ranching and the loss thereof would be harmful to this State and the nation as well. Nevada's counties singularly are particularly vulnerable in this respect and as a Commissioner from the rural county that saw the historic Comstock Lode close its mills in the early part of 1985 sending unemployment to over 17%, I can speak of the devastating affect upon the local economy when our mining or ranching heritage is potentially pre-empted by legislation that would have otherwise allowed access to the multiple use of Federal lands for mineral, oil, gas, geothermal, livestock or agricultural production. In other words, we are talking about the economic dependency/lifeline of Nevada's counties.

The Honorable Senator Chich Hecht in his comments on March 20, 1985 before the Senate, stated that Nevadans are very suspicious towards proposals aimed at restricting their

access to public lands and indeed we are. How can we not be with the likes of the MX proposal to the current nuclear waste issues before us today. The counties of Nevada want to preserve and designate those lands that will provide an exceptional wilderness opportunity and that are shown to fill a void in the natural wilderness system.

We are cautious in our support, as further legislation that could potentially impose restrictions have yet to be presented by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Energy, Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, National Wildlife Refuge Concern, and the Department of Defense. We believe in seeing all the cards or in other words, a coordinated multi-agency plan. Without this, we must endorse a conservative wilderness bill that will allow us to be minimally impacted and that designates lands not simply for the sake of increasing wilderness acreage or the filling of a perceived quota.

Nevadans have always been direct and independent in their actions. The presence of all of those here from our State alone, certainly substantiates this but in addition, the concept of "home-rule" has risen to new popularity within our local political cadre. With this in mind, key components of H.R. Bill 1686 must be kept intact regardless of the amount of land eventually designated. These include

Sections 401 (c), 402 (b), 404 (b & c) and Sections 405, 406, and 407 in their entirety all of which allow for the cooperation with Nevada and it's counties.

I spoke of the interest of Nevada and it's people earlier and hope that with this in mind, this subcommittee will act accordingly and support the State of Nevada's Assembly joint resolution #1 passed in the 63rd Nevada Legislature with only three dissenting votes. It was endorsed by the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands chaired by Senator Dean Rhodes and represented by Assemblymen and Senators from both rural Nevada, Clark and Washoe counties and the September 21st N.A.C.O.'s resolution that was also seconded by the county of Washoe which urges the U.S. Congress to designate the wilderness areas of Mr. Charleston, Jarbridge Additions to The Jarbridge Wildnerness, Mt. Moriah Wilderness and the Boundary Peak Wilderness as proposed under H.R. 1686. The above resolutions show the overwhelming support by all of Nevada's legislative branch and all of the elected officials within Nevada's counties concerning this issue.

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Congress to enact legislation designating additional land in Nevada as wilderness.

WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Nevada have a tremendous respect for its lands and strongly support the wise use and conservation of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 87 percent of the land in this state, including over 4,000,000 acres which have been withdrawn from use by the general public, is controlled by various agencies of the Federal Government and, therefore, the state is particularly vulnerable to decisions regarding the use of land which are made by federal agencies and not the people or elected officers of the state; and

WHEREAS, The economic well-being of this state, particularly some of its more rural communities, is heavily dependent on access to, and use of, the federal public lands for mining and ranching; and

WHEREAS, The future of mining in this state is dependent upon the availability of federal lands and the loss of areas with potential for the production of minerals would be harmful to this state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States now is reviewing proposed legislation which would designate as wilderness approximately 136,900 acres in this state, including portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak and additions to the existing Jarbidge wilderness area; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these areas, there is general support in this state for the designation of an additional 1,322,900 acres as wilderness in the Desert National Wildlife Range; and

WHEREAS, There has been a considerable amount of public discussion in Nevada regarding designations of wilderness areas and there is a general consensus supporting the designation of those areas as wilderness; and

WHEREAS, The committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature is a permanent entity of the legislature and is empowered to review and comment on proposals affecting public lands under the control of the Federal Government, and in this respect the committee serves as an official liaison between the Nevada legislature when the legislature is not in session and the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That this legislature urges the Congress of the United States to designate as wilderness portions of Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Boundary Peak, and the Jarbidge area, as identified in federal legislation now pending in Congress; and be it further

— 2 —

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to designate as wilderness those portions of the Desert National Wildlife Range which have been recommended for designation as wilderness by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States is urged to keep the committee on public lands of the Nevada legislature informed of additional discussions regarding potential designations of wilderness in the State of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the legislative counsel shall forthwith transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada congressional delegation, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the United States House of Representatives, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water of the United States Senate, the chief of the United States Forest Service and the director of the Bureau of Land Management.

## NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES


RESOLUTION #10-85

WHEREAS, all of Nevada's counties will be directly or indirectly affected by any Nevada Wilderness Protection Act passed by the Congress of the United States,  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nevada Association of Counties to endorse and support S.722 and H.R.1686 introduced by the Nevada Congressional Delegation creating 136,900 acres of national wilderness area in Nevada.

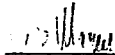
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1985 by the following vote of the full Board at their Annual Business Meeting in Minden, Nevada.

AYES: 20  
NAYS: 2  
ABSENT: 2

Board of Nevada Association  
of Counties

  
President

ATTEST:

  
Board Secretary

RICHARD H. BRYAN  
*Governor*

STATE OF NEVADA

RICHARD L. REYBURN  
*Director*



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS**

400 W. King Street, Suite 106  
Carson City, Nevada 89710  
(702) 885-5050

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD L. REYBURN  
BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE

ON PUBLIC LANDS

OCTOBER 10, 1985

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Congressmen; my name is Rich Reyburn. I am the Executive Director of the Nevada Department of Minerals. I will be speaking today on behalf of the Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources.

The first part of my testimony will be to present, for the record, a resolution adopted by the Commission on April 19, 1985 in which they proclaim, in part, that:

RICHARD H. BRYAN  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

RICHARD L. REYBURN  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS

400 W. King Street, Suite 106  
Carson City, Nevada 89710  
(702) 885-5050

#2-85

RESOLUTION

BY THE

NEVADA COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES

April 19, 1985

WHEREAS, the minerals industry of Nevada is important to the economic well being of the state, and

WHEREAS, that industry is dependent on access to the public lands of Nevada for minerals exploration and development, and

WHEREAS, wilderness withdrawals which would prohibit that exploration on large blocks of Nevada's remaining open lands would be detrimental to the industry, the state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, United States Forest Service lands selected for wilderness designation have been carefully reviewed by members of the industry for mineral resource potential, and

WHEREAS, the industry has concurred, through the various state mining associations, not to oppose wilderness designation for certain areas which include those known as Boundary Peak, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Charleston and the extension of the existing Jarbidge Wilderness, and

WHEREAS, those areas are recommended for wilderness designation in bills introduced in the United States Senate by Senators Laxalt and Hecht, and in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Vucanovich. Therefore, be it hereby

RESOLVED, by the Commission on Mineral Resources, that we do fully support those bills and urge their enactment by the Congress of the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge such action to be accomplished as soon as possible to enable the release of other United States Forest Service lands in Nevada which are currently held in de facto wilderness status.

Fred D. Gibson, Jr.  
Chairman



Also for the record I would like to submit that the U.S. Forest Service, in their 1985 Forest Plans, recognized the value and importance of the mineral resources on the lands studied for wilderness inclusion in the Toiyabe Forest.

In an attempt to evaluate mineral potential vs. wilderness the Forest Service found that in every instance, except Mt. Charleston, the mineral values far outweighed any value attributable to the use of the land for wilderness.

I think this comparison is significant and I will quote from Table F-1 of the Toiyabe Forest Plan. The amounts quoted are stated in dollars per acre.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Mineral Value</u>	<u>Wilderness Value</u>	<u>*Ratio</u>
Excelsior Range	\$10249	\$ 115	89:1
Southern Toiyabe	9911	1244	8:1
Arc Dome	7050	1844	4:1
Mt. Jefferson	1370	291	5:1
Table Mountain	9960	2266	4:1
Mt. Charleston	2290	5630	1:2

\*Note: Ratio's calculated by author

It is unfortunate that a similar comparison was not made for the Humboldt Forest. However, a review of those proposed areas, such as the Grant & Quinn Ranges, indicates that such an evaluation would yield results which would also strongly favor the development of mineral resources.

Mining in Nevada is a dynamic industry. Gross revenues nearly tripled between 1978 and 1984 and that figure is expected to triple again by 1990.

According to Dr. James Taranik, Dean of the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada at Reno, the Total Production Value of Nevada Minerals by 1990 will average \$2 billion per year.

Dr. Taranik also points out that most of the production value of Nevada minerals is spent in Nevada. In 1981, for example, approximately 65% of the gross yield from mining was spent locally on payroll, supplies, utilities and exploration.

Gaming and Tourism are unquestionably important to a healthy Nevada economy. However, the basic industries -- mining and agriculture -- provide the foundation for that economy.

Oil production in Nevada will increase by over 50% in 1985 and that's on top of a 135% increase in 1984.

Last year Nevada mines produced 100% of the nation's supply of magnesite, 99% of the mercury, 83% of the barite and 58% of the gold.

The minerals industry paid over \$30 million in rents and royalties and in state and county taxes and contributed up to 83% of local county payrolls.

Yet, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines, mining in Nevada has disturbed less than 40,000 acres in the last 50 years, 0.064% of our land.

Because of its favorable geologic environment, the current availability of land, a positive attitude toward mining and a reasonable tax system, Nevada has become the minerals exploration capital of the nation.

That exploration, which is vital to the continuation of a prosperous minerals industry, contributed over 2 billion dollars worth of new proven mineral reserves in Nevada last year.

It is impossible to quantify the unknown and without exploration, which requires open access to the public lands, the mineral potential of Nevada will remain largely unknown. A lack of data defining mineral potential should not be confused with the absence of mineral potential.

In closing I would like to emphasize that the preservation and growth of the mining industry in the state of Nevada is essential to a strong economic program.

Our nation, with 5% of the world population, consumes almost 25% of all mineral materials.

We enjoy the best quality of life in the world but that lifestyle requires the production of 40,000 pounds of new mineral products each year for every man, woman and child.

Mining is vital to our way of life, to our society and to our future.

## RELATIONSHIP OF WILDERNESS/MINERAL ISSUE

Description - The basic resource conflict associated with wilderness designation is the potential impact on future mineral development. The following summary Table is designed to illustrate by roadless area, wilderness quality and benefit, mineral potential and benefit.

In order to construct this table the following planning assumptions were made:

Wilderness Quality - This is a composite of the quality of a roadless area description in Appendix C. The wilderness quality described in Appendix C is based on consideration of Natural Integrity, solitude, primitive recreation, challenging experience, and special features.

Wilderness Value - This value was calculated in Forplan and is based on expected use described by RVD's (Recreation Visitor Days).

Mineral Potential - The potential was identified as low, moderate, and high through a review of available geological studies and literature. Maps with the potential described are on file in the Supervisor's Office.

Mineral Values - The following describes the methodology used to develop the mineral values.

Yearly Mineral Production on Toiyabe National Forest

The purpose of this research is to equate the total dollar value of mineral commodities produced on the Toiyabe National Forest to a "dollar value per acre" for the entire Forest. The "dollar value per acre" will be weighted by considering if the acres are rated as having "high, moderate, or low mineral potential" as used in the Toiyabe Land Management Plan and DEIS.

During the 1983 and 1984 period, mineral production on the Toiyabe National Forest came from the following listed mines. The production figures are estimated, based on published production figures or were gathered from personal contacts. By using these major producers, we are accounting for 90-95% of the total production off the Forest.

<u>MINE</u>	<u>EST. YEARLY PRODUCTION</u>	<u>DOLLAR VALUE</u>
Cyprus-Northumberland (1984)	Gold 35,000 oz @ \$350/oz	\$12,250,000
	Silver 33,000 oz @ \$9/oz	\$ 287,000
Borealis (1983)	Gold 70,000 oz @ \$350/oz	\$24,449,925
All Minerals & Standard Slag (1983, 1984)	Barite 100,000 tons @ \$35/ton	\$ 3,500,000
C-E Magnesite (1983, 1984)	Magnesite 300,000 tons @ \$228/ton	\$68,400,000

<u>MINE</u>	<u>EST. YEARLY PRODUCTION</u>	<u>DOLLAR VALUE</u>
Victorine Mine (1984)	Gold & Silver ore 95,000 tons/year @ \$70/ton production costs	\$ 6,650,000*
	TOTAL	\$115,546,925

Cyprus-Northumberland, C-E Magnesite and the Victorine Mines are on patented lands within the National Forest. All these lands were previously public domain lands.

The Toiyabe Forest acreage is 3,170,446 acres. Dividing the total acreage into the total production would give a "dollar value per acre" of \$36.45. This would be the yearly value with considerations given to whether the area has "high, moderate or low mineral potential." The probability of the occurrence of an economic mineral deposit follows this classification:

<u>PROBABILITY</u>	<u>MID VALUE</u>	<u>RATIO</u>	<u>FACTOR **</u>
Low 0-40%	(20%)	1	(.33)
Moderate 40-80%	(60%)	3	(1.00)
High 80-100%	(90%)	4.5	(1.50)

In order to establish a base value we can consider the "moderate potential" areas to be representative of the "average" Toiyabe Forest lands and also to fairly represent the \$36.45 "dollar value per acre." Assigning a relative potential rating base of one (1) to the moderate potential areas; the rating for low potential would be .33 and the rating for high-potential areas would be 1.50. This rating base merely related the relative economic mineral occurrence probability between "low, moderate, and high" potential lands. If we assume moderate potential lands to have a "dollar value per acre" of \$36.45 then low potential lands would have a "dollar value per acre" of \$12.15 and high potential lands would have a "dollar value per acre" of \$54.68. These numbers are far from absolute, but might be used to discuss the relative value of mineral resource lands.

In summary, based on a yearly production of \$115,546,925, Toiyabe lands would have a relative value of:

<u>MINERAL POTENTIAL</u>	<u>DOLLAR VALUE</u>
Low	\$12.15
Moderate	\$36.45
High	\$54.68

\* This figure represents the basic operating cost to run the mine. This used since the company will not release actual production figures.

\*\* Using moderate values as the base

### Planning/Public Recommendations

Each roadless area on the Toiyabe has been evaluated for wilderness previously through either unit planning (1975-78) or through the RARE II process. Tables F-1 and F-2 describes the results of the respective studies.

Nevada State Concensus Meeting - The State of Nevada represented by the Division of State Lands sponsored two meetings of various interest groups with the hope of developing a concensus Wilderness Bill for the State of Nevada. The meetings were held in the spring of 1984. Both attempts to arrive at a concensus failed. Tables F-1 and F-2 represents the positions finally taken by the mineral and environmental interest groups.

Although there are 54 roadless areas on the Toiyabe in Nevada, the discussion at the meetings focused on the eight (8) areas listed below:

Hunter Creek	Southern Toiyabe (including Arc Dome)
Carson Range	Mt. Jefferson
Excelsior	Table Mountain
Toiyabe Range Peak	Mt. Charleston

Tables F-1 and F-2 summarize the wilderness, minerals, and surface resource values or opportunities and support or lack of support for wilderness experience by interest groups.

Table F-1 - Summary Description of Areas Considered by Interest Groups within Nevada

Roadless Areas	Wilderness Quality	Wilderness Value	Mineral Potential	Mineral Value	Planning/Public Recommendation Consensus			Remarks and Resource Potential	
					Unit Planning	Rare II	Meeting Major Exotic		
Hunter Creek	Moderate	188.7	Low	104.7		NW	NW	Wilderness	Interest for wilderness by state environmental groups. Small area and would be difficult to manage as wilderness as boundaries do not follow topographic features. Opportunities to adjust the boundary is limited.
Carson Range	Low	556.2	Moderate	852.2		NW	NW	Wilderness	Interest for wilderness by state environmental groups. Management for wilderness would be difficult as the area is small and opportunities for boundary modification is limited, similar to Hunter Creek - a small area on the south has been identified by the proposed Galens Ski Area for addition to the development.
Excelsior	Mod/High	115.4	High	10248.9				Wilderness	Extensive archeological resources, piñon pine, and a large wildhorse population (Montgomery Pass Wildhorse Territory).
Toiyabe Range Peak	Mod/High	973.8	High	9697.9	NW		NW	Wilderness	Lahontan cutthroat trout are in the area and extensive livestock grazing mostly by cattle. Some sheep in the Northern Kingston. There are opportunities to improve vegetative condition through habitat improvement projects like burning.
Southern Toiyabe (not including Arc Dome)	Mod/High	1243.9	Mod/High	9910.9	NW		NW	Wilderness	This roadless areas originally included the Arc Dome. The environmentalists' support wilderness for a larger area which includes Arc Dome



Table F-1 - Summary Description of Areas Considered by Interest Groups within Nevada

Roadless Area	Wilderness Quality	Wilderness Value	Mineral Potential	Mineral Value	Planning/Public Recommendation				Remarks
					Unit Planning	Rare II	Consensus Meeting	Wilderness Conc.	
Arc Dome	High	1843.9	Mod/High	7050.4	Wilderness Study	Wilderness	Further Planning	Wilderness	The miners supported further planning for the Arc Dome portion only or 94.4 M acres. There are numerous habitat improvement project opportunities in the roadless area south of Arc Dome. There are some mining claims within the "heart" of the Arc Dome.
Mt. Jefferson (37,000 ac)	High	291.0	Moderate	1370.5	NW		NW	Wilderness	Moderate to excellent opportunities to improve vegetative condition for livestock and wildlife through habitat improvement projects. There are opportunities to modify boundaries for a viable wilderness with minimum resource and mineral conflicts.
Mt. Jefferson Core Area (31,000 ac)	High	239.9	Low	376.7	NW		NW	Wilderness	
Table Mountain	Mod/High	2255.5	Moderate	9960.0	NW		NW	Wilderness	Excellent potential to continue vegetative and watershed improvements through prescribed burning, watershed stabilization projects, etc. Most of the mineral potential lies on the east side although there is an oil/gas potential on the NW corner.
Mt. Charleston	Mod/High	5629.8	Moderate	2289.5	NW		Wilderness	Wilderness	

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NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Robert E. Warren, Executive Director  
October 10, 1985

\* \* \* \*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS  
House Bills H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302, H.R. 3304  
to  
Establish National Wilderness Sites in Nevada

\* \* \* \*

Chairman Seiberling and Members of the  
House Subcommittee on Public Lands

The Nevada Mining Association appears before this body today to request that full hearings be held in Northern Nevada on the Vucanovich, Reid, Seiberling legislation to establish wilderness sites in Nevada. All of the sites, save one, are in Northern Nevada.

We are joined in the request by:

- Nevada Miners and Prospectors Association
- Citizens for Mining
- Women in Mining
- Nevada Cattlemen's Association
- Nevada Woolgrowers Association
- Nevada Farm Bureau
- Nevada Association of Counties

Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources

Nevada Association of Chambers of Commerce

Nevadans for a Practical Wilderness Policy

Nevada State Legislature

We seek full disclosure concerning the irreversible negative impacts on Nevada's economic base and the injury to the quality of life that will certainly result from lock-ups of excessive amounts of Nevada's public lands for exclusive use as wilderness. We refer not only to the proposed Forest Service withdrawals. We are equally alarmed by the huge wilderness withdrawals being proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

We believe, for instance, that all Nevadans should be aware that some wilderness polls have failed to advise Nevadans they will forever be prohibited from using an automobile to visit the crown jewels of Nevada's recreational areas.

Nevadans should be told that existing roads in some of the Forest Service and other wilderness areas will forever be closed to persons who must depend upon vehicles to gain access to their outdoor recreation.

Moreover, all Nevadans - and especially our older residents - should be told these bills will forever prohibit the Forest Service and BLM from building new roads into these prime recreational areas. Nevadans must shoulder a backpack, or stay out!

Nevada deer hunters should also be told they will

eventually lose even their right to backpack into these wilderness sites - some of which are prime hunting areas. They should be aware the National Sierra Club and Wilderness Society have long intended to banish all hunting in wilderness. Some members privately state that firearms and hunting are incompatible with wilderness peace and solitude.

Nevadans should be told that most of the wilderness sites proposed by the Reid-Seiberling bills contain valuable mineral resources - despite statements to the contrary. The minerals industry has presented detailed documentation of this to Congressman Reid. He should be concerned - for more than half of Nevada's rural counties depend upon mineral and agricultural production for their base economy.

Hearings in Nevada will also let the public know that ranchers will eventually lose access to their prime summer ranges when they are designated as wilderness.

A 1980 agreement between the National Cattlemen's Association and the Forest Service promises continued vehicle access for grazing purposes. But the Nevada Cattlemen and other western associations point out the agreement is merely administrative. It can and will be overturned by future Forest Service Administrators.

