

Because of the unique recreational, scientific, and educational values of the Harding and M. Hartley Dodge areas, the Sierra Club enthusiastically supports the establishment of the Great Swamp Wilderness.

*Monomoy Wilderness, S. 3425.*—The wave-washed wilderness of Monomoy Island is one of the greatest shorebird areas in the country and one of the very few Atlantic barrier beaches not already committed to or slated for beach housing or mass recreational development. There are many hundreds of miles of beach open to beachbuggy travel, but there is only one Monomoy Island.

We support the establishment of Monomoy Wilderness and urge the continued restriction of over-the-sand vehicular travel to access to private inholdings and the acquisition of those inholdings and discontinuance of vehicular travel as soon as possible.

*Birch Islands Wilderness, S. 3502 (part).*—"Maine" and "wilderness" are almost synonymous in our cultural heritage, yet virtually no virgin timber remains in the State. The tiny Birch Islands in Whiting Bay are a microcosm of the classic wilderness concept—unspoiled, untrammelled, uninhabited and rarely visited. They deserve the recognition and protection of inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

*Edmunds Wilderness, S. 3502 (part).*—On the other hand, the Edmunds unit of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge has been touched by the hand of man, and been touched rather heavily. Yet, the area has, under the stewardship of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, recovered to an amazing degree, demonstrating nature's great regenerative capacity. The proposed Edmunds Wilderness is, as the Bureau has so aptly described it, "creative wilderness." A generation from now, once nature has been allowed to assert her healing ways, the Edmunds Wilderness will be one of the finest "pure" wilderness areas in the Northeast.

It is impossible to discuss the wilderness potential of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge without mentioning the more northerly Baring unit. Between the woodcock management areas of the Baring unit there is a roadless, de facto wilderness tract of some 4,000 to 5,000 acres. We are encouraged that the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has already announced plans to study the wilderness possibilities of the Baring unit in the second 3-year review period under the Wilderness Act. This is another fine example of the Bureau's responsiveness to the many expressions of public support for wilderness preservation.

In revising its Edmunds Wilderness proposal from 5,345 to 2,775 acres, the Bureau has sought to accommodate the various points of view expressed at the field hearing in Calais, Maine, last year. While we feel there is perhaps more wilderness potential in the Edmunds unit than is contained within the boundaries of the present proposal, we recognize the competing interests which the Bureau must recognize in its management of the area. Therefore, in a spirit of compromise, we support the establishment of a 2,775-acre Edmunds Wilderness. We believe the combination of the Edmunds Wilderness, the nonwilderness portion of the refuge unit, and the adjacent Cobscook Bay State Park will offer an optimum combination of recreational, scientific, and social values.