

The Seney National Wildlife Refuge is located inland on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The refuge, established in 1935, now includes a little less than 100,000 acres. While the refuge has been considerably developed and the land manipulated to serve the functions of wildlife habitat improvement, this work has been largely restricted to the eastern portions, and a large wild area remains in the western part of the refuge. It is this 25,150-acre western portion which is now proposed for wilderness designation.

This is the largest of the proposals being considered by the committee today, and it presents a different facet of the wilderness purpose than the island refuges I have already discussed. Seney is a more extensive wilderness and it will serve not only as a scientific natural reserve, but as a wilderness with considerable recreation potential as well.

The natural values to be protected by this Seney wilderness are of much significance, for the land forms found in this area are quite unusual. The area was once scoured by glaciers, which left behind a vast sand plain. Sand dunes formed on this plain, but in more recent times the area has become moist and the dunes remain now only in the form of parallel knolls separating low boggy areas. The resulting landscape shows a distinct pattern of these alternating knolls and bogs, and is known as a "string bog." String bogs are a phenomenon of the subarctic and are found nowhere farther south in North America than in this proposed wilderness. A detailed preliminary study of the land form and the ecological characteristics of the life community it supports was recently published in the journal *Ecology* ("String Bogs and Other Patterned Organic Terrain Near Seney, Upper Michigan," by M. L. Heinselman, *Ecology*, vol. 46, No. 162, Winter, 1965). The research for this article was conducted in the proposed Seney wilderness, which will be of continuing interest to ecologists and other scientists in the future.

The original proposal for this wilderness unit included 19,150 acres. At the public hearing in 1967 many people favored an addition to the area of some 6,000 acres along the southeastern boundary. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife further studied the area and has responded by adding the full additional area, thus protecting nearly all of the unique string bogs found in the refuge.

Other portions of the proposed wilderness unit support regenerating forest, including stands of white, red, and jack pine, black spruce, tamarack and a variety of hardwood species. Wildlife species include coyote, bear, numerous deer and beaver, porcupine, as well as blue heron, geese, hawks, osprey and sandhill crane. Less numerous are spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and moose. A few bald eagles nest in the area and timber wolves have been reported. These latter two species are listed by the Secretary of the Interior as endangered species. Wilderness designation of this area will protect some of the wild habitat necessary for their survival.

In addition to the strictly scientific interest in the Seney wilderness, it has potential for wilderness recreation use by those willing to hike in. The opportunity which exists here to find wild solitude in untrammelled surroundings, will increase in value as surrounding lands come under increasingly heavy exploitation and development.

The Seney area will fill an important, indeed unique niche in the Lake States region. It will increase substantially the size and access-