

Wisconsin, and three similar bills, H.R. 752, H.R. 3389, and H.R. 3983. Your Committee has also requested a report on H.R. 6373, a bill to reserve certain lands along a segment of the Wolf River, Wisconsin, for designation as a scenic river area.

We favor the purposes of the bills, i.e., the preservation and protection of the unique scenic and other natural values of the Saint Croix River in Minnesota and Wisconsin, the Namekagon tributary of the Saint Croix River, and a certain segment of the Wolf River in Menominee County, Wisconsin. These purposes can be accomplished, however, under the bills pending before your Committee which would establish a national system of wild or scenic rivers.

Basically, four different proposals for a national wild or scenic rivers system are pending before your committee, namely, H.R. 6166 (which is identical to the bill the Department submitted to the Congress by an executive communication of February 18, 1967), H.R. 90 introduced by Congressman Saylor, H.R. 8416 which you introduced, and S. 119, as passed by the Senate on August 8, 1967.

H.R. 90 designates the segment of the Wolf River reaching from the confluence of the Hunting River downstream to the town of Keshena as a scenic river area, while H.R. 6166 and S. 119 designate the segment from the Langlade-Menominee County Line downstream to Keshena Falls as a national scenic river area and a national wild river area, respectively. H.R. 8416 does not designate any segment of the Wolf River as one of the initial units of the national system.

H.R. 90 and H.R. 6166 designate the segment of the Saint Croix River beginning at Taylors Falls, Minnesota, and extending upstream to the dam near Gordon, Wisconsin, and its Namekagon tributary as a scenic river area and a national scenic river area, respectively. S. 119 designates as a national wild river area the segment of the Saint Croix between the dam near Taylors Falls and the dam near Gordon, Wisconsin, and its Namekagon tributary from its confluence upstream with the Saint Croix to the dam near Trego, Wisconsin. S. 119 designates as a national scenic river area the segment of the Saint Croix River downstream from the dam near Taylors Falls to its confluence with the Mississippi River. H.R. 8416 does not designate any segment of the Saint Croix River as one of the initial units of the national system, but designates the Saint Croix and its Namekagon tributary for study as a potential addition to the system.

In our report of August 14, 1967, to your Committee on the national wild or scenic river bills, we recommended the enactment of H.R. 8416 with certain clarifying and perfecting amendments. We believe it would be appropriate, however, to start the system either with the four rivers mentioned in H.R. 8416, as a minimum, or any combination of the additional rivers designated as the initial units of the system in H.R. 6166 or S. 119.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY A. CAIN,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., March 6, 1968.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for a report from this Department on H.R. 14180, a bill "To provide for the establishment of the Lewis and Clark National Scenic Riverway, and for other purposes."

The purpose of the bill is to preserve and interpret a significant segment of the Missouri River in Montana and adjacent lands for their scenic, recreational, and other natural values.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of this Department, in cooperation with interested Federal and State agencies, is presently conducting a study of the recreational resources of the Missouri River from Yankton, South Dakota, to Fort Benton, Montana, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on February 17, 1966.

We recommend, therefore, that action on the bill be deferred until this study is completed, and the bill can be evaluated in light of the recommendations resulting therefrom. We expect the study to be completed within the next few months.