

natural community is in itself a fascinating and important ecological process.

Wildlife species which use the area proposed as wilderness include deer, bear, coyote, red fox, beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, osprey, Canada geese, black duck, mallard blue winged teal, sandhill cranes, wood duck, and ruffed grouse. Spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and moose, all of which are in low numbers in this part of Michigan, are also found in the area.

This portion of the Seney Refuge contains habitat of value to the bald eagle and timber wolf, which are listed by the Secretary of the Interior as endangered species. Both species have been observed in recent months within the proposed wilderness. They will prosper if the area is maintained as wilderness and if disturbing human use is properly controlled. The Bureau's efforts on behalf of these endangered species will be most fruitful if these efforts are concentrated on environmental protection and control of human use.

At the public field hearing in 1967, the Bureau proposed that a 19,150-acre area be designated as wilderness. On the basis of a thorough field inspection by our staff and Michigan conservationists, the Wilderness Society joined other groups in asking that an additional 6,000-acre area of contiguous wild land be added to that proposal. This proposed addition received strong support from local conservationists who spoke at the hearing.

Following its review of the initial proposal and the hearing record, the Bureau has proposed designation of the 6,000 additional acres which it found suitable for wilderness protection. It is this revised proposal for a 25,150-acre unit that the committee now has before it and which the Wilderness Society fully supports.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to commend this proposal to the committee as an excellent illustration of the provisions of the Wilderness Act which provide for citizen participation in the wilderness review procedures. In Michigan, as in other parts of the country, local citizen conservationists have taken the initiative to independently study potential wilderness lands and to review proposals in a constructive manner in cooperation with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The efforts of these people and their local groups are well rewarded by the responsiveness of the Bureau and the Wilderness Society here wishes to commend it for its fine work on these Michigan proposals.

The society is pleased to note that these three proposals are embodied in legislation cosponsored by the entire Michigan congressional delegation. This bipartisan support for these important and noncontroversial designations is a further example of responsiveness to the public interest as expressed in support of these proposals.

The Wilderness Society supports the administration's three excellent proposals for refuge wilderness in Michigan.

WISCONSIN ISLANDS WILDERNESS

The proposed Wisconsin Islands Wilderness comprises both the Green Bay and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuges. The two refuges include three islands, all located in Lake Michigan close off the shore of the Door Peninsula, 80 miles northeast of Green Bay, Wis.