

life. And, in some cases, land practices needed to produce the optimum conditions for the particular species are not compatible with wilderness preservation. Generally speaking, while the National Wildlife Federation believes that wildernesses on such areas should be so designated when possible, if there is a conflict between wilderness preservation and proper management for attainment of the primary functions of these areas, the federation believes the latter practices must prevail.

We now should like to comment specifically about proposals before the committee.

S. 3379—GREAT SWAMP

The proposed Great Swamp Wilderness Area, located in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge of New Jersey, is only 3,750 acres in size and would be considered of a "vest-pocket" size by standards applicable to many other parts of the country. However, the location, virtually in the New York City metropolitan area, makes it doubly important. The fact that interested and concerned citizens raised more than \$1 million a few years ago to acquire almost 3,000 acres for the area attests to its high value.

Officers of our affiliate in New Jersey, Mr. Chairman, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, have visited the area in question and believe it has unique natural values which merit preservation in the public interest. This is a lowland swamp area covered with hardwood timber and brush. The lowlands are broken up by frequent ridges or knolls and small marshes. The area offers excellent special attractions in the spring, when mountain laurel and rhododendrons are in bloom, and in the fall, when changing leaves on oak, birch, maple, ash, gum, and beech trees are in full color. Unusually good stands of old beech trees are found in some portions of the proposed wilderness. Waterfowl and many other marsh-type species of wildlife abound in the area.

We recognize that the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife must reverse a previous land management action, that of drainage, by re-establishing a "plug" to retain flood waters. Once this minor management work is completed, the ecological succession can take over to return the entire area to its natural condition. In that condition, it can offer much to this great metropolitan area which is in such a short supply of natural areas. We recognize that aircraft overflights can hardly be avoided, in fact, may be desirable for waterfowl counts. However, we believe that sanitary facilities should be located on perimeter areas.

S. 3343—PELICAN ISLAND

We join our affiliate, the Florida Wildlife Federation, in believing the Pelican Island Refuge contains wilderness that should be included as a unit of the national wilderness preservation system. Since this was the first unit of the farflung national wildlife refuge to be established, it is appropriate that it was the first refuge unit to be recommended for wilderness status. While only 403 acres in size, it is of high strategic importance of special value to wildlife and would preserve a rapidly disappearing ecological type. It is especially desirable that colonial bird resources be protected.