



Records related to the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MICHAEL STERN, STAFF DIRECTOR
ROBERT E. LIGHTHIZER, CHIEF MINORITY COUNSEL

February 8, 1980

Elaine Mellott
Minnesota River Valley Refuge Citizens Committee
9400 Cedar Avenue, #101
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

On January 29, I sent a letter to William Whalen, Director of the National Park Service, requesting a reconnaissance study of the metropolitan river corridors -- the Mississippi, the Minnesota and the St. Croix. A copy of the letter, also signed by Congressmen Martin Sabo, Arlen Erdahl, Bruce Vento and Tom Hagedorn, is enclosed. The responsiveness and work of the Ad Hoc Committee made it possible to make the decision and send the request for the reconnaissance study so that the study may be undertaken this year, if approved.

Thanks for your support and participation in the decision to go ahead. I am very optimistic that the study will be approved and suggest that while we are waiting to hear from the Park Service, you consider ways to interpret the intent and purpose of the study to those who may be interested.

As you know, the reconnaissance study would span approximately three months. The purpose of the study is to determine ways in which our metropolitan river corridors -- areas of national concern and significance -- can be served by existing federal programs. The study will provide suggested alternatives for coordinated/comprehensive management and funding for the area. These alternatives will be supplied for consideration by the Minnesota congressional delegation, state, regional and local elected officials and staff, as well as the citizens of the region to determine the best course of action.

In discussions, I believe it is important to emphasize the following points that have been covered in meetings regarding the study:

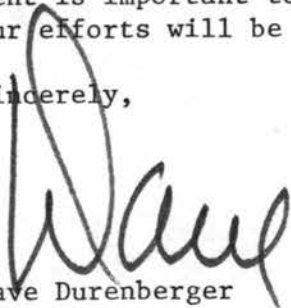
- (1) No additional funding is required for the study. National Park Service administrative funds are in place for a series of such studies throughout the country. The request for a reconnaissance study, if approved, would make existing funds available to look at the metropolitan river corridors.
- (2) The study will not duplicate the efforts of previous studies of the river corridors. It does not focus on research or development of new information. Primarily it will look at the recreational needs of the metropolitan area, the river corridors as a resource, and generate options for federal assistance in "filling the gaps" to realize the potential of this great resource for the people of the region, state and nation. The options would be suggestive in nature, and would not be binding on any agency or jurisdiction. I agree with the committee that it is desirable to maintain local management and operation of the areas along the rivers.
- (3) The study does not imply a new land acquisition program. Approximately 70% of river corridor land slated for acquisition has already been acquired, but the study could determine the extent to which federal funds might be made available for acquisition of the remaining 30%.
- (4) The study was requested, not because local commitment to urban river recreation development is lacking, but precisely because our local, regional and state agencies have exhibited exemplary foresight and commitment over the years in planning and setting aside land for this purpose. Meanwhile, rising costs and competing needs have made the remaining acquisition, development, and operation and maintenance increasingly problematic.
- (5) The Mississippi River is a multiple-use river, and no change in that status is intended. What is sought from the federal government is national designation and partnership in coordination, management and operation of the metropolitan river corridors. This is a major national recreation resource area, and funds are needed to make the river corridors accessible to the people.

Shirley Hunt and Jan Carpenter will discuss the study proposal with special interest groups such as the Water Way Association, Grain Terminal Association and others to seek their support and coordinate the interpretation of the study with the other interested groups with you.

Page 3

It's good to work with you on this project. Your continuing involvement is important to me. With it, there is every reason to believe our efforts will be successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a trailing flourish.

Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

DD:shs

enclosures

Urban Renewal MINNESOTA VALLEY STYLE

TEX HAWKINS*

THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA is a byproduct of the growing environmental awareness that characterized the 1970s. Early in the decade, citizens' groups from the Twin Cities suburbs of Burnsville and Bloomington joined forces to focus national attention on the impending loss of a major biotic resource.

In just 100 years the lower Minnesota River Valley had experienced the displacement of the Dakota by Europeans whose values and technologies were triggering a transformation of the landscape like nothing since the ice age.

Bulldozers were gouging gravel deposited by a huge glacial river that carved the Valley 10,000 years ago. Farm tractors were tilling the fertile flood plain. Transportation and utility corridors were cutting across the River. Landfills were burying the bottomlands. Marshes were being drained, filled and polluted. Sprawling commercial and residential development was spilling onto the Minnesota Valley.

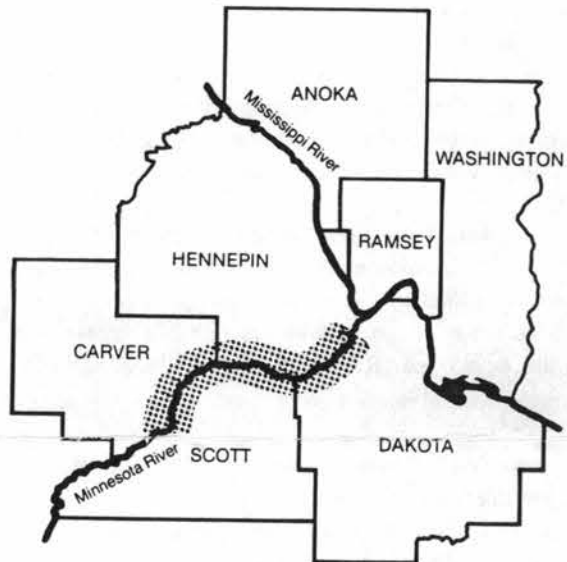
The citizens' coalition saw the cumulative effect of these impacts as a direct threat to one of this country's important river environments. They would not accept further loss of wildlife habitat and opportunities for their children to experience this part of their state's heritage.

They documented the values at stake and presented a proposal to their congressional delegation. The resulting landmark legislation, passed in 1976, mandated the protection of the floodplain along a 36 river-mile stretch. The Act states that the area will be "of great value as a source of environmental education and interpretive programs for hundreds of thousands of urban dwellers."

Now that a refuge headquarters has been established and acquisition is well underway, the difficult job of translating the intent of the law into benefits for wildlife and people has begun. A master plan is being developed to document resources, needs and management strategies for the 18,000 acres that will eventually be owned and cooperatively managed by federal, state, county and city governments.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are jointly responsible for master plan preparation. Biological and cultural information collected during the past year will provide a basis for discussion of management alternatives during the public involvement phase of planning early in 1980.

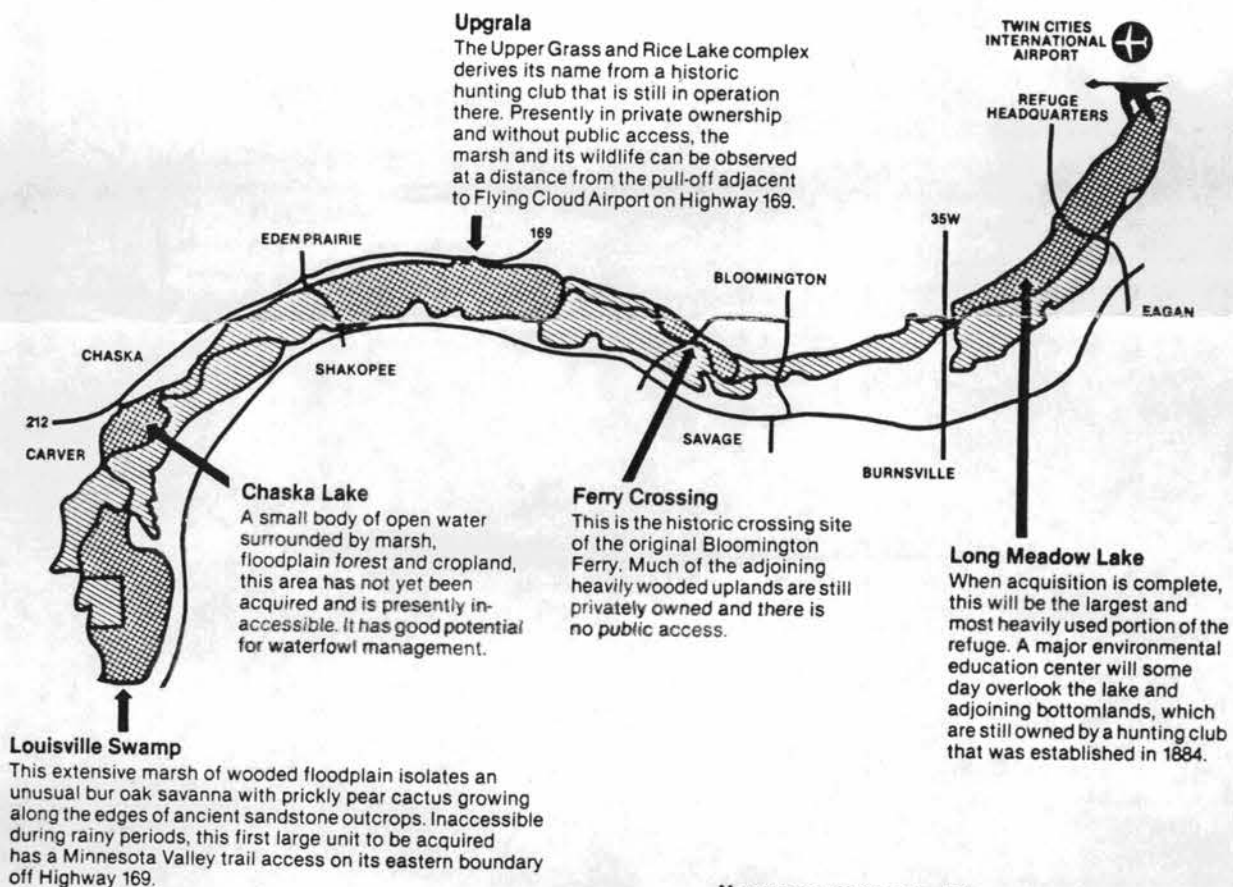
Eventually, the five National Wildlife Refuge Units comprising 9,500 acres will be tied to other management areas by



The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge/Recreation Area location in relation to the seven-county metropolitan area.

a State Corridor Trail, which will run through the project area from Fort Snelling to Jordan and on up the Minnesota Valley toward Le Sueur. Visitors following the Trail west from Fort Snelling will experience a transition from modern civilization to near wilderness; from intense urban development to predominantly rural landscapes; and from the busy present to a simpler past. This diversity in land forms, life forms and life styles provides a study in contrasts that can have a profound impact on popular environmental perceptions and attitudes.

