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STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MONDALE (for himself and Mr. HUMPHREY):

S. 2097. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I am today introducing a bill to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area. I am pleased that Senator HUMPHREY is joining me as a cosponsor of this measure.

This bill provides for the preservation of a rare, environmental resource—an urban wildlife recreation area. It is offered in recognition of the unique qualities of the Lower Minnesota River Valley within the Twin Cities metropolitan region as a haven for waterfowl and other wildlife and as an exceptional resource for recreation and nature study.

Located within a few minutes drive of downtown Minneapolis, the Lower Minnesota provides a habitat for more than 275 species of migrating birds. In the spring tens of thousands of ducks and other waterfowl use the Minnesota River flood plain. White tailed deer also inhabit the valley along with mink, raccoon, grey and red fox, beaver, and other animals.

The proposal I am offering today represents the culmination of an intensive effort spanning several years during which residents of the Minnesota River Valley worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with State and local environmental organizations to develop a realistic and workable plan to protect this important resource. Supporters of the bill include the Lower Minnesota Valley Citizens Committee, the Minnesota Izaak Walton League, the Minnesota River Audubon Club, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the Burnsville Environmental Council, the Bloomington Natural Resources Commission, and many other groups. The Nature Conservancy has offered its assistance in the effort to preserve the valley.

There can be little doubt of why the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Recreation Area concept has sparked such enthusiasm among residents of the river valley and throughout the State. In no other major metropolitan area in America would it be possible to find a river valley of equal natural beauty or abundance and diversity of wildlife. With other outdoor recreational and nature study facilities in the Twin Cities already straining to capacity, this rich natural area would be easily accessible to local residents and visitors.

Within the proposed area, visitors would have an opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat and to enjoy hiking, birdwatching, photography, nature study, hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-oriented activities. Schools serving the metropolitan region would have an outstanding resource to use in the field study of environmental interrelationships and in stimulating an interest in living things through firsthand outdoor experiences.

While each of these opportunities could be assured by the creation of the

proposed wildlife recreation area, there is a danger that they may be permanently lost if no action is taken. The principal threat to the flood plain is that of continuing intrusion by development. Urban pressure could soon destroy this magnificent resource unless there is adequate provision for its preservation.

The proposal I introduce today is designed to prevent such a tragedy. It would designate the segment of the Minnesota River flood plain between the city of Jordan and Fort Snelling State Park as a national wildlife recreation area. This corridor would be managed according to guidelines established jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate units of State and local government. The guidelines would be set forth in a comprehensive plan to be completed within 2 years of enactment of the bill. Federal assistance would be available to help State and local governments pay up to 60 percent of the cost of acquiring lands and easements within the wildlife recreation area.

In addition, the bill authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge as the centerpiece of wildlife preservation and enhancement efforts. The refuge would be composed of nine units, totaling 9,540 acres of prime habitat for waterfowl, deer, and other forms of wildlife. It would also include an interpretive center for environmental education and study of wildlife in its natural habitat. Funding for the refuge would be authorized in accordance with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Navigation, an activity which is vital to Minnesota agriculture, would not be affected by this proposal, nor would it attempt to remove evidence of man's presence in areas that are already developed, such as those within the communities of Burnsville, Shakopee, Chaska, and Savage. Instead, the bill seeks to assure future protection of areas in the flood plain whose primary value lies in their richness as a wildlife resource and to permit greater coordination of Federal, State, and local programs affecting the natural qualities of the entire river valley.

As one who is fortunate to have an opportunity to see the lower Minnesota Valley virtually every time I return home, I think it would be impossible to overemphasize what a superb resource it is. It is one that is worthy of national, as well as State and local pride. But I think we must be realistic in recognizing that it is only an accident of history that has allowed the lower Minnesota to remain much the way it was hundreds of years ago. We now have an opportunity to assure that man's carelessness in the rush for new development sites does not deprive future generations of an irreplaceable natural asset. I hope we will take this opportunity to preserve the lower Minnesota, thereby assuring that our children and their children will be able to use and enjoy this valuable, but fragile, resource.