The Vucanovich bill contains language to guarantee by law that ranchers will be able to continue use of vehicles to maintain their high mountain summer grazing lands. The Reid-Seiberling bills pointedly abandon the ranchers in this important matter.

- Recently Nevada's Attorney General revealed that the Sierra Club is suing to force the Forest Service to adopt the dangerous doctrine of reserved water rights in wilderness areas. This could deprive the State of Nevada and private citizens of their historic ownership and use of Nevada's waters. The Sierra Club knows that he who controls the public waters will also control use of the public lands in the West.

- Again, the Vucanovich bill contained language to protect Nevada's waters. But the Reid-Seiberling bills pointedly lack such protection.

Public hearings in Nevada are also needed to correct the statements made by Congressman Seiberling during his recent tour to promote vast wilderness lock-ups in Nevada.

Congressman Seiberling told the public and the press that he is opposed to the dangerous anti-development doctrine of "buffer zones" around wilderness sites. He knows such buffer zones - temporarily prohibited as a tactic to get votes for wilderness - can destroy the economic vitality of our rural counties - and, indeed, economic growth in the Las Vegas Valley, which is targeted to be circled by BLM and Park Service wilderness areas.

But Congressman Seiberling failed to tell Nevadans that he has authored legislation in 1983 and 1984 and again in 1985 to establish stringent buffer zone controls around all National Parks.

In truth, The Congressman is the leading advocate of buffer zone controls in the U.S. Congress. And, as soon as vast

areas are designated as wilderness, he again will push to circle them with commerce-checking buffer zones.

- It is for these reasons - and more - that the Nevada Mining Association and others respectfully ask this subcommittee to hold full hearings in Northern Nevada - so Nevada's general public can testify about the impacts of excessive wilderness designations in their state.

Nevadans are being assured that the Reid bill is a "compromise," a moderate proposal. This is not true. In actuality, the public should know the Reid bill was drafted by the Sierra Club. The public will learn the extreme Seiberling bill was also drafted by the Sierra Club, but only to give the Reid legislation an appearance of moderation. In actuality, the Reid-Seiberling bills are pure special interest legislation. They seek to protect the interests of the National Sierra Club and Wilderness Society. But their legislation will severely injure the interests of the majority of Nevadans.

STATEMENT OF JULIE PARKS BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE ON H.R. 3302, H.R. 3304, and H.R. 1686 -- OCTOBER 10, 1985

Thank you very much for giving me a few minutes of your time to explain why I, a resident of rural Nevada, support Congressman Seiberling's bill HR 3304 designating 19 wilderness areas in the state of Nevada.

I live in Tuscarora, a small community of 30 to 40 summertime residents and a midwinter population of 16. Tuscarora is located 52 miles north of Elko, in the northeastern corner of Nevada. Twenty years ago my husband and I founded the Tuscarora Pottery School, and we continue to attract students from across the United States as well as from South America, Europe and Australia.

Our students are as excited and inspired by the rugged beauty of Nevada as we locals are. We want to see as much of this beauty as possible preserved.

On July 1st at Lamaille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains 70 miles south of us, Representative Vucanovich told those of us assembled there that the Ruby Mountains do not need the protection of a wilderness bill. I believe that they do. And I also believe that the other areas proposed by Congressman Seiberling need protection. I have seen what can happen to National Forest Service land that is not protected.

Across the valley from Tuscarora, National Forest land where we often took our two sons when they were growing up is no longer accessible to the public because of the mining activities going on there. Local ranchers have come to us with their dilemma. Not only is exploratory drilling interrupting their springs, but this time next year one of the best grazing

and watering sites for their cattle will be an open pit mine with accompanying cyanide leach pads. A lovely canyon will be filled with its debris.

Americans can no longer carry around romantic notions about the Old West: a lonely prospector leading his burro and digging tunnels with his pick and shovel. Today D-8 Caterpillars zigzag up mountains leaving behind huge scars. Entire mountains are sacrificed. Even the most conscientious companies find restoration impossible. The land not only becomes useless to ranchers, but also its value for recreation is completely gone: trout streams are polluted, strutting grounds for sage hens are disturbed, habitat for deer is destroyed.

Yes, we need industrial growth and minerals, but we also need areas of quiet, beauty, and tranquillity. This is not just the opinion of one who lives in the area, but also of city dwellers who come for their vacations, the few weeks a year they are able to get away. This land is vital to our nation just as it is. Without the protection of wilderness status, National Forest land is subject to devastation. Therefore I urge you to support Congressman Seiberling and designate the 19 areas of Nevada he has proposed as wilderness-- not just for me, my children and grandchildren, but for you and yours as well.



**James J. Wright**  
Wright Ranch  
Tuscarora, Nevada 89834  
October 4, 1985

ATTENTION: HOUSE INTERIOR-SUB COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Wilderness areas could save ~~many~~ of our scenic mountains from destruction and scarring from mining.

Our ranch is a classic example! Gold mining has become intense in the mountains behind our ranch and where our cattle graze. We have worked and co-operated with the Forest Service for 20 years, improving allotments and using the rest-rotation plan. We were contemplating an increase in grazing due to increased forage; now this is gone! We now face a cut in A.U.M.s due directly to the mining. Our grazing is over a 120-square mile area, so one can visualize the enormous impact and huge disturbance of mother earth to affect a grazing cut on such a large area.

We all realize that we need mining to survive. Wilderness areas could be mined for strategic metals under a more environmental-conscious procedure. This should be written into a wilderness bill if an area contains strategic metal. This would supercede the old and outdated mining laws that allow complete soil and forest destruction on such a grand scale as huge "cats" (caterpillars) and modern technology dictate. Gold does not meet the strategic metals category.

There is a definite problem in the west with gold mining raping our earth and forests over wide areas.

Wilderness could be a way to control mining in areas of natural beauty.

*James J. Wright*  
James J. Wright

## TESTIMONY ON NEVADA WILDERNESS

Jo Anne Garrett  
Baker, Nevada

I've lived in the Snake Valley of eastern Nevada for fifteen years, right next to the Wheeler Peak and Horian proposed Wilderness areas, and not far from the Quinn, Grant, and Currant Mountain areas. I'm grateful for this opportunity to speak for myself as well as for my friends and neighbors, most of whom were born in that country.

Nevada is, by and large, an arid region, so the mountains and forests and streams that we have are vital and precious, both aesthetically and economically. We depend heavily on watersheds that have taken centuries to become established, and which can be significantly affected by the massive machinery of mining exploration and road building, and even by the thoughtless traffic of recreationists.

Virtually all of the rural people I know are in favor of protecting Nevada's wilderness. Most particularly this includes ranchers who actually graze cattle within proposed wilderness areas. In recent years, many of these traditional foes of federal regulation have come to see that wilderness designation of their grazing allotments would enhance the economic value of their ranches -- as well as reduce the damage from prospectors and recreational vehicles.

Some of my good friends are miners or would-be miners, and I respect their urge to strike it rich. But in the mountains of eastern Nevada the depredation from innumerable mining claims is enormous. It has taken me years to understand the extent and seriousness of this damage. We who are not prospectors resent more and more the intolerable price we all pay for the freedom of a few to deface the landscape.

So we are in favor of the kind of protection afforded by Wilderness designation, especially when we have experienced at first hand some of the exceedingly patient and intelligent care that has already gone into negotiating the boundaries of the proposed areas. Why should we then abandon even one of these areas to the senseless destruction of recreational machinery (which includes prospecting equipment, since the beauty of prospecting is that it's great recreation)?

As a rural Nevadan I'm strongly in favor of maximizing the number of designated Wilderness areas for several reasons:

- 1) Each proposed area is unique and deserves protection.
- 2) Nevada certainly needs to secure its every water shed.
- 3) We rural Nevadans are locked in a desperate struggle to retain the quality of our lives. This struggle is not just with miners and over-equipped recreationists. The reality

rough contenders are the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy. These agencies with their huge budgets tend to be heard when they characterize Nevada as a wasteland, the logical nuclear dump and military proving ground.

Nevadans don't relate to the word "wasteland", but as huge sections of our state begin to be "withdrawn" for military and nuclear ravaging, we're beginning to know the meaning of the word. Military and nuclear uses have nothing to offer us -- they can only do damage.

In addition to protecting the resources themselves, the designation of all nineteen Wilderness areas could help those who only fly over Nevada to understand that there's a rich and intricate land down there, inhabited by folks who care about it.

TESTIMONY OF MERLIN McCOLM BEFORE THE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE REGARDING H.R. 3302 (REID BILL); H.R. 3304 (SEIBERLING BILL); AND H.R. 1686 (VUCANOVICH BILL)--- OCTOBER 10, 1985

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. My name is Merlin McColm. I am from Elko, Nevada and am representing the Elko County Conservation Association and the Elko County Sportsman's Association. I am a graduate of Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and am a Certified Wildlife Biologist by the Wildlife Society. I have worked for the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. I have lived in Nevada for over 30 years. I retired as a biologist in 1980 and am now self-employed as a small businessman in Elko, Nevada. I have worked and traveled over many of the wildlands of North America and Africa. As a pilot biologist I have logged hundreds of hours in the air on game surveys over most of Nevada. During the 24 years I spent working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, I conducted range surveys over many areas in the State.

When I first arrived in Nevada as a young biologist I had been working in Alaska. I did not know exactly what to expect, except that I knew it was a dry state and there was a lot of desert. At that time I considered the most spectacular wilderness areas left in North America to be in Alaska, Northern Canada and portions of the Rocky Mountain West outside Nevada. What I found in Nevada was the most startling, spectacular, hauntingly beautiful, wild, and often game-rich areas, I had ever seen in North America. Aside from the sense of remoteness, much of their appeal is based on widely differing and isolated land forms. Those areas are like islands in a sea. There is striking contrast

between the drab monotony of the playas and sagebrush covered foothills of the lower elevations and the varied and sometimes lush vegetation of the Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian and Alpine-Arctic Life-Zones. The fauna is no less rich and varied. These areas are generally <sup>Small Wild</sup> compared to some well known wilderness areas in surrounding states. This, however, is a good argument for their protection.

A short time after I went to work in Nevada I realized its natural wonders were largely unknown outside the State. Man's rush for the riches of California in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century left Nevada a backwater, populated by a few tenacious ranchers and miners. This is how rural Nevada remained for the next 100 years. Because of a unique set of fortunate circumstances that has resulted in Nevada's delayed development, we now have the opportunity to evaluate some of these fragile wilderness gems in the light of increasing environmental awareness. There are probably few times in the average persons life where they have the opportunity to work for a cause that will make a significant contribution for good that will transcend their own existence. I firmly believe that the opportunity to set aside the wilderness areas in Nevada contained in H.R. 3304 (Seiberling Bill) is one such opportunity.

Most Nevadans that live in Elko County are outdoors people. They love the wildlands and the recreation they provide. Rural Nevada has always had plenty of open space and wildlands. Until recently it seemed rather pointless to designate specific areas as Wilderness as Nevada had so much defacto wilderness. Many rural Nevadans wonder why things can't remain as in the past, without the wilderness designation and their cumbersome restrictions. However, the world is changing and Nevada is changing with it.

Thirty years ago a person needed a horse to cover much of Nevada's back country. No more. The proliferation of four-wheel drives, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, ultra-light aircraft and helicopters make it possible to reach every nook and cranny of the State in a few minutes or a few hours at most. Population projections for Nevada indicate we could be a state of several million people by 2010 with a corresponding increase in demand for high quality outdoor recreation. In this fast growing state, Elko County is the fastest growing of the 17 counties. With this human population expansion, land use problems are accelerating. Any sensitive person that has seen the ravages of a large open pit mining operation would want to spare our most beautiful wild areas from this fate. Improper livestock grazing over extensive areas of Nevada's public lands are also a continuing threat. Wilderness status improves the chances for a better livestock management program.

It is the reluctance of some rural Nevadans to recognize and accept these changes that make it hard for them to see the necessity of a significant expansion of the wilderness system in Nevada. Most of these lands for the past 120 years have been almost the exclusive domain of the miner and livestock operator. Little consideration has been given to other users. Naturally, mining and livestock interests are going to oppose any proposal they see as a threat to their dominance. It was this same feeling that spawned the "Sagebrush Rebellion", has blocked the introduction of elk into the Jarbidge Widerness Area and largely curtailed a riparian habitat restoration program designed to increase water flows, restore vegetation, conserve soil and save trout streams.

Local fear and resentment against wilderness designation in Elko County has been fueled and ascerbated by one of the local newspapers with slanted, biased, and sometimes inaccurate reporting. United States Forest Service employees are sometimes referred to as "Green Hornets" and the local state biologists as the "Dead Fish Experts", and anyone with an expressed interest in the environment as an "Ecology Nut". This attitude among a few local influential leaders and politicians is more than benign. Several years ago the Nevada State Cattlemen's Association tried to have a state biologist removed from his job because he showed a slide program showing the damaging effects of improper live-stock grazing on public lands. To this day most state and federal employees concerned with natural resource management and even many of those in the business community are afraid to speak out in favor of conservation programs for fear of reprisal. This has effectively eviscerated many meaningful range, wild-life and watershed programs.

I give the committee this background information so they can better understand the climate which spawned the opposition to a more extensive wilderness proposal in Nevada and in particular Elko County.

In Elk County there is considerable support for a strong wilderness bill that would include the Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt Range, more extensive wilderness in the Jarbidge Mountains and the inclusion of Elk Mountain.

I would like to point out that not all ranchers in Elko County are opposed to additional wilderness. Those ranchers contacted during a Congressional tour at the Jarbidge site reacted favorably to the expanded wilderness proposal. These were people that had 20 years experience working with the U.S. Forest Service within the wilderness system. I know of ranchers in the vicinity of



the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range that also support a much stronger bill than that proposed by Vucanovich. I have letters from some of these ranchers with me today.

Opponents for a more comprehensive wilderness proposal than the Vucanovich Bill often state that administration by the U.S. Forest Service under multiple use management is fair to everyone and that this is the way these lands should continue to be managed. In theory this sounds fine but in practice it is the dominate user that prevails -- often at considerable loss to other users.

The dominate users on National Forest lands in Elko County and most of rural Nevada are the mining and livestock interests. As a natural resource professional, I spent many years battling to save or restore wildlife habitat. I can tell you there were few successes outside the interests of these two industries. This statement is truer today than it was 5 years ago as a result of the emasculation of many range and wildlife programs by the current administration. By not designating wilderness status to a few of the most outstanding areas we have in Nevada, we are saying we do not care enough about our natural heritage to pass it onto future generations. All present wilderness and wilderness proposals in Elko County total about 449 square miles or about 2.6% of the total land area of 17,181 square miles. Considering only National Forest and National Resource lands, the total would still be less than 4% wilderness.

The Vucanovich Bill is very inadequate and exempts the Ruby Mountains and the East Humboldt Range which with its alpine lakes, rugged snow-capped peaks and unique forms of wildlife are the finest examples of high elevation Great Basin wilderness in Nevada.

The Reid Bill (H.R. 3302) is much more comprehensive and is a step in the right direction but is still short of what is needed. Representative Seiberling's proposal (H.R. 3304) is the most comprehensive and what we feel is most adequate. Therefore we give this bill our full support. Some species of wildlife, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goats, elk, and Himalayan snow partridge demand a wilderness situation. The proposed wilderness areas need our protection now to protect critical habitat. It was always hard for me to find sufficient adjectives to describe a truly grand natural wonder and so it is with the East Humboldt Range and Ruby Mountains. (They are really one mountain range bisected by a low pass.) They remind me somewhat of the Northern Rockies in British Columbia or a miniature of the Tetons. It's all there -- the glacial valleys, lakes, crystal-clear streams, spectacular alpine and sub-alpine scenery. It's enough to say they are totally grand. Here there is excellent fishing. It's home for many species of wildlife including the mule deer, Rocky Mountain goat, mountain lion, blue grouse, sage grouse, ruffed grouse, chukar partridge, Himalayan snow cock as well as numerous species of none-game animals and birds. Three species, the Rocky Mountain goat, ruffed grouse and Himalayan snow cock, are found in no other area in Nevada. The snow cock is found in no other place in the western hemisphere. The combination of species of wildlife make this area not only unique in Nevada but in the world. The Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep also existed here within the memory of man. Recent improvement in summer ranges would make this species a prime candidate for reintroduction. Wilderness status would go a long way toward insuring this eventuality. Even with the sterling qualifications that this area offers for wilderness status,

the Vucanovich Bill (H.R. 1686) omits the East Humboldt Range and the Ruby Mountains from its recommendations. In our opinion H.R. 1686 is worse than inadequate. It's flagrantly anti-wilderness.

The existing Jarbidge Wilderness contains some of the finest and most extensive game range in Nevada. The proposed additions include the surrounding peaks, tablelands, canyons, and forests needed to complement the central peaks and protect wildlife habitats. It's an outdoorsman's dream and contains some of the finest trout fishing and mule deer hunting in the State. The rare California bighorn sheep was re-introduced here a few years ago and Rocky Mountain elk and sharp-tailed grouse have been proposed for reintroduction.

Improved management by the U.S. Forest Service and livestock operators has resulted in spectacular range recovery during the past 25 years.

Elk Mountain, which is a separate proposal from the Jarbidge Additions, is actually part of the Jarbidge system but lies a few miles east of the heart of the present wilderness. Its rolling steppes give way to aspen, mountain mahogany and alpine fir at the high elevations. It is spectacular game country where there is an abundance of deer, antelope, and sage grouse. Blue grouse are also found here in limited numbers. At one time Rocky Mountain elk were reported to exist in this area. We feel strongly that the Elk Mountain wilderness proposal would complement the existing Jarbidge Wilderness and its additions.

Central Nevada has its share of particularly deserving areas for wilderness status. The Arc Dome and Mount Jefferson areas are of particular significance. They are utterly magnificent monuments to wilderness with their nearly 12,000 foot peaks and wild bighorn sheep.

Table Mountain is a totally different type of wilderness than either Arc Dome or Mount Jefferson. It is a large tilted block limestone table that extends upward from the desert floor to elevations in excess of 10,000 feet. It's really a large mesa with undulating hills covered with aspen, mountain mahogany and small forest of limber pine. It's park-like appearance gives it a fairyland type of appeal -- a world above the world. Its awesome isolation and expanse are overwhelming. It's great game country and provides excellent grazing for livestock now that the U.S. Forest Service has gone into an intensive livestock management program. Rocky Mountain elk have been introduced here. The vegetative condition of the range is now greatly improved. It wasn't always so. One of the previous owners of a ranch, that had a livestock permit on Table Mountain and Mount Jefferson, confided to me that he had a permit for 3,000 head of cattle but actually ran twice that many. That was back in the 1950's and things have changed on "The Table".

A short time ago I was talking to a friend of mine who lives in Austin, Nevada about some of our outdoor experiences. Twenty-five years ago we had spent a couple of days camping together at the head of Mesquito Creek on Table Mountain. One evening we rode along the top of "The Table" and dropped into the head of Cottonwood Creek counting several hundred mule deer as we rode through the quakies and the open park lands. We caught a few pan-sized brook trout in the clear, cold pools of Cottonwood Creek which we cooked over an open fire. In the course of our recent conversation he said, "You know, I have never been back to 'The Table' but I can tell you that was one of the most memorable experiences of my life."

My friend's comment is the sum total and essence of wilderness. Intangible, difficult to articulate, but utterly necessary to many of us to add balance, perspective and stimulation to our lives. We are absolutely obligated to see that these opportunities are passed on. To quote an Indian chief, whose name I do not recall now -- "These lands belong to our people, some are dead, some are living, but most have not been born yet."

In closing I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. Nevada is a fast-growing state and Elko County has the most rapidly expanding human population of any county in the State. Even now there is more demand on many of our wildlife species and other renewable natural resources than these beautiful but fragile lands can provide. These lands belong to everyone in this great nation and we believe their preservation in a pristine state is vital to the welfare of future generations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merlin A. McColm

STATEMENT OF ROGER SCHOLL, PH.D.  
BEFORE THE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE  
REGARDING NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS LEGISLATION  
OCTOBER 10, 1985

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Roger Scholl from Reno, Nevada and today I am speaking as an individual. I support wilderness designation for 21 of the 110 National Forest roadless areas in Nevada, as outlined by Friends of Nevada Wilderness.

During the last 15 years I have spent many days hiking in most of the areas and many more days studying the issues surrounding their possible protection as wilderness. I have participated in the Forest Service wilderness studies from RARE I to the present. I have been Nevada Regional Representative for The Wilderness Society and served as Wilderness Committee Chairman for the local Sierra Club for a number of years. I had the privilege of being the Nevada conservationists' representative on the Congressional helicopter tour of these areas.

