

opens into small marshes. Bottomland vegetation is composed of red maple, elm, azalea, withe rod, high bush blueberry, swamp rose, alder, willow, and a wide variety of ground cover types. Many of the scattered low ridges support a forest association of beech, white oak, scarlet oak, chestnut oak, northern red oak, sweet birch, sugar maple, black gum, white ash, and shagbark hickory.

A few remote "island" ridges support magnificent stands of beech. Some trees measure 14 feet in girth and are believed to be between 300 and 500 years old. A white oak over 95-feet high and 4 feet 9 inches in diameter has been found. Other ridges support spectacular stands of mountain laurel and rhododendron which attract many visitors when these plants are in bloom.

C. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The M. Hartley Dodge Unit will continue to be managed as a natural area. The sole existing building will be removed. No other man-made structures exist. The road and trails will be restricted to foot travel only. Nature trails will be maintained to encourage continued use for education and recreation. Research and field study by schools, universities, and scientific groups will be encouraged.

The wilderness aspects of the Harding unit can best be accomplished by re-establishing pristine conditions through restoration of the natural swamp and marsh. Planned management objectives encourage the use of the refuge by fall and spring migrations of dabbling ducks, and include emphasis on local duck production. Attainment of these objectives will require construction of low plugs to retain flood waters, overcoming the effects of previous drainage. Wilderness classification must recognize these minor management requirements which eventually will blend in with the landscape.

The Department of the Army is now studying the feasibility of constructing a dam and reservoir for flood control and related purposes downstream from the proposed wilderness area which, if authorized, would have the effect of increasing floodwater levels in the lower reaches of the swamp about 6 inches during major floods. The wilderness proposal would not preclude the planning and construction of this project. The Department would expect to work closely with the Department of the Army in connection with this project if it is authorized.

D. THE WILDERNESS RECORD

In accordance with section 3(d) (1) (B) of the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held in Morristown, New Jersey, on February 17, 1967. Mr. Paul H. Cullinan, of the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, was hearing officer. Mr. Richard E. Griffith, Regional Director, Boston, Massachusetts, represented the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

1. *Public hearing transcript*

The public hearing transcript contains 350 pages, consisting of a list of hearing registrants, the oral testimony of 62 persons and 164 written statements in the form of telegrams, letters, and cards. Hearing testimony and statements were all in favor of the wilderness proposal, except one from a representative of the local chapter of the AFL-CIO labor union. Testimony in favor of the proposal included the statement of Commissioner Robert A. Roe, who represented the Governor of New Jersey, a letter from U.S. Senator Clifford P. Case, a statement from Congressman Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen, a statement of U.S. Senator Harrison A. Williams, a statement from Mayor James H. Plante of Chatham, New Jersey. Statements were also received from numerous other individuals and organizations.

Arguments favoring the wilderness proposal were generally in one or more of the following categories:

a. The need for the solitude of wilderness by man in a densely-populated urban area.

b. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge provides a last remaining natural wilderness, outdoor laboratory, and classroom for the use of scientists, college, and high school students in the growing New York metropolitan area of some 30 million inhabitants.

c. The Great Swamp is a major water source for the Passaic River. It serves a vital function as a watershed overflow basin, and by releasing the water gradually it serves as a natural regulator of water supply. Without the swamp, the Passaic River would be far more subject to excessive fluctuation in water level, and this in turn upsetting other natural processes, would increase the