

tats for waterfowl and accommodate relatively significantly large numbers of migratory birds.

Immediately we ran into questions of what we were in a position to do under the wilderness concept. Down here (lower portion) we know we want to put in a substantial development program with substantial dikes, control structures, and the other facilities that would be necessary to go in this whole area to make this a real waterfowl refuge.

In this area (Harding unit) we propose to close off some of the old drainage ditches put in many years ago with small plugs to restore the conditions that were there prior to the time these ditches were dug.

We also have in our plans the prospect of putting in trails for nature observation to make the area more available to the relatively large numbers of people surrounding this location and without which either the area would not be utilized by people to any extent or it would be simply overwhelmed by public use.

So, as a management device, we feel some trails will be needed in this area. There are some trails in the M. Hartley Dodge unit, and unpaved roads, so it is not felt this area would be developed in that concept. But we did feel some developing was needed here (Harding unit) and intensive development here (lower portion), that is why this area is separated completely from the wilderness proposal.

We don't feel the modest plans we have for the installation of these ditch plugs to restore some of the marshes and for the modest trails will do violence to the wilderness concept when you consider the fact we are talking now of 3,750 acres in the middle of 15 to 20 million people.

There seems to be some recognition, I think, of the importance of this kind of an area for all of these people as a place where they can see nature and learn to understand man's relationship to nature, but we have to make some arrangements for them to get in and look around and have this firsthand experience with nature.

That generally explains our program.

Senator HANSEN. If I may, Mr. Chairman—

Senator METCALF. Go right ahead.

Senator HANSEN. You do plan to construct levees and improvements in the Harding habitat to the west, but in the other portion, while you will be making some improvement, largely your efforts would be restricted to bringing the area back to roughly what it was before man intruded in there; is that correct?

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. That is right, sir.

We felt it necessary since we did not propose to incorporate the road in the wilderness area, since we think there is a proscription against this, we did not propose to include it so we set up two units in order to set up our proposal with what we deemed to be Congress intention with respect to deletion of roads from wilderness areas.

Senator HANSEN. Have any recent traffic counts been made to indicate the usage of this road?

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. I have no figures of that sort and can only give a qualified answer to the question; my information is the road is lightly used. A part of it is oiled and the rest a gravel road.

Senator HANSEN. How much of it is oiled?

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. I can't give you that exactly, but less than one-fourth, just a small portion. We are acquiring, under the terms of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Migratory Bird Hunting Act, some