We thank you Chairman Seiberling for taking the time to come to Nevada and see some of our potential wilderness. I hope you had an enjoyable trip. We owe

you and Congressmen Darden, Kostmayer and Weaver a deep debt of gratitude for introducing H.R. 3304 designating 19 of these wonderful areas. They have long been proposed as wilderness by the Sierra Club and are recently receiving support from an ever growing number of Nevadans.

Thank you Congressman Reid for introducing H.R. 3302. It is a major step forward in the efforts to protect the most outstanding remaining wilderness areas in our state. There is insufficient time to enumerate the incredible wilderness values found in each of the 10 areas it includes. Suffice it to say they would make a truly significant addition to the Wilderness System, while protecting existing uses of each area. I am sure each of these treasures will be cherished even more by future generations than they are by us today.

I am sure a number of witnesses at this hearing will charge that H.R. 3302 includes an excessive amount of wilderness and H.R. 3304 is really extreme. But consider a few facts to place these bills in perspective. First is the fact that wilderness is where you find it, and there simply happen to be at least 21 really outstanding de facto wilderness areas on Nevada's National Forests worthy of wilderness designation. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly from the standpoint of balancing all of society's needs, is the fact that these areas can be designated with virtually no impact on non-wilderness uses. While H.R. 3304 would designate 19 areas totalling 1.5 million acres as wilderness we do not as frequently hear that it will remove some 90 roadless areas totalling 2.1 million acres from further wilderness consideration. Nor do we often hear that the 1.5 million acres of wilderness would mean Nevada would have the least designated wilderness of any western state except Utah. All and all, H.R. 3304 would seem to be a rather modest proposal.

We also often hear that the real problem with H.R. 3304 is that it is additive, especially from the standpoint of lands available to mineral entry, to the millions of acres of military bases in Nevada already withdrawn and the possible future withdrawals of additional BLM wilderness. What we never hear is the flip side of this equation, which is the fact that Nevada has some 53.7 million acres available for mineral entry - considerably more than any other western state except Alaska. And if H.R. 3304 were enacted and all the BLM wilderness recommendations were designated, Nevada would still rank number one in lands available for mineral entry in the lower 48 states.

Finally we hear that the most damaging impact of H.R. 3304 stems from the fact that many of these particular areas have high mineral potential. This assertion raises several questions. First it is important to know that Nevada has produced many billions of dollars of minerals. Today we continue to produce roughly a half a billion dollars a year from several hundred active mines. Developable minerals are clearly available in many places in Nevada. But one has to question just how high the mineral potential of the areas in H.R. 3304 really is when one realizes these areas have no mines nor have any developable minerals been found after 100-plus years of looking.

I believe the presence of mining claims is probably a better measure of demonstrable interest in an area's mineral potential than is simple rhetoric. Some of us in the Sierra Club have spent hundreds of hours in the last year locating every active claim in the 19 areas included in H.R. 3304. For a little perspective, one should know that there are roughly a third of a million mining claims on Nevada's public lands, more than on the lands of any other state.



They cover approximately 7 million acres or at least one fourth of all the mountainous lands in Nevada. With minerals actually being produced from a much smaller area, it is obvious that the presence of mining claims is far from definitive evidence for the presence of developable minerals. It is also obvious that vast acreages are claimed in the vague hope that something might be there. One must assume that the claims that have been filed, no matter how speculative, have been located in the areas thought to have the highest mineral potential based on all the available evidence. One must also assume, given the huge number of claims that do exist, that the absence of claims indicates areas not even worthy of much speculation.

There are astonishingly few mining claims in every one of the 19 areas included in H.R. 3304. Three of the areas, Mt. Rose, East Humboldts and Currant Mountain, encompassing 111,000 acres do not have one single mining claim between them. Of the entire 1,466,500 acres in H.R. 3304 only 1.6% has been thought to have high enough mineral potential to warrant the staking of mining claims. One would certainly expect that for areas which were really thought to have high mineral potential there would be even more claimed land than the statewide average of 25%.

Finally I want to stress the importance of boundary adjustments, as opposed to dropping entire areas, for the resolution of conflicts between wilderness designation and other uses in the case of each of the 19 areas in H.R. 3304. The current boundaries have been carefully drawn to exclude even the potential conflicts of areas of concentrated mining claims, and to provide manageable areas with little impact on non-wilderness users. In each area the most outstanding wilderness values would be protected.

In the few minutes I have remaining I want to talk about some of the areas I feel should also be in any bill this Subcommittee passes out. Mt. Jefferson, or Alta Toquima as some of us like to call it, is a truly magnificent mountain as I am sure other witnesses will point out. In recognition of its outstanding wilderness values and lack of conflicts, the core of the roadless area was recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service in the draft Forest Plan released this summer. Speaking as one who has slept on the summit just under 12,000 feet and walked the enormous crest plateau which is above 11,000 feet for over 8 miles, I believe the helicopter tour did not do justice to the area. Because of low fuel most of the mountain was not even seen. The tremendous glacial cirques which have carved all sides of the mountain were mostly missed.

The wilderness values of the Quinn Canyon Range certainly did not receive the full benefit of even the brief visit on the tour. After spending 30 minutes listening to the 35 year history of oil drilling in Railroad Valley, there was no time left for the group to walk the short 100 yards into the totally unsuspected, cool, forested recesses of Little Cherry Creek Canyon. Here a perennial stream flows between towering red rock walls. The Quinn Canyon Range was recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service in RARE II and only dropped recently due to alleged high mineral potential. However, whatever potential may exist has not been accompanied by any development or even maintenance of a significant number of mining claims. Most of the few claims that are in the roadless area are located along the northwest boundary and have been excluded by the wilderness boundary in H.R. 3304.

The Grant Range with the largest herd of desert bighorn sheep on Nevada National Forests, vast bristlecone pine forests, and massive limestone cliffs that stand well over a mile above the adjacent valley has been consistently recommended as wilderness by the Forest Service. The wilderness boundary in H.R. 3304 has been modified to exclude 40% of the total roadless area in order to remove the potential for conflicts with most mining claims in the area, while retaining the high crest of the range.

I believe many of those on the helicopter tour were struck by the savage beauty of Currant Mountain. The huge spine of sheer limestone going on for mile after mile, with ancient bristlecone pines clinging to every crack and a small band of bighorn sheep living in the security of a rock fortress that offers no trails, streams, lakes or even much horizontal ground to the few humans who ever venture there. Currant Mountain will never be the primitive recreation paradise one finds in the Rubies, Arc Dome, Wheeler Peak or many of the other areas in H.R. 3304. It should however be protected as a wilderness ecological preserve for its wildlife and pristine vegetation. Without a single mining claim, little livestock grazing or other use, it can be protected with virtually no real conflicts.

The mighty Schell Creek Range with its hundreds of elk (the largest population in Nevada), numerous trout streams, dense forests, and numerous meadows should also be designated wilderness. The boundary in H.R. 3304 excludes the areas of heavy vehicular recreation use, while protecting the scenic backdrop for the citizens of nearby Ely and others who come to this very popular range. Fears about the possible impact of a wilderness here on possible future developments in the town of Ely or the White Pine power plant, either

through Clean Air Act restrictions or buffer zones, are unnecessary.

There are also substantial reasons to designate the vast wild Excelsior Mountains which were recommended for wilderness designation by the Forest Service in RARE II; and the Santa Rosa Mountains with their trout streams and large deer herds; and Central Nevada's Toiyabe Crest with the Wild Granites and the longest scenic trail in the state; and finally Northeastern Nevada's Elk Mountain which was named for the magnificent wilderness species that no longer roams its ridges and drainages.

I hope that every one of these priceless parts of our dwindling wilderness heritage will receive careful consideration in the final deliberations of the Subcommittee.

I thank you very much for this valued opportunity to speak on behalf of wilderness preservation for these magnificent areas.

## PREPARED FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

ON PUBLIC LANDS - OCTOBER 10, 1985

MARSHA BERKBIGLER

My name is Marsha Berkbigler and I am here today as a concerned citizen of the state of Nevada as well as a representative of Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company.

I want to express my great concern about the future of our country and specifically the mining industry.

In the past few years so much effort has been put to developing the environmental conditions of our country and so little effort to developing the backbone of our country. If we are not progressing in the development of our country then we are falling back. Nothing can survive if it does not grow. Like every other mother and patriotic citizen I feel a great deal of concern for the conditions of our air and water as well as preservation of the beauty of our great country for future generations.

However, as a business women in the mining industry, I know how much our industry has already been hurt and any decision concerning wilderness has implications far greater than any of us can imagine.

I would like to talk about the realistic picture of the future of Nevada. Scientists have proven that Nevada is the last discovered and one of the best gold provinces our nation has ever known and yet so much of Nevada has not yet been explored. Only recently has technology been developed which allows finely disseminated (or no-see-um) gold to be removed and technology improves every year. Now here is the problem, 48% of Nevada will not be mined in our lifetimes because it is in the basin and range province and is covered by 1000± feet of gravel. We don't yet know how to find or even remove ore from under this much cover. According to a review done by the

Nevada Association of Counties in 1985, 12% of our state is already withdrawn from multiple use in the form of military reservations, National Wildlife Refuges, toxic waste dumps and wilderness. This 12% equals 8.3 million acres. Another 5 million acres are being considered for wilderness. All the land in Nevada only adds up to 70.3 million acres and remember this is our most promising gold province.

Looking for economic mineral deposits has very poor odds of success and some say that looking for ore bodies is like looking for needles in a haystack. If part of the haystack is removed from the search, the discovery rate for needles is reduced, so it is with ore bodies. Unfortunately, the ore bodies are already in place and cannot be moved to more politically favorable sites, consequently land withdrawal simply reduces the potential for future discovery as we can imagine from the haystack analogy.

Along this line, Jerritt Canyon, FMG's mine located in Elko County, Nevada occurs over less than 100 acres yet more than a billion dollars of gold revenues and 450 jobs are created from this one mine. Do you realize how little land it takes to develop a very profitable mine. The problem, of course, is ore bodies are where you find them. You might say you only wish to close 5000 acres, but what if just one Jerritt Canyon is located in that area. Think of the possibility of jobs created just in our industry alone, not even considering the jobs that are created in other support industries. I believe I speak for most Nevada citizens when I say Nevada needs more industry and Nevadans want to develop more business potential.

FMG has expanded its interest in Elko County further north which brings us in close proximity to Nevada's existing wilderness. Buffer zones, visual

corridors and clean air basins which most certainly are down the road all endanger mining outside but near a wilderness area. In a state the size of Nevada where roughly 87% is controlled in some form by the Federal government and with an ecological system such as we have, these issues are of even greater concern. Any additional acreage to this existing wilderness area could jeopardize our work in this area. We at FMG realize the potential for gold discoveries in Nevada and that is why we are allocating a large portion of our exploration work to Nevada.

In closing, I would like to say that as a long-time resident of Nevada I have seen it grow from a small state to a prosperous growing state with the potential for a lot more growth. I have traveled across Nevada on many occasions and it is true we have a beautiful state even after 120 years of mining. Within the past 10 years, the Federal and State governments have passed new laws that insure that present and future surface disturbances will be reclaimed. The pristine nature of our land is already protected with our present multiple use laws, so I am asking you today to protect our State and Nation's economy and our ability to inhabit and make a living in our Nevada. Mineral exploration is not designed to rip our mountain ranges apart, but we are limited by the fact that the ore deposits are where they are, not where some people wish they were.

With multiple use, we have options to keep certain areas pristine, to allow motorized transport for ranching and hunting as well as mining or to allow mining if an ore deposit exists. With wilderness closing down our lands, we have no options. Perhaps one of the most important functions of our land in this great country is to support us. Mining is an industry that

allows our nation to live off the land. This has been our heritage. The point I am making and ask you to remember most about all that I have said is that we are at the edge of a new frontier . . . we have only recently discovered this major gold province . . . we have just found a new "mother lode." Think about how important that was to the western United States. But, the problem is already much of this province is withdrawn and you are now considering legislation to withdraw more.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.



HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS  
HEARING ON NEVADA WILDERNESS BILLS  
OCTOBER 10, 1985

TESTIMONY OF: ALLAN R. YOUNG  
RESIDENT MANAGER  
SUNSHINE MINING COMPANY  
SILVER PEAK, NEVADA

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY FIRST COMMENT ON NEVADA WILDERNESS IS A VERY BRIEF ONE AND IS IN REFERENCE TO CONGRESSMAN SEIBERLING'S BILL. IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS TO THOSE OF US LIVING IN NEVADA THAT THIS BILL IS NOT ONLY AN UNFORTUNATE SELLOUT TO GROUPS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY, BUT ALSO TOTALLY DISREGARDS THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS WHICH A MAJORITY OF NEVADANS HAVE AND INDEED HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED ON THIS ISSUE. THEREFORE, WE FIND CONGRESSMAN SEIBERLING'S BILL ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE.

ON THE WILDERNESS ISSUE WE FIND OURSELVES CHOOSING BETWEEN THE DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC LAND FOR RESTRICTED USE BY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND CONTINUING MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT.

THE MULTIPLE USE CONCEPT IS ONE IN WHICH A GREAT DEAL OF PARANOIA ON THE PART OF PRESERVATIONIST GROUPS SEEMS TO ABOUND. THIS CONCEPT HAS BEEN EQUATED WITH ROWS OF BULLDOZERS POISED AT A STARTING LINE READY TO RAVAGE THE LAND AS SOON AS AREAS ARE RELEASED FROM WILDERNESS STUDY. THIS, OF COURSE, IS A RIDICULOUS NOTION. THE BLM AND FOREST SERVICE HAVE PROVEN OVER THE YEARS THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE CUSTODIANS OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS. PLANNING AND RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THESE AGENCIES ON LAND THAT HASN'T EVEN BEEN CONSIDERED FOR WILDERNESS HAVE RESULTED IN LITTLE PERMANENT DEGRADATION TO THOSE VALUES

HELD IN SUCH HIGH REGARD BY PRESERVATIONISTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THESE EFFORTS HAVE ALLOWED THE LAND TO PROVIDE THE MOST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND ISN'T THAT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

AS EVIDENCE OF HOW "SELFISH" WE MINERS ARE, WE ARE OFTEN REMINDED OF THE SO-CALLED MODEST AMOUNT OF ACREAGE THAT PRESERVATIONIST GROUPS ARE ASKING BE SET ASIDE AS WILDERNESS. THE REID BILL, FOR EXAMPLE, ASKS FOR ONLY ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AREA OF THE STATE. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE TYPES OF STATISTICS CAN BE EXTREMELY MISLEADING WHEN ONE USES THEM TO ATTEMPT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF WILDERNESS WITHDRAWALS ON A RESOURCE-BASED INDUSTRY SUCH AS MINING. THE ABOVE PERCENTAGE NATURALLY DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LAND WHICH IS UNDER PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, AND, MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, LAND WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. VERY FEW STATES HAVE SEEN THE MASSIVE FEDERAL LAND WITHDRAWALS FOR MILITARY, WILDLIFE PROTECTIVE AREAS, NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS, ETC. THAT NEVADA HAS. FINALLY, MOTHER NATURE HAS, IN A WAY, MADE SOME ADDITIONAL LAND WITHDRAWALS OF HER OWN WHEN IT COMES TO MINING. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, KNOWN ECONOMIC MINERAL DEPOSITS, TOGETHER WITH ALL PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS, ARE CONFINED TO MOUNTAINOUS AREAS WHERE ROCK OUTCROPS ARE READILY EXPOSED. MANY OF THE EXTENSIVE VALLEYS AND BASINS WE SEE IN THE STATE ARE FILLED WITH HUNDREDS AND MANY TIMES THOUSANDS OF FEET OF ALLUVIUM,

WHICH PRECLUDES ANY SERIOUS EXPLORATION OR MINING ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT ACREAGES WHICH ARE COVERED BY RECENT VOLCANIC LAVA FLOWS, THEREBY COVERING ANY WOULD BE OUTCROPS. WHEN THE ACREAGE THAT THE REID BILL ASKS FOR, THEN, IS COMPARED TO THE TRUE ACREAGE THAT IS AVAILABLE OR AMENABLE TO MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, YOU COME UP WITH A FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY SEVEN PERCENT WITHDRAWN FOR WILDERNESS. PRESENTLY PROPOSED BLM WILDERNESS ACREAGE WOULD INCREASE THIS PERCENTAGE SEVERAL FOLD. BY COMPARISON, ONLY SIX HUNDRETHS OF ONE PERCENT OF NEVADA HAS BEEN DISTURBED BY MINING IN THE 125 YEAR HISTORY OF MINING IN THE STATE.

CERTAINLY NO ONE WILL ARGUE THAT NEVADA CONTAINS SOME SURPRISINGLY BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL FOREST AREAS. ONE MUST, HOWEVER, LOOK AT EACH POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA FROM THE STANDPOINT OF QUALITY AND UNIQUENESS. AS WAS THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF CONGRESS, ONLY THE TRUE "CROWN JEWELS" OF OUR LAND SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AS WILDERNESS. THIS INTENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN VIOLATED IN RECENT YEARS AS PRESERVATIONIST GROUPS PROMOTE MAXIMUM ACREAGES FOR WILDERNESS - LAND WHICH SIMPLY FULFILLS ONLY THE VERY BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR WILDERNESS. WE ARE TOLD THAT NEVADA MUST HAVE ITS "FAIR SHARE" OF WILDERNESS, EVEN THOUGH CONGRESS DID NOT SPECIFY THAT EACH STATE SHOULD HAVE COMPARABLE ACREAGES SET ASIDE. I SUBMIT THAT MUCH OF THE BEAUTY OF OUR NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS LIES IN THEIR ABILITY TO

PROVIDE OR SATISFY A VARIETY OF USES AND NEEDS, NOT JUST THE DESIRES OF A FEW BACKCOUNTRY HIKERS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MINING TO THE RURAL COUNTIES IN NEVADA CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ESMERALDA COUNTY 73% OF TOTAL PAYROLL IS MINING RELATED. IN EUREKA COUNTY THIS FIGURE IS 82% AND IN LANDER COUNTY IT IS 72%. IN OTHER RURAL COUNTIES IT RANGES FROM 30 TO 40%. MANY OF THESE COUNTIES REALLY DO NOT HAVE MUCH GOING FOR THEM IN TERMS OF A BROAD ECONOMIC BASE, BUT WHAT THEY DO HAVE GOING FOR THEM IS MINERAL POTENTIAL. TO THESE COUNTIES AND THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE, ONE MORE AREA SET ASIDE AS WILDERNESS REPRESENTS JUST ANOTHER FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FOREGONE. IT ALSO REPRESENTS LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR RANCHERS AND THE MAJORITY OF NEVADANS WHO DEPEND UPON VEHICULAR ACCESS TO SEE AND ENJOY OUR PUBLIC LANDS. THE UTTER DEPENDENCE WHICH THE RURAL COUNTIES OF NEVADA HAVE ON MINING AND OTHER MULTIPLE USES OF PUBLIC LAND IS UNIQUE TO THIS STATE AND THIS FACT MUST BE CONSIDERED WHEN CHOOSING WHICH AREAS ARE TO BE DESIGNATED AS WILDERNESS. AN AREA SHOULD BE DESIGNATED WILDERNESS WHEN, AND ONLY WHEN, THE WILDERNESS VALUES OF AN AREA AND PUBLIC BENEFITS AND USES THAT WILDERNESS DESIGNATION WOULD PROVIDE ARE SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET THE BENEFITS AND THE RESOURCE VALUES WHICH WOULD BE FOREGONE DUE TO WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. THE BILL INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN VUCANOVICH IS THE ONLY NEVADA WILDERNESS BILL THAT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS RELATIVE VALUE-BASED METHOD OF DECISION MAKING. IT IS THE ONLY BILL THAT CONSIDERS THE NEEDS OF RURAL NEVADANS AS WELL AS THE DESIRES OF ALL AMERICANS.

STATEMENT OF HOWARD BOOTH,  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
BEFORE THE HOUSE  
PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING  
ON H.R. 1686, H.R. 3302 AND H.R. 3304  
(NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS BILLS)  
OCTOBER 10, 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

I am Howard Booth, a 28-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. I am delighted to be in Washington to attend these timely hearings and to let you know directly how important I feel it is to pass strong wilderness legislation for Nevada's national forests this year. I think H.R. 3304 is the best vehicle for doing this.

