

Wildlife outlined these islands as having the characteristics and values qualifying them for inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. They comprised the study category on which the Bureau heard testimony at the local hearings in Vero Beach, Florida. At these hearings the Bureau received almost unanimous support for their initial proposal, which is substantially the same as that before us today.

On the basis of the strong support shown at the local level, the Bureau subsequently proposed to the Secretary of Interior and then to Congress that Wilderness Act protection be afforded to all lands included in their original plan. The present plan, including all or part of the 18 islands in the refuge, appears to have nearly unanimous support from the local level through the White House. It certainly has the support of the Sierra Club.

Furthermore, the Sierra Club hopes that this committee will move with all possible speed toward adding these deserving lands and marshes to the Wilderness Preservation System.

The Sierra Club does, however, have some concern regarding the language of S. 3343, specifically that of Sec. 2 and 3. We would suggest that the provisions of Sec. 3 be deleted and those of Sec. 2 be amended as outlined by Mr. Soucie in his statement on the Great Swamp, Monomoy, and Moosehorn refuges.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to present our views on this legislation and hope that the committee will soon act favorably on this bill and our suggested amendments.

STATEMENT OF ALFRED G. ETTER FOR THE DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Mr. Chairman: Defenders of Wildlife is a national, non-profit, educational organization with a membership of approximately 14,000. We represent that large portion of our population that enjoys seeing wild life in its natural setting. It is our concern that this opportunity shall remain to all succeeding generations. Because of this concern we want to encourage your committee to approve the maximum possible acreage for the Wilderness Areas considered in the subject bills.

Man's dealings with nature in America could hardly be termed a fair compromise. He has exploited almost everything that could be exploited profitably, and the remnants of unexploited land have really only persisted because our technology and finances have not yet made exploitation feasible. This will not always be the case. Especially in the field of commercialized recreation, pressure will mount to invade and upset the remaining natural areas of our nation, thus destroying the very essence of the creation part of recreation.

These areas where man's technology has remained temporarily at bay constitute the only hope of survival for countless species of wildlife and plant species that require a dependable, undisturbed and familiar place to persist. These remaining wild places constitute stepping stones for migratory species of many kinds, including, waterfowl, shorebirds, song birds, birds of prey, butterflies, and obscure species of life which serve to hold the chain of life together. Each stepping stone has now become absolutely essential. Removing one "stone" is very apt to destroy the continuity of a migration route and so the continuity of a species. Man is not the agent to decide which species shall persist. We have a minimum obligation, as a part of our contract with the earth, to preserve every species which inhabits the earth with us. The only way to preserve species is to preserve their habitat.

Lest it may seem that we are overconcerned about other species besides man, we should also stress that the retention of wilderness in its original condition is the most certain method of preserving man's own environment, for although he may live with walls, windows, roads and noise, his survival depends on the maintenance of the machinery of nature which renews the air, soil and water upon which we depend.

We will not attempt to speak in specific terms about each of the areas involved, but will mention only the Huron Islands and the Seney areas.

HURON ISLANDS

The Huron Islands in Lake Superior have had the good fortune to remain comparatively inaccessible to man. The nearest shore is owned by the Huron Mountain Club, whose property has been a model for private conservation effort since early in the century. The combination of undeveloped wild shoreline and