Two million people live within a half-hour's drive or bus ride of the Refuge/Recreation Area. This means that programs can be developed for those who don't ordinarily have opportunities to visit the nation's wild lands or to see its wildlife. It means that, through reduced travel distance and use of mass transit, people can save fuel and money by enjoying wildlife-oriented outdoor recreation closer to home. But most important, it means that ecological principles can be taught through university research projects, program assistance to 400 local primary and secondary schools, all-age community education efforts, and a variety of communications media.



Clearly, even the most ambitious project of environmental preservation, restoration and education can't single-handedly sell an entire urban population on conservation ethics or responsible behavior. Popular environmental literacy could only result from the coordinated efforts of many institutions. But there are signs that the necessary cooperation between agencies for comprehensive educational programs may be evolving. If this happens, it could result in a new kind of urban renewal aimed at enhancing the function of natural systems within the cities to improve the quality of human life.

In the Minnesota Valley, it's happening already. Schools have begun piloting environmental education activities and sites especially suited to the study of the river ecosystem. They will be ready to go as soon as suitable access and facilities are developed. Representatives of local schools, nature centers, special interest groups, and other populations are giving valuable guidance on educational services that could be provided without duplicating other facilities or competing with existing programs.

As more people get involved in the project, excitement builds over the rediscovery of forgotten values that have somehow survived the advance of urbanization. Behind the natural silt levees that have formed on both sides of the River Channel, there are about 15 marshy lakes fed by springs bubbling out at the base of the bluffs. The lakes are surrounded and separated by floodplain forest and farmland. This interspersed water and diverse habitats accounts for the Valley's surprising abundance of wildlife.

Millions of birds pour through the Minnesota Valley during migration. It provides the best, and in some places the only, suitable corridor of habitat for some species to follow. About 100 species pass through the area each spring on their way to nesting grounds further north. Another 150 species either nest in the area and head south in the fall, or spend the entire year on the refuge. Notable migrants include pelicans, whistling swans and bald eagles. Herons, egrets, and wood ducks return to the floodplain forests and marshes each year to nest and raise their young. The most spectacular year-round resident of the Refuge is the pileated woodpecker, whose huge borings are evident on insect-ridden trees throughout the bottoms.

About 50 different kinds of mammals inhabit the Refuge,



including several hundred white-tailed deer. The marshes are peppered with muskrat houses, and beaver cuttings are common along the river's banks. Other species include raccoons, red foxes, mink, weasels, and abundant squirrels and rabbits.

Future studies will gradually reveal more about the dynamics and significance of the area's wildlife populations and habitats. We know that the refuge lies at the edge of the ranges of species like Bell's vireo and the prickly pear cactus. We know that it provides a staging area for the monarch butterfly migration. But there is so much that remains to be learned and to be taught. Not only about the natural function of ecosystems, but about the historic, present and future interactions of our own species with the land. Over 100 archaeological and historic sites have been cataloged throughout the study area. Perhaps a better understanding of our cultural heritage will someday trigger insights that can give our own civilization a better shot at surviving the troubled years ahead.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area provides a blueprint for a new kind of urban renewal. It seeks to harmonize the values of production and preservation, while demonstrating the need to carefully manage competing uses of the land through coordinated planning. Although planning and management can accommodate facilities and services necessary to support an urban population, the environmental abuses that have prevailed in the past will no longer be tolerated. And this approach is a lesson in itself.

**Tex Hawkins, presently responsible for public services at the new refuge, was previously Regional Naturalist with the Minnesota DNR in Bemidji and has worked as a consultant on conservation projects in Central America.*



Hikers discover Long Meadow Lake and recreate their perceptions of the role of natural areas in an urban environment.

(Excerpted from the Winter, 1980 issue of Naturalist magazine.)



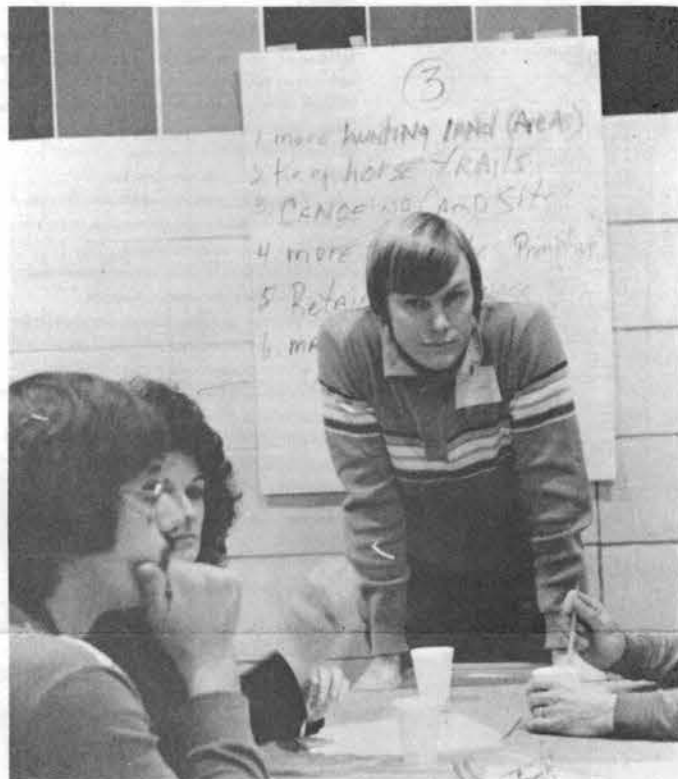
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA

Public Meeting Results

Over 200 citizens attended a recent series of public meetings on the planning of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area and the Minnesota Valley State Trail. The meetings were held January 21, 22, and 23, 1980, in Chaska, Bloomington, and Burnsville. Those present represented forty-four different interest groups ranging from public agencies and quasi-public organizations through a gamut of clubs and associations (see complete list below).

The first portion of each session was devoted to a presentation of project history, planning status, the Minnesota Valley Trail, and current refuge operations. Following a short coffee break, participants reconvened in small groups. Individuals were requested to rate a tentative activity list as acceptable or unacceptable uses within the refuge, recreation area, or trail. The activity rating, summarized in chart form below, gives an indication of the relative acceptability of activities/land uses.

Each workgroup of six to ten people developed a list of opportunities and concerns and attempted to reach consensus on major issues through open discussion. A summary of the groups' feelings was presented to the meeting-at-large by a table spokesman.



A workgroup explores possibilities for the Minnesota Valley

"...almost everybody (at our table) represented a special interest and everybody there was extremely concerned about their interest being protected. However, they seemed very willing to cooperate in a framework of management...so that their activity would fit in with the others in a harmonious manner. I thought I detected a spirit of cooperation among the people there."

Photo courtesy of Shakopee Valley News

Very little difference was noted in responses from one session to another, with the notable exceptions of hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, and dog training (all of which scored significantly higher in Chaska than in Bloomington, with Burnsville in between) and transit and auto touring, which scored higher in Burnsville than in Bloomington or Chaska.

Information gathered from the workshops will be an important ingredient in the final determination of activities to be provided by the plan. Other considerations include anticipated regional demand for activities, an evaluation of the physical suitability of the land to accommodate various activities, existing use levels, local and county ordinances, and a careful scrutiny of the activities relative to Public Law 94-466, and the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other potential implementation agencies. An activities list will be presented at the next public meeting describing how many/how much of each activity will be accommodated in the plan.

