

direction to our wilderness conservation effort. Many of the refuge wild lands—including all those to be heard today—are located in the East and Midwest, where great national parks and national forests are not as common as they are in the West. Many of the wild areas on the refuges are relatively small and are surrounded by enormous urban concentrations. That they have survived so long, especially with the limited administrative protection available to them, is fortunate. That they are available still in their wild, natural condition is a tribute to the dedicated managers of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. More than that, this persistence of wildness on refuge lands is a great opportunity. Increasing pressures from developers of all kinds assure that the wild character of these areas will survive only if we grant it our strongest protection—the protection afforded by the Wilderness Act.

A special significance of the program is that so much of it is close to the people. It is close geographically. For example, the Great Swamp in New Jersey is but 30 miles from Manhattan. It is close also in the sense of being familiar. These smaller areas are intimate wilderness, remarkable because they are so distinct from the region in which they are found. The sense of contrast is vibrant on this land. The contrast is abrupt—deep, natural solitude replaces the urban scene.

S. 3502 provides for wilderness designation of the Wisconsin Islands; for the Michigan Islands, Huron Islands, and Seney refuges in Michigan; and for Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, Maine. This national wildlife refuge is one of the very few Federal areas in the Northeast containing wilderness resources.

For the fisherman, hunter, 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.

The proposed Seney Wilderness contains about 25,150 acres of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Schoolcraft County, Mich. Approximately two-thirds of the area is an outwash plain formed by a receding glacier, where treeless bogs and topographically oriented strips of bog forest form an unusual land type called a string bog. The proposed Seney Wilderness is considered to contain the southernmost example of this land type in North America. The remaining third of the area contains remnants of black spruce and white pine forest, though much of the area has been logged and has been altered by repeated fires. The entire area is relatively inaccessible and seldom visited.

Seney Refuge is a popular recreation area. The establishment of a wilderness within a little used portion of the refuge should enhance the recreational use of the refuge because of the national publicity a wilderness will stimulate.

The proposed Huron Islands Wilderness consists of eight small islands in Lake Superior within the Huron Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The islands, which are relatively isolated and seldom visited because of rough seas and limited landing sites, contain approximately 147 acres and are composed of pink and gray granite upthrusts. Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants cover two thirds of the island surface while the remainder is barren or moss- and lichen-covered rocks.