

There are two units within the proposed Great Swamp wilderness. These are the M. Hartley Dodge unit and the Harding units. They contain about 2,400 and 1,350 acres respectively. They are separated by a highway, the Meyersville Road, and are ecologically distinct units. M. Hartley Dodge unit is swamp-forest habitat while Harding is open marsh and marsh-swamp habitat.

Low ridges or knolls rising from 5 to 15 feet above the surrounding terrain are interspersed throughout the swamp. In several places the swamp opens into small marshes. A few remote island ridges support magnificent stands of beech with some trees reaching 14 feet in girth, and believed to be between 300 and 500 years old. Spectacular stands of mountain laurel and rhododendron are common plant species. Parts of the area have been farmed in the past and the fields have reverted to second-growth timber.

This proposed wilderness is the only extensive swamp-forest habitat of its type in northern New Jersey. It supports a wide variety of birds and mammals, as well as reptiles and amphibians. The varied natural habitat is used as nesting, resting, and feeding grounds by over 140 species of birds. Wood ducks, black ducks and mallards nest in the swamp. During migration large numbers of warblers are found in the forest.

White-tailed deer and ruffed grouse inhabit the area, especially where the swamp borders cropland, brush, and upland ridges. Raccoon, opossum, grey squirrel, and red fox are abundant with occasional sightings of weasels, grey fox, and mink reported.

For many years, professional and amateur naturalists have realized that the Great Swamp teems with many forms of life. It has become a classroom for schoolchildren and a field laboratory for college students. It is a natural masterpiece, only 30 miles west of Times Square and within easy driving distance of 30 million people.

Mr. Chairman, the Great Swamp is an educational and spiritual resource in the midst of an urban maze and provides a retreat where people can find solitude. Wilderness classification will assure its perpetuation for this and future generations to know and enjoy amidst the clamor of our modern eastern megalopolis.

S. 3425

Monomoy Island is an unstable coastal barrier beach located in the town of Chatham, Barnstable County, Mass. The island is bounded on the west by Nantucket Sound and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The island is 9 miles long and varies from one-fourth mile to 1½-miles wide. It is separated from the mainland by a shallow channel about one-half mile wide. The metropolitan centers of Boston, Mass., and Providence, R.I. are approximately 100 miles away.

Monomoy Island is formed and constantly changed by tides, currents, and wind. It is approximately 2,600 acres in size and its highest point is only 30 feet above sea level. During major storms the forces of nature have often caused drastic changes in its size and shape, particularly at the north end.

All except 4 acres of Monomoy Island were acquired as part of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, on June 1, 1944. These 4 acres, the site of a former lighthouse, belong to the Massachusetts Audubon Society and two private owners. Since its establishment as part of the