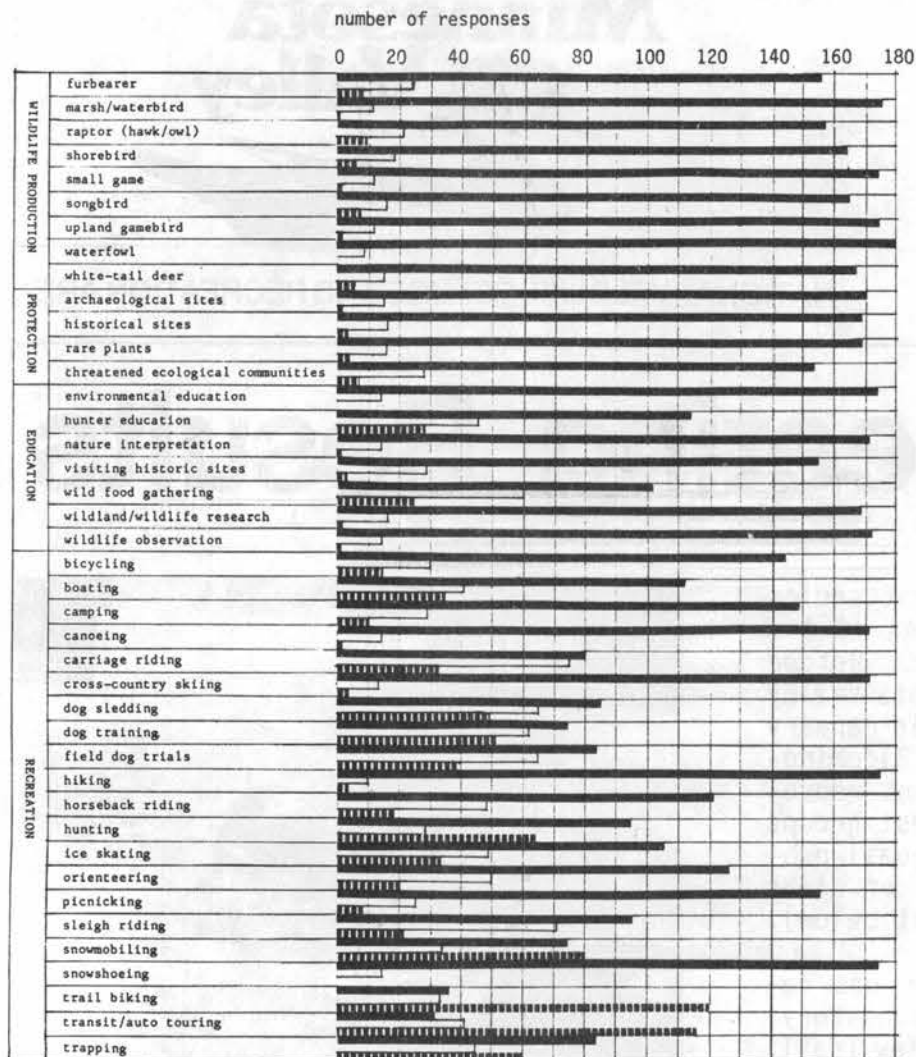


Ed Crozier, refuge manager, speaks to Burnsville audience

Photo courtesy of Burnsville Current

Individual Worksheet Tabulation

Representation



Legend: agree
undecided
disagree

Self	123
City of Bloomington	4
Bloomington Park/Recreation Commission	11
Burnsville Park Commission	1
City of Carver	4
Carver County	1
Chanhassen Park/Recreation Commission	1
Eagan Park/Recreation Commission	1
Hennepin County Park Reserve District	1
Louisville Township	2
Lower Minnesota Watershed District	1
MN Land Management Information Center	1
MN Department of Natural Resources	11
MN Department of Transportation	2
Burnsville Current	1
MN Landscape Arboretum	1
Northern States Power	1
Shakopee Chamber of Commerce	2
Shakopee News	1
Burnsville Snowmobilers	2
Diamond T Ranch	1
Dodge Nature Center	2
J & R Stables	1
Kiwatchi Racing Huskies	1
Lutheran Pioneers	1
Malkerson Stables	1
Minnesota Conservation Federation	1
MN Federation of Field Trial Clubs	1
Minnesota Horsemen Council	3
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club	7
Minnesota State Archery Association	1
Minnesota Trail Riders Association	3
Minnesota United Snowmobilers Assn.	1
Minnesota Valley Restoration	3
Minnesota Waterfowl Association	2
MN Wildlife Heritage Foundation	1
Minnetonka Horsemen	3
National Wildlife Refuge Association	2
North Star Sled Dog Club	1
Orchard Rangers Saddle Club	4
Sierra Club	1
Sport Shop, Inc. (Shakopee)	2
Trail Riders Unlimited	7
Tri-State Horsemen's Association	1
Upgralla Hunt Club	1

Tabulation of Issues of Interest and Concern

Note: Number in parenthesis indicates number of workgroups which raised the issue

TRAILS

General

Want continuous corridor trail, Ft. Snelling to LeSueur (5)
Multi-use trail corridor; separate conflicting uses (4)
Control unauthorized off-trail use (2)
Locate trail on high ground, avoiding wetlands (2)
Keep trails natural
Tie into existing feeder trails from cities
Trail impact on natural habitat of refuge
Trailhead at Bloomington Ferry
Location and type of trail in Long Meadow Lake area

Motorized Uses

Control/restrict motorbikes and snowmobiles (11)
Prohibit motorbikes and snowmobiles (7)
Allow snowmobile use
Provide motorbike trails
Prohibit auto touring

Non-Motorized Uses

Provide new and/or maintain existing horsetrails (13)
Cross-country ski trails (3)
Continuous hiking trail
Ski joring trail (cross-country skis pulled by dogs)

HUNTING

Continue present level hunting; use as mgmt. technique (9)
Restrict firearm use; segregate from other activities (9)
More hunting (4)
Continue bowhunting (4)
No hunting (3)
Primitive hunting areas (2)
Restrict bowhunting
Educate hunters in firearm safety
Control hunting permits by lottery
Continue bowhunting in Louisville Swamp
Allow hunting in Chaska Lake area

PRESERVATION/PROTECTION

Preservation and interpretation of historic sites (5)
Wildlife protection/sanctuary (4)
Maintain valley in natural or "wild" condition (3)
Preserve habitat (3)
Manage plant communities for diversity/native prairies (2)
Protect rare plants
Acquire perched bog area near SW corner Black Dog Lake
Prevent erosion of soil

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Management to attract wildlife (3)
Waterfowl production (2)
Continue farming to support wildlife (2)
More natural food production (2)
No trespassing during waterfowl breeding and migration
Manage deer population

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ensure adequate law enforcement (10)
Law enforcement of game laws (2)
Property protection/vandalism (2)
Coordinate overlap of regulatory authority
Regulate random activities
Fire control at campsites

LAND ACQUISITION/TAXES/FUNDING

Funding for acquisition/maintenance of recreation land (4)
Fair market value for lands taken (3)
Removal of land from tax rolls
Collect use fees
Taking of valuable home land
Acquisition of bottom lands

CAMPSITES

More primitive campsites (4)
Campsites for horseback riders (3)
More campgrounds
Canoeing campsites

FENCING AND ACCESS

Provide adequate access; "don't fence me out" (4)
Control refuge access to prevent overuse (2)
Connect with existing trails and recreation areas
Access to refuge area from north side of river

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education (5)
Include bird-watching areas (3)
EE resource sites for high school and youth groups (2)
Nature center approach
Historical and archaeological interpretation
Provide observation platforms in wetlands

MULTIPLE USE OF STUDY AREA

Multi-use river valley/balanced opportunity for all (10)
Concern with traffic and overuse (2)
Compatibility of users

TRAPPING

Continue trapping (3)
Segregate trapping areas from other uses and children (2)
No trapping
No leg-hold traps



Mail to E. McHott

212

F.6

C. H. H. H.

February 25, 1980

Mr. Harvey K. Nelson
Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, MN 55111

Dear Mr. Nelson:

We wish to thank you for taking the time to discuss with us Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on January 8, 1980. We have always enjoyed a good rapport with the local office of the Fish and Wildlife Service and we were glad to hear of your positive and enthusiastic support. We were also pleased to hear of the change in attitude of the Washington Directorate.

As a followup of that meeting, we would like to offer our own timetable for implementation.

FY 1980	-	Completion of Master Plan
FY 1981	-	Plan and design of visitor center
FY 1982	-	1st Phase construction of visitor center
FY 1983	-	Completion of visitor center
FY 1983	-	Complete land acquisition
FY 1984	-	Facility Development on refuge
FY 1984	-	Continuation of facility development
FY 1985	-	Completion of facility development

In addition to this follow-thru on development, we are interested in seeing that the refuge has an adequate staff and annual operating budget. Recently I have listened to briefings from the National Park Service on the funding of their urban recreation areas and was very impressed with the level of their funding. I believe Gateway National Recreation Area is receiving \$9 million annually. I realize Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is not nearly as large and will hopefully never have such a heavy visitor load, but obviously Minnesota Valley, as an urban refuge, will need to receive priority in funding in order to deliver services and benefits as promised to Minnesota citizens.

At the same time, as you are working to achieve these goals, we will be discussing the project with the Minnesota congressional delegation to achieve this timetable.

Again, I wish to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Mellott, Co-Chairman
Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee

February 25, 1980

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

Since you are on the Senate Budget Committee and in a position to be extremely helpful in the implementation of a very important Minnesota project, we are requesting your assistance.

Although Minnesotans have been successful in the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the metropolitan Twin Cities area, we have not had success in obtaining funding for the construction of the wildlife interpretation and education center on the refuge. The Minnesota Valley Refuge Act (P.L. 94-466) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct the center, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired the land for the center on the river bluff edge just south of the Fort Snelling Military Cemetery, but no construction funds have yet been appropriated.

We envision the proposed center to be more than the usual park-type visitor center. With a slight expansion of the center's function and utilization, the building could provide a much larger benefit to the State of Minnesota and the Nation. It could be a dynamic center of public and individual activity in many areas of natural resource conservation, including energy.

In the enclosed draft of a BILL, we have attempted to describe these activities and the resulting benefits. We have also included some rationale for the establishment of the center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Please do your best in obtaining funds for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete construction of this facility. We would very much appreciate any help you can offer toward the inclusion of the center planning and construction monies in the 1981 budget.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine Mellott, Co-Chairman
Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee

Enclosure

A BILL

To provide funding for a national wildlife conservation center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that this BILL may be cited as the "MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER".

DECLARATION OF POLICY

Sec. 2(a) Findings - The Senate finds and declares the following:

- (1) There is a need for a national wildlife conservation center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of educating the American public in wildlife management and its implications for land, water, energy and human resources conservation.
- (2) There is a need for a formal training academy on an operational National Wildlife Refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System for the purpose of training employees of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other resource managing agencies in the art and techniques of wildlife management and wildlife recreation and interpretation.
- (3) There is a need for a national conference center for the purpose of hosting national conferences and workshops on wildlife resource management.
- (4) There is a need for a wildlife art gallery for the purpose of housing, protecting and displaying wildlife art objects related to wildlife, its habitats and the human activities related to wildlife.

- (5) There is a need for "an ecological" museum to preserve and display for the public enjoyment and education the relationships of the midwest's plants, animals, water and land birds to their food chains, habitats, structure and their use by humans.
- (6) There is a need, as authorized in P.L. 94-466, for a wildlife and wildland resources service center where technical expertise in land management planning can be developed and utilized for the National Wildlife Refuge System and shared with other natural resource managing organizations and individuals.
- (7) There is a need, as authorized in P.L. 94-466, for a wildlife interpretation and education center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to promote environmental education and to provide for the study and enjoyment of wildlife in its natural habitat.
- (8) That the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which provides a large variety of wildlife habitats and related recreation and education opportunities, is a unique wildlife resource area within a large urban area and is adjacent to the excellent support services such as scientific research institutions, computer services, lodging and eating facilities, transportation and other educational support needs.
- (9) That the diverse audiences which will be attracted to this unique urban refuge should have the opportunities to experience and learn about the most recent technological advances in wildlife conservation, including the use of computers, remote sensing, radio telemetry, etc., through interpretive communications media.

