

Route 1, Box 355
Hamilton, Montana 59840
July 23, 1965

Dear Friends of the Upper Selway:

This is a report from your Committee on the state of our controversy with the Forest Service over the disposition of Area E - the so-called "Magruder Corridor" - of the old Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area.

For Months we have sought to inform the people of our nation of what they would lose through application of the "multiple use" plan which the Department of Agriculture has approved for exploitation and dismemberment of the last great tract of back country in temperate North America.

Your response has been everything we had hoped - so great, in fact, that Senator Church of Idaho and Senator Metcalf and Representative Olsen of Montana have entered your views in the Congressional Record and presented them in person to Chief Forester Cliff.

The response of the Forest Service has been to concede a two-year moratorium on logging, and to announce that road-building was proceeding according to plan. Regional Forester Rahm has been authorized to let a contract, whenever he sees fit, for a road which will invade Area E a distance of approximately 9 miles. This, of course, is for an oiled highway to replace the serviceable dirt and gravel road which has provided access to the area since 1939. Because a modern, all-weather road is essential to their management plan and to nothing else, and because it will take about 2 years to build the road, the "moratorium" is as phony as a 3-dollar bill.

To whom is the Forest Service held accountable? Actually, to Secretary Freeman and the executive branch of government. But most governmental bureaus have learned to give careful ear to members of the Congress and to the expressed wishes of large numbers of citizens. Apparently, the Forest Service feels powerful enough to get on with its empire-building as it pleases.

For the achievement of any of our goals, a further effort on your part is required. No further road contracts should be let, and no developmental projects should be undertaken in Area E until the whole plan has been restudied and the results made public, and until the ultimate disposal of the adjacent "Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area" has been decided upon.

Please express your views on the matter at once, by the most direct means at your disposal, to any or all of the following: the members of your Congressional delegation, Senators Church and Metcalf, Representative Olsen, Chief Forester Cliff, Secretary Freeman, and the President of the United States.

Urgently,

Doris Milner

Save-the-Upper-Selway Committee

Doris Milner, Chrm.