

act of Congress its relatively unspoiled character. Monomoy will continue to attract nature enthusiasts seeking a quality wilderness experience.

THE GREAT SWAMP WILDERNESS AREA

S. 3379 would designate a 3,750-acre wilderness in two units within the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in northern New Jersey. This hearing marks the latest chapter in the effort to protect this swamp, an effort which will be a major contribution to the history of natural resources management in the sixties.

In a sense the conservation history of Great Swamp goes back to 1667, the year William Penn acquired the land from the Delaware Indians. During the ensuing three centuries, men have made their marks on the surrounding land—the region has become the very focal point of our largest metropolitan concentration. Today, the population density of northern New Jersey is over 900 persons per square mile—intermediate between the density of Japan and India. But though man has long since subjugated nearly the entire region, a few wild places remain.

One of these is the Great Swamp. Literally within sight of the Manhattan skyline—Times Square is 30 miles away—the Great Swamp persists as a last remarkably wild area. This opportunity has generated a noteworthy citizen effort to conserve the swamp in its wild condition.

Conservationists had already made a substantial beginning toward acquiring property in the Great Swamp when, in 1959, the Port of New York Authority announced it favored the area as the site for a giant international jetport. This spurred activity to save the swamp. Thousands of persons throughout the United States donated over a million dollars to buy more than 3,000 acres for the wildlife refuge. By May 1964, when the refuge was created, the Great Swamp Committee of the North American Wildlife Foundation had donated 2,700 acres to the Federal Government as the nucleus of the present refuge area. More recently this work has been taken over by the North Jersey Conservation Foundation.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife now owns some 4,000 acres in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the land acquisition program will eventually bring the total refuge area to approximately 5,800 acres. Other units of government have acquired smaller adjacent holdings which are also being preserved.

This effort to preserve Great Swamp in the face of the jetport proposal is an outstanding example of citizen concern for preserving selected portions of our natural heritage. This cooperative project is nationally known as a splendid example of how local people and their Government have joined together to preserve a segment of natural America for the continued enjoyment and inspiration of all citizens.

This outstanding conservation effort has sufficiently demonstrated the overwhelming public interest in preserving the area for its natural values. The Wilderness Society fully supports the President's proposal for a Great Swamp wilderness and urges your favorable action. The work of conservationists in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, in the Department of the Interior, and in this committee, all seeking to protect the Great Swamp, will endure as an excellent example of conservation action.