

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

The U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines have examined the proposed Monomoy Wilderness and have determined that the area has no known mineral resources other than the sands from which the island is made.

The secluded, primeval character of Monomoy Island makes it eminently qualified for designation as wilderness, and I recommend submission to the Congress of the enclosed draft legislation to incorporate it into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Respectfully yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

(The draft bill enclosed is identical to S. 3425.)

SYNOPSIS OF MONOMOY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

A. BACKGROUND

Monomoy Island is a 2,600-acre roadless island extending about 9 miles south from the elbow of Cape Cod, in the town of Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. It was established on June 1, 1944, as part of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, all but some 4 acres of the island having been acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (45 Stat. 1222), as amended (16 U.S.C. 715 *et seq.*). Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island, are about 100 miles from Monomoy Island.

B. DESCRIPTION

The Monomoy wilderness proposal is a barrier beach island located 9 miles south of Cape Cod in the town of Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Bounded on the west by Nantucket Sound and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the island varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width and is separated from the mainland by a shallow waterway about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide. The exterior boundaries of the wilderness proposal are all lands on Monomoy Island to the line of mean low tide which coincides with the national wildlife refuge boundary around the island.

C. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge has been managed as a wild area since its establishment. There are no improved roads on the island. No changes in management are envisioned if the island is designated as wilderness. The laws and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior governing the management and administration of the island as a national wildlife refuge will continue to apply. Such laws and regulations provide for public uses such as hunting and other wildlife oriented forms of outdoor enjoyment, as well as other necessary wildlife refuge management programs.

The Department of the Army is currently studying the feasibility of a project for navigation for Pleasant Bay and tributary waters, Massachusetts. The proposed project would include the closing of the gap between Monomoy Island and Nauset Beach. The wilderness proposal would not preclude the planning and construction of this project. The Department of the Interior would expect to work closely with the Department of the Army if the project is authorized.

Of the approximately 4 acres of Monomoy Island in private ownership, 2 acres contain private summer camps and 2 acres are owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. These inholdings will be acquired. Until they are acquired it will be necessary to allow access to the inholdings via over-the-sand vehicles. National wildlife refuge administration of the island will require the retention of two existing buildings and the use of an over-the-sand vehicle for administrative and public safety purposes.

A permanent staff is required to administer the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Present and future staffing requirements for the refuges will not be adjusted because of designation of Monomoy Island as wilderness.

If the island should join the mainland at some future date, the Monomoy Wilderness would be delineated by a fence.