

family or individual willing to walk, row or paddle a mile or so, these wilderness proposals may eventually be the only areas left, even in the State of Maine, where the solitude and beauty of true wilderness will be guaranteed for generations to come.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890), notices of public hearings on all six wilderness proposals were issued by the Department and all interested local, State, and Federal agencies and officials were notified of the proposed hearings. The public hearings were held at locations convenient to the areas affected. The communications presented at the hearings by private parties and the above agencies and officials are summarized in the enclosed synopses of the six wilderness proposals.

The United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines have examined the mineral resources of the proposed wilderness areas. With the exception of the areas included in the Edmunds Wilderness proposal in Maine, they consider the mineral resource potential of the proposed wilderness areas to be poor. The only known mineral resources of economic value within the Edmunds Wilderness proposal are sand, gravel, and clay, which are also abundant in the surrounding areas.

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

These wilderness proposals are eminently qualified for designation as wilderness, and I recommend submission to the Congress of the enclosed draft legislation which will incorporate about 28,000 acres into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Respectfully yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

(The draft bill enclosed is identical to S. 3502.)

SYNOPSIS OF SENEY AND HURON ISLANDS WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

A. BACKGROUND

The Seney Wilderness proposal is within the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft County, Michigan, and the Huron Islands Wilderness proposal is within the Huron Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Marquette County, Michigan. In order to save time and money these two proposals were studied together. The local public hearing covered both study units.

Seney

Seney National Wilderness Refuge is located in the upper peninsula halfway between Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie in Schoolcraft County, Michigan. The northern boundary of the refuge borders State Highway 28 a few miles west of Seney, Michigan.

The national wildlife refuge was established by Executive Order No. 7246 of December 10, 1935, for the protection and production of waterfowl and other desirable wildlife species. The refuge is in the great Manistique Swamp, and a large section of it is open marsh with immense edges of rushes and sedges. Though considerable developments for waterfowl and other wildlife have been made on the refuge, the study area is undeveloped. The tract includes lands that have never been cut for forest products, though the area frequently was swept by fires that followed logging on lands to the west in the late 1800's. The area includes the "String Bogs", which are low, flat areas with low ridges covered with tamarac and other timber running roughly parallel in formation from the northwest to the southeast.

Seney is a popular recreation area. Picnic areas have been developed and the refuge has a visitor center. Hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing are popular recreational pursuits.

Huron Islands

The Huron Islands are located 3 miles off the wild south shore of Lake Superior near the Huron River and Huron Mountains in Marquette County, Michigan. They lie 40 miles east of the Houghton-Hancock harbor which provides the closest good point of access to the islands. The landing of boats on the islands can be accomplished only under calm sea conditions and then with hazard.

Part of the present Huron Islands Wilderness proposal was originally established as a reserve and breeding ground for native birds by Executive Order No.