

ibility of protected wilderness resources available as a part of the spectrum of recreational opportunities for the entire Midwest. Further, it will increase and diversify the variety of habitats and opportunities for wilderness experience to be found in this rapidly developing area. In supporting this proposal at the 1967 field hearing, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation stated that "Due to the many competitive uses for land, there is a need to set aside wilderness areas so that a balance of outdoor recreation opportunities will be available to the people of the Midwest. Land that meets the requirement for wilderness is difficult to locate in the Midwest." Fortunately, some such land has been located while the option is still available to protect it. Along with Isle Royale National Park, the Huron Islands, Wisconsin Islands, and Michigan Islands refuge wilderness areas, and the State of Michigan's Porcupine Mountains State Park, the Seney Wilderness Area will offer the citizens of this region and of the Nation a significant wilderness resource in the northwoods of the Lake States.

Mr. Chairman, the Sierra Club and its Mackinac Chapter strongly support these designations as embodied in S. 3502 to designate wilderness units in the Michigan Islands, Huron Islands, Wisconsin Islands, and Seney National Wildlife Refuges. These are all worthy and well-considered proposals, bringing into the secure protection of the National Wilderness Preservation System a sampling of the variety of landscape and life communities which are natural in the upper Lake States region.

Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Is Mr. Waldrop here?

(No response.)

Senator METCALF. We don't want to shut any of the witnesses off, we want to give everyone an opportunity.

Mr. BRANDBOG. I am not sure Mr. Waldrop was here this morning.

Senator METCALF. When he sends his statement in it will be included at this point. Also the statement of the Defenders of Wildlife which has been submitted by Mr. Alfred G. Etter, field representative.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF ROBERT WALDROP, SIERRA CLUB

My name is Robert Waldrop. I am employed by the Sierra Club as the Assistant to the Washington Representative and am presenting the views of the club on the Pelican Island Wilderness Proposal, S. 3343.

The Sierra Club is pleased to give our full support to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's recommendation that 18 islands of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge be placed in the Wilderness Preservation System.

The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge is located on the east coast of Florida in an area under rising pressure from real estate development. As the region becomes more and more developed, the refuge lands will become an increasingly important habitat for native fish and wildlife. It is important that these lands, an ecosystem which is rapidly disappearing, be given permanent protection.

Much of the mainland portion of the refuge was ditched and drained by mosquito control projects before its inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands, which amount to 213 acres, do not meet the standards of the Wilderness Act and are not included in the Bureau's proposal. The remaining 403 acres of the refuge was judged to meet the Wilderness Act criteria and is being recommended for inclusion into the Wilderness Preservation System. This area consists of the islands of Roseate, Pelican Roosevelt, Paul's, Nelson's, Preacher's, Horseshoe, Long, David, Plug, N & S Oyster, Middle, and the Egret Island Group.

Prior to the field hearings in April of 1967 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and