Mr. President, as evidence of the interest in and support for this bill, I ask unanimous consent that an article and an editorial from the Minnesota Valley Sun and an article from the Minneapolis

Tribune be printed in the RECORD, together with the text of my bill and a copy of a study report on the river, entitled "A Wildlife Resource in an Urban Environment."

There being no objection, the bill and material were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2097

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the preservation and enhancement of highly significant wildlife habitat in the Lower Minnesota River Valley in the State of Minnesota, for the protection of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife and to provide an opportunity for wildlife-oriented recreation and nature study within the open space so preserved, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and directed to designate as herein provided, a national wildlife recreation area to be known as the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation area") which boundaries are described as follows:

(1) That portion of the Lower Minnesota River flood plain which lies between the city of Jordan, Minnesota and Fort Snelling State Park excluding that industrialized portion in the municipalities of Savage, Chaska, Shakopee, and Burnsville, Minnesota.

(2) Areas adjacent to the flood plain that are necessary for public access and/or safety and well-being of the visiting public and/or operation and maintenance of the wildlife recreation area.

SEC. 2 (a). To implement the purpose of this Act, the Secretary shall immediately acquire and establish within the boundaries of the "recreation area" a national wildlife refuge known as the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (hereinafter referred to as the "refuge") to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There shall be included within the boundaries of the refuge those lands, marshes, submerged lands and open waters in the lower Minnesota River Valley area generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge," dated 1975, and which comprise approximately 9,540 acres within nine units to be known as the Long Meadow Lake Unit (2,100 acres), Black Dog Lake Unit (1,300 acres), Coleman Lake Unit (410 acres), Bloomington Ferry Unit (160 acres), Townline Unit (140 acres), Savage Unit (330 acres), Grass-Rice Lake Unit (2,500 acres), Chaska Lake Unit (400 acres) and Louisville Swamp Unit (2,200 acres), except that the Secretary may from time to time make adjustments in the boundaries of the refuge as he determines are necessary. Said boundary map shall be on file and available for public inspections in the offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

(b) The Secretary may acquire lands and waters or interests therein within the boundaries of the refuge by donation, purchase with donated, transfer or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(c) The Secretary shall administer the lands, waters and interests therein acquired for the refuge in accordance with the provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 927; 16 U.S.C. (668dd-668ee); except that the Secretary may utilize such additional statutory authority as may be available to him for the conservation and management of wildlife and natural resources, the development of wildlife recreation opportunities, wildlife interpretation and environmental education as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(d) The Secretary shall construct, administer and maintain at an appropriate site

within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a wildlife interpretive center for the purpose of promoting environmental education, and to afford visitors an opportunity for the study of wildlife in its natural habitat.

(e) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3(a). To further implement the purpose of this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with the State of Minnesota and political subdivisions thereof, shall formulate within two years after this Act takes effect a comprehensive plan for the protection, preservation and interpretation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area, but he shall not spend more than \$500,000 of Federal funds thereon. The Secretary will delineate and provide management guidelines for areas constituting the following categories:

Category I—The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to be acquired and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of this Act.

Category II—Public nature-recreation areas to be acquired in fee, or through lease, easement or other types of agreement and managed by the State and/or Regional, County or municipal governments under the provisions of this Act.

Category III—Privately-owned lands that will (through easement compensation and protection) remain undeveloped in a natural environment condition with public use subject to the owners' desires.

SEC. 4. The Secretary may grant financial assistance to the State of Minnesota and political subdivisions thereof for its acquisition of lands and interests in Category II and III lands lying within the area designated as the wildlife recreation area. Any grant made under this section shall be only for lands or interests in land acquired by the State and political subdivisions thereof after designation of the wildlife recreation area, as provided by this Act, and the total of all grants under this section shall not exceed 60 percent of the cost to preserve 4,000 acres and shall be subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the Secretary.

SEC. 5(a). Any payment made by the Secretary under the provisions of the Section 4 of this Act shall be made subject to the understanding and agreement by the State of Minnesota and any political subdivision thereof that the conversion, use, or disposal, for purpose contrary to the purposes of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, of any land acquired by said state or political subdivisions thereof with funds supplied in part by the United States pursuant to said section, shall result in a right of the United States to compensation therefor from said State or political subdivisions in the amount of sixty (60) per centum of the fair market value of the land, exclusive of any improvements thereon, as determined at the time of such conversion, use or disposal.

