



LWD-Bohlen-1974-
Letter To President

Wid #48

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

RF

JUL 1 - 1974

Dear Mr. President:

It is with pleasure that I recommend the establishment of areas totaling approximately 1,106 acres in Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The recommendation stems from this Department's responsibility under the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890) to recommend to the President areas within its jurisdiction suitable for designation as wilderness. Having reviewed potential areas in Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, we conclude that 1,106 of the refuge's 18,417 acres should be designated wilderness.

Established November 18, 1963, Lake Woodruff is located in east central Florida, along the freshwater marshes and timbered swamps of the St. Johns River. In addition to being one of the few large northerly-flowing rivers in the United States, the St. Johns is noteworthy for its gradual slope, which averages of one foot per mile along the river's 300-mile length. The river's flood plain is less than 2.5 feet above mean sea level, and some areas of the refuge remain flooded for extended periods of time. Among the remarkable variety of wildlife found in the refuge are such threatened species as the Everglade kite, Southern bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane, manatee, Florida panther, and American alligator. Forestry management is a vital technique for maintenance of nesting sites in the refuge, and water impoundment is necessary to produce the Pomacea snail, virtually the only food source for the Everglade kite. Although some remnants of habitat manipulation are still evident on the six islands in the river which we recommend for wilderness designation, we believe that they have recovered their natural state to such an extent as to be deserving of wilderness status. No mineral survey of the refuge has been conducted. No valuable minerals are known to occur in the vicinity of the refuge.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act, a public hearing on the recommendation was held at Deland, Florida, on March 19, 1974. Analyses of the hearing records and written expressions received, together with the letters received from other



Federal agencies, are contained in the enclosed synopsis. Complete records have been compiled and are available for inspection by the public.

Enclosed is a draft bill which, if enacted, would incorporate the recommended area of Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sincerely yours,

Curtis Boklen

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Enclosure

A B I L L

To designate certain lands in the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, Lake and Volusia Counties, Florida, as wilderness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890, 892; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), certain lands in the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, Florida, which comprise about 1,106 acres and which are depicted on a map entitled "Lake Woodruff Wilderness Proposal" dated December 1973, are hereby designated as wilderness. The lands which comprise about forty acres, designated on such map as "Potential Wilderness Additions", are, effective upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that all uses thereon prohibited by the Wilderness Act have ceased, hereby designated as wilderness.

SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, a map of the wilderness area and a description of its boundaries shall be filed with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, however, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such map and description may be made.

SEC. 3. The area designated by this Act as wilderness shall be known as the "Lake Woodruff Wilderness" and shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, and where appropriate any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. Subject to all valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, lands designated as wilderness by this Act are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.