

Second, we believe one provision in several of the bills is of paramount importance. It restricts authority of the Federal Power Commission to issue licenses for any new project on a stream, or portion thereof, designated as a scenic river. Maintenance of a free-flowing, natural character to the streams is a primary value of this bill and there must be no threat of an FPC action to upset it. Of course, the Congress would retain authority to change the designation by special act or separate action.

Third, in our opinion, the Interior Department is generous in drafting H.R. 6166 in not precluding all mineral activity. Most certainly, it is vital that the Federal Government retain and exercise control sufficient to prevent mining operations from damaging or destroying a designated stream. The same should hold true for any source of water pollution. And, we agree with the provisions which specify that scenic rivers shall be administered under laws and regulations applicable to wilderness areas, units of the National Park System, and the national wildlife refuge system when streams are located within those areas.

Fourth, we are in agreement with the principle of authorizing that State and local scenic river areas be designated as parts of the system. We believe there are many streams of this nature which should be protected and approval of an authorizing provision is important.

Fifth, the National Wildlife Federation is in accord generally with plans for administration of the system, and we are pleased that extensive cooperation with the States and local governmental agencies is contemplated. In this connection, I should point out that sections of some bills are weaker than we prefer. They merely point out that "Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the States under other provisions of law with respect to fish and wildlife." We recommend an amendment utilizing language the Committee drafted for use in the Ozark National Scenic Riverway and seashore bills, paraphrased in this manner: "Hunting and fishing shall be permitted on lands and waters administered as parts of the system under appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations. The administering Secretary may designate zones where, and establish period when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, and shall issue appropriate regulations on public safety after consultation with the wildlife agency of the State or States affected. Provided, this provision does not apply to lands and waters within national parks or monuments."

And, now a word about two Buffalo Rivers. The Committee also has before it a bill establishing the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. It is our understanding that this superlative stream was not included in either S. 119 or H.R. 6166 because of this separate legislation. While we would prefer that the Buffalo be set aside as a national river because this procedure would allow for a larger area and a more comprehensive outdoor recreational program, it must be given consideration for inclusion in the scenic rivers system. We hope the Committee also can give early consideration to this bill (H.R. 493) in order that the Buffalo will get the protection it so richly deserves, either in separate legislation or through the scenic rivers bill.

In order that there will be no confusion, Mr. Chairman, we hasten to point out that there also is a Buffalo River in Tennessee which is proposed for study for addition to the system. I might say here that we are baffled by this recommendation from the Interior Department. The Tennessee Legislature, the Governor, and the Executive Departments, plus numerous citizen organizations, are unanimous in their support of the Tennessee Buffalo for inclusion in the system and the Department of the Interior has a mass of information on the stream. Why this beautiful stream is not proposed for "instant establishment" is beyond our comprehension. In fact, the Tennessee Valley Authority now is moving ahead with the State to set up a demonstration scenic riverway and this stream should be included in the national system.

The national system would be initiated by the "instant establishment" of several streams. H.R. 8416 is the most modest, incorporating immediately only the Rogue, Rio Grande, Salmon, especially the main stream, and Clearwater. All of these streams are in the other proposals as well. H.R. 6166 would add the Eleven Point, Cacapon, Shenandoah, Saint Croix, and Wolf. S. 119 adds the Illinois and Namekagon Rivers. H.R. 90 and H.R. 493 add others. We are in agreement that all of these streams merit preservation under the system and we hope the Committee sees fit to approve of them without delay. We also agree to the manner in which they would be administered by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, individually or jointly.