

The Wilderness Society believes that East Huron Island is more valuable to the Nation as a dedicated wilderness area, with its unique biological and geological values preserved for future study and enjoyment, than as a source of quarry rock of which ample sources are available nearby.

We urge that the entire 147 acres of Huron Islands National Wildlife Refuge be designated for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Seney National Wildlife Refuge is located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan approximately halfway between Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie. State Highway 28, connecting these two cities, passes immediately north of the refuge, giving ready access to the area.

The Seney Refuge was established in 1935 as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. Establishment of the refuge followed a long history of land abuse within this region, where first the magnificent white pine were taken out, then the remaining forest was cut over on a "cut and get out" basis, and wildfire swept over the land.

The refuge now contains 94,455 acres, much of which is devoted to a restorative multiple-use program. A particularly significant program at Seney is the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's recreation and interpretative work. With a modern visitor center and a staff of naturalists, an effective educational program is offered the visiting public. In 1966 nearly 80,000 visitors stopped at Seney and benefited from this program.

Yet, even with this active public use program, and the extensive pond construction developments which have been made as part of the wildlife management work in parts of the refuge, a remarkable opportunity remains at Seney to bring a unique and essentially wild section of it into our National Wilderness Preservation System. For at Seney the intensive wildlife habitat management and public use occurs on the eastern two-thirds of the refuge, and a large and fascinating environment of wild land remains in its more remote western third.

The proposed Seney wilderness area consists of 25,150 acres in a compact unit. The present landscape form may be traced to the activity of ice age glaciation which left behind an outwash sand plain. The sand, during drought periods, was blown into dune formations which now have been vegetated with tamarack and other tree and brush species. These extinct dunes form a topographically oriented pattern of slightly elevated, parallel sand knolls surrounded by boggy areas of peat and muck.

The resulting landscape is known as a "string bog" and constitutes a subarctic land type which reaches its southernmost extent in North America in Seney Refuge. Two-thirds of the study area is characterized by this unique complex of nearly treeless string bogs and parallel forested knolls.

The remainder of the area was once a white pine forest. It is now recovering from burning and early-day abuse with heavy growths of aspen, jack pine, and other less prominent species. The recovery of its