SEC. 8. There are to be appropriated sufficient funds to carry out the provisions of this Act, not including funds to be expended under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act for the purchase of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

[A Study Report—Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge]

A WILDLIFE RESOURCE IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The Lower Minnesota River Valley, gently winding through metropolitan Minnesota, is surrounded but not subdued by urbanization. Its bottomlands are still wild and rich with life. The river banks are covered with great elm, cottonwood and ash trees. Beyond these natural levees are vast spring-fed

marshes interspersed with lush brush patches, grassy meadows and small farm fields.

Inhabiting these fertile bottomlands is a variety and abundance of life unknown to most other metropolitan areas. Here, unseen and forgotten, wildlife and plant species have united in harmony with the waters, creating an incomparable river environment.

Man, too, has made his contribution to the river floodplain environment. People have polluted its waters, stripped its protective vegetation, filled its marshes with garbage and crisscrossed its shores with utility lines. Despite this urban encroachment, the river floodplain still remains an outstanding wildlife area, a tribute to nature's perseverance.

CITIZENS CONCERN

Some citizens, alarmed with continual destruction of this unique urban resource, have organized to protect the river floodplain. They have distributed informational materials and have held public meets. Their efforts have led to a congressional request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigate the possibility of establishing a national wildlife refuge in the Valley.

In response, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that a national wildlife refuge could be established in the Minnesota Valley between Jordan and Fort Snelling. This brochure summarizes the study that was conducted by the Service.

A REFUGE

A Minnesota Valley refuge, if established, could become one of 370 other units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The mission of the System is to provide and safeguard a national network of lands and waters to meet the need for areas where the entire spectrum of human benefits associated with wildlands and wildlife is enhanced. A Minnesota Valley national wildlife refuge could support that broad mission by keeping in public trust, in an urban location, an important natural floodplain which contributes significantly to the wildland and wildlife heritage of this nation.

REFUGE OBJECTIVES

A Minnesota Valley national wildlife refuge could provide wildlife-oriented activities to broaden man's understanding and appreciation of the environment. It could work in concert with other natural resource units in the River Valley which are or will be managed by the State Department of Natural Resources, County park organizations and local municipal park departments. Together, they could preserve much of the floodplain and ensure that it continues to function as a natural system.

Specifically, the objectives of the refuge could be to:

Preserve a critical portion of the Minnesota River Valley with its wildlife and natural habitat.

Provide an urban wildlife area for hiking, birdwatching, photography, nature study, hunting, fishing and other wildlife-oriented activities.

Provide a unique educational resource to all ages by assisting with field studies of environmental interrelationships, stimulating curiosity and investigation of living things by offering a variety of first-hand outdoor experiences.

REFUGE PROGRAMS

Wildlife production and maintenance

Waterfowl Production: The refuge could be managed to produce three important species of ducks—mallards, wood ducks and blue-winged teal. Management could focus on improvement of nesting habitat and maintenance of brood areas. Special attention could be given to the protection of local broodstock. Waterfowl nesting habitat could be improved by establishing suitable ground cover, installation of nesting structures and a forest management program.

Rearing areas for waterfowl broods could be improved by carp control and management of marsh vegetation. The refuge could help increase the metro area nesting flock of Canada geese by providing nesting habitat. The refuge also could participate in a trumpeter swan restoration project by assisting the Hennepin County Park Reserve District with their on-going program.

Waterfowl Maintenance: The marsh and upland areas could be managed to maintain spring and fall populations of both ducks and geese at levels that could provide ample opportunity to observe waterfowl in their natural habitat. This could be done without causing a significant redistribution of waterfowl or waterfowl harvest from other areas of the flyway. The refuge also might serve to improve the distribution of large Canada geese now moving into the Rochester, Minnesota area where populations are near capacity level.

The refuge could protect and provide for migrating canvasbacks and redheads. It could also be managed to control the increasing wintering mallard flocks to maintain current distribution patterns and control disease. Production and maintenance management could begin immediately without new development by establishing closed areas, controlled hunting, control of carp populations and manipulation of vegetation.

