

is poor, with only peat and clay occurring in sufficient volume to be of possible economic significance. Reserves of these minerals are available in the general area outside the proposal.

A complete record has been compiled including written statements and oral testimony received in response to our announcement of public hearings. This record is, of course, available for inspection.

The proposed wilderness units within the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge are eminently qualified for designation as wilderness. I recommend submission to the Congress of the enclosed draft legislation to incorporate about 3,750 acres into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Respectfully yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

(The draft bill enclosed is identical to S. 3379.)

SYNOPSIS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

A. BACKGROUND

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is situated in Chatham, Harding and Passaic Townships, Morris County, north-central New Jersey. Morristown, the county seat of Morris County, is 7 miles to the north, and New York City is 25 miles to the east.

In 1959 the Port Authority of New York proposed an international jetport in Great Swamp. Residents and landowners quickly formed the Jersey Jetport Association and initiated a campaign to counter the threat. At the same time conservationists were alerted by the activities of the Great Swamp Committee of the North American Wildlife Foundation, which was trying to preserve the area for a wildlife refuge. The threat of the jetport gave added impetus to the work of the Committee. It was able to muster the efforts and interest of a great number of volunteers who raised more than a million dollars to acquire nearly 3,000 acres for donation to the Federal Government. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, established in May 1964, will eventually total approximately 5,800 acres, including the lands donated by private interests.

The threatened loss of the area for airport purposes continues to be a very real problem, involving not only the proposed wilderness units, but the entire Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge as well.

Initially, a single wilderness unit, M. Hartley Dodge, was selected for study and review. Subsequent investigations and analyzation of the public hearing record on the M. Hartley Dodge Wilderness proposal indicated sufficient citizen interest and support for another unit as an adjunct to the original proposal. Two wilderness units, therefore, are proposed herein—M. Hartley Dodge and Harding—both within the exterior boundaries of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The national wildlife refuge lies in the center of "Megalopolis USA." The human population density in New Jersey is over 833 persons per square mile. Individuals seeking the peaceful seclusion of nature may find solitude in this proposed wilderness. The swamp, with its abundant wildlife, its ridges and knolls of laurel and old trees, all accessible by convenient foot trails, is unique and the last of its kind in northern New Jersey.

B. DESCRIPTION

Great Swamp can best be described as a shallow bowl, 7-miles long and 3-miles wide.

The M. Hartley Dodge proposal consists of about 2,400 acres and encompasses the east end of the national wildlife refuge. The boundary of the proposed M. Hartley Dodge Unit generally follows the refuge boundary on the north, then continues west to the Meyersville Road, and then continues south along the east side of the Meyersville Road. On the southeast it follows the northwest side of an existing utility right-of-way. On the northeast it follows the southwest side of an existing utility right-of-way.

The Harding Wilderness proposal consists of about 1,250 acres encompassing a westerly extension of the M. Hartley Dodge Unit from Meyersville Road to Long Hill Road. Recognized in the wilderness proposal are the sill dikes necessary to restore the swamp to its original ecology and for wildlife management purposes.

The area is a brush and timbered swamp interspersed with low ridges or knolls rising from 5 to 15 feet above the surrounding swamp. In several places the swamp