Nevada has better than average opportunities for quality wilderness. The state's history has been such as to delay a surging population growth, and its mineral resources have been poor enough to retard the early loss of roadless lands. We therefore have the opportunity to protect national forest areas which are still real wilderness. They are still largely unimpacted by the crowds of visitors that elbow each other through the popular wilderness lands of other states.

Yet I am convinced that the many values we ascribe to wilderness will quickly be lost in each area not protected by legislation. Nevada's population growth is one of the nation's largest, and the accompanying demand for resources will quickly cut down the roadless acreage. I have lived in Las Vegas through its years of most rapid growth, and I have seen at first hand the development and often outright destruction of nearby roadless

lands. I have become aware of the building pressures against even such cherished gems of de facto wilderness as nearby Mt. Charleston. These trends foretell a similar fate for other regions of the state as the urban influence spreads outward. It makes wilderness protection for the very best of our roadless national forest lands crucial at this time.

The very best of our roadless lands are indeed splendid wilderness, as I can testify from my nearly 30 years of exploring them. I have hiked or backpacked in three fourths of the areas included in H.R. 3304, as well as in many other areas in western states. I have been involved in studying them since the days of the original Forest Service Roadless Area Review and Evaluation of the early '70's. Each one of the areas is unique and would make a quality addition to the national wilderness system. Each has been chosen for its wilderness qualities from the 113 national forest roadless areas identified in Nevada. Each is the equal of alpine wilderness areas that I have visited in other states.

When people speak of overall opportunities for wilderness in Nevada, they often overlook the fact that Nevada's roadless alpine areas, many of which are national forest lands included in H.R. 3302, service the needs of summer visitors and migratory wildlife species alike. These areas provide escape from the oppressive desert heat of the lowlands. This is an important component of an endurable life for many people and animal species. I think it will become an important element of the rural economy in inducing visitors from both within and without

Nevada to vacation here in the summertime. Also, the attractions of our alpine wilderness areas, once they become known, will help reduce the overcrowding in wilderness areas of other states.

I think it must be almost a cliché in wilderness hearings for some persons to complain that wilderness designation "shuts out" all but the young, healthy and affluent athletes of our society, yet I feel as one who is gradually leaving middle age behind that I should respond to this. In the first place, few of the areas contained in H.R. 3304 would likely be penetrated by roads suitable for visitors even if not designated as wilderness. Most of the areas are simply too rugged and the building costs too high. Most roads would be built for heavy mining equipment and generally closed to ordinary use. In many cases, closure of mining roads for public use would be demanded by both society and good management practices for protection of the land and wildlife. Such roads would eventually be left to scar the land, destroy wilderness values, and damage wildlife habitat, fragile riparian zones and watersheds.

Secondly, the aging process inevitably leaves each of us incapable of rigorous wilderness pursuits. But one can still enter wilderness in shorter excursions, easier stages or by horseback. In late years one may only enjoy viewing wilderness from without. But if he has managed his life with a little care and has set the right priorities, he can still take pleasure from the memories of wilderness experiences he had when younger and from the comforting knowledge that his children or grandchildren can still enjoy these same experiences. I think a handicapped

person who enters wilderness to whatever extent he is able achieves something akin to the athlete's conquering of a wilderness summit. For a few people in this imperfect world, wilderness can only be an idea or maybe a hope for the future, but they should not be denied this either.

I was very concerned earlier this year by Congressman Vucanovich's introduction of H.R. 1686, which would only protect 136,900 acres in 4 small areas. I would hope she could adjust her thinking as a result of these hearings. Congressman Reid's recent introduction of H.R. 3302 is a great improvement in offering wilderness protection to ten areas encompassing a total of 722,900 acres. I appreciate these efforts, but I would urge him to consider strengthening his bill through the addition of several of our most outstanding de facto wilderness areas. I simply do not believe we can afford to witness the loss of their wilderness assets. Adding critical areas will bring his bill closer to the outstanding protection afforded by Congressman Seiberling in H.R. 3304. Congressman Seiberling's legislation would include nearly one and one half million acres in 19 units that embrace the best of the national forest proposed wilderness.

I would like to discuss several of the areas contained in H.R. 3304 with which I have had personal experiences that convinced me of their exceptionally high wilderness qualities.

Some years ago I climbed with friends to the summit of Troy Peak in the proposed Grant Range wilderness. The peak rises abruptly more than 6000 feet above Railroad Valley on the west and stands over 11,000 feet above sea level. It was an



experience not to be forgotten even these many years later. The seemingly sheer wall of the west slope is marvelously fluted with buttresses from a series of high peaks little less imposing than Troy Peak itself. The whole assemblage of ridgetop peaks runs several miles north and south along the spine of the range and forms the scenic crest that so dominates distant views from throughout central Nevada. This wasn't an easy ascent, but by carefully choosing the route we were able to avoid the necessity of ropes or other climbing equipment. As we sat on the summit, we wished we had brought our camping gear so we could savor the views and impressions attending the color changes of sunset and the clarity of the star-filled night at high altitude. Around us and along the crest were white firs and numerous incredibly beautiful wind-sculptured bristlecone pines. An alpine environment had completely replaced the pinyon, juniper and oaks of the lower western benches. Looking down the east slopes among the contorted canyons, we could see fine stands of aspen and small clusters of ponderosa pine. The topography is complex in these eastern canyons and amongst the southern peaks so that a sense of envelopment in wilderness is easily acquired in hiking this range. We saw no bighorn sheep on our outing, but their sign was everywhere along the crest. I know backpack groups who have had thrilling sightings in spectacular cliffy areas on the east slope. The Forest Service recommended an almost 100,000 acre wilderness during the 1979 RARE II but by 1985 had reduced this to about 53,000 acres due to speculative mineral values. The reduction detracts appreciably from the wilderness potential

of the Troy Peak section which would otherwise be the very crux of this wilderness. Looking over the country from Troy Peak itself, we could see no intrusive elements that would prevent the Forest Service's recommendation from being expanded to the 60,000 acres in H.R. 3304. Very few conflicts between wilderness and other resource values have been identified by the Forest Service for this area.

Some of the most memorable outings for me have been into the Schell Peaks proposed (in H.R. 3304) wilderness. I have fine memories of the lovely west side canyons where open aspen groves and mixed conifers line the banks of creeks that originate on the steep flanks of the high benchlands. The east side canyons are deeply incised and often heavily wooded along stream banks. They are numerous and with but a few exceptions are unroaded. In their remoteness, the sense of wilderness is quite complete. A string of peaks surmount the high uplands which are 3000 feet to over a mile above the canyon mouths. Splendid backpacking opportunities exist the full length of the 25 mile long highlands at 10,000 feet or more altitude. Several of the rocky peaks rise higher culminating in North Schell Peak at nearly 12,000 feet. All along the crest one's attention is drawn to the spacious views across the dry dessicated valleys to other distant ranges in Nevada and Utah. The canyons that originate along the ridgecrest offer varied routes of access and departure from the central highlands so that a variety of opportunities for long or short excursions into the wilderness is possible. Elk and mule deer are wildlife attractions of note while golden eagles soaring

the updrafts along the crest were commonly sighted on one of my backpacks to this high country. The Forest Service withholds wilderness recommendation for the area on the basis of speculative mineral values, largely along the west slopes. But the wilderness values here are not the least bit speculative and are of such high quality as to easily justify the 120,000 acres contained in H.R. 3304. Few other resource conflicts are identified by the Forest Service for this outstanding area. I urge the Subcommittee to include this unit during markup.

Perhaps familiarity contributes something to my enthusiasm for Mt. Charleston, which is near my Las Vegas home, but so many of my friends come here from afar to hike and backpack this range and climb its peaks that I know my opinion is not unique. It is no surprise that the Desert Peaks section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter has included 11,918 foot Mt. Charleston in its small list of what they term their "emblem peaks," i.e. the ones most interesting from the standpoint of challenging hiking and dramatic scenery. Yet this range's interest extends far beyond this single feature. The great limestone cliffs that rim its canyons, the several particularly craggy rock-rimmed peaks that rise above 10,000 feet, the contrast of alpine terrain with the dry, hot desert 8000 feet and more below, the number of lovely springs that hide along the flanks of ridges or within remote canyons, the plunging seasonal waterfalls fed by snowbanks lingering into July, forest that include several life zones and culminate in the largest pure stands of gnarled bristlecone pines to be found anywhere, elk and deep, a chipmunk found nowhere

else, and 27 endemic plant species--these are some of the attributes that make this small area prime wilderness.

I am stressing the importance of this area because I feel the Forest Service is way too conservative in its acreage and boundary recommendations. Both H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304 remedy this shortcoming, and I urge that in the markup sessions the two sizeable areas omitted in Forest Service recommendations be maintained. One of these includes the country on and around 11,500-foot high Mummy Mountain. This peak is one of the most commanding and dramatic features of the Spring Mountain Range and its slopes contain such outstandingly lovely features as the deeply recessed and spring-watered "narrows" of Fletcher Canyon. The integrity of a Mt. Charleston wilderness could be seriously compromised if the Mummy Mountain area were to lose its wilderness attributes through lack of legislative protection. It is not only a visibly prominent feature but is the object of considerable wilderness recreation in itself. The Forest Service has apparently eliminated it from its recommendations on manageability grounds, based largely on this unit's narrow connection to the rest of their wilderness proposal. But the mountain and its surroundings are very rugged and large enough to provide manageable wilderness boundaries.

The other critical area which mark-up sessions should carefully maintain is 10,000-foot Harris Peak and its environment which anchors the southeast end of the long central ridge of the range. The Forest Service has eliminated this from their recommendation, perhaps because of some interest shown by one or

more agencies in establishing a communications site here. But such a visible intrusion would seriously impair the integrity of the high country wilderness atmosphere. Eliminating this mountain from wilderness would open the door to all kinds of pressure for other similar intrusions to the detriment of the overall wilderness quality of the high country.

I have found it difficult to understand why all the introduced legislation has not unanimously included the Alta Toquima (Mt. Jefferson) proposal, much of which was recommended by the Forest Service. It has long been a favorite wilderness destination for me. The wilderness character and attributes of the area are evident from the Forest Service analysis during the recent planning effort. My several personal experiences in tramping the high plateau and the forested glacial cirques along its edge lead me to an enthusiastic concurrence with these findings. Even mineral opportunities seem rather lacking except for speculative possibilities near the roadless boundaries. In any case, wilderness values are especially high and many elements of the area's unique cultural and ecological resources can best be protected within designated wilderness. There are almost no identified conflicts with other resource values. I urge that markup retains the full 45,000 acres contained in H.R. 3304.

My personal experiences with the Currant Mountain and Quinn Canyon units involve peripheral visits that have certainly intrigued me with these areas' wilderness possibilities. I support others in their positive assessments of the wilderness values within these units. The recent dropping of something like

900 mining claims in the Quinn Canyon unit appears to largely negate many of the minerals conflicts attributed to it.

H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304 offer identical and well chosen boundaries for the South Snake wilderness proposal; I wish to urge maintaining these during markup. I have hiked portions of this area several times in the past 20 years. I well remember climbing Wheeler Peak, at 13,000 feet elevation the highest mountain totally within Nevada, in the days prior to the extension of a road to the present trailhead at 10,000 feet. In those days one generally backpacked upward from a point 3000 feet lower and several miles more distant than the "new" road's end. Whatever values are ascribed to this road, I know its construction has sadly tarnished the adventure of climbing Wheeler. No new generations can experience the challenge to that old pitch of intensity. Wilderness designation will assure no more whittling away of grand opportunities for adventure here. And if the Highland Ridge sector remains a part of the proposal, this 120,000 acre unit can become an outstanding wilderness area.

The Arc Dome proposed wilderness is close enough to both Las Vegas and Reno to make it a frequent goal of people from these metropolitan areas. I have backpacked the area on several occasions, entering from the Twin Rivers and other creeks along the eastern slopes and from Reese River on the west. These streams are rather unusual in their number for a desert range. The configuration of their layout within the complexity of the terrain makes a number of loop backpacks possible without the concern for having water at campsites. The scenery is

magnificent with a number of challenging peaks to climb and a variety of landforms and vegetation types. Both H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304 have greatly improved the Forest Service proposal by including the expansive sagebrush uplands of the Barney Meadows area to the south. There are excellent wildlife attractions in the bighorn sheep and numerous mule deer, and trout fishing is available along some of the streams. The trail system connects with the Toiyabe Crest Trail which provides longer backpacking experiences northward along the range. Mineralization is concentrated along the periphery of the area so this conflict is minimized. In any case, the superlative wilderness values here, though they can't be quantified, certainly outweigh the mineral values. It would be a disastrous loss to have this area open to mining. Wilderness designation is badly needed here, and I urge its continued inclusion during the markup effort.

The Ruby Mountains are classical mountain wilderness but unusual for Nevada in the remarkable number of glacial alpine lakes. There are broad open basins and numerous streams. The eastern escarpment is high and dramatic, while the northwestern peaks are especially craggy and scenic. I spent one five-day backpack in which I visited most of the lakes in the range. On another trip I backpacked to the Ruby North extension near Verdi Peak. The important point is the inclusion of the larger area contained in H.R. 3304. Too much qualifying wilderness will be open to intrusive development without this full measure of protection.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of establishing for this and future generations a meaningful legacy of national forest wilderness in Nevada, as represented by H.R. 3304. I think the opportunity simply must be taken now while these lands still remain roadless. Other wilderness selections may be available in Nevada's future, but very few of them are of the alpine character expressed by these few national forest units. As with any scarce item of value, these units should be cherished and protected. I am positive that wilderness designation is the only way to assure that.



Statement of Daniel Allison  
Before The House Subcommittee On Public Lands  
On H.R. 3302 and H.R. 3304  
October 10, 1985

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Daniel Allison and I am from Las Vegas, Nevada. I am speaking as an individual with an academic background in natural resources and geology, and extensive experience in wilderness management with the Forest Service.

I would like to thank Congressman Reid for introducing a reasonable wilderness bill that recognizes the outstanding wilderness resources available in Nevada and the critical need for their preservation. And I would like to thank Congressman Seiberling and others for introducing an outstanding bill of 19 areas. My comments will be primarily directed to three areas included in H.R. 3304 but not in H.R. 3302 which are very deserving of wilderness designation. These are the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain proposals in the Humboldt National Forest. I will also talk about the Mt. Charleston area.

## GRANT RANGE

## A. Mineral Resources

The USGS rates this area as having a high mineral potential for gold, lead, silver, and fluospar. However, the history of the area is at odds with this assessment. The historical Troy mining district produced small quantities of precious metals in the early 1900's, but there has been no production since 1949. Some tungsten was produced in the 1950's, but it was only a very small part of Nevada's production of that metal. There has been no documented production of any resource since that time.

The formerly active part of the district lies outside both the Forest Service proposal of their Land and Resource Management Plan and the proposal of H.R. 3304. This fact is reflected as well in the mining claims of the area. The Forest Service proposal excludes nearly 100% of the claims by shrinking the roadless area from that proposed in the RARE II process. This degree of shrinkage was unnecessary. H.R. 3304 excludes the vast majority of the claims while protecting more of the wilderness resource. The areas in which miners have expressed an interest by filing and holding claims lie almost entirely outside of both proposals. If any of the few claims included in the proposal were to prove valid, the claimholder's rights

are protected under the Wilderness Act. Miners are not being "locked out" of their areas of substantial interest or out of any valid claims. Exploration for mineral resources inside the designated area could continue in the traditional methods of prospecting which are allowed by the Wilderness Act and certainly through new methods of exploration which use remote sensing techniques and leave the wilderness undisturbed.

#### B. Energy Resources

The USGS has rated the Grant Range roadless area as having a moderate potential for oil because of the generalized maturity of hydrocarbon resources in the area, if any are present, and the proximity to the Railroad Valley oil fields. One of the postulated source rocks, the Paleozoic Chainman Shale is present in the proposal, while the Tertiary Sheep Pass is present primarily north of the proposal. However, neither of these source rocks have been shown to contain hydrocarbons within the range itself.

While proximity to Railroad Valley might be a good indicator, all of the oil discoveries and production to date have been in the sediments of the downfaulted valley block and have been trapped up against the fault which clearly separates the valley from the range. No oil has been discovered here or in nearby ranges in the uplifted mountain blocks. While the

range does contain numerous low angle thrust faults, there is no evidence of the deep seated thrusting which has proven to trap petroleum in the Wyoming portion of the overthrust belt. In fact the extensive faulting of the range increases the likelihood that any hydrocarbons originally present have escaped.

Oil companies have applied for leases over much of the northern part of the area. The areas of primary interest, the western edge, because of its proximity to Railroad Valley, and the eastern bench, because of its possible similarity to the Railroad Valley structure, have been excluded from both the Forest Service proposal and H.R. 3304. Even if the companies wished to explore their leases into the edges of the proposal, the technology is available to slant drill from locations outside the boundary. Since the geological setting being looked for is a deep seated thrust plate, the drilling would not require extreme slant drilling. New techniques of oil exploration involving remote sensing can be used without any ground disturbance in the wilderness.

Even if oil were discovered within the range, which appears unlikely, it is questionable whether the resource could be economically developed. Drilling costs would be high because of the thick sediments and rugged terrain, and transportation costs for any oil produced would also be high due to the

rugged terrain and distance from markets.

It is clear that petroleum resources exist in Railroad Valley and that it is in the interests of all the people of Nevada to develop those resources. However, the Grant Range wilderness proposal does not appear to contain any of these resources, nor does it in any way prevent development of energy resources adjacent to the proposal.

#### C. Wilderness Resource

In contrast to the marginal and very speculative mineral and energy resources contained within or close to this proposal, the wilderness values of the Grant Range are outstanding. The range contains a healthy population of bighorn sheep and many other undisturbed wildlife species. The rugged western slope and more gentle eastern slope are topped by a beautiful and spectacular ridgeline of white limestone.

The Forest Service rated this area as having a high value for solitude and primitive recreation. It was easy for me to see why as I approached the range for the first time across miles of dirt roads, passing only an occasional ranch. I have never felt anywhere else in Nevada the sense of isolation and wildness that I felt in this range. Yet despite this remote feeling, the area is less than three hours from Las Vegas,

providing an important wilderness resource that will become more critical as Las Vegas grows and becomes more urban.

The current productive uses of the area include the grazing of livestock, the production of water used by wildlife and the ranches, dispersed recreation such as hunting and backpacking, and habitat for a diverse wildlife and plant community. All of these uses would be continued or enhanced by designation as wilderness. I would choose these known uses of renewable resources over the speculative possibility of exploiting non-renewable resources.

## II. QUINN CANYON

## A. Mineral Resources

The USGS rates the Quinn Canyon area as having a high potential for fluospar, gold, silver, mercury, and molybdenum, while the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology identifies only the south end fluospar deposits as having any significant economic potential. As in the Grant Range, the past and current activities here do not indicate a high potential. The Willow Creek mining district has historically produced very small amounts of gold and silver to the northwest, fluospar and base metals in the east, and fluospar to the south. These areas of past activity are nearly all outside the wilderness boundaries proposed in H.R. 3304. There has been almost no activity in any of these areas since the 1950's. The proposal, in fact, excludes nearly all of the mining claims in the roadless area, which are primarily along the northwest side. The area of possible economic significance for fluospar development in the south part of the range has no current mining claims at all. Much of the range had claims several years ago, but the vast majority of these claims were dropped for lack of interest and assessment work was never done. Again, the locale of interest expressed by miners simply does not overlap significantly with the wilderness proposal.

#### B. Energy Resources

The USGS rated the Quinn Canyon roadless area as having a low potential for petroleum production. While some possible source rocks are present in the area, the area has a lower likelihood that the hydrocarbons would be of the proper maturity and the area is further from the known oil fields in Railroad Valley. The range exhibits a lot of low angle thrust faulting, but there is no evidence of deep seated thrusting of the overthrust belt type.

There are small areas along the northwest edge of the proposal which have pending leases, indicating some interest by oil companies. As with the Grant Range, all existing knowledge points to the possibility of petroleum discoveries in Railroad Valley to the west and possibly to the east, but petroleum discoveries within the range and this wilderness proposal are unlikely.

#### C. Wilderness Resource

The Quinn Canyon area was rated by the Forest Service as having a high value of solitude and primitive recreation. Though slightly less spectacular than the Grant Range to the north, the steep cliffs surrounding the heads of the northwest canyons present a rugged beauty. The bristlecones of Hooper



Canyon and the surprising lushness of Little Cherry Creek and other drainages present a gentler aspect. The area as a whole feels even wilder than the Grant Range.

The Forest Service recommended this area for wilderness designation in the RARE II process and the area still contains the outstanding wilderness qualities that were recognized by that study. The proposed boundaries of H.R. 3304 would protect these same values while excluding a few areas of incursion and most of the area of mining claims and mineral potential.