Wildlife Diversity: The area has an abundant variety of birds and mammals (over 200 species) due to the various types of habitat. Many people enjoy the diversity of wildlife on-site, but the same wildlife is enjoyed off-site since it often ventures into adjacent residential areas. The refuge could be managed to maintain this diversification so that the great mix of wildlife is perpetually enjoyed by the public.

Wildlife and wildlands appreciation

Visitors could observe and enjoy wildlife through programs and facilities specifically designed for that purpose. There could be foot trails, connected to the proposed State Minnesota River Valley Trail System, to lead people to observation blinds and elevated platforms for enhancing their wildlife viewing experience. Signs and brochures could help the visitor interpret and understand what he sees. In addition to the self-guided facilities, there could be guided tours and demonstrations by naturalists who could assist visitors in learning about and enjoying the floodplain environment.

Environmental education

Suitable outdoor study areas are in short supply in the Twin Cities metro area; existing centers are filled to near capacity. There is a special need for those types of wild areas which can be visited in half a day.

The proposed areas could provide space and limited facilities where outdoor programs in natural science and environmental education could be conducted for all age groups, with particular emphasis on serving inner-city schools.

Fishing and hunting

Hunting and sport fishing are still popular activities on the floodplain. Waterfowl and small game hunters pursue ducks, pheasants and rabbits with shotguns while bow-and-arrow hunters seek deer.

These activities could continue to be encouraged on a controlled basis, particularly river fishing. Public access could be improved and fishing sites developed so only a minimum of equipment is needed. The low-cost form of outdoor recreation could then be easily accessible by both public and private transportation and equally available to all citizens. Limited types of hunting could be made available with priority emphasis given to youth programs.

Research and scientific studies

Because of its urban location near a multitude of educational institutions, the refuge

could provide an excellent opportunity for scientific research studies related to monitoring, preserving or improving the natural environment. Refuge personnel can designate sites and make available facilities for such studies.

Historic preservation

There are approximately 40 historic sites within the Minnesota River Valley between the Village of Carver and Fort Snelling. Those which could be acquired could become part of the total interpretive program and be used to illustrate the interrelationship of wildlife, Indians and early settlers. In addition, those that qualify could be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Geology

Eleven thousand years ago, vast melt waters of the retreating Wisconsin Glacier formed an inland sea called Lake Agassiz. The only outlet at that time, the Glacial River Warren, carved the wide valley that is now known as the Minnesota River Valley. Torrential waters fed the Warren, which varied from one to five miles wide and from 75 to 200 feet deep. When the last ice age came to an end, the River Warren gradually receded. Today, this broad glacial valley is occupied by a much smaller Minnesota River. In the lower stretches of the river valley, there is now an abundance of seeps and springs. These are trapped by a natural levee along the river channel which has created a series of marshes and lakes.

History

The marshes and lakes of the Lower Minnesota River Valley have always been known for their abundance of fish and wildlife. Bluffs rising above the valley floor were once dotted with buffalo and elk, an important source of food for the Dakota or Sioux Indians. These native Americans searched for natural foods along the river bottoms that comprised the bulk of their diet—ducks, geese, fish, turtles, deer, wild rice, plant tubers, fruits, nuts, maple sap and others.

By 1860, white settlers were establishing farms all along the Valley and they, too, learned to depend on the river bottoms for the wild staples of their diet. One local resident reports that his father homesteaded above Black Dog Lake in 1856 and ate buffalo and passenger pigeons as a boy. Later, that individual's own family feasted on ducks, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens and pike.

In recent times, cropland has been increased in the lowlands along the river. Other impacts causing destruction of traditional wildlife habitat include development of landfills, quarries and industries. Conversion of floodplain environments for commercial and industrial production has taken a heavy toll in things natural, wild and free. Yet, amazingly, many of the species which gave sustenance to native American and settlers still occur abundantly throughout the Valley.

Vegetation

The refuge study area is located in a prairie-forest transition area. A representative cross-section of the river valley shows distinct zones of vegetation. Plant life changes from moist, grassy meadows on the valley floor to maple-basswood forests on the lower slopes and to dry oak savannas with prairie grasses near the bluff tops.

