

easements on some 7,000 acres and the scenic easements device is obviously an inexpensive and useful device where that can be worked out as it can here.

Now, just a word about these 48 miles, 24 of them in Langlade County, 24 of them in Menominee County, what used to be the Menominee Indian Reservation until it was removed from Federal jurisdiction back in 1953.

The Wolf is no Rio Grande or Snake River, but, though it is a small river, there are those throughout the country and particularly in the Midwest who love it. I myself, know it well. I have canoed it. I have waded it. Upon occasion I have fallen into it and there simply is nothing like it for a sheer wild fast dropping river.

Now, here is what has been done about it. In Langlade County, that is the non-Indian county, the 24 mile half of the proposed scenic river is already being acquired by the State of Wisconsin. It is in the process of acquisition under a carefully worked out proposal with the Department of the Interior whereby an allocation of land and water conservation funds has been matched by State money and the shoreline is now in the course of being bought, so this portion, the northern half, the northern 24 miles, would come into the scenic river, wild river system without any cost whatever to the Federal taxpayer other than, of course, the Federal contribution through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But this has all been done. It would go forward in any event.

Mr. TAYLOR. What proportion of the total land needed is the State acquiring?

Mr. REUSS. About half. Just about half. The mileage of the river is identical and the land acquisition would be about half.

I should add that in the State portion, the State is actually buying considerable sections rather than merely obtaining a scenic easement, so that in terms of acreage, the state portion will be somewhat larger but in terms of what one sees and what one can enjoy, it is about the same.

Mr. TAYLOR. Do you realize that the bill we have before us, H.R. 8416, contains provisions authorizing the State legislature, through appropriate legislation, to acquire a scenic river provided the Department of the Interior finds that it has the proper qualities and accepts it?

Mr. REUSS. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do, and that is an excellent provision and indeed, that is precisely the plan that we are using in Wisconsin. We have tried to keep parallel with the thinking of this committee over the last several years on scenic rivers and we are working closely with this committee, with the Wisconsin delegation, with the State of Wisconsin and the Department of the Interior. We have, to a degree, gone ahead as far as we can because the desperate danger to this area is simply from private acquisition of the shoreline, the erection of shacks or homes right on the shoreline, pollution, and so on. The danger to this river is not from improvident lumbering, because all of the lumbering interests, both private in Langlade County, and the Menominee Indians which have their own corporation, has been on a sustained yield basis and there is no problem there, nor any opposition from any lumbering interest.