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February 7, 1910.

The President,

The White House.

Sir:

After having very carefully considered the matter of eliminations from and additions to the National Forests, we respectfully recommend that the following general policy be adopted.

1. Lands wholly or in part covered with brush or other undergrowth which protects streamflow or checks erosion on the watershed of any stream important to irrigation or to the water supply of any city, town, or community, or open lands on which trees may be grown, should be retained within the National Forests, unless their permanent value under cultivation is greater than their value as a protective forest.

2. Lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, or cut-cover lands which are more valuable for the production of trees than for agricultural crops, and lands densely stocked with young trees having a prospective value greater than the value of the land for agricultural purposes, should be retained within the National Forests.

3. Lands not either wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, which are located above timber line

within the Forest boundary or in small bodies scattered through the Forest, making elimination impracticable, or limited areas which are necessarily included for a proper administrative boundary line, should be retained within the National Forests.

4. Lands not either wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, except as provided for in the preceding paragraphs, upon which it is not expected to grow trees, should be eliminated from the National Forests.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) James Wilson  
Secretary of Agriculture

(Signed) R. A. Ballinger  
Secretary of Interior.