The floodplain forest along the river consists mainly of elm, silver maple, willow, cottonwood, ash, box elder and aspen. While large cottonwoods tend to line the river and silver maples grow in rather homogeneous stands, most forested areas are populated with mixed species.

The valley's large wetlands and shallow lakes are edged with dense willow, aspen, ash and dogwood. Open wet meadows surrounding marshy areas are dominated by reed canary grass, cutgrass, whitetop, bone-

set, swamp milkweed, marsh dock, sedge, smartweed, boneset and cordgrass. Extending far into the water of the area's marshes and lakes are vast stands of phragmites, bulrushes, cattails, sedges, arrowhead, plantain, smartweed and wild rice.

Waterfowl

During spring migration, tens of thousands of waterfowl use this stretch of Minnesota Valley floodplain. Observers report that in the spring of 1959, approximately 5,000 lesser scaup, 1,000 canvasbacks and 1,000 coots rested on Fisher Lake alone. In the fall of 1971, an estimated 10,000 teal, mallards, wood ducks and other species used the Rice Lake/Grass Lake area. By October 1 of each year, between 30 and 40 thousand waterfowl congregate on the refuge study area. These concentrations account for a high level of hunting success throughout the area.

Small numbers of waterfowl have traditionally wintered on the ice-free springs and fast-flowing streams of the Lower Minnesota Valley. Since 1952, 200 to 300 acres of water at Black Dog Lake have been kept open by the action of warm water discharged from the Northern States Power electrical generating plant there, causing numbers of wintering waterfowl to increase considerably. Approximately 4,500 mallards, 850 goldeneyes and 50 black ducks presently winter at Black Dog Lake.

Protected whistling swans and increasingly rare canvasback ducks traditionally use Rice and Grass Lakes during spring migration. In all, 24 waterfowl species have been recorded here.

Lower Minnesota Valley wood duck nesting habitat is excellent. Other principal species of waterfowl produced here include blue-winged teal, mallards and shovellers. Some of the metropolitan area's estimated 200 pairs of Canada geese could be expected to expand into the refuge study area if suitable sanctuary were provided. The marshes of the refuge study area could be much more productive than other metropolitan wetlands because of their fertility and seclusion.

Other birds

The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club and the Minneapolis Bird Club have long kept extensive records on birds seen in this area. They have recorded approximately 275 species during migration. About 100 species nest locally. The Valley's shallow lakes and marshes attract an abundance of water-loving species. Little green herons, black-crowned night herons, bitterns, black terns, yellowlegs, killdeers, spotted sandpipers and rails are also frequently seen and heard calling from the marshes; and good cover adjacent to small grain crops along the river bottoms has maintained excellent pheasant populations.

Mammals

White-tailed deer are common throughout the proposed refuge. Up to 600 have been counted along this 25-mile stretch of river bottoms during the winter when deer move into traditional yarding areas.

Furbearers such as muskrats, mink and beaver have always been abundant in the floodplain marshes. Raccoons, red and gray foxes, woodchucks, weasels, cottontail rabbits, squirrels, bats, shrews and many species of mice are found throughout the uplands.

Fish

Although these shallow floodplain lakes are subject to frequent winter kills, their fertile waters are restocked naturally during periods of high water. Long Meadow Lake, Black Dog Lake, Grass Lake, Upper Rice Lake, Louisville Swamp and part of the Chaska Lake complex are inhabited by carp, buffalo, bullheads, shad, drum, catfish, dogfish, gar, shiners, northern pike, sunfish and other species.

[From the Minneapolis Tribune, June 27, 1975]

WILDLIFE AREA PROPOSED NEAR MINNESOTA RIVER

(By Linda Picone)

A 6,600-acre wildlife refuge in the Minnesota River valley has been proposed by a citizens' group and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but congressional action and money will be needed before the plans can be accomplished.

The proposed national wildlife refuge is only the first part of what the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens' Committee hopes will be complete preservation of the river area.

"It's very rare for a major city to have this beautiful and rich river running right through and available by bus," said Marialice Seal, cochairman of the citizens' committee. "There's a great deal of pressure to develop the area for heavy industry. The time for procuring and saving these areas is short."

