

significance. This kind of perspective was developed 2 years ago by an important symposium entitled "The Maine Coast: Prospects and Perspectives." Held at the Center for Resource Studies at Bowdoin College, the symposium brought experts together to consider the resources and environment of the Maine coast and the direction planning and development should take. Charles W. Eliot stated the challenge:

We are concerned with how to preserve what little of the wilderness of the frontier is left. For us here today, the question is how to manage our resources so as to preserve the special qualities of the Maine coast.

Another contributor pointed out the need for taking deliberate action:

Much of Maine has escaped, up to now, the kind of development and exploitation that has blighted so much of the eastern seaboard. Change is on the doorstep, but there are still miles of Maine coast that have changed little in the last three hundred years. There is still time to think and to plan to shape a future for the coast of Maine that will make it possible for people to live and prosper there without sacrificing all natural beauty and the general quality of life. But there is not much time.

A part, certainly, of an ideal environment for the coast of Maine, as for any region, is a wide spectrum of habitats and an ecological diversity.

It is recognized that, as the forest matures, it will be less attractive to both deer and woodcock. However, the marshes and alder-type growth will continue to provide woodcock cover and the pulpwood lands of hundreds of thousands of acres in the region will continue to favor both species. On the other hand, wildlife associated with mature forests will be provided habitat which is not currently available. This diversity of habitat is important, and fully justifies the setting aside of this comparatively small wilderness area.

Similarly, a well-integrated region should make available a wide spectrum of opportunities for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of natural beauty. In another paper at the Bowdoin symposium, Dr. Joseph L. Fisher, President of Resources for the Future, Inc., suggested that, taking the coast as a well-defined region, our planning should be directed—

toward a Maine Coastal Park and Recreation System. What I think we need now in the outdoor recreation industry is an approach that looks at a large geographic area within which there would be on the one hand a variety of outdoor recreation resources and on the other hand a variety of demands for them.

Opportunities for enjoyment of wilderness recreation—hiking, nature study, and so forth—should be retained as part of the recreational spectrum offered to visitors to Maine's coastal region. A significant opportunity does not exist now for such activities in the Moosehorn Refuge.

Designation as a wilderness area will provide the needed additional strength protecting Moosehorn's wilderness resources and assuring that they will persist for the benefit of future generations. It will add the permanence and strength of specific congressional action to the existing administrative protection of these lands.

The Wilderness Society believes that designation of a 2,775-acre Edmunds wilderness and a 7-acre Birch Islands wilderness will secure an important asset for Maine and for the Nation.