

13 January 1970

Office of the Regional Forester  
United States Forest Service  
517 Gold Street, S. W.  
Albuquerque, N. M. 87101

Dear Sirs:

As an individual as well as a member of the Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club I strongly support the Regional Forester's proposal to add the Blue Range Primitive Area to the National Wilderness Preservation System. I am a photographer and writer and have published several books which promote the concept of conservation of natural resources and wilderness preservation.

The Blue Range Primitive Area is one of the last remaining unspoiled wilderness areas in the southwest. It is only a small part of all lands held in the public domain - lands which are open to exploitation by lumbering, grazing, and mining interests. The removal of the Blue Range from these uses will produce only an insignificant restriction on the private profits or public benefits to be derived from these industries. On the other hand to allow these exploitive practices to reach their full development in this area will destroy for all time an invaluable component of America's shrinking wilderness resource which can ill be afforded.

The Wilderness Act was adopted by Congress to set aside and protect against commercial exploitation a small percentage of unspoiled wild lands for the present and future esthetic enjoyment and scientific benefit of all the people. The purpose of the Act was not to serve the selfish interests of a few nature lovers, as the proponents of exploitation claim, but to provide the means for wilderness experience as a respite from the pressures of society which increasing thousands of Americans discover they need and are demanding.

Will you please include this letter in the record of the hearings on the Blue Range Primitive Area.

Yours sincerely,