Sec. 2(b) Policy - It is, therefore, declared to be the policy of the Senate in this BILL to authorize the expenditure of \$3,000,000 for the construction of a national wildlife conservation center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

DEFINITIONS

Sec. 3. As used in this BILL:

- (1) The terms "conserve" and "conservation" mean to use, and the use of, methods and procedures which are necessary to assure to the maximum extent practical, the continued existence of populations of fish and wildlife. Such methods and procedures may include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resource management, including wildlife research and study, land and water resources planning, habitat management, law enforcement, public information, resource interpretation, education and wildlife-oriented recreation.
- (2) The term "refuge" means the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, established pursuant to P.L. 94-466.
- (3) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- (4) The term "wildlife conservation center" means a building and associated roads, parking areas, trails, observation platforms, utilities, interior exhibits, theaters, galleries, offices, work spaces, and other related facilities to be constructed on the bluff site in Bloomington, Minnesota known as the Headquarters Area of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

Sec. 4(a) Establishment - The Secretary shall construct, in accordance with this Section, a National Wildlife Conservation Center on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minnesota. The Center shall consist of -

- (1) A visitor center that will provide wildlife interpretation and education opportunities for visitors to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. It shall utilize exhibits and audio/visual communication techniques to develop and enhance visitor appreciation for the wildlife and wildland values of the Minnesota Valley as well as inform visitors of the recreational opportunities in the valley and the practices of wildlife management.
- (2) A wildlife management training academy that will provide wildlife managers with a professional, broad-based, solid foundation of knowledge in the area of scientific wildlife conservation and management including "on the job" field experiences. The academy will include classroom and study space, academy offices and equipment storage.
- (3) A conference center that will accommodate national and regional seminars, lectures and workshops on wildlife and wildlands conservation planning and management. The conference center will provide the space and facilities for public and agency meetings and workshops.
- (4) An art gallery that will house, protect and display wildlife paintings, sculpture, crafts and written materials for the perpetual enjoyment and education of the American public.

- (5) An ecological museum that will house, preserve and interpret the relationships of the midwest's plants, animals and birds to their food chains, habitats and human usages.
- (6) A service center that will provide office, laboratory, study space and euqipment for land and water planning specialists who will develop and apply natural resource planning technology to units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and make available such technology to other public land managing agencies.

APPROPRIATION

Sec. 5(a) There shall be appropriated \$3,000,000 for the construction of the Wildlife Conservation Center in FY 1981.

BILL FRENZEL
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1026 LONGWORTH BUILDING
202-225-2871

STAFF DIRECTOR
RICHARD D. WILLOW

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 26, 1980

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MAYBETH CHRISTENSEN
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IRIS SAUNDERSON
3601 PARK CENTER BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS PARK 55416
612-925-4540

Ms. Elaine Mellott
Ms. Mary Alice Seal
9400 Cedar Ave.
Bloomington, MN 55420

Dear Elaine and Mary Alice:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning funding for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. At the present time, there are several sources of funds for the Refuge.

For FY 1981, the request for operating and maintenance expenses at the Refuge is \$500,000. This is an increase of \$122,000 over the \$378,000 appropriated for FY 1980. This request is now making its way through Congress and no final figure has been set.

In 1978, \$500,000 of the \$6 million originally authorized to develop the Refuge, e.g. trails, was appropriated to begin work on the Master Plan for the Refuge. Since the Master Plan has not been completed and most of the development expenditures are tied to a completed Master Plan, no additional funding has been requested for the coming year. However, the Minnesota Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service did indicate that they hope to use some of the \$500,000 requested for FY 1981 for operating expenses to start preliminary work on the Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center.

At the present time, there are no additional funds being requested for FY 1981 for acquisition of additional Refuge land. One primary reason is that the operators of the Refuge at the beginning of FY 1980 had \$1.6 million in appropriated funds that they had not used. The local office is now negotiating to purchase more land, but they were not able to say when they would need additional funding for land acquisition. They did indicate, however, that when the \$1.6 million is spent, they will be very close to their authorization limit for land acquisition. This may require a reauthorization to complete land acquisition. Since this will require Congressional action, I will be closely following developments at the Refuge.

Complicating funding to acquire all new park and refuge land is the controversy in Congress over funding for the Land and Water Conservation

Ms. Mellott
Ms. Seal
June 26, 1980
Page 2

Fund (LAWCON). All land acquisition money for the Refuge is LAWCON money. In his supplemental budget request for FY 1980 and as part of a general rescission of LAWCON funding, the President requested rescinding the \$1.6 million that the Refuge officials have not yet spent. However, the House as part of a general rejection of the President's LAWCON request has reinstated the funding for land acquisition. The Senate Committee on Appropriations is now debating the issue and I cannot say what they will do. All these rescissions and cutbacks in programs are part of the needed attempt to balance the budget.

I hope this has answered your questions concerning funding for the Refuge, and if I can be of help in the future, please let me know.

Yours very truly,



Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

BF:pr

12/1/81

For the
history book.

Wayne Sames wrote
ex DNR and
would make
a good Bear
member
Smedley.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
and Recreation Area

A Case Study¹

by

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STUDY AREA INFORMATION

I. Description of the Study Area

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area is located along the valley of the Minnesota River between Fort Snelling State Park and Jordan, Minnesota. This area is in the southern and southwestern fringe of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The national wildlife refuge consists of five separate units: (1) Long Meadow Lake, (2) Ferry Crossing, (3) Upgrala, (4) Chaska Lake, and (5) Louisville Swamp. The national recreation area includes much of the remainder of the valley between the refuge units (Map p. 48).

The Minnesota River itself flows 36 miles in its meandering course through a broad floodplain. Numerous shallow floodplain lakes line the river on both sides. Habitat types include open-water lakes and ponds, marsh, floodplain forest, upland woods and savannah, prairie, and some croplands. The total acreage authorized for acquisition for both the refuge and recreation area is 18,500 acres (23).

Much of the area has remained in a relatively undeveloped state, although it is intersected by several roads and rail lines. It is an excellent habitat area for waterfowl and other types of wildlife.

Several administrative units have jurisdiction over this portion of the lower Minnesota River valley. They include four counties, eight municipalities, and several other federal, state, and local agencies.

There are many competing land uses within the lower Minnesota River valley. While much of it remains relatively undeveloped, there are man-made intrusions, particularly on the fringes of the floodplain. Residential areas are mostly in the upland areas and along the bluff tops, although some of the older towns were built close to the valley floor. Agriculture has been an established use in the valley since its earliest settlement and still exists today in scattered pockets. It is gradually being succeeded by more urban-oriented land uses. Commercial developments are, as one might expect, concentrated near the population centers in the valley or along the transportation corridors. They are of a type typical of many outer-fringe suburban areas--service enterprises, fast-food restaurants, etc. Industrial development has played a large part in the recent land use history of the valley. A large electric power generating plant has operated in the floodplain area for many years. With the growth of the metropolitan area toward the river valley and beyond came a wide variety of light industrial developments, many of which were located in areas along the fringe of the floodplain.

The river itself is an important transportation corridor for barge-serviced industries. The most important of these in the valley are the grain terminal operations. This type of industry has also operated for many years. One of the more recent industrial uses of the valley, and perhaps the most controversial, is use of the floodplain for solid waste disposal or sanitary landfills. Many areas of the valley in the Savage and Burnsville areas have been filled for this use (1).

One recent trend in use of the valley is for specialized recreational or commercial uses. These include the Valleyfair amusement park, the Minnesota Valley Restoration historical interpretation site, and the Renaissance Festival (14, 26).

II. Historical and Cultural Aspects

In order to better understand the special qualities of the lower Minnesota River valley it is helpful to look at its geographical, historical, and cultural setting. Only then can one fully appreciate the circumstances which eventually led to its present status as an urban national wildlife refuge and recreation area.

Prehistory

Eleven thousand years ago the massive glaciers of the Wisconsin Ice Age began a slow northward retreat. In what is now northwestern Minnesota (as well as portions of North Dakota, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan) the meltwaters formed a huge inland sea that scientists later named Lake Agassiz. Throughout much of its existence, Lake Agassiz had a southern outlet that released torrents of water to flow in a generally southeastward direction across the land that is now southern Minnesota. This river, called by geologists the glacial River Warren, carved an immense valley through this area (including the beautiful Mississippi River Valley between Minnesota and Wisconsin). This valley is so huge in places that it is hard to believe that it was once filled with water.

The bluffs are often from one to five miles apart and as much as two hundred feet in height (21).

Eventually, Lake Agassiz waters developed a northern outlet and began draining northward into what is now Canada. The River Warren was replaced by the river now known as the Minnesota River--a respectable stream, but only a mere shadow of its mammoth predecessor. Though the Minnesota River still illustrates the tremendous power of natural forces during its frequent, and often destructive, spring floods, one look at the size of the earlier river's valley is enough to convince the observer that it must have, indeed, been awesome.

When the first European explorers arrived in the area of the lower Minnesota River valley in the late 1600's, it was inhabited by the Dakota (or Sioux) Indians. In later years there were at least six major villages in the area now encompassed by the national wildlife refuge and recreation area. Today, one can still find numerous burial mounds located throughout the valley and adjacent bluffs. The Indians used the valley for fishing, hunting, agriculture and food gathering (20).

There was almost constant conflict between the Dakota and the Ojibway (Chippewa) to the north. As late as the 1850's, these two tribes fought a battle in the river valley near Shakopee. One of the primary goals of the early U.S. government administration of the Minnesota frontier was to attempt to keep the peace between the Dakota and Ojibway.

In the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, signed in 1851 in the river valley near the present town of St. Peter, the Dakota relinquished their

claims to almost 24 million acres of land to the United States. (This historic site is preserved in Traverse des Sioux State Park.) This included most of the Minnesota River valley. Problems associated with this treaty resulted in the bloody Sioux Uprising of 1862. This revolt by the Indians was eventually put down by the army and most of the Indians were removed to reservations in the Dakota Territories. The way was now open for widespread white settlement.

History

Actually, the influx of Europeans into the Minnesota Valley region had begun well before the expulsion of the Dakota. The first known explorer in the region was the Frenchman, Pierre LeSueur, who traveled up the river in the late 1600's. He was followed by several others, including the Englishman, Jonathan Carver in 1766, and Zebulon Pike of the United States Army in 1805. Pike's mission was to try to establish peace between the Dakota and Ojibway and, perhaps more importantly, to establish United States jurisdiction over that portion of the newly acquired Louisiana Territory (20).

Fort Snelling was built in 1819 on a high bluff overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. For many years it was the westernmost outpost of the United States government in what was then a very remote region.

After the Sioux Uprising, the white settlers lost little time in establishing themselves in the valley. Some of the earliest towns in

the Minnesota Territory were platted in the lower Minnesota River valley. Shakopee, Carver, and Chaska were all established in the 1850's and 1860's. Farmers and other settlers began to move up the river valley. Those who were not farmers were often associated with the river trade. Steamboats plied the river as far up as Mankato and even farther for many years. They brought supplies to the growing farm communities and returned with the harvest of the fertile fields. Gradually, roads, railroads and bridges displaced most of the river travel in the valley (18).

