

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL NADEL, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, AND EDITOR, THE LIVING WILDERNESS

Mr. NADEL. Mr. Chairman, I am Michael Nadel, assistant executive director of The Wilderness Society, and editor of its quarterly publication, *The Living Wilderness*. The society, whose membership at this time approximates 38,000 individual active members, is a national conservation organization, with headquarters at 729 15th Street NW., Washington, D.C., and a regional office in Denver, Colo.

The Wilderness Society endeavors, through educational means, to perpetuate our nation's wilderness resource for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. One of the society's primary efforts now is directed toward encouraging the establishment of an adequate national wilderness preservation system under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

With one or two qualifications to which I shall presently refer, The Wilderness Society supports the purposes of S. 1401 to amend title 1 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Upon the enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act in 1964, conservationists applauded what at the time appeared to be an adequate solution to the public land agencies' need for a fund for acquiring lands and inholdings, and for the management and development of existing recreation areas. It was hoped that the "golden passport" entrance fee program and the other sources of revenue that comprised the land and water conservation fund would be sufficient to meet the needs of the National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Revenues from the fund were to be divided to allow 60 percent for State grants and 40 percent for Federal land acquisitions. This provision has stimulated and encouraged the States to match these funds and to act on their programs for the acquisition and development of State recreation areas.

It is alarmingly apparent that the rapid growth in population and the increase in leisure time is producing a continuing demand upon public land agencies to provide additional outdoor recreation space. If the agencies do not have funds available to acquire and develop new areas in response to this need, they can expect intensified use of the existing units, and every park, refuge, wilderness, and even recreation area can reach a saturation point in visitor use, thus endangering its intrinsic natural values and sacrificing the purpose for which it was established. Overuse has a particularly devastating impact on wilderness-type lands which rely on dispersed and carefully controlled use to maintain their delicate environments. But natural values within existing parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas need not be sacrificed, nor must use of these lands be severely limited, if new areas can be established to accommodate the projected increase in visitor use.

During its 3-year existence, the fund has received \$289,239,336. Some \$53,650,087 in additional revenues has been appropriated and is expected to accrue during the remainder of the fiscal year 1968. Recreation needs are growing more rapidly than the present system