

Metcalf Praises Research At Dedication Ceremonies

By Alice Fussell

Natural resources are of such great value the nation can ill afford not to invest in preserving them, Sen. Lee Metcalf told about 100 observers at the dedication of the new Forestry Sciences Laboratory on the University of Montana campus Friday afternoon.

Metcalf was introduced by Joseph F. Pechanec, director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

To pass the resources to children in as good or better condition than this generation received them, the American people demand much more of resource managers than ever before, the senator added.

"The people have learned that they don't have to be saddled with undesirable side effects of material economic progress," he said.

The senator said because of efforts by resource managers, progress has been made in environmental conservation. "For example, all of us can take

pride in what has been accomplished by the cooperative effort by industry, municipalities, the state of Montana and our federal government has produced a remarkable transformation, as is testified by the fishermen we see in the river between Missoula and Garrison."

He noted more people are recognizing that progress must be guided by the highway map of research. "Today conservation has more grassroots support than ever before," he said, and Congress has been able to pass programs to support research to provide basis for development decisions.

Montanans must protect a highly productive timber industry, abundant waters, livestock and a great variety of wildlife. Outdoor recreation in Montana is unsurpassed, Metcalf said.

"Federally operated laboratories such as those in Missoula and Bozeman greatly strengthen our universities as centers of excellence," he added.

Information Needed

Harvesting and caring for the renewable resources requires a flow of information from research institutions, Metcalf said. The keen intellectual capacity now used for exploration of space, atomic development, electronics and medicine must be focused upon natural resource problems, he added.

The laboratory is owned by the federal government but the land it sits on is owned by the University.

"The association of Forest Service research with research and educational facilities of the University will stimulate both and be mutually beneficial," Metcalf said.

Metcalf said he and Sen. Mike Mansfield are asking Congress to appropriate money for a federal program of wilderness research headquartered in Missoula. "It would complement what the University is trying to accomplish in wilderness research," he added.

Metcalf declared scoffers who object to research projects are silly. Newton looked ridiculous to his contemporaries who recognized a crank with apple phobia when they saw one, he said. For valuable research, he cited work on the sex habits of screw worms which, in spite of its laughable name, led to control for a dread cattle pest.

President Johnson advocates expenditures of more than \$17 billion for all federal research and development in industry, universities and research institutions, Metcalf said.

Metcalf said at a news conference that the lab would help to centralize research in forest-

ry and would form a nucleus for research.

He said he was sure funds for the basic and applied research such as is done at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory would not be endangered by the war in Vietnam. The United States owes many of its capabilities to its research, he added.

Metcalf's news conference was monopolized by Ruth Ward, 34, who works in the UM chemistry department. She read a letter from a soldier in Vietnam which described men who had died out of action. She said she would like to see the war won, not to have men picked off needlessly.