

Monomoy refuge, the island has been managed as a wild area. There have been few modifications of the natural habitat. There are 10 cabins occupied seasonably by persons holding life occupancy by court order issued at the time the refuge was established. The Bureau maintains two small service buildings on the island for purposes of administration. There are no roads on the island.

The island today shows little of man's influence, and no physical development has been carried on in recent years. Very little has been done that has modified the environment permanently. Plantings of native vegetation in the past to control erosion and provide food for wildlife have merged into the local floristic pattern. Potholes and low dikes constructed in the past have not altered the natural character of the island.

The ocean dunes are mostly devoid of vegetation, while interior dunes are covered with stabilizing beach grass and false heather. In the hollows and depressions are bayberry, beach plum, poison ivy, and patches of pitch pine. All of these natural plant associations are characteristic of coastal dunes. On the sound low, cordgrass marshes blend into extensive salt marsh flats. There are numerous small potholes and natural freshwater ponds. It provides habitat for a wide variety of migrating birds, and upland game including white-tailed deer.

Monomoy Island and its surrounding waters have an interesting history in which man's struggle against the ocean furnished the central theme. The list of ships wrecked on the treacherous shoals off Monomoy is formidable.

At times in the past, the island itself has been alternately attached and then separated from the mainland—such is the nature of barrier beaches of the Atlantic coast. The ocean current, storms, and winds constantly alter and change the landscape.

The historic and scenic Monomoy Island will make a significant contribution to the national wilderness preservation system, and I am pleased to recommend your favorable consideration of this proposal.

S. 3502

This bill contains provisions to designate lands located in six national wildlife refuges, in the States of Maine, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as wilderness.

The six units under consideration are geographically, geophysically, and ecologically distinct. Huron, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Birch Islands are island complexes, Seney is a bog-forest, and Edmunds is a second growth forest. Huron, Michigan, and Wisconsin Islands are colonial nesting bird sanctuaries, while Birch Islands contains habitat considered essential to wintering concentrations of the bald eagle.

The bog-forest area contains habitat of value to several endangered species and is one refuge area in this country where timber wolves may occasionally be seen. The second growth forest area contains habitat associations necessary to the perpetuation and management of the American woodcock.

To identify the individual wilderness proposals, I have arranged them in alphabetical order. Therefore, the first proposal I will speak on relative to S. 3502 is the Birch Islands wilderness in the State of Maine.