

STATEMENT OF EDWARD C. CRAFTS, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF OUT-
DOOR RECREATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. CRAFTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is good to be here again.

I have a prepared statement which I believe has been made available to the committee members. It is a rather lengthy statement. I would like it to appear in full in the record, and I would like to read rather substantial portions of it, because I think it may help to clarify some of the questions raised this morning, and to illustrate some the major differences between the various pending bills.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the absence of objection, the statement will be printed in full in the record.

Mr. CRAFT. This is a complex set of bills, and a number of complex questions involved. I hope that this testimony may prove helpful to the committee.

I am appearing today on behalf of the Department, representing the Secretary. He asked me to express to you his deep regret that he could not adjust longstanding out-of-town commitments for today and tomorrow in order to appear himself. I know he had intended to do so, because he had told me this—he told me to prepare this draft of testimony before he learned the date of the hearings.

The Senate passed a bill in the first session of this Congress to establish a wild and scenic rivers system. That, coupled with the early consideration of the pending bills by the House committee in this session, is deeply appreciated by the administration. The committee is to be congratulated for so doing, particularly in view of the fact that it carries one of the heaviest legislative schedules of any House committee.

I think I can skip a good bit of the second page, insofar as reading it goes, because it reviews the origin of the scenic rivers proposal insofar as we are aware of it. It came out of the recommendation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in 1962.

I should point out that the Departments of Agriculture and Interior in 1963 began about a 2-year study of a large number of rivers with a view to ultimately coming before the Congress for appropriate legislation.

Initially there were some 650 rivers that were screened. That was cut down to 67, which received preliminary field reconnaissance, and some 22 that received more detailed study and consideration.

While there is some switching back and forth between the 22 and the 67, for the most part, the rivers named in what I shall subsequently refer to as the four major bills before the committee come out of those 22 rivers.

So I hope that this study by the two departments has proved helpful.

In January 1967, President Johnson repeated a hope expressed earlier that some of our scenic rivers might be preserved in their natural state.

In February of last year, the administration sent a proposal to the Congress—somewhat revised proposal. But prior to this time—and I wish Mr. Saylor were here, because I think he felt in an earlier hearing this year that I had things a little mixed up, and I did at that time, but I have them straight now. Prior to the administration's proposal