

and Water Conservation Fund Act. We feel that this provision will greatly stimulate sound river basin planning at both the state and local level.

The acquisition of bordering lands or interests in lands averaging 320 acres per mile for protection and public use seems a reasonable standard, with specific boundaries to be designated as soon as possible after more detailed surveys on the ground.

Finally we question whether the land acquisition ceiling of \$6.5 million contained in H.R. 8416 will be adequate. We suggest that the Committee may wish to consider raising that limit, particularly if nine rivers or segments thereof are to be authorized for initial establishment.

We respectfully ask this Committee to continue its fine record by reporting favorably legislation which would set aside, for all time, a select group of our nation's waterways.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you.

Dr. Prezioso, the executive head of the agency, wanted to be here, but unavoidably could not be, so he asked me to express his regrets to the committee.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a private, non-profit, service organization dedicated to the advancement of parks and recreation and related resource conservation.

It is our understanding that the committee has received from the Department of the Interior extensive data on the above listed bills comparing their major provisions and recommending clarifying and perfecting amendments of H.R. 8416, with which we generally agree.

While we do not address ourselves to specific rivers or waterway systems, but rather to the concept behind this legislative package, we believe that State and Federal studies of wild and scenic rivers made in recent years justify the initial designation as scenic rivers, at least the nine rivers or segments thereof included in the administration bill, H.R. 6166, and H.R. 90. These rivers include Rio Grande, Rogue, Salmon, Cacapon, Eleven Point, St. Croix-Namekagon, Wolf, and the Shenandoah. These rivers would total approximately 1,000 miles and would make a significant beginning for a national waterways system.

The association urges that additional rivers, particularly those near centers of high population densities, be studied by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, in cooperation with the States, as soon as possible, to formulate recommendations for the designation of additional scenic rivers. It is particularly encouraging to see many mid-western and eastern rivers under consideration. We feel that the final form of legislation should authorize and direct the appropriate agency to study any rivers which, in that agency's opinion, may be eligible for inclusion in the system.

We further urge that every agency of the Federal Government concerned with structures on or affecting the flow or esthetics of any potential addition to a national waterway system be required to consult the Federal and State agencies charged with administering the system; that is, to notify them of plans for any structures so that they would be in a position to appraise the effect of that on their project.

The administering agency would determine whether or not such proposals are in keeping with the objectives of the national waterway system. This provision should not be limited to those rivers in the initial study classification.

We believe that certain rivers or segments thereof are of such outstanding significance that the Congress may wish to consider individ-