

The history of Wisconsin is written in the Wolf. Along its course runs the old Military Road which served the Indian agents. Northern Wisconsin pine logs were floated down it to the sawmills at Oshkosh, and the remains of dams used to raise the water level of the rapids so that logs could pass can still be seen. In Menominee County, the Menominee Indians still inhabit its banks and fish its waters.

All of this beauty, recreation, history, and lore is within a day's drive of 9 million residents of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

The Wolf remains unspoiled, not undiscovered. The developers are threatening the Wolf. Subdivisions would at this moment dot its banks, their septic tanks seeping pollution, were it not for two recent actions of the federal government and the State of Wisconsin:

1. On January 7, 1967, the Department of the Interior and the State of Wisconsin announced a jointly-financed program for acquiring 24 miles of frontage on the upper Wolf River (and 26 miles of frontage on its feeder streams) in Langlade County.

The Secretary of the Interior has allocated \$415,000 of contingency monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; the State of Wisconsin is matching this amount.

The State will purchase the land and administer it.

2. On August 31, 1966, the State of Wisconsin entered into a three year lease with Menominee County on frontage along 24 miles of the lower Wolf River from the Langlade County line to Keshena Falls in the southern part of Menominee County. Under the lease, the State is paying the Menominees \$150,000 annual rent to preserve this land. The lease expires on August 31, 1969.

The lease was necessary as a stop-gap measure to prevent the spoiling of the Wolf by the parceling up of its shoreline before the Congress has an opportunity to act on the Scenic Rivers legislation which is today under consideration. The State of Wisconsin, valuing the Wolf as it does, agreed to put its thumb in the dike for up to three years at a cost of \$450,000.

In sum, gentlemen, of the 48 mile scenic stretch on the Wolf in Langlade and Menominee Counties, 24 miles in Langlade County are now permanently in the public domain, while 24 miles in Menominee County will remain temporarily in the public domain until August 31, 1969.

The only action necessary to complete the preservation of the Wolf is for your Committee and the House to include the 24 mile stretch in Menominee County in the Scenic Rivers Act.

I strongly urge you to do so.

The cost will be entirely reasonable. Only a small portion of the river frontage need be purchased. Most of it can be preserved by scenic easements.

Just 2 final points:

1. I am confident that under either the Senate or House versions of the bill a single identity and a single administration—either federal or state—can be worked out for the Langlade and Menominee County portions of the Wolf, even though the Langlade County portion is owned by the State and Menominee County portion would be owned by the federal government.

Sections 9(c) of H.R. 6166 and 7(c) of S. 119 specifically provide for inclusion of the state-owned Langlade County portion of the Wolf within the National Scenic Rivers System. And Sections 5(b) of both bills provide for the administration of federal lands partly or exclusively by the state.

2. Because of the complexity of the legal structure of the Menominee Indian tribal corporation, Menominee Enterprises, Inc., which owns the land which would be purchased along the Wolf in Menominee County, and because of the understandable sensitivities of the Menominees to the alienation of their lands which they have labored so long to preserve, special arrangements for the land transaction should be worked into the Scenic Rivers bill.

I have tried to provide the solution to this problem in Section 4(i) of H.R. 3996, a predecessor bill to H.R. 6166. I hope that you will include provisions of Section 4(i) in your bill.

I am sure my colleagues from Wisconsin, Congressmen Kastenmeier and Steiger of your Subcommittee, will agree with me that the citizens of Wisconsin place the greatest importance on the preservation of the Wolf and the St. Croix. Wisconsinites value conservation measures in general as highly as citizens of any state and, in particular, they are concerned with preserving the natural beauty which so handsomely blesses the State. I hope that the Committee will include the St. Croix and the Wolf Rivers in the Scenic Rivers Bill.