During these early years the sleepy river towns were at least a day's journey from either Minneapolis or St. Paul. The old Shakopee Road, a popular route between Fort Snelling and Shakopee, still runs through what is now the suburb of Bloomington.

The area remained predominantly a rural area until after the Second World War when the Twin Cities suburbs expanded rapidly. Cities such as Bloomington, Burnsville and Eden Prairie experienced rapid population increases. There was a corresponding development of industry, commerce, and transportation facilities, some of which directly impacted the river valley. This rapid growth, and some of the problems which it brought, was a factor in the rising concern over the future of the valley.

III. Early Preservation Efforts

Even before this rapid growth period in the valley, some people had begun to see a need to protect some of the outstanding natural qualities of the area. As the Twin Cities continued to prosper and expand in the

early 1900's, the Minnesota River valley became physically less isolated and more familiar to the city dwellers. Some vacationed at country homes along the bluffs, joined one of the gun clubs offering fine waterfowl hunting in the bottomlands, or simply took their automobiles on weekend tours along the valley. Interest in preserving the river valley for recreational purposes began to grow (18).

In 1934, during the great depression, Governor Floyd B. Olson directed the energetic General Superintendent for Parks in Minneapolis, Theodore Wirth, "...to supervise the preparation of a general plan for the acquisition and utilization of the valley of the Minnesota River from Shakopee to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Mendota and adjacent lands." Wirth, sometimes referred to as the "father" of the Minneapolis park system, visualized the valley as "...a recreation area for the Twin Cities and adjacent communities or, in fact, the whole state." He also proposed the establishment of a "forest preserve" along much of the south boundary of the valley. The proposal was apparently conceived, at least in part, as one of the many public works projects undertaken during the depression era (27).

The ambitious proposal would have involved almost 24 miles of the valley, averaging almost 3 miles in width and containing over 41,000 acres. The favorable impression that the valley made on Wirth is illustrated by his own description of the area:

"The river bottom or submersible land covers about 6,000 acres and contains groves of a variety of trees, undergrowth, large hay and pasture meadows, swamps, springs, streams, and spring-fed lakes. Many beautiful wooded valleys depart from

the main valley on both sides of the river, and through these the spring-fed creeks and rivulets run."

"The river banks are mostly wooded and the areas included that are not wooded lend themselves well for proposed forest preserves, as they are not adapted to profitable farming, except in a few cases. The bordering hillsides rise to about 200 feet above the river and provide many fine points for observation of the valley, which, from a landscape point of view, are most attractive and desirable." (27)

Wirth gave particular emphasis to the recreational and aesthetic values that would accrue from such a project:

"The principle object is to provide a large recreational area for the entire state and particularly that section in which the two largest cities with their condensed populations are located. Then too, in preserving as much as possible the many picturesque and historical features and the very attractive landscape picture as a whole, we do a work of inestimable value to posterity. If in the course of years we make the grounds more accessible to the people, we serve a timely purpose, which the change of times and conditions imperatively demand, namely, the establishment of appropriate and ample opportunities for our people to employ their much-increased leisure time under happy surroundings and proper character and health building conditions, exercise, and uplifting recreation."

Wirth was also interested in preserving the forest resources of the valley. He proposed that the entire south boundary of the area, in what is now Eagan, Burnsville and Savage, as well as the rugged hills in the northwest corner of the project area near Chaska, be set up as "forest preserves." According to Wirth:

"These forest lands could be developed by the employment of relief labor and eventually would be a great value from many points of view, well known to the public and in some parts at least, after they had reached a certain age of maturity, would serve as additional outing places for the public." (27)

Finally, Wirth noted areas of special and historical interest in the valley, including the Sibley House, Fort Snelling, Indian camps, trails, the Battle of Shakopee (between the Dakota and Ojibway in 1858), an old tavern and stone mill, and the "boiling springs."

He cited the rapidly growing population of the Twin Cities, recreation and tourism values of the proposal, and the availability of Federal assistance and a large number of "itinerant workers" as justification for the project. In reviewing the existing state and Federal parks and forests in Minnesota he pointed out that "...the forests are all far north of the Twin Cities." (27) He urged acquisition as soon as possible.

The proposal was outlined by Wirth in a letter to Governor Floyd B. Olson in April, 1934. This letter, along with some additional information, was also included in a "Tentative Study Plan of the West Section of a Metropolitan Park System For the Twin Cities Minneapolis and St. Paul," which was part of the 53rd Annual Report of the Minneapolis Park Board of Commissioners in 1935.

But, in the end, the dream was never realized. Governor Olson, one of the prime supporters of the idea, died in the summer of 1936. Apparently, the new administration did not have the same degree of interest in the project. A few overlook areas were developed, including one near the Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie and another near Mendota, but the real essentials of the plan never materialized. During the next three decades commercial, industrial, and residential development in the valley was such that the completion of Wirth's plan became impossible.

Even so, it did spark an interest in the minds of some people that was not completely extinguished.

Whatever the real reasons for the failure of the original Wirth proposal, the idea of preserving at least portions of the lower Minnesota River valley never died completely. There was a period of several years during World War II and afterward when little appears to have been done to advance the idea in any concrete manner. By the early 1960's, however, there were some stirrings of action. In 1963, the Minnesota River was one of four rivers in the state to be designated by the legislature as a state canoe and boating route. This legislation provided for the marking of hazards and points of interest, development of water recreation sites, and acquisition of lands for such purposes. Little, if anything, was accomplished under this act in the Minnesota River valley until the early 1970's, however.

About the same time that the canoe and boating route act was passed, the legislature created the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (MORRC). This commission was empowered to study the recreation resources of the state and recommend to the legislature a comprehensive program for further study and development of these recreation resources (28).

The legislature provided special funds, as a result of the MORRC recommendations, for the study of certain of the areas identified. One of these areas was the Minnesota River valley. The Minnesota Conservation Department, now the Department of Natural Resources, commissioned a study

of the river valley to determine its suitability for a state park. In 1966, a study report and plan for a Carver State Park was developed for the department by the consulting firm of Theodore Wirth and Associates of Billings, Montana. This Wirth was the grandson of the Theodore Wirth who had developed the original preservation proposal of 1935 (28).

The proposal for Carver State Park was almost as ambitious as the 1935 plan. One major difference, however, was that the emphasis had shifted further upstream to the area west and south of Chaska. In addition, many new factors had entered the picture to make the selling of such an idea perhaps more difficult than it may have been in earlier years. For one thing, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had begun to discuss the possibility of flood control dams in the river valley. One of these dams would have been built near the site of the proposed state park. Floods were, and will probably always be, a topic of considerable debate and interest to people of the valley. Some people wanted the dams badly, while others did not. Among those opposing the development of the dams was the Conservation Department. Another factor was that this state park proposal originated essentially from a state agency, though there was some local support for the idea. The original Wirth proposal appears to have been largely the product of two far-sighted and imaginative individuals, Wirth and Olson. The younger Wirth himself noted some of the similarities between his report and that of his grandfather:

"The same 1935 report pointed out some of the same deficiencies in park and recreation opportunities that exist today. In other words, the problems of today regarding recreation opportunities are not new. They are, in fact, problems of long duration grown more acute because of a more accelerated population and industrial growth, an increasingly affluent society, and an ever increasing leisure time." (28)

The Division of State Parks of the Conservation Department, which had commissioned the second Wirth study, held a series of meetings and discussions with local officials and citizens throughout much of the period from 1965 to 1969. There was apparently a mixed reaction in the area to the idea of a state park in the valley. In general, those who favored the proposal saw it as a good method to preserve the natural values of the valley, provide needed recreation opportunities, and perhaps bring some tourism dollars into the area. They may also have seen it as a means of preventing the Corps of Engineers proposal for a series of dams and reservoirs in the river valley.

Those who opposed the state park concept most often cited their support of this reservoir system as a major argument against the park. Some felt that the valley was not suitable for a park and that the reservoirs were needed much more for the prevention of flood problems. They also argued that the park would take in several potential gravel extraction sites on private lands and might harm the valley by bringing in too many people (29).

Though there was some support from local legislators and county officials, there was apparently enough local opposition to prevent park creation. By 1969 the Division of State Parks had all but abandoned the

idea of a state park as originally envisioned. Instead, the concept of a linear recreational trail system in the valley has gained support and interest. In 1969, the state legislature passed a bill creating the Minnesota Valley Trail and authorized the Department of Natural Resources to:

"...provide a recreational travel route...which provides access to or passage through areas which have significant scenic, historic, scientific, or recreation qualities..." When completed, this trail will follow the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling to LeSueur. A detailed "Plan for Recreational Trails in the Minnesota River Valley" was prepared in late 1969 for the Minnesota Boating and Trails Association by a consulting firm. Information from this report was passed on to the Division of State Parks for some of the initial planning of the trail. (11)

The Department of Natural Resources began acquiring land in the valley soon afterwards and by the mid-1970's had established several trail wayside areas. Some of these waysides were established in the area that was originally proposed for a state park. They include the Rush River Wayside near Henderson, the Lawrence Wayside near Jordan, the Carver Rapids Wayside between Jordan and Chaska, Trail Site Two near Chaska, and the Rice Lake Wayside between Savage and Shakopee.

There was some controversy about the acquisition of large parcels of land for these waysides. Some people felt that the Department was buying more land than was needed for trail purposes. The fact that much of the land acquired was in the vicinity of the proposed state park also upset some people.

While the Department of Natural Resources was attempting to acquire and protect certain portions of the valley, local units of government

were also getting into the act. The Hennepin County Park Reserve acquired a large section of the valley adjacent to Blue and Fisher Lakes between Shakopee and Savage. This is now known as the James J. Wilkie Park Reserve. The City of Bloomington was also very active in acquiring lands along the bluffs for park purposes. Some of the other towns in the valley, most notably Shakopee, also had park areas along the river.

Yet, with all of this activity aimed at protecting portions of the valley, by the early 1970's much of the area was being threatened by industrial and commercial development. Burnsville and Savage were particularly active in attracting industrial and commercial uses in the floodplain areas. In 1969, a flood in the valley did tremendous damage to these developments. The filling in of the floodplain continued, however, and the developments continued also. Communities south of the river had begun to grow rapidly and the need for additional road crossings was becoming a controversial topic. The population growth of the area promised to put ever increasing strain on the natural qualities of the river (1).