### III. CURRANT MOUNTAIN

#### A. Mineral Resources

The USGS has rated the Currant Mountain area as having a high mineral potential. However, most of the historical Currant mining district lies outside of the proposal. The most intensively explored area lies just southeast of the proposed wilderness, but this area called Golden Rod never produced any significant value in minerals. There are known tungsten and fluospar deposits in Broom Canyon, but again there was never any significant production from this area. The most telling fact about the area is that there is not a single current mining claim in the entire proposal. The mining industry apparently does not share the USGS assessment of high potential.

#### B. Energy Resources

The Currant Mountain proposal was not specifically covered in the USGS report on the petroleum potential of wilderness lands in Nevada, but the Forest Service mentions a USGS rating of low for the area. The range is separated from Railroad Valley by two major faults, the Railroad Valley to the west beneath the valley alluvium, and the Blackrock to the east at the head of the western alluvial fan. While the area between these two

faults might represent some potential, the main part of the range represents a low potential because of the geological setting of the range. While 50% of the Forest Service roadless area is covered by leases, no drilling has taken place nor has any evidence of petroleum resources within the range been discovered.

#### C. Wilderness Resource

The Forest Service rated this roadless area as having only a moderate opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation; but the incredibly spectacular nature of the range belies this assessment. Many of the field trip participants were extremely impressed with the narrow white limestone ridge falling away in high steep cliffs. The inaccessible nature of the crest and the lack of water in the area produce a wilderness value much greater than moderate. Bighorn sheep are dependent upon this same ruggedness and inaccessibility while at the same time adding to the wilderness feeling of the range. An unusual population of bristlecone pine also graces the range. These wilderness values outweigh the minimal mineral values of the area and the speculative possibility of oil potential. We would not be foregoing any known resources of significance by designating this area.

## IV. MT. CHARLESTON

I would like to briefly cover the single wilderness proposal that lies very close to Las Vegas, the Mt. Charleston area of the Spring Mountains. While even the H.R. 1686 bill recognizes the wilderness values of Mt. Charleston, there is considerable difference in the boundaries. I would like to support the full acreage proposed in H.R. 3302 and 3304.

I have spent many, many years of hiking and exploring in the Spring Mountains, in fact I feel as though I grew up there in many ways. The entire range is an outstanding example of the "Island in the Sky" desert mountain range. It offers not only a respite from the heat and dryness of the Las Vegas valley, but it offers a natural retreat from the urban pressures of Las Vegas. The developed recreation sites so important to people from Las Vegas would not be limited by the proposal. The few available areas of flat ground have already been developed and/or lie outside the boundaries. The spectacular steep country of the range would be protected, however. The inclusion of the Mummy Mountain ridge is critical to the integrity of the wilderness because it divides the Kyle and Lee watersheds and provides the experience of a good trail along the crest of a narrow ridge with beautiful views to either side which are not matched elsewhere in the range. The Harris Peak area is also important because it overlooks the potential BLM wilderness in the Red Rock area and protects the new trail approach to the main Charleston ridge.

## V. SUMMARY

I am sensitive to the needs of Nevada to develop mineral and energy resources where they occur. However, I do not feel that the wilderness areas of the Grant Range, Quinn Canyon, and Currant Mountain contain any significant resources, and the small possibility that they do does not outweigh the strong wilderness values of these areas. I am therefore fully in favor of the H.R. 3304 recommendations for these three ranges. Thank you for this opportunity to share some of the knowledge of these areas that I have researched and to express some of my personal experiences in these areas.

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**CULTURAL FOCUS**

Division of Allied Arts Council

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Statement of Elizabeth Warren, Representing  
Cultural Focus  
Before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and  
National Parks, on H.R. 3304 and H.R. 1686,  
October 10-11, 1985

My name is Elizabeth Warren. I am a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada but formerly lived in Goodsprings, a turn of the century mining camp, about 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas. I am now Director of Cultural Focus, the tourism outreach program of the Allied Arts Council of Southern Nevada. Cultural Focus provides arts-oriented programs and tours (The Flip Side of Las Vegas) to conventions and tourists. Our principal market is the out-of-state and international visitor who comes to Las Vegas for 4-7 days to attend a business or professional meeting. These visitors are fascinated with Nevada, a state largely unknown outside its borders.

At Cultural Focus, we spend much time educating the visitor to Las Vegas about the surprises Nevada holds for them when they return on vacations--mountains, lakes, rare and even unique animals, plants and geologic formations. I know from these contacts that it is very important to visitors that Nevada has untouched natural areas which, on this crowded, noisy, polluted planet, they can plan to visit and still experience the unspoiled American West. The West has long intrigued both Americans from crowded urban states and foreign visitors whose forests, lakes and mountains have long ago been tamed. Today's tourists are still looking at the back country of the West for recreational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity of testifying on behalf of wilderness for Nevada. I appreciate very much the great interest in Nevada's primitive areas, shown by members of this Subcommittee and especially the time and energy displayed by Chairman Seiberling, and Representatives Darden, Kostmayer and Weaver, who came to Nevada to experience first hand our forested wilderness areas. You have before you three wilderness bills for Nevada and a position in support of 21 roadless areas submitted by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. I am here to support the position of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, but wish to add that Congressman Reid's bill is a good place to start in discussing how much wilderness Nevada will have. I look forward to working further with Congressman Reid to add to the areas he has proposed so that Nevada's wilderness is sufficiently preserved for future generations to enjoy. Congressman Seiberling's bill comes closest to the position developed by Nevadans who have formed the coalition called Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and so earns my fullest measure of support. Congressman Vucanovich's bill, however, is completely inadequate, failing to address wilderness values in most of the state of Nevada.

The twenty-one areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness total only 1.5 million acres, around 2% of Nevada's land area. 3.5 million acres were studies; we are asking for less than half of this acreage to be designated as wilderness, releasing the remainder for other uses. Nevada is the seventh



largest state in the union, but at present has only one wilderness area, one national recreation area, and one national monument. There are no national parks in Nevada. Parks and wilderness have great appeal to the tourist, and it is from this perspective that I wish to speak.

Opposition to wilderness designation is frequently expressed by people who claim to have Nevada's economic health at heart. Yet, clearly it is tourism that holds the most promise for Nevada's future, just as it has in the last fifty years. By the year 2000, tourism will be the number one industry in the world; it is already number one in Nevada.

In the past, Nevada's economy developed based mainly on mining and ranching. Neither produces reliable revenue and job opportunities today. The history of Nevada is characterized by the boom/bust cycle in mining. This pattern has produce numerous picturesque ghost towns for today's tourist to enjoy and explore, but mining in these areas today is generally not feasible. World markets, changing mineral utilization, domestic labor costs and many other factors have caused many once valuable ore bodies to remain undeveloped, or for mining activities to cease at formerly busy locations. Goodsprings, Nevada, which boomed in World War I and again during WW II, has not been active since that time. In this forty year hiatus, it is tourists and occasional film companies that have provided revenue for the few businesses that remain.

In any event, it is important to recognize that mining is an extractive industry. Sooner or later, the miners must leave because the ore is exhausted or too low grade to be profitable. Mining is also a destructive industry, creating raw wounds in the earth, causing erosion, air and noise pollution, and water degradation. In many ways, mining is antithetical to tourism.

Archaeological and historical sites are valuable assets to a tourism industry. Nevada's ghost towns are good examples of historic sites that are very important to the state's tourism efforts. Prehistoric sites are also important, although sites located at the high elevations of national forest lands are extremely rare. Most sites are simple hunting camps, seasonally used in the past. At Alta Toquima in the proposed Mt. Jefferson wilderness area, there is an important exception. Here at 9000 feet above sea level, there is a village site which may hold many answers for archaeologists, who seek to uncover the past for the benefit of all of us in the present and future. The site is so remote that archaeologists could only reach it by helicopter. Despite the hardships that the restriction against mechanized transport will present to future work at this and other sites, the 11 Nevada citizens who comprise the Advisory Board to the State Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology have elected to support wilderness designation for Mt. Jefferson. The Advisory Board agrees that the extraction of information can be accomplished within the constraints of approved wilderness management practices.

Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, it is widely recognized by archaeologists and others who manage cultural resources that roadlessness is protective of archaeological and historical sites. All of these remains are classified as cultural resources; they are irreplaceable and nonrenewable. Wherever such sites are accessible by road, they are destroyed. In 1979 I participated in an evaluation of forces responsible for destruction of prehistoric and historical archaeological sites in the California Desert Conservation Area, comprised of most of the desert lands east of the Sierra Nevada. The single most important cause of the obliteration of these resources proved to be accessibility by motor vehicle. The study documented the acceleration of site destruction following road building and the invention of vehicles which can traverse roadless areas: motorcycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, etc. Historic sites which had withstood the natural elements for over 100 years, and prehistoric sites thousands of years old, succumbed to vandalism within one to three years of road building to or near the site. The road need not be paved and graded; any rough power line road was sufficient to cause immense damage to these irreplaceable resources. Wilderness designation precludes road building, and such classification for the 21 areas supported by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness would assist materially in preserving the archaeological and historical values found in these areas for future generations to enjoy and to learn from.

Tourism is an old industry in Nevada, a state encompassing millions of acres of desert, dry lakes, and seemingly endless plains of scrubby plants. Early travellers hastened to cross Nevada as rapidly as possible to reach the golden land of California. Only a few trails and wagon roads crossed Nevada, leaving large areas untouched. The beauty of Nevada's high mountains was lost on the cross country traveller, who experienced only the dry dusty valleys and plains, where stage coach and later railroad stops were built. These same mountains, today still unknown to many, are an invaluable resource for Nevada, attractive to tourist markets still relatively untapped by the state's major industry. These markets included family oriented vacation and outdoor recreation activities, and dude ranching.

Nevada's ranchers can look to tourism for help in maintaining the ranches they love, the life style they so value. And they can look to the Wilderness Act to help them in continuing their ranching activities and expanding their individual economic base to include dude ranching, for the Wilderness program guarantees continuation of the grazing and ranching activities already in place. Nevada ranches once served a large tourist population; in the 1930s and 1940s area ranches opened their bunkhouses to dudes seeking Nevada divorces. Only with the postwar growth of large hotel resorts was the dude ranch displaced from its important role in serving Nevada's tourists. Nevada ranchers are looking again at attracting dudes—foreign and domestic visitors who wish to touch the real Old West, and

who can find the genuine article at the rural Nevada ranch of today. Nevada's ranchers have an opportunity to seize the best of both worlds--ranching and a solid economic base--by sharing their ranches and the beauty of the Nevada open spaces with paying guests. Untouched wilderness, for the Nevada rancher, is therefore an important component in a tourism oriented state.

Nevada's tourism industry has grown immensely in the 125 years since traffic opened on the Humboldt Road. Today's tourist wants more than simple roadside accommodations, and Nevada's hotel/motel industry has grown apace. Today Nevada has hundreds of tourist facilities catering to millions of visitors annually, but most of them as yet see little of the Nevada "outback."

Since 1931 when gaming was legalized, Nevada has created a market based on gaming and entertainment. In recent years, Nevada's leaders have recognized, however, that it is essential to diversify the state's economy, and to diversify within the tourism industry itself. The 1980 Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada, in which 25 leading and countless ordinary citizens participated, included conservation of natural resources and the stimulation of non-gaming recreation as components of the plan to provide for a more diverse economic base for Nevada.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1977 and 1982 described the needs of resident and out of state visitors for different recreational resources in Nevada. In Nevada, where 87 percent of the land is owned by the federal

government, 99 percent of Nevada's recreational acreage is managed by public agencies: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These agencies thus bear the brunt of resident and non-resident pressures for recreational activities and wilderness. As these populations grow, the pressures on Nevada's federally managed recreational resources increases correspondingly. In 1977, for example, the register of visitors to Jarbidge, Nevada's lone wilderness area, revealed that 48 percent were from out of state. By the year 2000, the visitation is predicted to more than double, with the share of out-of-state visitation possibly increasing, as surrounding states grow, while Nevada's population is predicted to double in the same time period and thus provide added in-state pressure.

The state of Nevada, in response to the citizen recommendations has devoted considerable effort since 1981 in upgrading the State Department of Tourism, increasing the budget from \$43,000 per annum to about \$4 million to promote "the other Nevada" as a non-gaming recreation destination. The small towns in the remote rural areas of Nevada are beginning to experience positive results from these efforts. In FY85, while statewide room tax receipts (a prime indicator of tourism levels) were up 13 percent, the receipts from outside the two urban centers were up 16 percent. This upward trend has been attributed to the increased promotion of Nevada's back country, its outdoor recreational opportunities, and regional folk festivals.

Preservation of a portion of Nevada's wild lands is essential as Nevada struggles to change her image from exclusively gaming recreation to a tourist destination with wide appeal. It is important that Congress recognize the value of wilderness in supporting Nevada's efforts to establish a broader, more secure economic niche in the important tourist industry.

I ask your support for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal to designate twenty-one roadless areas as wilderness.

## STATEMENT OF AMY LOUISE MAZZA

## BEFORE THE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Statement of Amy Louise Mazza, representing herself, before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands on proposed Wilderness Legislation for National Forest Lands within the State of Nevada.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Amy Louise Mazza from Reno, Nevada, representing myself. I am a mother and an artist. I drew the maps which appear in Hiking the Great Basin by John Hart, a wilderness guide to many of these areas.

I support the Friends of Nevada Wilderness position and have hiked in 16 of the 21 areas.

I would like to thank you for your summer Nevada wilderness tour. I hear you all had a good time! I would like to thank you, Chairman Seiberling, for introducing H.R. 3304 and for your steadfast defense of wilderness. I would like to thank you, Congressman Reid, for introducing H.R. 3302 designating ten wilderness areas in our state. Any resolution of the wilderness issue without at least these ten very special areas would be a terrible thing.

Mount Rose is my local wilderness -- I look at its high, forested slopes every day from my house -- and I want it to stay the way it is. We need it. Wheeler Peak in the South Sanke Range



grandly tells the story of Great Basin wilderness, and unfortunately also of its vulnerability to twentieth century man. Wilderness will help prevent future disasters such as the 1965 cutting down of a 5,000 year old bristlecone pine which turned out to be the oldest living thing on earth. The Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt enchant with cascading waters and alpine vistas. They must be in any bill. I believe the heli-skiing should go elsewhere and the whole Rubies should be wilderness.

At Table Mountain I have walked for miles and miles on the top of the world. At night I have slept clinging to the shelter of the eastern escarpment, while a howling wind raced above and the full moon was perfectly reflected in little Fish Lake a mile below. It's a special place! Arc Dome Majestically looms above vast wild country. I have been to this area many times. The approaches are all quite different. Perhaps my favorite is the lower, southern boundary in winter, when the country rolls in silent, snowy pinyon-juniper covered badlands north to Barney Meadows, down across the Reese River and back up to Arc Dome, where its distinctive shape is only a tiny glistening white triangle far away -- and all this expanse is wild. Unlike the Forest Service proposals, it's great that this country is in H.R. 3302.

Congressman Reid, leaving Alta Toquima out of your bill is a mistake. I will never forget our otherwise reticent companion's exclamation as we topped out after coming up via the north

cirque, "I saw God in Pine Creek!" The huge summit is heaved up in massive swells and waves, as wild as John Muir found it over a hundred years ago. We must make sure it stays that way!

I love the Great Basin wilderness, especially the incredibly remote, high, dry, vertical places. My three favorite Forest Service areas are Currant Mountain, the Grant Range, and the Quinn Canyon Range. I really came here today to present a case for these areas being added to the final House version of the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

Basically, there seem to be two reasons why an area should be designated as wilderness: because it is threatened and because it is a special place with important natural integrity. These three areas really do qualify on both counts.

The threat is the same for all: Forest Service low-budget, general forest management which includes cutting fence posts, firewood, and Christmas trees, blading fire roads, and allowing unrestricted ORV use. There is also the problem of random recreational prospecting which the Forest Service may or may not know about beforehand, and mining companies creating permanent road scars when they are only looking for minerals. Wilderness is lost piecemeal and leaving these areas up to chance is a big gamble.

John Hart states that Currant Mountain is "one of the most impressive mountain masses in the Great Basin." As you saw on your flight, the scenery is of the highest quality. Rock strata have been turned up on end. Vertical and near vertical rock faces rise above rugged canyons and wooded, rocky sideslopes. Ancient bristlecone pine grow out of solid rock as well as in thick, lower elevation forests.

A herd of some 20-30 indigenous desert bighorn sheep live here. Motorized vehicle access should be prohibited in the crest zone summer range and in the winter range west, south, and east of White Pine Peak. Portions of some seldom used jeep trails should be closed because of proximity to sheep forage, cover and water sources, as in the boundary in H.R. 3304. Portions of the area, particularly around White Pine Peak, have pristine vegetation untouched by livestock. 49,000 acres at Currant Mountain should be protected as an ecological preserve, and wilderness designation is the best way to do this.

I agree with you, Congressman Reid, that a Forest Service recommendation against wilderness can be wrong -- as at Table Mountain. However, regarding the Grant Range, it does not follow that a Forest Service recommendation for wilderness would be wrong. This hard-won decision is not something to give up lightly. The Forest Service is not a strong advocate of wilderness. It weighs many factors in its decision and wilderness values must greatly outweigh other uses for an area to

be recommended. The current draft Humboldt Forest Plan states that "the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are very high due to the area's remoteness. There are many opportunities for challenging experiences."

Massive, steep limestone walls and thrusts harbor vigorous, ancient bristlecone forests, rare plants, and the largest herd of desert bighorn sheep on the National Forest Lands in Nevada. The lower country is cut by huge canyons and innumerable small secret drainages. I urge the Subcommittee to add the Grant Range to its final bill.

The Quinn Canyon Range was recommended for wilderness in RARE II. To quote the current draft Forest Plan:

In RARE II, local sentiment slightly favored classification of this area as wilderness. Nonlocal public input also favored management of the area for wilderness uses. The area was recommended to Congress for wilderness classification.

But Quinn Canyon has been dropped in the draft Forest Plan because of 900 mining claims and a high potential for minerals. However, most of the claims have been abandoned and the majority of the remaining claims have been eliminated by the boundary encompassing 95,000 acres as introduced in H.R. 3304. The assessment of high mineral potential is simply not backed up by any demonstrable, on-the-ground interest by the mining industry,

unlike many areas in the state where there are active claims and exploration programs.

Known wilderness values are outstanding and clearly outweigh potential development uses. The Quinn Canyon Range is one of Nevada's contributions to Aldo Leopold's "blank spot on the map" with its rugged crest of unnamed 10,000-foot peaks. Long, steep walled drainages with perennial streams, a stand of relic ponderosa pine, and potential bighorn sheep habitat all should be protected as wilderness. I urge the Subcommittee to add the Quinn Canyon Range to its final bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for Nevada Wilderness today.

ATTACHMENT A:

SIERRA CLUB WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS: GRANT RANGE AND  
QUINN CANYON RANGE, NEVADA

Dates of Wilderness Study Trip: June 12-20, 1971

Trip Participants: John Houghton, leader  
John Hart  
Ken Holden  
Jim Schneider  
Rick Van Pelt

Report prepared by John Houghton, Assisted by Jim Schneider.

Useful background information has been provided by Humboldt National Forest (White Pine Division); Bureau of Land Management (Reno, Ely, and Battle Mountain offices); Nevada Fish and Game Commission; Alvin McLane of the Desert Research Institute; and Mrs. Lina Sharp, teacher and Railroad Valley rancher.

The big game animals, particularly the rare bighorn sheep, have low populations and will require careful protection of habitat to ensure their survival.

#### Summary of Wilderness Values

Remoteness and inaccessibility have helped to keep much of the Grant and Quinn Canyon Ranges in an unspoiled condition as a de-facto wilderness. Limestone outcrops, rugged canyons, bristlecone pines, luxuriant fir and pinyon pine forests, wildflowers, and bighorn sheep are among the natural assets which qualify the region as one of the best potential wilderness areas in the Great Basin. The following points of interest in the Grant Range are particularly worthy of preservation (see Figure 3 for locations).