The proposed wildlife refuge would consist of four units: Chaska Lake, about 400 acres; Louisville Swamp, about 1,600 acres; Grass Lake/Rice Lake, about 2,500 acres, and Long Meadow Lake, about 2,100 acres.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said, in a report released in May, that those four areas meet the criteria of national wildlife refuges.

Plans for the wildlife refuge would include extending the Minnesota Trail System through it, with some offshoot trails, putting up observation blinds in a few places and building a visitor center at Long Meadow Lake. There would be only one road in the area, at Long Meadow Lake, for bus access and for handicapped persons.

Mrs. Seal said the area is widely used by bird-watchers who come to see the ducks, herons, egrets, bald eagles and occasional visiting pelicans.

There is a large deer herd living in the river valley and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife report listed many common Minnesota mammals, from beavers to skunks, living there also.

A small flock of Canada geese summers in the area, said the report, and would probably expand if the wildlife refuge were established.

The citizens' committee was formed about two years ago and succeeded in getting the Fish and Wildlife Service to study its proposal and develop a report. Now the committee is seeking public support in hopes of getting funding for the four-part refuge.

Congress would have to appropriate U.S. Water and Conservation funds for the project. "We are asking our legislators to introduce a bill in the next session," said Mrs. Seal. "We feel it will be a high-priority item because it is an urban river."

Although the report did not estimate the cost of the refuge, either for buying land or building new facilities, it said there are now about 60 private ownerships in the proposed refuge, including 10 homes. Land values are high because it is near an urban area.

Mrs. Seal said she hopes land acquisition, at least, could begin within two years.

[From the Minnesota Valley Sun, June 26, 1975]

WILDLIFE REFUGE IS EXCITING PROPOSAL

Plans for a wildlife refuge in the Minnesota Valley is exciting news for many area residents. The valley itself is unique as an area of abundant wildlife, both flora and fauna, in the midst of a large metropolitan area.

In our opinion, the efforts of the Minnesota Valley Citizens Committee are to be applauded for its foresight and persistence in finding a way to preserve this rich natural area.

Area municipalities, too, should be encouraged to support this plan for a national wild-

life refuge. If local approval can be attained by July 9, Congress may be able to pass special legislation so this valuable natural asset can be acquired at an early date.

Preservation of the key parts of the Minnesota Valley as a wildlife refuge is one way we can leave our part of the world a better place than we found it.

[From the Minnesota Valley Sun, June 6, 1975]

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROPOSED FOR VALLEY AREA

(By Frances Berns)

Approximately 6,600 acres, in four separate units, will be included in the proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Plans for the refuge were described at the Bloomington Planning Commission meeting last Thursday and will be explained again at a public informational meeting at 7:30 p.m. July 2, at Bloomington City Hall.

Speerheading the effort to have four portions of the river valley preserved in a wildlife refuge are members of the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee.

Ed Crozier, Burnsville, a member of the planning branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, described the river valley area earmarked for preservation.

The four units are the Long Meadow Lake area of 2,100 acres, the Grass Lake/Rice Lake area of 2,500 acres, the Chaska Lake area of 400 acres and the Louisville Swamp area of 1,600 acres.

"The Minnesota River Valley between Fort Snelling and Jordan where the four sections are located includes wild rice habitat, many species of water birds, mallards, teal and wood ducks," Crozier said.

"More than 275 species have been identified here. Seldom is such a large amount of wildlife found so close to a metropolitan area.

"Thousands of years ago when the glacier melted the river valley was formed. The native Americans, then the settlers and now we are the custodians of this resource.

"But time is running out. Once the river valley has developed its value as a natural resource is gone forever."

The citizens committee has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a wildlife refuge, Crozier said. The Long Meadow Lake unit would be the location of the refuge's interpretive center.

Much of the 25 miles of floodplain could be preserved through the cooperation of cities, counties, the state and federal government, Crozier said.

The Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge could be acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by using wildlife funds from the Department of the Interior, he said.

Special congressional enabling legislation is needed to allow the necessary land and water conservation funds to be released, Crozier said.

