

pleasurable hours on the Hunting Creek Cove and the adjacent part of the Potomac and the estuaries both upstream and downstream from Hunting Creek, obtaining information on waterfowl feeding grounds and on the conservation of these feeding grounds.

These visits have pointed up some very graphic changes that have occurred over that period of time. Many of them, I am sorry to say, to the detriment of the feeding grounds. Particularly the extensive filling and dredging of formerly shallow tidal areas, including both open water and marsh.

The Hunting Creek area is one, in my opinion, of the key areas for preserving a local opportunity to view diving duck activity in the Washington region. The area immediately below Hunting Creek, and including Hunting Creek, has been recognized as an important area in connection with the establishment of the George Washington Memorial National Parkway.

The Dyke area still supplies a moderate amount of good tidal marsh. But that is at this moment rapidly being whittled away by dredging operations, and actually there is just a token remnant of the original marsh today.

The Hunting Creek Cove, which lies at the head of the Dyke Marshes, is an integral part of the very complex and useful feeding grounds. It supplies the shallow open-water zone that is particularly of great importance to the diving species, whereas the marsh along the Dyke Overlook has attracted more of the shoal-water species of ducks; species like the black duck, the mallard, the pintail, and at times in the early season, the bluewing teal, the wood duck, and others.

Without the companion shallow marshy zones and the shallow, open waters—I refer to waters less than 5 feet in depth—in which light penetration is sufficient for the diving ducks to see their feed—the area would be of limited value. Most of Hunting Creek Cove is less than 5 feet in depth, and much of it less than 3 feet in depth.

This supplies a situation where light penetration permits the diving ducks to utilize pollution-tolerant invertebrates such as the midge larvae and several species of mollusks that have been able to withstand the existing pollution.

It is apparent, with the construction of a fill extending some several hundred feet out into the Hunting Creek Marsh, in addition to possible minor elimination of acreage, we are interposing a human disturbance factor, if a high-rise apartment is constructed jutting out into what is now truly important resting and feeding areas. I am as much concerned about the disturbance factor as I am about the elimination of these feeding grounds directly.

That is all I have to offer at the moment.

Mr. Moss. I would first like to express my appreciation to you, Dr. Uhler, for responding to the request of Mr. Reuss and myself. I think your response of January 31 was an evidence of great personal integrity for which I am most appreciative. I think your statement here has been excellent and answered most of the questions I would have.

I would like to have you deal just a little more fully with this disturbance factor.

Dr. UHLER. During my attendance of the Engineer Corps hearing, which Dr. Gottschalk indicated I had attended in a personal interest