1. Troy Peak. This area includes an 8-mile long section of the crest near or above 10,000 feet, forming the most rugged part of the range. The central part of this crest has cliffs on both sides, with the west face of Troy Peak forming a near-vertical wall nearly 1000 feet high. Unique biota include the Nevada primrose, the best bristlecone forests, and the largest herd of bighorn sheep in the region.
2. Little Meadows Creek. Limestone narrows are found here at the canyon entrance, with a beautiful waterfall more than 20 feet high which flows in spring and early summer. Above 8000 feet the canyon opens into a meadow backed by the rugged crest of the Grant Range.
3. Scotfield Canyon. Lacking a perennial stream, this area still has some of the finest fir and aspen forests in Nevada. Surrounding the canyon on three sides are striking reddish limestone walls. Bighorn sheep inhabit the upper reaches in summer, on the rugged east. The entire canyon above 7500 feet should be preserved as wilderness.
4. North Fork of Troy Canyon. Here a perennial stream cascades through a narrow limestone chasm, with heavy forests of fir and bristlecone pine above 7000 feet. At the head of the canyon is the spectacular west wall of Troy Peak where snow remains in shady spots until midsummer.
5. West Ridge of Timber Mountain. Between Troy Canyon and Irwin Canyon, facing Railroad Valley, the ridge drops precipitously and displays a large limestone cave about 100 feet wide and 150 feet high, with a steeply sloping floor extending about 100 feet in from the entrance. To reach the cave one must climb 2000 feet above the valley bottom. Inside the cave are a few stalactites, stalagmites, and unusual flowering plants which get light from the late afternoon sun. Very old charcoal deposits are buried in the floor of the cave. While the cave is the principal scenic attraction, the most crucial need for protection is biological; the area includes much of the winter range of the Troy Peak bighorn herd.
6. Headwaters of Irwin Canyon. Above 7000 feet Irwin Creek splits, with the South Fork culminating in the lofty summit of Timber Mountain. Both the north and south forks have rugged outcrops and include forests of fir, aspen, and ponderosa pine. Near the crest lies the northern limit of the Troy Peak summer bighorn range.

7. Crest South of Heath Canyon. This region of colorful mesas and peaks up to 9300 feet on BLM land is still wild except near the road in upper Heath Canyon. Vegetation includes forests of pinyon pine and mahogany with some aspens in the hollows, along with a variety of wildflowers. Red Indian pictographs are found in a limestone alcove in upper Heath Canyon.
8. Blue Eagle Mountain. This impressive peak on BLM land rises 5000 feet in a sheer wall above Railroad Valley. Fir and pine grow in sheltered crevices on the limestone cliffs, and bighorn sheep were observed four years ago on the mountain. Nearby lie three rugged canyons including Beaty Canyon, Box Canyon, and Johnson Canyon which may serve as a winter bighorn range.
9. Ragged Ridge. Though low in elevation, this area is geologically colorful, especially on the eastern slope. Though the crest is composed of volcanic basalt and rhyolite, the Big Wash along the Wells Station Road contains some unusual sedimentary formations of Tertiary age resembling the sandstones of the Colorado Plateau. Since Ragged Ridge itself is presently roadless, wilderness classification would be desirable to protect the scenic formations situated away from the road.

In addition to the Grant Range, several areas in the Quinn Canyon Range are also outstanding and should be included in a proposed Quinn Canyon wilderness unit.

10. Crest of the Quinn Canyon Range. Here a rugged area 10 miles long above 9000 feet forms an important summer bighorn range. The ridge provides sweeping views of the adjacent canyons and includes healthy young stands of bristlecone pine mixed with more extensive limber pine. Colorful rock outcrops are present along the northern part of the crest, and several small waterfalls are present on the North Fork of Pine Creek near its headwaters.
11. Big Creek Canyon. A perennial stream flows at the bottom of this broad, steep-walled canyon, with tall ponderosa pines near the 8000-foot level. On the higher slopes, aspen is dominant and forms a parklike vegetation pattern. This richly-vegetated canyon is still very wild and undisturbed in the upper reaches. Similar wild, scenic country is found in Deep Creek Canyon and Willow Creek Canyon.
12. Little Cherry Creek. Green, flowery meadows mingle with extensive transition forests in the broad basin near the headwaters of this perennial stream. The surrounding slopes have some striking limestone towers resembling organ pipes. Below the upland meadows is a half-mile stretch of rhyolite buttes and narrows with nearly vertical walls immediately above Cherry Creek Campground. Immediately to the south, Sawmill Canyon has spectacular red castle-like rock formations on the north wall of the Canyon. The Cherry Creek narrows and the Sawmill Canyon wall form good natural boundaries for a wilderness area.
13. Hooper Canyon. A one-mile stretch of perennial stream is found just above the mouth of the canyon, flowing through an extremely narrow gorge with vertical walls only a few feet apart. In the stream are some of the largest trout found in central Nevada. Along the creek grow dense thickets of



alder and elderberry, blossoms of wild rose and columbine, and a spicy, edible watercress. There is a small waterfall a short distance above the mouth of the canyon. Above the narrows the canyon opens into a broad upland basin framed by limestone cliffs rising to over 9000 feet.

14. South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The area from Cottonwood Creek south along the Barton Creek-Davis Creek Divide, though low in elevation and crossed by jeep trails, is a winter bighorn sheep range and has scenic values in the form of basalt outcrops and pinyon pine forests. It should be classified as wilderness to protect the sheep habitat.

These areas can be protected in two wilderness units, one straddling the crest of each range. Exact boundary recommendations are included in the final section of this report.

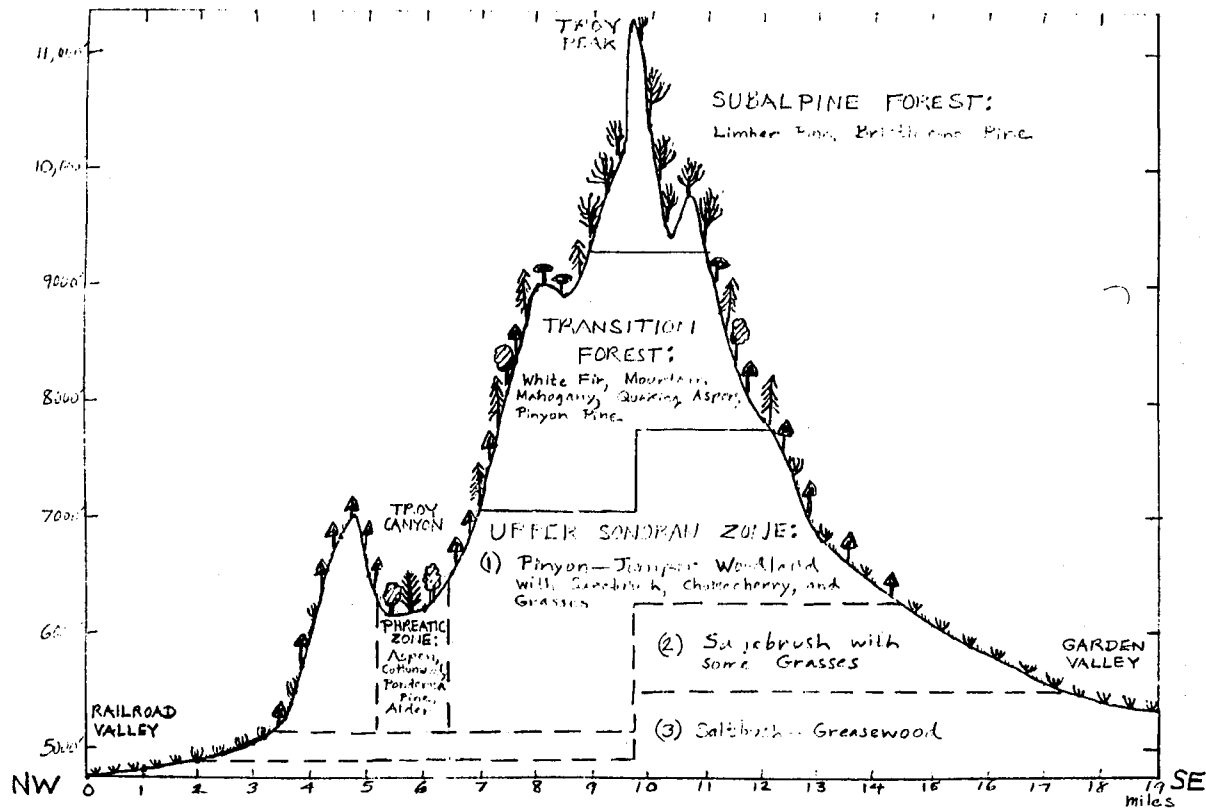


FIGURE 5. — PROFILE OF THE GRANT RANGE SHOWING VEGETATION ZONES

ATTACHMENT B:

A Report on Wilderness Values  
of the  
Duckwater Roadless Area  
4-839  
White Pine Ranger District  
Humboldt National Forest

by  
Nick Van Pelt  
Ely, Nevada  
and  
Roger Scholl  
Amy Mazza-Scholl  
Peter Gillis

September, 1978

Features and topographical subdivisions of the study area

The high crest of the southern White Pine range runs from Duckwater Peak to an unnamed point, 10,714' in elevation, about 6 miles to the south. This ridge, extremely narrow, is difficult to traverse due to sharp variations in elevation, and in some places the hiker is forced to drop down to skirt impassable and unclimbable rock walls. The summit of Currant Mountain is undistinguished and from lower elevations difficult to discern as the highest point in the range. There is no trace of man on top, *not even* a benchmark. The study team, even after a careful search, was unable to locate a "summit register" containing the names of people who had climbed the mountain. Several other "desert peaks" in central and eastern Nevada have been climbed sporadically by groups and individuals, and a number of these have registers placed by the Sierra Club or another mountaineering group. Though it is high and affords spectacular views, the summit, and indeed the whole crest, is very little visited if at all.

There is no surface water to be found on the crest after the spring thaw; its absence forces the backpacker or day hiker to carry water on the steep climb up if there are no snowbanks. Though it is remote, beautiful, and affords tremendous views, the crest zone would not be attractive to the majority of hikers and backpackers, quite aside from the obscurity of the range; there is no water, level campsites are few, and the only approaches to the peaks entail stiff climbs over rocky, timbered, trailless terrain. The climb is well worth the effort, however.

There are innumerable and probably as yet unexploited opportunities for both "scrambling" and serious technical rock climbing, especially on the rock towers and sheer cliffs around Currant Mountain.

The bristlecone pine stands on the crest are of considerable interest. There are expansive groves of young, vigorous, straight growing trees, and "krummholz" specimens on the windiest and rockiest sites. Old, gnarled bristlecone of advanced age are common, but we did not see any large groves of really old trees such as are found in the Snake Range and White Mountains. Though the trees in the southern White Pine Range are ancient, undoubtedly many of them more than 2,000 years old, they are <sup>probably</sup> young by comparison with those of the better known ranges where they have been intensively studied by dendrochronologists.

The crest zone is by far the wildest and most remote part of the study area, and there is no doubt that it should be the essential core of any Wilderness that is established in the southern White Pines. There is no evidence of prospecting, little if any accessible and usable livestock forage, no Christmas tree stands, and thus no land-use conflicts whatsoever with Wilderness or a similar protective classification.

Canyons on the west side of the Range:

One-half mile due south of Silver Spring in the southwest corner of the study area is the mouth of an unnamed canyon penetrated by a jeep *trail* which has washed out and become impassable a short way beyond the canyon entrance. The mouth of this large canyon, which drains the south slope of White Pine Peak, is an extraordinarily narrow and steep sided gorge which is as little as 12' wide in places. During periods of high runoff, the stream and its bedload are funnelled through the gorge.

At the end of the *trail*, beneath towering cliff structures, about 3 miles inside the National Forest boundary, white fir trees of merchantable size have been cut and removed, possibly illegally. The District Ranger expressed surprise at being informed of this; he has not visited the west side of the range. As no commercial timber sales are conducted on this and other Divisions of the Humboldt, this logging was probably unauthorized. Little damage has been done, here as elsewhere on the Division where cutting of white fir has occurred, and the reverting, very little-used *jeep trail* and the logging site can justifiably be included in a Wilderness.

Cutting of white fir has also occurred in Broom Canyon. A road, drivable to its end by 2-wheel drive pickup, terminates a little beyond a claimsite and decrepit campsite. There has been considerable bulldozing of needless trails and prospect pits. The damage is not apparent except at close hand, because it is screened by trees and involves scraping of a rocky soil with very little humus and litter cover. Aside from the possible plans of the claim holders to further develop the site by excavating, and their interest in keeping the road in passable and open, these activities are minor and inobtrusive compared to the vast scale of the canyon and the amount of wild and rugged country above it and in its roadless upper reaches.

The canyon bottom, and even the roadbed in places, has a lush cover of native grasses and shrubs, and shows no evidence of recent cattle grazing. The stream is dry in the summer and fall months, and so although a number of cattle could find forage here, there is a lack of water.

North of Broom Canyon, three unnamed and unroaded canyons drain the west side of the high crest between Currant Mountain and Duckwater Peak. None of these were visited by the 1973 study team, though there was an opportunity to look down into them during the traverse of the ridge between the two named summits of the Range, and one member of the party went to the end of the jeep road which goes about 2 miles ESE from Vanover Spring to the mouth of the most northerly of these three canyons. The canyon mouth is very narrow and difficult to enter because of the dense growth of pinyon and mountain-mahogany.

"Blackrock Ridge" is a prominent, sharp-ridged hogback between White River Pass Canyon on the south and Black Rock Canyon on the north. Rising very steeply from the narrow gap of White River Pass canyon, it runs about 2 miles northward at elevations of 9- to 10,000'. Just to the east of this formation is Corduroy Basin, a treeless, grazed area within a cattle allotment. The cattle use the accessible lower parts of the steep slopes leading up to the ridge. The west side of the Blackrock hogback is spectacularly rugged and rocky, falling off very steeply to the gentle terrain at the foot of the range.

There is quite a diversity of tree species and herbaceous plants atop the ridge; bristlecone pine, limber pine, white fir, mountain mahogany, pinyon pine and a little aspen may be found growing together in a small area. There is a varied growth of perennial grasses and shrubs, obviously ungrazed. There is a small but intriguing natural arch on the ridge. It is about 20' high and 15' wide.

High, scenic, unvisited, and pristine above the reach of cattle, Blackrock Ridge is a desirable addition to the more important lands to the south across White River Pass Canyon.

White River Pass Canyon is the only breach in the southern White Pine Range. It cannot be traveled from one side of the range to the other by car or jeep, though there is a horse trail with a wide tread. The trail has been maintained in the past; there are many cut stumps and sidehill cuts for the tread. The main purpose of the trail was, and may still be, a route to drive cattle from one side of the range to the other.

Both sides of the canyon rise up steeply to resume the range. The north-facing slope is heavily timbered (see photograph) The elevation at the pass is 8400 feet.

Canyons on the east side of the Range much resemble those of the west slope, but are shorter; their streams draining off the precipitous high country into Currant Creek. Several are only very steep gullies; all are dry in the summer months, though snowbanks may linger in their upper reaches until August.

The most beautiful of these canyons is the one which drains directly off Currant Mountain; it has caves on the canyon walls and luxuriant forests of pine and fir which resemble those of the Sierra Nevada. (see photograph # ) The study team descended this canyon during a storm after leaving the summit of Currant Mtn. and was very impressed with its beauty and lushness. There are no roads or trails in this particular canyon, nor in or to the mouths of the others on the east slope, and very little sign of man's activities. White fir has been cut in this canyon further down (see section on Land Use for description of location). This and other canyons draining the east side of the southern White Pines

STATEMENT OF GREGORY PAUL EBNER, SPARKS NEVADA, BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERIOR COMMITTEE ON H.R. 3304 WILDERNESS BILL FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA, OCTOBER 10, 1985.

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, let me introduce myself: I am Gregory Paul Ebner, born and raised in Sparks, Nevada. I am a twenty-eight year old senior in Electrical Engineering at the University of Nevada (Reno). Furthermore, I am a person deeply concerned for the future of my State, and it is this alone which brings me here today. My concern is that in the haste to rapidly develop, Nevada may lose its wilderness heritage, which is the heart and soul of this great State.

My comment today will be on two subjects: (I) the distribution of mining claims in the proposed wilderness areas, and (II) general comments regarding several of the proposed areas.

I. Mining Claims in Proposed Nevada Wilderness:

The distribution of mining claims is an important first-hand tool used in determining the relative minerals potential of a particular region. This is one of the methods employed by

the Forest Service in making their planning decisions. Certainly the presence or absence of valid claims gives an immediate indication of both the interest of the minerals industry in a particular region, and the abundance of exploitable minerals.

There are presently 348,000 claims in Nevada each comprising 20.66 acres. Thus, of the 53 million acres open to minerals entry, 13.3% is claimed. Therefore an average claim density of 13.3% can be assumed for the State (Since claims are not-evenly distributed, it is obvious that certain regions will be much more heavily claimed--indicating high potential--while others will have few claims, or void of any at all).

Beginning in May 1985, I embarked upon the arduous task of mapping (to within 1/4 section) all the valid claims contained in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FNW) proposal of twenty-one areas, which includes all the areas of H.R. 3304 plus two. With the exception of Pearl Peak and the Sweetwaters (both small areas) the task has been completed, and the preliminary results are attached to this document.

Let me briefly summarize the results:

- (i) There are four areas with zero valid claims; all contained in H.R. 3304.
- (ii) There are nine more areas with less than 1.33% of the total acreage claimed, or 1/10 that of the State average; all areas are included in H.R. 3304.



- (iii) The average claim density for the total FNW proposal is 1.7%, or 1/8 of the State average of 13.3%.
- (iv) There are 1,232 valid claims in the FNW proposal; this is less than 0.4% of the States' total claims.

The results of this study point out two important features of the areas proposed for wilderness: that they are of low mineral potential, and that great care has been taken to exclude all major claim-blocks from the wilderness boundaries.

Clearly it is impossible to have a wilderness bill which does not include some valid claims within the areas. Yet if H.R. 3304 (plus Pearl Peak and the Sweetwaters) were enacted tomorrow, 99.6% of Nevada's claims would be unaffected, and not one mine would be closed. Furthermore, all of the remaining claims could still be worked, subject to the restriction of the Wilderness Act.

Based upon the results of the forgoing study, minerals conflicts are minimal, and should not constrain this Subcommittee from consideration of all twenty-one areas proposed by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

II. I have personally visited many of the areas proposed for wilderness, and wish to speak briefly about a few.

Mt. Rose, with its close proximity to Reno, is an extremely important recreational area for the population of Nevada's second largest city. Mt. Rose contains the most popular

hiking trail in Northern Nevada. It is the best example of the Sierra Nevada Flora and Fauna in the State; with stands of massive Pine and Fir trees, and a population of Black Bears. The deep winter snows provide an important watershed for the Reno-Sparks area, and allow for winter sports. Numerous trout-stream descended from the heights in lush, green canyons. Mt. Rose is remarkably undisturbed and quiet--it is easy to pass days without meeting another person while walking in the backwoods. Thus it is no accident that the Reno City council unanimously endorsed consideration of Mt. Rose for wilderness, as the importance of the area to the community is obvious to the civic leaders.

Years ago I worked for the Cadastral Survey in the Schell Creek Range. It was here that I first saw Elk. These are high, well-watered mountains with beautiful forests. Then further to the east, upon 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak in the South Snake Range, the view seems to extend forever. These rugged mountains contain ancient Bristlecone Pines, an active glacier, and Lehman Caves. The Rubies are the classic alpine wilderness, and beautiful as the name implies. Just across Harrison Pass are the East Humboldt--the most wild and beautiful of all Nevadas ranges. Earlier this summer, I met the Wilderness Tour at Boulder Lake, and my fiance and I spent a very long and miserable night walking fifteen miles out to the trail-head, under the guidance of a full moon.

Upon a recent visit to Table Mountain, I felt as though I'd left Nevada for Idaho; this mountain has extensive forests of Aspen, and a flourishing heard of Elk. Similar to Table Mountain are the Santa Rosas; deep canyons filled with Aspen groves and Trout streams adorn this range, which is the headwater of the Quinn and Little Humboldt rivers. I have fished in the streams of the Sweetwaters, and enjoyed the deep solitude and grand vistas of the Excelsiors.

All of these areas are beautiful and wild, as I personally attest. Not a single one of these "Islands in the Sky" should be excluded from any final wilderness legislation. I urge this Committee to endorse H.R. 3304 with all of its nineteen areas, and to consider inclusion of Pearl Peak and the Sweetwater Mountain in the Nevada Wilderness Legislation.

#### Conclusion

Like most Nevadans, my life has been enriched by the rural character of the State. Since childhood I have enjoyed frequent contact with the wilderness of Nevada. Many family outings were made to the country on camping and sightseeing expeditions. From my father I learned to fish in mountain streams, hunt game birds and deer, and survive in and appreciate the wild lands. Many are the times we spent exploring a remote canyon, or hiking to some high mountain top. From those peaks, I've looked out upon range after range of purple moun-

tains, to where they disappear into the distance. It is from experiences like these that I have drawn strength, and gained character. And, it is in these wild lands that my heart resides.