The refuge would include spur trails leading from the Minnesota State Trail system, viewing blinds and platforms from which wildlife could be observed and studied.

Crozier said he thought the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge would have the highest priority because of its urban location.

No fees are charged for the use of wildlife refuge areas at the present time, Crozier said.

Crozier answered several questions posed by members of the public and the planning commission.

"I think the priority should be either specifically for wildlife use and wildlife management and the public use should be de-emphasized," said Kelly Neal, a resident.

Crozier said there are safeguards to assure that any endangered species would be protected.

Commissioner Skip Reiter asked if the property would be taken from the tax rolls. Crozier replied this was the case, but there

is a provision for some equivalent monies to be returned to some local taxing units.

The four refuge units proposed for acquisition would be developed to different degrees, depending upon their location and physical features.

The Long Meadow Lake unit, located in Bloomington between Fort Snelling and Portland Avenue would be developed into a combination administration and visitor center building.

This unit would provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the recreation activities and values of the river area, Crozier said.

The Long Meadow Lake unit would be the center of the refuge interpretive and environmental education activities.

The other three units would each have a developed access point which would include a visitor information point, parking area, toilets, control gates and signing.

The refuge boundary would be posted, but not fenced.

The Grass Lake/Rice Lake area of 2,500 acres is located in Eden Prairie. The Chaska Lake area of 400 acres is in Chaska and the Louisville Swamp area of 1,600 acres is between Shakopee and Jordan.

At the conclusion of last Thursday's presentation the Bloomington Planning Commission and Natural Resources Commission adopted separate resolutions recommending that the Bloomington City Council support the proposed land acquisitions and the establishment of a National Wildlife Refuge within the city of Bloomington.

The Bloomington Park and Recreation Commission was expected to adopt a similar resolution.

Support for the wildlife refuge will also be sought in the other affected municipalities.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

S. 123

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. WILLIAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to amend the Social Security Act.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the Senator from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1808, a bill to provide for the payment of overtime to certain personnel employed in the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

S. 1897

At the request of Mr. BELLMON, the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1897, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize payment under the supplemental medical insurance program for services furnished by physician extenders and clinical staff of community mental health centers.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to provide assistance to taxpayers.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. PACKWOOD, the Senator from Maryland (Mr. MATHIAS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. HANSEN), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. HUMPHREY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1982, the Ozone Preservation Act of 1975.

S. 1989

At the request of Mr. STONE, the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. WILLIAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1989, a bill to direct the preparation and submission to the President of information to assist in negotiations with oil-producing countries.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48—SUBMISSION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO INVITE ALEXANDR SOLZHENITSYN TO ADDRESS A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS

(Referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.)

Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. BUCKLEY, Mr. BELLMON, Mr. McCLURE, Mr. HARRY F. BYRD, JR., Mr. HELMS, Mr. WEICKER, Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. CULVER, Mr. MOSS, Mr. METCALF, Mr. STONE, Mr. NUNN, Mr. MONDALE, Mr. HUMPHREY, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 48

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Alexander Solzhenitsyn be hereby invited to address a joint meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. This invitation shall be extended forthwith to the said Alexander Solzhenitsyn by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in a jointly signed communication, and the majority and minority floor leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall make the arrangements necessary for the convening of such a joint meeting to be held at the convenience of Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—SUBMISSION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

(Referred to the Committee on Government Operations.)

Mr. PHILIP A. HART, Mr. President, on November 26, 1974, I submitted a resolution calling for the creation of a Joint Legislative Committee on Energy wherein proposals affecting the energy area, now considered separately by various subcommittees, could be reviewed as a total program.

The Caucus of Democratic Senators has asked Senator MANSFIELD to explore possibilities of reforming the way Congress handles energy legislation. Today I would like to resubmit my resolution to demonstrate my strong support for such reform.

Certainly nothing that has happened—or more accurately, everything that has not happened—since I introduced the resolution over 7 months ago—has diminished the justification for creating a joint committee on energy.

The President proposed an energy program which Congress correctly has attempted to stop.

Congress, meanwhile, has attempted to, but so far failed to come up with an energy policy of its own.

In the debate between the President and the Congress on energy, the White