

12/3/71

December 3, 1971

Dear Upper Selway Wilderness Supporter:

On June 1, 1971, the Forest Service released its new management plan for the Magruder Corridor. Public hearings on the plan were held in September in Montana and Idaho. The attached sheet is the statement made by the Save the Upper Selway Committee which, with the North Idaho Wilderness Committee, has spearheaded action since 1964 to obtain a classification for the Upper Selway.

On August 2, 1971, after reviewing the new management plan, Senators Church of Idaho and Metcalf of Montana co-sponsored S. 2390, a bill to designate approximately 205,000 acres of National Forest land in Idaho as the Upper Selway Wilderness.

This was a day of great jubilation, a giant step toward our final goal. But the books will not close until the area is finally included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The bill is now in the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of which, fortunately, both Church and Metcalf are members.

The job that needs to be done now: Request Senators Church and Metcalf to set hearing dates early in 1972 on their Upper Selway Wilderness bill.

Short letters expressing appreciation for the introduction of the bill and asking for Senate hearings should be sent to:

Senator Frank Church  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Lee Metcalf  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

A copy of your letter sent to me for the Selway Committee file would be appreciated.

In care for the Upper Selway

*Doris Milner*

Doris Milner, Chairman  
Save the Upper Selway Committee  
Route 1, Box 1410  
Hamilton, -Montana 59840

9/16/71

September 16, 1971

The Save the Upper Selway Committee acknowledges the considerable time, effort, and money that the Forest Service has put into the preparation of a new management plan for the Magruder Corridor which was requested by former Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, in 1967.

Unfortunately, all the accomplishments and good intentions in the world do not make it possible for conservationists and wilderness supporters to accept a management plan that would allow development of over half of the 173,000 acres of the Magruder Corridor.

This plan gives little, if any, real recognition to the wilderness resource and, to all intents and purposes, it ignores the Secretary's directive that "all land management shall reflect and maintain wild land conditions consonant with the three primary values: watershed, and fisheries, historic, and recreational."

Roading and logging the area cannot be thought of as reflecting or maintaining wild land conditions, even by the wildest stretch of the imagination.

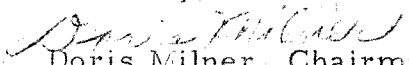
We are appreciative of the fact that Secretary Freeman's directive that the Forest Service can and should manage the Magruder Corridor without resorting to special designation or classification removed a management option even before the resource inventory had been made. The removal of this option, despite the nature of the three primary values pointed out by the Selke Committee and the guiding policy directed by the Secretary to maintain and reflect the wild land conditions, presented a dilemma: the Secretary had directed the agency to coordinate resource management plans maintaining this wild quality and yet had essentially removed the means by which this directive could have been most effectively implemented--a wilderness classification.

Therefore, the Save the Upper Selway Committee and other conservation and wilderness supportive groups have been forced to seek this protection for the Upper Selway directly through legislation.

On August 2, 1971, Senators Church of Idaho and Metcalf of Montana, in compliance with the wishes of a concerned public, introduced a bill in the Senate which calls for wilderness classification for the Upper Selway Country.

The Save the Upper Selway Committee is highly gratified by the Senators' action and wholeheartedly supports this bill which recognizes the primary importance of the wilderness resource of the Upper Selway and which will give this resource the protection it must have if the quality of the wild Selway River, and hence much of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, is not to be seriously downgraded.

Sincerely,



Doris Milner, Chairman  
Save the Upper Selway Committee  
Route 1, Box 1410  
Hamilton, Montana 59840