It is my sincere hope that a substantial portion of Nevadas' finest lands will be permanently maintained in a natural condition. I feel it is important for other people, and especially for future generations, to have the opportunity to experience the very personal joy and wonder that comes only from wild lands. Wilderness is a tremendous asset of our society, and H.R. 3304 will help guarantee its permanence.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the knowledge that I have gained regarding these proposed wilderness areas, and my personal feelings toward them.

ATTACHMENT A:

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS  
MINING CLAIMS IN NEVADA'S PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

AREA NAME	ACRES	CLAIMS	CLAIMED ACRES	% OF AREA
Alta Toquima	45,000	9	186	0.41
Arc Dome	146,000	88	1,818	1.25
Boundary Peak	8,900	3	62	0.70
Currant Mt.	49,000	0	0	0.00
East Humboldts	30,000	0	0	0.00
Elk Mt.	12,575	0	0	0.00
Excelsior Mts.	114,000	118	2,438	2.14
Grant Range	60,000	32	661	1.10
Jarbidge Adds.	54,000	94	1,942	3.60
Mt. Moriah	88,000	55	1,136	1.29
Mt. Rose	35,000	0	0	0.00
Pearl Pk.	23,000	20	413	1.80
Quinn Canyon	95,000	43	888	0.94
Ruby Mts.	150,000	36	744	0.50
Santa Rosa Mts.	80,000	56	1,157	1.45
South Schell Range	120,000	17	351	0.29
South Snake Range	120,000	275	5,682	4.73
Spring Mts.	50,000	1	21	0.04
Sweetwater Mts.	12,260	20	413	3.37
Table Mt.	125,000	245	5,062	4.05
Toiyabe Crest	79,000	120	2,479	3.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,496,735</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>25,453</b>	<b>1.70</b>

Source: BLM Geographic Index of Mining Claims, May 1985

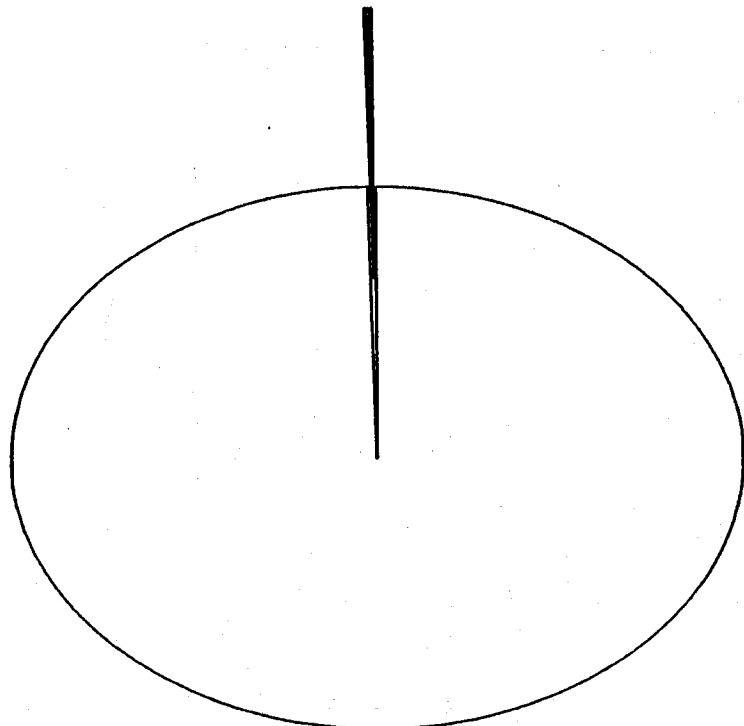
Note: Lapsed claims not shown. Mining claims in Pearl Peak and Sweetwater are preliminary estimates.

There are 348,000 mining claims in Nevada. The 1,232 claims in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal represents .3% of the total. Furthermore, on average, 13.3% of the state is claimed for mining purposes as compared to the 1.7% in our wilderness proposal.

# LOCATION OF MINING CLAIMS IN NEVADA

(Percent of Total Claims in State)

Claims in Proposed Wilderness (0.4%)

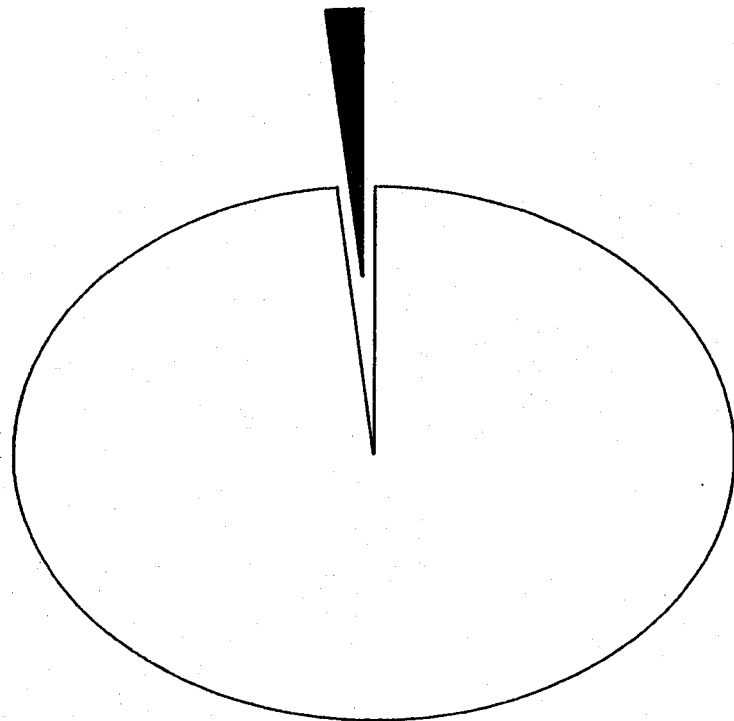


Claims in Other Areas (99.6%)

# MINING CLAIMS IN PROPOSED WILDERNESS

(Percent of Total Acres)

Acres Claimed (1.7%)



Acres Unclaimed (98.3%)



MINING COMPANY

EXPLORATION DIVISION  
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Testimony Before the Public Lands Subcommittee of the  
House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee

October 10, 1985

Submitted by Joseph L. Danni, Regional Manager  
Government Affairs - Homestake Mining Company

Homestake Mining Company appreciates the opportunity to offer comments regarding the designation of wilderness lands in Nevada. As you are well aware, it is an issue filled with strong emotions and legitimate concerns over future consequences.

I will not reiterate or expand on the philosophical and technical testimony offered earlier. Rather, I would like to briefly discuss the singular importance of Nevada to the mining and minerals exploration industry.

First, in order that you might understand our perspective better, a short description of Homestake Mining Company. Homestake is North America's largest gold producing and exploration company with other substantial interests in energy resources and base metals. Homestake has been a major gold producer for over 108 years. The company was founded in 1877 to mine the Homestake claim in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The mine on this site has produced continuously from that time up to the present day.

In recent years the emphasis of our minerals exploration effort has been concentrated on the State of Nevada. I can assure you Homestake is not alone in this regard. Five of the six major gold discoveries of the past decade and significant identified but unexplored mineralized areas account for Nevada's attraction. Not only the mining industry, but also the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service have identified most of the areas recommended for wilderness in H.R.3304 and H.R.3302 as having moderate or high mineral potential.



Because of this mineral potential, Homestake has expended approximately sixty percent of its U.S. Exploration budget in Nevada over the past five years. If you consider only "new" exploration, which is exploration activity not near or adjacent to operating Homestake properties, then the percentage is even higher.

I cannot over emphasize how important Nevada is to the domestic minerals industry. The withdrawal of large, potentially mineralized areas in a state with the proven mineral potential of Nevada has severe immediate and long term implications for Homestake specifically and the mining industry in general.

I would respectfully urge the committee to consider two parallel courses of action. One, hold a hearing or hearings in Nevada. The wilderness issue particularly impacts Northern Nevada; therefore, a field hearing in a northern Nevada community appears logical. Two, give very careful attention to the impacts of H.R.3302 and H.R.3304 on minerals exploration and mining. Consult minerals experts, pay careful attention to the data already available and consider whether multiple use may be the best use for many of the areas suggested for wilderness. Effective multiple use management has the capability of adequately safeguarding the environment while in most cases, allowing for mineral development.

I would suggest to you that the cumulative effects of continued direct and indirect removal of lands from mineral exploration and development are an immediate threat to the minerals industry. Rural Nevada may feel the ill effects of such withdrawals first, but they will eventually negatively impact all of Nevada and the nation.

STATEMENT OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU  
TO THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE HOUSE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
REGARDING NEVADA WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

Presented by David Fulstone  
President, Nevada Farm Bureau

October 10, 1985

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I am David Fulstone, president of Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada's largest organization of farmers and ranchers. Nearly all Forest Service and BLM permittees in Nevada are members of Farm Bureau. All of our members have a great interest in the wilderness concept, both as families who live and work on the land as well as fee-paying users of the public lands who produce food in the form of beef, lamb, wool, and other livestock products.

Agriculture is a 250 million dollar industry in Nevada and over 50 percent of that is the range livestock business. Both the social and economic base of most of our rural communities is agriculture. The very existence of many of these small communities rely almost totally on the livestock industry.

We are opposed to any new wilderness designation in Nevada. However, we do realize that there will be some additional lands designated. After reviewing the three bills introduced, we believe that the only one acceptable is the bill introduced by Representative Vucanovich. All proposed wilderness areas in Nevada are within Representative Vucanovich's district.

In my estimation the Vucanovich bill is supported by the majority of Nevadans. It is supported by Farm Bureau, cattlemen, wool growers,

the state organization of county commissioners and many local chambers of commerce as well as the Mining Association and many other user groups.

I was really pleased when I first heard that Chairman Seiberling would conduct a congressional tour of the proposed areas within Nevada and allow for participation and input by all concerned. However, when the tour became a reality, I was greatly disappointed. We received a schedule of a tour secondhand less than two days prior to the tour. No one representing agriculture was allowed to participate in the tour, and it appeared to be heavily loaded with representatives of pro-wilderness groups. Even the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture was excluded. Many of us in Nevada believe that the tour was just a very expensive joyride and that Congressman Seiberling fully intended to introduce a maximum bill with or without the tour. We also question whether a four-day helicopter tour can give anyone a realistic impression of the affects this type of legislation can impose on the citizens of Nevada. It appears to me that the Seiberling bill is just a ploy to make the Reid bill look like a compromise.

Mr. Chairman, repeated discussions with the leading advocates of wilderness designation in Nevada have convinced me that these people honestly intend that the grazing of livestock continue within the wilderness areas, as provided by law. It is also apparent that wilderness advocates honestly believe such designation will not impair grazing in a wilderness area. However, we contend that economically feasible grazing can continue in these areas only if explicit policies governing grazing management are provided.

The Vucanovich bill addresses the concerns of all Nevadans. While allowing some of Nevada's most pristine areas the protection of wilderness designation, it also affords good protection for the people directly and indirectly affected by such legislation. Specifically, the Vucanovich bill contains language providing adequate protection for grazing allotments including use of motorized equipment. The Vucanovich bill also addresses state water authority, air quality and the Clean Air Act, mineral resources, and watershed protection much more adequately than do either the Seiberling bill or the Reid bill. Another very important aspect of the Vucanovich bill is the predator control authority.

While we have serious reservations about limited use designations of public lands, the Nevada Farm Bureau supports passage of H.R. 1685, the Vucanovich bill, with the recommendation that language be added to specifically allow control of noxious weeds, fire control, trail maintenance and the use of other proven resource management tools which are essential to the maintenance of the quality of life outside the wilderness area. We emphasize this point, Mr. Chairman, because so much of Nevada's water supply, for example, originates on public land and much of it within proposed wilderness areas.

We in Nevada feel like we are losing ground every day. Nevada is already 87 percent "public land" and every year more and more is lost to single use designation. Specifically, I mean supersonic bombing ranges, nuclear testing, high and low level nuclear waste disposal areas, a munitions storage depot and expansion of Navy and Air Force flight training areas. Every time we turn around more federal land is being withdrawn from multiple use designation.

There is now more than 90 million acres of wilderness area in the U.S. I think it is going a little to far to force a bunch more on the Citizens of Nevada.

In conclusion, Farm Bureau is interested in wilderness legislation because many of our members use public lands for livestock grazing. Like other citizens, our members also benefit from the recreation, timber, firewood cutting, and minerals provided by our public lands. We believe that the multiple use concept has proven to be a sound management principle. We have seen instances where the "no management" concept which accompanies wilderness designation has actually resulted in degradation of our public lands and our resources. For those reasons, Farm Bureau opposes designation of our public lands. At the same time, we realize that wilderness legislation will probably be enacted by Congress. In that case, Farm Bureau supports the Vucanovich bill.


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Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee;

My name is L. Courtland Lee and I represent the Minerals Exploration Coalition, a non-profit organization of companies and individuals engaged in the non-fuel mineral exploration industry.

With the help of member companies and individuals actively engaged in mineral exploration in the state of Nevada, and in cooperation with the Nevada Mining Association, we have evaluated the various wilderness study areas for mineral potential on the basis of our collective knowledge of the areas. In some areas we have used information from the U.S. Forest Service, Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, and Nevada Department of Minerals. This collective knowledge is based on the current state of the art of mineral exploration and on current or recent economic factors that have made certain commodities either more or less interesting as an exploration target by the private sector. Thus, the judgment of the mineral potential of a given area might be different at some other time, and a judgment of "low mineral potential" may simply reflect a lack of knowledge of the area in question. Only five of the eighteen areas under consideration have been surveyed for mineral potential by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey, as was mandated in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The Minerals Exploration Coalition believes that areas with mineral resource potential should not be designated wilderness. Access for exploration is prohibited under provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, except on lands where valid existing rights have been demonstrated before December 31, 1983. The 20-year period for exploration in wilderness areas is over; and any areas not designated wilderness will be closed immediately unless special provisions are made.

Our conviction is that wilderness values, which we agree are important to our society, can be adequately protected under land use planning procedures now in effect that were not in effect in 1964. These procedures offer a rational mechanism for weighing wilderness values against other values or needs of our


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society. We should be prepared to recognize that a wilderness is not necessarily the highest and best use of a given area, and that wilderness values can be protected without legislation.

Nevertheless, recognizing the political fact of life that a Nevada wilderness bill will ultimately be enacted, we would like to comment on the two bills from the Nevada delegation (HR 1686 and HR 3302). These comments relate to our assessment of the mineral potential only and lack of comment does not imply any endorsement of a given area as wilderness, as there may be factors other than minerals that have a bearing on wilderness suitability, but are outside the scope of our study.

The third bill before the House, HR 3304, designates an additional nine acres as wilderness, none of which were recommended by the Forest Service or included in the other bills. Five of these areas are designated as having high mineral potential. We would be against inclusion of any of these areas.

At this point we would like to introduce into the record a book, compiled by the MEC and the Nevada Mining Association, summarizing the mineral information available on the various areas that have been or may be proposed for wilderness designation.

Our specific comments on HR 1686 and HR 3302 follow. We want to call your attention to those areas with high or moderate mineral potential.

1. Mount Charleston - The USBM has concluded that "the central part of the area is of major concern because of the likelihood for the occurrence of lead, zinc, and silver resources"; also HR 3302 included 15,000 acres covering the Charleston Mining District not included in HR 1686.


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2. Arc Dome - A Nevada Department of Minerals report states "much of the area within the proposed wilderness is thought to have significant potential for precious, base and strategic metals".
3. Table Mountain - MEC rates this as having high mineral potential. The USBM calls it a "significant area" where "mines, prospects and claims would not be further developed if included within the boundary".
4. South Snake (Wheeler Peak/Highland Ridge) - The USGS-USBM study shows large areas with probable potential for tungsten, beryllium, lead, silver, zinc, thorium, fluorine, gold and copper.
5. Mount Moriah - Both the Forest Service and MEC rate this area as having moderate mineral potential.
6. Jarbidge Additions - Both house bills include this in their areas set aside for wilderness (23,000 acres in HR 1686 and 54,000 acres in HR 3302) though all reviewers have either rated the area as having high to very high mineral potential, or needing more work.

In conclusion, I would like to urge that the committee hold field hearings on these bills, as there are certain to be legitimate points of view in the state of Nevada which are unable to be heard in Washington because of the time and expense of coming here to testify. It is only fitting that those who will be most affected by legislation such as this should have adequate opportunity to be heard.



**NATION'S LARGEST DIMENSIONAL STONE DEPOSIT  
THREATENED BY WILDERNESS BILLS**

RICHARD HATCH

Three Congressmen have introduced Wilderness Bills in the House of Representatives, which, if passed, would make the nation's largest natural dimension stone deposit a roadless wilderness open to the backpackers, but used by very few of the nation's population and off-limits to the average four wheel drive western outdoorsman, whose four wheel drive vehicle is as important a part of his daily life as his pants.

Seiberling's and Reid's bills, put together with the help and blessings of the Sierra Club and other such self-interest groups is the "product of diverse input and thousands of hours of study," and a few hundred thousand of our tax dollars. Actually, these hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent by Congress during the past 8 to 10 years for counting grass, birds and for paperwork for this biased, prejudicially contrived wilderness study project. And you can be certain that no stone was left unturned during this great, intense study plan period.

But how certain can you be? This study plan, consisting of a 2,000 page four book wilderness plan just for Humbolt National Forest alone with a set of 10 Forest Service maps plus Alternatives A,C,D,E,F,K,H,I, said nothing to inform inexperienced, unclimatized wilderness enthusiasts about the changeable and treacherous nature of the 12,000 foot mountain located in the center of the hot, arid, Great American Desert. Mt. Moriah, in the Snake Range (rattlesnake, that is) above Snake Valley separates the men from the boys; we have a lot of respect for Mt. Moriah, high winds, and more high winds, wind, wind...Moriah!

Geologists Miller and Gans, head of a 40 member geology team who have spent the past four years mapping Mt. Moriah said this about the snakes in an article published in the Stanford University Faculty and Staff Campus Report, "I thought I had seen snakes in the Mojave Desert," Miller said, "but nothing like this." Also you will find that this rocky mountain is not safe or acceptable for rock climbing because the rock is faulted, fragmented, delaminated, weathered and loose; not for rock climbing at all. (See geological maps) The hiker will experience sun and wind burn, dehydration, mountain sickness, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, cold sleepless nights, hypothermia, frostbite, cramps, injuries, and many roadless miles away from help. The hiker will not enjoy the mountain experience because he, like the cyclist pumping up a 6 or 7 thousand foot pass, will buck 30 or 40 mile winds, will be too preoccupied with survival and

making it to the top or out to afford the luxury or enjoyment. And what about Mt. Moriah solitude? It is under a major air lane, with one to five planes at a time overhead day and night, and sonic booms almost daily. On Mt. Moriah you know you are under one of the most traveled air lanes in the nation.

This wilderness study makes no mention of the 40 member team, four year geological field study in our quarry area. (See Miller and Gans and others: Stanford University Geology Dept. papers) The wilderness report showed no quarries in our 2,000 acre quarry area, no roads, no quarry. They just did not exist according to their study. Yet this Mt. Moriah 600 million year old quartzite deposit is the largest, highest quality natural dimension stone deposit in the entire nation. This mica quartzite stone (natural dimensional stone) runs through and over the top of the mountain, outcropping in many areas. It could not be or have been missed by any survey team. Yet the 2,000 page wilderness report simply said: "Rock types include Paleozoic sediments and Tertiary intrusives; and that's all, no metamorphic quartzite. Existing geological maps were not included in this study, obviously an intentional oversight.

On minerals, the report said only: Gold, garnet, and building stone have been mined in the past. I would like the Congressmen to know that we are not a "has been" quarry. This quarry was producing stone, "the most heavenly stone on earth," for a nine million dollar home when Seiberling and Reid flew over, and it has been producing stone every year since 1954. This Mt. Moriah quarry has also produced stone for hundreds of important Silicon Valley buildings, public, industrial, commercial and residential buildings; for the most beautiful Post Office in America. During the last days of June, 1985, when Chairman John Seiberling of Ohio and Rep. Harry Reid of Nevada flew over the Mt. Moriah quarries (located in their proposed wilderness area) the Honorable Congressmen failed to see our six men working at the 9,000 foot level. They are all local men living in this depressed public domain area who drive 25 to 75 miles to work each day on gravel and dirt roads, showing up for work just as it is starting to get light in the east. We plan to hire about thirty more next Spring. And couldn't they see our 40 miles of roads, (see maps and air photos) more than 30 open quarry faces and loading areas extending from the 6,000 to the 9,000 foot levels of the mountain? They also somehow missed seeing our dozer working, compressor and drills, loaders, road grader, quarry trucks, highway trucks, etc. all of which can be seen from 30,000 feet above or from 30 miles across Snake Valley.