It was in such an atmosphere that the idea of greater and more comprehensive protection of the valley took root. Change in the valley was evident to almost anyone traveling across it, particularly along Interstate 35. The floodplain was being filled in with large sanitary landfills, industrial sites were springing up over a large area, and the inevitable strip development of commercial enterprises was in full swing. This change was even more obvious to the people who lived and worked in or near the valley. It was these people who finally decided to act.

IV. The Establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area

The sporadic efforts to protect the natural habitat within the lower Minnesota River valley did not seem to some people to be enough to stem the tide of commercial and industrial expansion in the early 1970's. The damaging floods and landfills were enough, however, to convince a small group of citizens in the city of Burnsville that the time had come to take some action to prevent complete development of the valley (1).

A group of local Burnsville residents formed an organization called the Burnsville Environmental Council in the early 1970's. One of the major projects of this group was to try to prevent the issuance of permits for some landfill operations in the river floodplain in Burnsville. They were unsuccessful in their initial attempts, partially because the city council of Burnsville was apparently pro-development at that time and wanted to see industrial activity in the valley area. All of the 1,400 acres of floodplain land within the city at that time was zoned for industrial use (30).

In an effort to broaden support for protection of the river valley, the Burnsville Environmental Council developed a brochure entitled "The Lower Minnesota River" and distributed it throughout the area. In this booklet, the group called for the establishment of a "Lower Minnesota River National Wildlife Refuge Area." (1) The primary objective of this action was to "...maintain an urban floodplain in its natural state, to prevent further pollution and degradation of the area and to retain a corridor of wild land in the heart of a metropolitan area."

In order to gain support for their plan, the Council also decided to try to involve interested citizens in the nearby municipalities. Perhaps the most well organized group in the area with similar attitudes toward the preservation of the river valley was the Bloomington Natural Resources Commission. This was an advisory group to the Bloomington City Council and had been very active in a number of environmental issues in that city. They, too, had concerns over the development in the valley. Bloomington has little floodplain that is capable of supporting industry and the bluffs are closer to the river there. Because of this, the city of Bloomington had followed a policy of protecting much of the bluff areas next to the river as city park land.

Bloomington residents could still see the development occurring in the river valley in Burnsville and Savage, however, and they were concerned. When contacted by the Burnsville Environmental Council about their river protection plan, several members of the Bloomington Natural Resources Commission and other local citizens became very interested. By the spring and summer of 1973 the two groups had joined together to form an ad hoc ~~Lower Minnesota~~ River Committee. This group held a series of organizational meetings during the summer of 1973 and elected two co-chairpersons to coordinate their activities (12).

An article in the June 22, 1973 issue of the Minneapolis Star about one of these meetings revealed some of the sentiments on both sides of the issue at the time. In regard to the existing industrial development in the valley, the chairman of the Burnsville Environmental Council was

quoted as saying: "We're not suggesting any of these be moved, but they're examples of what has happened already. If we don't do something now, the whole area will be used in this manner." On the other hand, the mayor of Burnsville at the time made the following observations: "A man ought to be able to develop his land when he wants to. If we don't want him to develop it, we should purchase it. Then we can do what we want with it. Sure, I'd like to see the land stay wild, too, but trying to raise the kind of money to buy and preserve the land is beyond our means." (30)

The citizen group had decided that local efforts were, indeed, inadequate to preserve the valley and they were determined to push for the establishment of a federal management program. This would take a tremendous lobbying and educational effort and they lost little time in getting to work. They began organizing local information meetings in the various towns in the valley and recruiting new members. They launched a major mailing campaign to alert state and federal legislators of their plans and invite their support. They developed and distributed informational brochures and also developed an excellent slide presentation of the lower Minnesota River valley which, incidentally, is still being used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today. The news media was contacted and several papers ran stories and editorials regarding the proposal.

Finally, they developed draft legislation for the creation of a national wildlife refuge and recreation area and sought authors for the

bill. Then Senator (now Vice-President) Mondale was the chief Senate author while Congressmen Oberstar, Frenzel, and Hagedorn were the prime movers of the bill in the House (25). Field hearings in Minnesota were held by sub-committee's of both the Senate and House in 1975 and 1976. The testimony was very largely in favor of the proposal at these two hearings. The bill finally passed the U.S. House of Representatives on September 20, 1976 and the U.S. Senate on September 24, 1976. The President signed the bill into law on October 9, 1976 (21) (15). After years of intense effort, the citizen group had succeeded in gaining the type of comprehensive management and protection for the valley that had been envisioned, but never quite realized, since the days of Theodore Wirth.

The legislation creating the refuge and recreation area was not, perhaps, all that the citizen group had originally dreamed of. Several compromises were necessary in order to gain the crucial support of local officials and to neutralize some of the objections of industries in the valley. The willingness of the citizen group to compromise on some of these issues may have been an important factor in the eventual success of their proposal.

The first, and perhaps most sensitive issue at the time, was the argument over whether a new bridge crossing in the western Bloomington portion of the river valley should be allowed. Many people on the south side of the valley, particularly in the Shakopee and Scott County areas, wanted a bridge very badly. Many people in western Bloomington did not

want the disruptive road development in their area that would be caused by such a project, not to mention the disruption such a crossing would cause in the river valley itself. The Scott County Board of Commissioners withheld their support of the refuge project until a provision allowing for a well planned and environmentally sensitive bridge crossing was added to the bill (24).

Another major concern of industries in the valley was that the commercial navigation on the river not be disrupted by the establishment of the refuge. The grain industries in the valley were particularly concerned about this. Again, special provisions were written into the bill which provided special instructions for disposal of dredge spoil from the river channel and a specific provision was included insuring the continued use of the navigation channel (15).

There were also some objections from some local farmers and other landowners over the possible loss of agricultural and other private lands within the proposed boundary, but the number of these people was small and they did not seem to develop serious enough opposition to create any major roadblocks for the proposal (24).

The legislation provided for dual-management of the area. The national refuge portion, about one-half of the total acreage, is to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The remainder of the area constitutes the national recreation area and is to be managed by the State of Minnesota and its political subdivisions. The law also provided funding for land acquisition and for development of a comprehensive

management plan within three years of adoption of the bill (or by October, 1979) (15). To date (spring, 1980), several thousands of acres have been acquired as part of the refuge. The management plan, however, is still in the process of completion and will not be finalized until at least the fall of 1980.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, present manager of the Minnesota Valley Trail units and Fort Snelling State Park, is the lead agency cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service in the planning of the refuge and recreation area (13).

Several of the members of the citizen group are still active in following the progress of the refuge and may play a role in the public review process of the proposed management plan for the project. Reports from the refuge planners during the winter of 1980 indicated that several informational meetings they held on the progress of the planning effort were well attended and that people were very interested and had many ideas regarding the future development and management of the refuge and recreation area.

27. Wirth, Theodore. "Tentative Study Plan of the West Section of a Metropolitan Park System for the Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul." Fifty-Third Annual Report of the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1934.
28. Wirth, Theodore J., Carver State Park "On the Minnesota" - A Preliminary Proposal. Prepared by Theodore J. Wirth and Associates for the Division of State, Parks, Minnesota Department of Conservation. Billings, Montana. 1966.

Newspaper Articles

29. "Local Opposition Grows to Carver State Park-Landowners Surveyed," The Minneapolis Star; April 11, 1969.
30. "Drive to Protect Flood Plain Launched," The Minneapolis Star; June 22, 1973.
31. "Group Seeks to Preserve River Valley," Minneapolis Tribune; July 16, 1973.
32. "Citizens Seek River Valley Preservation," Sun Newspapers.
33. "A Plan for the Minnesota River," (Editorial) Minneapolis Tribune; July 22, 1973.
34. "National Wildlife Refuge Proposed for Valley Area," Minnesota Valley Sun; June 6, 1975.
35. "Wildlife Refuge is Exciting Proposal," (Editorial) Minnesota Valley Sun June 6, 1975.
36. "Wildlife Area Proposed Near Minnesota River," Minneapolis Tribune; June 27, 1975.
37. "Citizen Effort Saves Wildlife Refuge," Minneapolis Tribune; June 24, 1979.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

BACKGROUND

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President in October 1976. The Act required the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the State of Minnesota, to establish a 9,500-acre national wildlife refuge to be managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an 8,000-acre recreation area to be managed by the state, counties and local governments. The Act also required the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate a wildlife interpretive center (visitor center) on the wildlife refuge.

Since that time, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed the refuge Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement. The Service has purchased or leased 5,000 of the 9,500 acres and about half of the recreation area has been protected. The refuge has been staffed and is currently being operated and improved for public enjoyment and wildlife benefits.

LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING

Of the 8.2 million dollars authorized for the acquisition of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, about 6.4 million dollars have been appropriated and spent for the purchase of land. Another 1.8 million had been appropriated in FY 1981 but after only \$200,000 was utilized, the remainder was rescinded by the Administration and not restored. Efforts by the Minnesota congressional delegation to have the 1.6 million restored in either the FY 1981 or FY 1982 budgets failed. Unless funds are added to the FY 1983 budget during the year, with a supplemental appropriation, which is most unlikely, the earliest any federal land acquisition dollars will become available will be in FY 1984 or October of 1984. The funding comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund which has been severely reduced in recent years and Minnesota Valley has not been included in recent budget requests by the Department of the Interior.

VISITOR CENTER FUNDING

The wildlife interpretive center, or visitor center, has been conceptually designed by Ellerbe Architects. The land for the center has been purchased near the heart of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area where there is easy access from the refuge to interstate highways, mass transit, metro airport, schools, hotels and residential areas. The building site is on a blufftop in east Bloomington overlooking the river valley just northeast of Control Data's headquarters.

There has been no money appropriated for the construction of the building which will be funded from the construction portion of the regular U. S. Fish and Wildlife annual appropriation. Under the current administration, it is unlikely that this facility will be included in the regular budget requested by the Department of the Interior. The best opportunity for it to be funded is for the Minnesota congressional delegation to specially request that Congress add it to the budget.

