

7. Other

The press was represented at the public hearing by one local paper and one Milwaukee paper. A Green Bay TV Station filmed part and showed it twice that evening of the hearing.

CHANGES IN WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING

There have been no modifications or adjustments of the boundary of the wilderness proposal from that presented at the public hearing on February 15, 1967.

SYNOPSIS OF EDMUNDS AND BIRCH ISLANDS WILDERNESS PROPOSALS (MOOSEHORN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE)

A. BACKGROUND

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge was established by Executive Order No. 7650 of July 1, 1937. The refuge consists of three units—Baring, Edmunds, and Birch Islands—located on and near the northeastern coast of Maine. The Edmunds and Birch Islands Units, the subject of this wilderness study and proposal, are situated in the Town of Edmunds, Washington County. They are about 30 miles south of Calais, Maine, and 100 miles east of Bangor.

Edmunds

This Unit is part of an original 17,696-acre land grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Aaron Hobart, dated August 3, 1786. The rolling forested hills of the Edmunds Unit then were dominated by majestic white pine. Logged-off in the 1800's and then swept repeatedly by wild fires, recovery has progressed slowly since the establishment of the national wildlife refuge in 1937. Huge fire-charred stumps in various stages of decay bear witness to the stately pines, spruces, and celars which once covered the hills, swamps, and stream bottomlands.

Areas that have escaped fires within the memory of man have been logged repeatedly at intervals of 30 to 60 years. Prior to 1900, long logs were harvested for lumber. Since the Federal Government acquired the land in 1937, second growth trees have been cut for pulpwood on the western one-third of the Edmunds Unit. In unburned areas, remnants of the old logging roads and lumber campsites are clearly discernible. Remains of log-driving dams are visible on Hobart Stream.

While not true wilderness in the strictest sense of the word, the Edmunds Unit, if set aside as wilderness, will eventually become wilderness. "Creative wilderness" is a more apt description of the Department's intent with respect to the Edmunds Unit. There will be high interest in the changing ecology as years pass by the serious student and casual visitor alike.

Birch Islands

The Birch Islands Unit, with a covering of trees and brush, has rarely been visited by man. Uninhabited throughout the centuries, the islands within this unit remain little jewels of unspoiled wilderness.

B. DESCRIPTION

Edmunds

The boundaries of the wilderness proposal within the Edmunds Study Unit may be described as follows: from the south boundary of the national wildlife refuge northerly along the west side of Crane Mill Road to North Trail; thence westerly to Hobart Stream; thence along the national wildlife refuge boundary west, south and east to the point of beginning. The wilderness proposal consists of about 2,775 acres within the 5,350 acre Edmunds Unit.

Birch Islands

The Birch Islands Unit is located in Whiting Bay and consists of two islands containing about 7 acres. The rocky soil and the spruce vegetative cover on the islands are essentially the same as on the mainland. At low tide they become one island, but they are always separated from the mainland. Federal ownership of the islands extends to the mean high water line.

C. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The wilderness proposal retains the important woodcock and waterfowl habitat in their present status and preserves the best potential wilderness area.