Stone quarries are no strangers to Chairman John Seiberling. His home state of Ohio has relatively little public domain or wilderness area. It ranks next to the top three in the employment of men working in many quarries of their stone industry. The same U.S. Department of Commerce chart shows no recordable

stone employment in the mining State of Nevada. Again, in the mining State of Nevada, a state which is about 85% public domain, a stone claim has never been patented (to private ownership).

My Mt. Moriah quarries have been producing and operating continually since 1954, and even before that time. (See Mt. Moriah Business Plan) The early settlers harvested Hendry's Creek quartzite; blocks, cobbles, strip and builders for beautiful stone buildings using sandy clay soil mixed with milk or cream for mortar, chinking mortarless joints with mahogany wood. Some of these 100 year old buildings stand today.

Like many other western outdoor men, I have spent much of my time and life in these remote desert mountains. These quarries are my sole livelihood. I have also driven a pick-up truck about 60,000 to 80,000 miles a year while exploring, living and working in these areas. We travel light, but to exclude motor vehicles from our lives, work and activities would be comparable to barring the automobile from the City of Los Angeles. These bills prohibiting motor vehicles would drive an already depressed area deeper into a state of poverty.

We are a mobile, traveling people, not used to mountain climbing for our transportation needs, not about to go back and invent the wheel again while the rest of the nation progresses. Mt. Moriah needs more roads in order for the public to fully enjoy this great desert mountain, not no roads.

I have found the so-called environmentalists, Sierra Clubs, bird watchers etc. to be selfish, unreliable advisors. Not long ago they repeatedly warned us that doomsday was near unless we limited our use of natural resources, including gas. The Arabs and large oil producing outfits were soon very happy to comply and run up their price of gas and red flags at their gas stations while we paid and paid and scrambled for gas at any price. Then some dirty oil explorers went out and discovered more oil than we ever had before, and broke the charm. No wonder the Sierra Club hates these oil companies.

We have all heard the hypnotic monotone voices of these ecology experts on the air and have read their news releases. I remember hearing David Brower of the Sierra Club tell Congress and the nation that if the Boulder Dam were allowed to be built, to generate electricity we did not need, it would destroy this beautiful Boulder site and the lake it would create would silt up and become a useless, polluted eye-sore, never to be paid for. I remember when these groups did all in their power to prevent the building of the Golden Gate Bridge. They said it would ravage and plunder the beautiful entrance to the City of San Francisco by the bay. Are these your experts, Rep. Reid, Chairman Seiberling?

However, these ecology radicals and the Sierra Clubs have been so successful in stopping development, including mining in the west that this great nation would now have to ask permission of Russia to obtain minerals needed in order to fight a simple war.

Mt. Moriah and other areas that some would like to call wilderness are doing very well without the help offered. After 100 years they are still beautiful and practically untouched. This is no accident. I live and work in these hills and mountains. They are our backyards, our living rooms. We do not strip and destroy our own backyards and living rooms as some visitors would like to do under the privacy of wilderness protection.

In conclusion, may I say, we were there first. We loved these western mountains enough to live and work in them. There were no roads unless we built them, no electricity unless we generated it, no phone; no shopping centers (we drive 250 miles for our supplies), no utilities of any kind unless we somehow provided them, no jobs unless we made them, and we did make them.

I have searched the eleven western states for 50 years and I came back to this Mt. Moriah mountain because it contained the most, the best stone to be found anywhere. We and the other settlers have been here a long time, and we plan to stay, supplying beautiful stone for the fastest growing states in America.

Richard K. Hatch, Pres.  
Mount Moriah Stone Quarries, Inc.  
#10 Hatchrock Road  
Gandy Route, Garrison, Utah 84728  
also: 250 West Center, Suite 112  
Provo, Utah 84601 (801) 377-7773

7 October, 1985

Congressman Seiberling and members of the House Interior Lands Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present information and a point-of-view today. I am Dave Hampton from Carson City, Nevada. I teach Nevada History and Geography. I am representing one of the nation's fastest growing states with a tremendous amount of roadless area...and almost no designated wilderness areas.

I want to thank Congressman Harry Reid for recognizing ten areas with superb wilderness values. However, I do not feel ten areas alone will do justice to Nevada's need to protect more of its national forest land. I seek your endorsement of Congressman John Seiberling's bill including 19 wilderness areas for Nevada.

Specifically, I wish to speak to Alta Toquima, or Mount Jefferson as I prefer to call it. It is the highest point in central Nevada at nearly 12,000 feet of elevation.

This magnificent mountain has the U. S. Forest Service's recommendation for wilderness designation because it lacks substantial conflict and has excellent wilderness values. I fear it may well be lost to the road-builders simply because wilderness in Nevada has come down to a political game of numbers.

What does Mount Jefferson have to offer? Well, I would first point out that this mountain has an unusually large amount of tableland at very high elevations. Large glacial cirques dominate the high ridge lines. Its scenic vistas are powerful forces for the human spirit.

A considerable amount of research is underway in archeological and paleo-environmental studies. At present, one of

Nevada's prime ancient American hunting sites is on top of this mountain. A research natural area will not protect it from mineral entry. A limber pine community is being studied for its responses to environmental conditions through time. We must protect this priceless laboratory.

You will rightfully ask, what about the conflicts here? Miners will argue for mineral values and I will tell you they haven't much of a case with Mount Jefferson.

Historically this has been a gold and silver mining area. These, incidentally, are not strategic metals. The only mining districts on Mount Jefferson are Moores Creek and Jefferson Canyon Districts. In the last one hundred years Moores Creek had no recorded production and Jefferson Canyon averaged \$782 per year. That is hardly enough money to warrant roads to claims that will tear up the sides of this beautiful mountain.

This area has been heavily prospected but has offered little to the miners. The U. S. Bureau of Mines in Nevada states:

"Interestingly, except for the Jefferson Canyon and Round Mountain mining districts farther south, the Tertiary volcanic rocks in the vicinity of Mount Jefferson are largely devoid of metallic mineral deposits." (Publication 99B, 1984, Mineral Resources of Northern Nye County, Nevada.)

These volcanic rocks are chiefly rhyodactic welded tuffs (solidified volcanic ashes and dust) and they extend from approximately 7,000 feet around the mountain all the way to the top.

The latest argument that is popular with miners in Nevada is the disseminated gold approach. Its purpose is to

claim that gold is so widely disseminated in Nevada in low concentrations that no area should be off limits to mining. I say hogwash! There comes a point where one must consider that wilderness values must supersede this tear-up-the-land-for-a-buck mentality.

I wish to turn your attention to a few lines from John McPhee in his book Basin and Range:

"The environmentalists are right. A scar in this climate will last. It takes a long time for the terrain to erase a road." (Please see the enclosed sheet for more thoughts on this subject and credits to the source.)

I agonize over the thought that an area such as Mount Jefferson may be lost in the negotiations with the Senate. They have a four area bill to negotiate down Congressman Reid's and Seiberling's wilderness bills. These senators will be negotiating for less than ten percent of the people of Nevada. They will be speaking in behalf of purely political considerations regarding the support of ranchers and miners. To make this all the more outrageous, they are bargaining on only four out of 113 roadless areas eligible for wilderness designation. When all is said and done, Nevada will probably have less wilderness than any western state. We have no National Parks. Most any other state in this union would have made all 19 of these areas into wilderness or parks.

Please allow me to defer to my son on the issue of Mount Jefferson and the future. Thank You.

Congressman Seiberling and members of the House Interior Lands Subcommittee:

I am Michael Hampton from Carson City, Nevada. I am nine years old. Thank you for letting me speak to you. I am here to speak for kids and the future. When I am older I want to go to Mount Jefferson and not see that mountain torn up like so many places in Nevada.

When I do not clean up my room, my mom and dad punish me for leaving a mess. When miners tear up a mountain, nobody does anything to them. They leave big messes. Please do not let them mess up Mount Jefferson.

I took my first airplane ride two weeks ago. My dad and I went to Mount Jefferson. Here are some pictures from that airplane ride. You will see that it is a very big mountain.

The first picture shows your helicopter going to Mount Jefferson after we had the hottest June ever in Nevada. All the snow melted then. The sky was kind of gray so the mountain did not look so good to you. You could not see the aspen trees turning colors.

We could see the mountain was awesome. I hope you can see what I mean. The rest of the pictures show you Mount Jefferson from the air and the ground. We drove our truck to Mount Jefferson over a week ago. We took some more pictures. That is me in picture number six.

Please think about Mount Jefferson. It is the highest peak in the middle of Nevada. It is also very beautiful. Someday, kids my age will be glad you saved it. Thank you.



Mr. Chairman,

October 8, 1985

My name is Becky Parr, from Las Vegas, Nevada.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity today to speak in favor of HR 3004. I would also like to thank Congressman Reid for the wilderness bill he has submitted on behalf of Nevada. I hope a compromise can be reached incorporating the fine points of HR 3002 into Congressman Seiberlings's bill, HR 3004. I would like to direct my specific comments to the Mount Charleston and South Snake/Wheeler Peak areas.

As a geology student, a few years ago, a class field trip took us to Wheeler Peak. This was my first trip to central Nevada and to see for the first time what the term "alpine feature" really meant. To go from desert floor to glacial lakes made a strong and lasting impression. The stark contrast of desert, to forest, to above timber line is very pronounced. I'm sure there are many urban dwellers who do not know such spectacular beauty can be found in Nevada.

Nevada represents desert in most people's mind and the idea of setting aside areas for wilderness never occur to them. Wheeler is only one of many special places in Nevada that need to be seen to be appreciated. I have been back several times and the excitement of seeing Wheeler and its surroundings never fail to impress me. I would like this area preserved so others may find the exceptional beauty there for them as it is for me.

Closer to home, Las Vegas, we are fortunate enough to have a mini alpine feature of our own in Mount Charleston. Here again we have desert juxtaposed against alpine features. While Mount Charleston doesn't have glacial lakes nor a cirque, the meadow that is there is the only one of its kind in southern Nevada. We have the chance to preserve an area unique to southern Nevada. It is an eerie feeling to be standing on the South Loop Trail, facing west, looking over the vast expanse of hills and desert and know that just over my shoulder there are over one-half million people. As Las Vegas continues to grow Mount Charleston will become even more important for the solitude that it can provide.

The size of the area that needs protection as wilderness may seem large but in



## THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL D. SCOTT, DIRECTOR, FOREST WILDERNESS PROGRAM, FOR THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, BEFORE THE HOUSE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE ON H.R. 3304, H.R. 3302, AND H.R. 1686, BILLS TO DESIGNATE RARE II WILDERNESS IN NEVADA, OCTOBER 11, 1985.

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Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, I am Michael D. Scott, Director of the Forest Wilderness Program of The Wilderness Society. I am pleased to be here to offer The Wilderness Society's testimony on H.R. 3304, H.R. 3302, and H.R. 1686, bills to designate RARE II wilderness in Nevada. The Wilderness Society is a nationwide conservation organization with 150,000 members, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Wilderness Society has been an active participant in developing the citizens wilderness proposal for Nevada. We are very appreciative of your work, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Nevada wilderness as well as that of Representatives Darden, Kostmayer, and Weaver. We support your Nevada wilderness bill, H.R. 3304, with the addition of Pearl Peak and the Sweetwater Mountains.

We know Representative Harry Reid has dedicated more hours to this issue than perhaps any other and we commend him for his interest in protecting Nevada's wilderness resource. The Wilderness Society thanks him for introducing H.R. 3302 and looks

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forward to working with him in adding deserving areas to his bill. We cannot support H.R. 1686, introduced by Representative Barbara Vucanovich. The worst RARE II bill ever introduced, H.R. 1686, is a disservice to the wilderness resource in Nevada and it proposes to seriously weaken the Wilderness Act through a series of amendments.

I had the opportunity to tour Nevada while this Subcommittee was on its summer visit. The beauty and diversity of Nevada's forest wilderness resource caught me by surprise. Each range in this basin and range country has unique attributes; from 25 square miles of prime elk and deer habitat at 10,000 feet on Table Mountain to the grandeur of Wheeler Peak and the Rubies.

Frankly, though, I was surprised by another aspect of my trip to Nevada. Although not an old hand at wilderness bills, I have had the opportunity to work on several bills including Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Michigan, and New Mexico. Those states all had various degrees of resource conflicts. Knowing of Nevada's reputation as a mining state, I went on the trip expecting to hear about conflicts between proposed wilderness areas and mining needs. I was greatly relieved to find that my fears were groundless. For instance, Mt. Jefferson, which was alleged to have serious mineral conflicts by some had only 8 mining claims, totaling 3/10 of 1% of the roadless area, none of them within the conservationist boundary. The Quinn Canyon

range serves as another example. It is reputed to be highly mineralized, yet only 9/10 of 1% of the roadless area contains mining claims. The Quinn Canyon range is also part of the three Railroad Valley ranges, the other two being Currant Mountain and the Grant Range. The oil and gas industry has had an active field in the valley since the 1950's and opposes wilderness designation of the three ranges, citing oil and gas conflicts. Yet there has never been any drilling in these ranges, and geology does not seem suitable for future drilling. Compared to such states as Colorado--which has several thousand acres of patented claims within its wilderness and several thousand mining claims, as well as demonstrated oil and gas potential--Nevada gets a clean mineral bill of health. Nevada is in the enviable position of being able to designate its mountain ranges wilderness with virtually no mineral conflict.

Title IV of H.R. 1686 contains several provisions that amend the Wilderness Act and seriously erode the concept of wilderness. This Title expands use of motorized equipment for grazing, mining, and watershed development. It allows for the use of herbicides and pesticides, and it prohibits the federal government from exercising any "reserved water right", a right established on the public lands by the Supreme Court at the beginning of this century. Taken as a whole this Title could better be described as prescribing the manner in which a piece of California's Imperial Valley should be managed. It is hardly a blueprint for the preservation of our wilderness resource, consistent with the letter and philosophy of the Wilderness Act.

Section 401 goes beyond the compromise you developed with the grazing community in the 1980 Colorado Wilderness bill, Mr. Chairman. Rather than vesting the land management agency with discretionary authority over mechanical entry into wilderness for grazing purposes, this Section expressly authorizes "The use of motorized equipment for the maintenance and care of livestock and supporting facilities . . ." This goes far beyond the 1980 compromise language and far beyond the intent of the Wilderness Act.

Section 402 would remove any right the federal government might have to file for a so-called reserved water right in wilderness. This means that the Forest Service could no longer ask State water courts to help protect stream flows and lake levels, even though they are both important attributes of wilderness. I might mention here that under current law any land management agency that seeks a water right must do so in State water court consistent with State water law. The federal government cannot exercise any preemptive water right in relation to wilderness. Any right filed for in State court would be subject to the "first in time - first in right" doctrine of western water law. Thus a wilderness area designated in 1985 would have a 1985 seniority date and would not interfere with the exercise of any senior water right. Finally, water rights associated with wilderness are not consumptive: they only relate to levels and flows. No water is "used". In fact, wilderness designation ensures high quality and consistent water flows for Nevada's

needs. Those who oppose a water right for wilderness are really saying that they oppose the public's right to have any interest in water on the public lands.

Section 405 expressly authorizes "The use of motorized equipment for transportation, construction, and earth moving purposes . . ." for mining. While we certainly do not anticipate mining conflicts with our wilderness proposal, this provision would limit the discretion and flexibility of the land management agency. By expressly authorizing motorized access, this section does not give the managing agency the opportunity to require less damaging methods of providing access to valid mining claims.

Section 406 opens wilderness to a variety of watershed related activities. Principal among these is the use of motorized access for the "maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of . . . watershed facilities". This broad authority again denies the land management agency any ability to limit potential damage to its land. Traditionally, problems relating to municipal watersheds have been solved on a case by case basis and we see no good reason to change that policy.

In addition, this section would allow the installation of facilities such as water reservoir operation devices designed to benefit activities outside wilderness. This is akin to the Bureau of Reclamation's plan to install a grid of metering stations--serviced by snowmobiles--within wilderness to better predict downstream flows. If allowed, it could eventually lead

us to wilderness areas choked with antenna and water gauges. You stopped the Bureau's plan last year and we hope you will not support this proposed amendment to the Wilderness Act.

Finally, this Section allows for the use of herbicide spraying, replantings, and insect and disease control, not to benefit the wilderness resource but those outside the wilderness. The intent of the Wilderness Act was to protect wilderness areas from human intrusion, allowing them to serve as natural laboratories, for the study of nature. If man's health or safety is threatened, management activities such as fire control may occur. This is a far more limited role than what is contemplated in Section 406.

Sections 401-6 in H.R. 1686 are antithetical to the purposes of wilderness preservation and should be opposed by this Subcommittee. We urge the Subcommittee to adopt a wilderness proposal for Nevada that does justice to its diverse resource. We believe the 1.5 million acre citizens proposal accomplishes that purpose. Thank you. I would be pleased to respond to questions.

October 3, 1985

House Sub Committee on  
Public Lands

Re: Need for Wilderness Areas in  
the Ruby and Humboldt Mountains

Sirs,

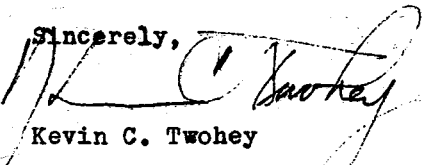
I am employed on a cow/calf operation in Starr Valley on the western slope of the Humboldts. I wish to express the need for establishing Wilderness areas in the Ruby Mountains and the Humboldt Mountain range.

The two mountain ranges provide beautiful vistas, wild game, recreation, and much needed water for the the surrounding ranches and communities. Working together to preserve these mountains should be the goal of ranchers and conservationists. We all benefit from the preservation of this magnificent range of mountains.

I urge you to pass legislation to designate Wilderness areas for both the Humboldts and the Ruby Mountains.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Twohey

Kevin C. Twohey  
Starr Valley  
Deeth, NV 89823



# Soroptimist

INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS

4 October 1985

Honorable John Seiberling  
1225 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

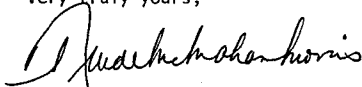
Dear Congressman Seiberling:

Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas has taken a firm position in support of the legislation which you have proposed designating specific geographic portions as wilderness areas in the State of Nevada. As women who hold positions of leadership in business in our community, we feel it is vital to the future of our State that these areas be preserved. We recognize there are many who claim that these areas should be open to development. We believe advocates of this position ignore the necessity for future generations to be able to enjoy some of the natural wonders of our state without the changes which development would inevitably cause.

Nevada's environment is unique in many respects. Preservation of these areas will contribute to the protection of water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and plant and animal ecosystems. In addition, this legislation will provide recreational opportunities which are economically important to our tourist-related industries.

We greatly appreciate the time and energy you have expended on behalf of the preservation of the State of Nevada and enthusiastically support your on-going efforts on our behalf. Your dedication in securing for future generations the opportunity to enjoy the many benefits to be derived from these areas is whole-heartedly endorsed by Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas as well as the countless others who will have the pleasure of sharing the gift your legislation promises to make available.

Very truly yours,



Trude McMahan Morris  
President

TMM:s1b

P.O. Box 66 Las Vegas, Nevada 89125

P. O. Box 357  
Owyhee, Nevada 89832  
October 2, 1985

Congressman John Seiberling  
Chairman, House Committee on Public Lands  
Room 812, Annex #1  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Seiberling:

As the committee considers the three wilderness bills pertaining to Nevada lands, we would like these comments to be considered.

First, we think that the bill introduced by Congressman Vucanovich is totally inadequate and is detrimental to the intent of the Wilderness Act itself. The low acreage and special provisions contained in the bill are unacceptable and we hope will not be seriously considered by the subcommittee.

Second, we feel Congressman Reid's bill is a great improvement over Congressman Vucanovich's bill. He has included ten outstanding areas of our beautiful state. The Congressman is to be congratulated on a bill that is an improvement over any previous proposal.

Third, however, Congressman Reid's bill neglects many exceptional wild areas in Nevada, such as Mt. Jefferson in the Toquima Range, Currant Mountain and the Grant Range, to name a few. We therefore feel that the bill introduced by Congressman Seiberling and others is a more reasonable compromise between the need to protect our wilderness lands and the desires of non-wilderness interests to pursue other purposes.

Therefore, we recommend that the subcommittee consider and approve Congressman Seiberling's wilderness bill for Nevada.

Sincerely,

*David and Margaret Rockenbeck*

David and Margaret Rockenbeck

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