ANNUAL OPERATION FUNDING

The annual operation and maintenance (O&M) budget has varied in recent years from \$340,000 to \$410,000, but usually slips to the lower figure because of budget cuts during the year. This amount is the minimum required to just staff, operate, and maintain the wildlife refuge during the year. It does not allow much improvement for more public enjoyment or enhancement of wildlife habitat. In lieu of construction funding for the development of new projects, the annual O&M budget could be increased to \$500,000/year which would allow some small facility development each year.

FUTURE AMENDMENT TO PL 94-466, THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

The newly approved master plan (August 1982) proposes that the acreage of the wildlife refuge be increased to 12,500 acres and under the current land prices, the original 8.2 million dollars authorized for the purchase of the wildlife refuge will fall far short as only 1.6 million of the 8.2 million is left to be obligated and only 5,000 acres of the original 9,500-acre refuge has been protected.

Therefore, the Refuge Act must be amended to increase the total acreage of the refuge to that proposed by the Master Plan and authorize the purchase of city and county owned lands inside the designated refuge. It also needs to increase the funding authorization so that another \$9 million can be utilized for refuge land acquisition.

A draft Refuge Act Amendment is attached.

MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Counsel

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Subject: Proposed Legislation to alter the Boundaries and Increase and Extend the Authorization of Appropriations for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

I. Summary of Legislation

The accompanying draft legislation would increase the authorization of appropriations of Federal land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by \$10.4 million to an \$18.7 million ceiling and increase the development funds authorized from \$6 million to \$9 million. The amount authorized for the State recreation area land acquisition would remain at \$6.2 million. The total authorization for all acquisition would thus be \$24.9 million. In addition, it would extend the availability of all sums until expended.

I. Reason for Legislation

Establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was authorized by Congress in 1976 in Public Law 94-466 (90 Stat. 1993). As defined by that statute, the refuge is to include approximately 9,500 acres in the lower Minnesota River Valley and is to be acquired and managed by the Secretary of the Interior. The statute also authorizes the establishment of a wildlife recreation area adjacent to the refuge. This recreation area is to be acquired, developed, and administered by the State of Minnesota. The statute authorizes appropriations of \$14.5 million for acquisition of the refuge-recreation area for the period October 1, 1977, through September 30, 1983, and \$6 million for development of the refuge-recreation area. The legislative history indicates that Congress intended that \$8.3 million of the authorized sums are to be used for refuge acquisition and \$6.2 million to match sums from the state's normal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition.

The valley bluffs, lakes, and marshes provide important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. White-tailed deer use the valley continuously, with the largest concentrations occurring in winter. Minks, muskrats, racoons, gray and red foxes, beavers, and woodchucks are some of the small mammals inhabiting the area. Thousands of waterfowl including scaup, ring-neck, mallard, bufflehead, widgeon, blue-wing teal and wood duck utilize the area for resting and feeding during their migrations. While fish in the shallow floodplain lakes are frequently winter killed, carp, pike, sunfish, drum, catfish, shad, and gar are abundant in the larger lakes and marshes.

The lower Minnesota River Valley is located in a metropolitan area of over two million people. The presence of wildlife in an urban setting such as exists in this valley provides an exceptional opportunity for wildlife and wildlands observation, enjoyment, and education for large numbers of people. While the refuge is managed primarily to protect and enhance wildlife resources, visitors are assisted in enjoying wildlife through programs and facilities specifically designed for that purpose.

The total appropriated through Fiscal Year 1983 for refuge acquisition is \$8.3 million (although \$1.6 million was rescinded in FY 81), of which approximately \$6.7 million had been obligated through February, 1982. Three thousand three hundred fifty (3,350) acres have been purchased, 3,000 acres are state owned meandered areas, and 3,300 acres are left to be acquired.

The estimated cost of acquisition of the remaining 3,300 acres of refuge lands is approximately \$12 million (\$1.6 million appropriated but rescinded plus \$10.4 million additional funding to be authorized by amending current legislation). The reason for the increased estimated total cost of acquisition of the refuge area is the escalation of real estate values between 1976 and 1983. The problem of providing matching funds to the State is not being addressed in this proposed legislation.

Development of the interpretive center has been delayed because funds have not been appropriated. Due to inflation, the cost of building the interpretive center at a later date will be higher than originally anticipated. For this, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) estimates it will be necessary to increase the authorization for appropriations from \$6 million to a ceiling of \$9 million.

In addition to requesting an increase in the authorization, the proposed legislation would extend the time during which the funds would be available for acquisition and development. The FWS anticipates protracted negotiations with current landowners due to disagreements on price. In addition, some potential agreements may not be reached because of local knowledge that legislation is needed to provide additional funding to complete acquisition of the refuge.

III. Alternatives:

- A. Propose a 10.4 million increase in the authorization to cover acquisition of the remaining refuge areas and an extension of the time during which the funds would be available for appropriation.
- B. Propose an extension of the time during which the remaining authorized funds (1.6 million appropriated but rescinded) would be available.
- C. Do not propose anything, allowing the authorization to expire.

Alternative A is the only one which will carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in P.L. 94-466. The other two would leave the refuge at approximately one-half of the acreage originally specified.

IV. Results of Enactment:A. Budgetary Impact on the Service

The proposed legislation would authorize an additional appropriation of \$10.4 million to complete acquisition of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The amendment would also increase the funds for development from \$6 to \$9 million. There would be no budgetary impact until funds are requested or appropriated.

B. Changes in Program Authority/Responsibility

None.

V. History of Service Positions on Similar or Related Legislations:

The Service originally supported legislation establishing the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

VI. Summary of Legislative Interest:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act resulted from bills introduced by Representatives James Oberstar, Bill Frenzel, former Congressman Hagedorn and former Senators Walter Mondale and Hubert Humphrey. Both of the Congressmen have expressed continuing interest. Representative Frenzel has specifically indicated an interest in the land acquisition funding. Senate Durenberger has become increasingly interested in the refuge and his staff has been in close contact with a citizen's support group called Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

There is continuing public support for completion and expansion of the refuge/recreation area. The State of Minnesota has and continues to support the area and has currently budgeted funds to acquire land trail rights-of-way within the recreation area. It is anticipated that the state will seek additional acquisition funding for the recreation area. Throughout the master planning process, the public has been supportive of the boundary realignment. A final Environmental Impact Statement covering the boundary readjustments has been printed.

VII. Public Statements:

No public statements on this matter have been made by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Director.

VIII. Summary of Major Policy Questions:

The major policy question involved is the impact of the proposal on the budget.

IX. Recommendation

For the earlier stated reasons, the FWS recommend Alternative A and that the attached legislation be forwarded to Congress as an Administration proposal.

extra file
6-28-82
DRAFT

6/3/82

MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Counsel
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
From: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Subject: Proposed Legislation to alter the Boundaries and Increase and Extend the Authorization of Appropriations for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

RE-mn
MN Valley

17
6/21
copy sent
to TCM
: MN Valley

I. Summary of Legislation

The accompanying draft legislation will increase the authorization of appropriations for land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by \$15 million to a \$23.3 million ceiling and increase the development funds authorized from \$6 million to \$9 million. In addition, it will extend the availability of both of those sums until expended. The project boundary will be altered to expand the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres to reflect the boundary changes recommended by the joint local-state-federal draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan as shown on the attached maps.

II. Reason for Legislation:

Establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was authorized by Congress in 1976 by Public Law 94-466 (90 Stat. 1993). As defined by that statute, the refuge is to include approximately 9,500 acres in the lower Minnesota River Valley and is to be acquired and managed by the Secretary of the Interior. The statute also authorizes the establishment of a wildlife recreation area adjacent to the refuge. This recreation area is to be acquired, developed, and administered by the State of Minnesota. The statute authorizes appropriations of \$14.5 million for acquisition of the refuge-recreation area for the period October 1, 1977, through September 30, 1983, and \$6 million for development of the refuge-recreation area. The legislative history indicates that Congress intended that \$8.3 million of the authorized sums are to be used for refuge acquisition and \$6.2 million to match sums from the state's normal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of the recreation area.

The total appropriated through Fiscal Year 1982 for refuge acquisition is \$8.3 million (\$1.6 million was rescinded in FY 81), of which approximately \$6.6 million had been obligated through February, 1982. Three thousand two hundred (3,200) acres have been purchased, 3,000 acres are state owned since they involve waters and lands within meandered areas, and 6,200 acres are left to be acquired (3,300 acres originally authorized and 2,900 proposed additional acres).

The estimated cost of acquisition of the remaining 6,200 acres of refuge lands is approximately \$16.6 million (\$1.6 million appropriated but rescinded plus \$15 million additional funding to be authorized by amending current legislation). The reason for the increased estimated total cost of acquisition of the refuge area is the escalation of real estate values between 1976 and 1982 and the increased size of the refuge. The problem of providing matching funds to the state is not being addressed in this proposed legislation.

The estimated cost of acquiring the remaining refuge area is based upon the presumption that the Service will pay fair market value for privately owned lands only. Two thousand one hundred (2,100) acres of the remaining 6,200 acres of the refuge are owned by local units of government. Acquisition of publicly owned land will be attempted by cooperative and management agreements, exchanges, and donations.

Development of the interpretive center has been delayed because funds have not been appropriated. Due to inflation, the cost of building the interpretive center at a later date will be higher than originally anticipated. For this, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) estimates it will be necessary to increase the authorization for appropriation from \$6 million to a ceiling of \$9 million.

In addition to requesting an increase in the authorization, the proposed legislation would extend the time during which the funds would be available for acquisition and development. The FWS anticipates protracted negotiations with current landowners due to disagreements on price. In addition, some potential agreements may not be reached because of local knowledge that legislation is needed to provide additional funding to complete acquisition of the refuge.

There are two types of boundary adjustments shown on the attached map. The first type involves boundary realignment of lands lying within the designated refuge and recreation area (colored in red) to provide for a more practical state-Federal-local management program. The second represents the addition or expansion of boundaries (colored in green) beyond that area authorized by Congress to include sensitive or valuable wildlife areas. As a result of the joint state-Federal-local planning process, it is recommended that the official refuge-recreation boundaries to be changed as shown on the attached maps to reflect the draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan.

The project was delineated on an "official map" that accompanied the Act. Boundaries of the maps were prepared with the knowledge at hand at the time the legislation was enacted. The Act also gave authority to acquire additional lands for inclusion as determined desirable by the Secretary of the Interior. In several cases, the 1976 version of the "official map" overlooked natural management boundaries and divided valuable ecosystems in such a manner as to promote conflicting management objectives in the same area, such as a single wetland basin. This could lead to attempts to preserve one-half of a wetland for its natural values while the other half is being filled for commercial uses. In other cases, small isolated parcels were designated for one agency's management when they were adjacent to another agency's ownership and part of the same ecological community.

Transfer of management responsibilities in these cases would increase management efficiency and allow holistic ecosystem management. The recently prepared Federal-state draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan recommends correcting oversights of the original "official map".

III. Alternatives:

- A. Propose an increase in the authorization of \$15 million to cover the estimated cost of acquiring the remaining refuge areas (including the additional identified 2,900 acres), and an extension of the time during which the funds would be available for appropriation.
- B. Propose an increase in the authorization of \$ ___ million to cover acquisition of the remaining refuge areas (not including the additional acreage), and an extension of the time during which the funds would be available for appropriation.
- C. Propose an extension of the time during which the remaining authorized funds (the 1.6 million appropriated but rescinded) would be available.
- D. Do not propose anything, allowing the authorization to expire and halting acquisition at approximately 1/2 of the acreage established by P.L. 94-466.

IV. Results of Enactment:

A. Budgetary Impact on the Service

The proposed legislation would authorize an additional appropriation of \$15 million to complete acquisition of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The amendment would also increase the funds for development from \$6 to \$9 million. Therefore, the combined budgetary impact would be \$18 million (\$3 million additional for development plus \$15 million for acquisition).

B. Changes in Program Authority/Responsibility

Portions of the original proposed recreation area will be administered as part of the refuge due to boundary realignment.

V. History of Service Positions on Similar or Related Legislation:

The Service originally supported legislation establishing the Minnesota Valley National Refuge.

VI. Summary of Legislative Interest:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act resulted from bills introduced by Representatives James Oberstar, Bill Frenzel and Tom Hagedorn, and former

Senators Walter Mondale and Hubert Humphrey. All three of the Congressmen have expressed continuing interest. Representative Frenzel has specifically indicated an interest in the land acquisition funding. Senator Durenberger has become increasingly interested in the refuge and his staff has been in close contact with a citizen's support group called Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

There is continuing public support for completion and expansion of the refuge/recreation area. The State of Minnesota has and continues to support the area and has currently budgeted funds to acquire land trail rights-of-way within the recreation area. It is anticipated that the state will seek additional acquisition funding for the recreation area. Throughout the master planning process, the public has been supportive of the boundary realignment. A final Environmental Impact Statement covering the boundary readjustments is now being printed.

VII. Public Statements:

No public statements on this matter have been made by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Director.

VIII. Summary of Major Policy Questions:

The major policy question involved is the impact of the proposal on the budget.

IX. Recommendation

For the earlier stated reasons, Alternative A and that the

^ We recommend ~~the~~ attached legislation be forwarded to Congress as an Administration proposal.

Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (LS)
 Attention: Alan Palisoul

Feb. 18, 1983

(Sgd) James C. Gritman
 ACTING Regional Director, FWS, Twin Cities, MN (RE) x

Review of MVNWR Reauthorization Draft

RE - Minnesota
 Minnesota Valley

We have reviewed Alan Palisoul's 02/02/83 draft memorandum to the USDI Legislative Counsel proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL 94-466). We have revised paragraphs 5 and 7 and our suggested replacement paragraphs are as follows:

Suggested 5th Paragraph

The total appropriated through Fiscal Year 1983 for refuge acquisition is \$8.3 million (although \$1.6 million was rescinded in FY 81), of which \$6.7 million has been obligated through February, 1982. Approximately 3,200 acres have been purchased, 450 acres are publicly owned, 1,300 acres have been leased, 2,850 acres of private land remain to be acquired and the remainder is state protected or meandered waters for a total of 9,500 acres.

Suggested 7th Paragraph

Development of the interpretive center has been delayed because funds have not been appropriated. Due to inflation, the cost of building the interpretive center at a later date will be higher than originally anticipated. For this, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) estimates it will be necessary to increase the total construction fund ceiling to \$9.8 million which includes funds for the interpretative center and the other public and wildlife support facilities recommended by the master plan.

We further recommend that section III Alternatives be deleted and section IX Recommendation be worded as follows:

IX Recommendation

We recommend a \$10.4 million increase in the authorization for appropriations to cover acquisition of the remaining refuge areas and an increase of \$3.8 million for the interpretive center and other facilities recommended by the master plan as well as an extension of time during which the funds would be available for expenditure. This is the only way to carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in P.L. 94-466. To do otherwise would have the refuge at approximately one-half of the acreage originally specified in scattered parcels that will pose serious management problems.

The remaining contents of the draft look very good. We will prepare status maps of the refuge for the Congressional briefing and send them to you shortly. Please contact Tom Follrath of our Realty staff for any further clarification or information.

FAXFORM 1 of 1

cc: Confirmation copy
 bcc: Minnesota Valley NWR
 RDGrimwood:jal:2/18/83 RE Reading FU

RG
 2/18/83
 Janison
 2/18/83
 2-18
 Follrath
 2/18
 S. WILDS
 2/18/83



NEWS

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

U.S. Department of the Interior · Fish and Wildlife Service

4101 East 78th Street · Bloomington, Minnesota 55420 · (612) 854-5900

For Immediate Release

Hawkins 612/854-5900

SENATOR DURENBERGER REVIEWS U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE PLANS
FOR
MINNESOTA VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Today Senator David Durenberger visited the headquarters of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington to review U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans for a visitor center designed to demonstrate principles of both energy and wildlife conservation.

The unique facility will employ earth-sheltered and solar heating techniques to save energy. It will blend into the contours of the scenic bluffs overlooking Long Meadow Lake and give visitors opportunities to experience exhibits and demonstrations relating wildlife ecology to urban quality of life. Metro area residents and visitors from throughout the region will discover ways to improve their own backyard habitats. The center will also feature a gallery of wildlife art and environmental education facilities and programs for over 500 metro area schools.

Senator Durenberger is especially interested in alternative approaches to the problem of energy conservation that are being considered during the planning phase. The building is being designed by competing teams of architects from Ellerbe Associates, Inc. Of a dozen entrants, four finalist design teams have presented their plans and the winner will be selected before the end of the month. All of the energy-saving designs attempt to maximize efficiency while minimizing impacts on the bluff environment.

The visitor center is expected to be a major attraction in the future, part of the large-scale development plan for the eastern Bloomington Metropolitan Stadium and Airport complex. Opportunities for wildlife-oriented recreational and educational experiences have been previously unknown on the doorsteps of hotels, apartments and commercial centers in an urban environment.

According to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Manager Edward S. Crozier, this is precisely the reason that Public Law 94-466 mandated such a facility in 1976. "We are here to show that people can co-exist with wildlife even in the cities by adopting a conservation-oriented lifestyle."

-FWS-

October 10, 1980

Minnesota Valley



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Notes

FACTS ABOUT THE REFUGE

Establishment

Public Law 94-466 created the refuge in 1976.

Mandate

To protect and enhance floodplain wildlife habitats while creating an urban center to provide educational programs and recreational opportunities that are wildlife oriented for "hundreds of thousands of urban dwellers."

Scope of Project

Through interagency coordination with both State and local units of government, the project seeks to protect lands periodically flooded along 36 river miles of the Lower Minnesota. When completed, about 9,500 acres of these lands will be managed by the Federal government as a National Wildlife Refuge. Another 8,500 acres will be managed by other units of government as Recreation Area. These lands, as well as the historic communities along the river, will be tied together by a State Corridor Trail maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Status of the Refuge

A Master Plan for the refuge is scheduled for a second series of public hearings and completion before the end of the year. The refuge staff has completed its first full year of operations (about 10 permanent employees) and recently moved into a remodeled home near the proposed visitor center site. Out of this temporary office, the first wildlife management projects and environmental education outreach programs have been conducted. Land acquisition is about one-third complete (3,400 acres) and access points to the first fully acquired units, such as Louisville Swamp near Jordan, are being developed.

For More Information:

Contact Ed Crozier, Refuge Manager or Tex Hawkins, Assistant Manager for Public Services at 612-854-5900, 4101 East 78th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

FAXFORM

TO: Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (LS)
Attention: Alan Palisoul

DATE 3/1/83

TIME 3:10 pm

FROM:

Harvey L. Nelson
Regional Director, FWS, Twin Cities, MN



Deliver on regular mail run



Call to have picked up 343-5403

SUBJECT:

Information for Subcommittee Hearing on Refuge Reauthorization

RE - Minnesota

Minnesota Valley, NWR

We have become aware that groups such as the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, the National Wildlife Refuge Association, the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, the Audubon Society as well as Senator Durenberger's and Congressman Frenzel's offices may want certain issues relating to the Minnesota Valley NWR addressed at the forthcoming refuge reauthorization hearings.

These are legitimate concerns of these groups and we too believe they will need to be resolved before we can complete the refuge. While we do not know the exact nature of their questions we understand they are concerned with at least three issues. We recognize there are certain constraints we must deal with in answering their questions, and therefore, suggest that these questions be addressed in the following manner:

1. The approved Minnesota Valley Master Plan recommends some boundary modifications as well as a number of additions to the refuge. The question may be raised as to why the proposed reauthorization legislation does not address and provide for these changes and additions. Boundary adjustments are authorized under the existing legislation. A proposal to add 2,900 acres to the refuge was submitted last summer and the decision made to withhold further consideration until completion of the Land Protection Plan. We have begun work on this plan and it is scheduled for completion by March, 1984.

Of the 2,900 acre proposed addition, 1,200 acres are in private ownership and have an estimate fee title acquisition cost of \$4.5 million. Because of the prohibition of using LWCF funds to acquire publicly owned land, we would propose to acquire or protect the 1,700 acres in public ownership by donation, exchange, or cooperative agreement.

2. The question of amending the legislation to allow the Service to use LWCF funds to acquire the publicly owned land in the refuge and the proposed addition is also likely to be raised. There are 455 acres of publicly owned land in the existing refuge valued at \$750,000 and 1,700 acres in the proposed addition valued at \$3.5 million.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has directed that there be no Federal acquisition of lands in public ownership using funds from the LWCF until efforts have been made to acquire them by donation

or an irrevocable use permit. We, therefore, cannot purchase these lands without approval of the Committee on Appropriations and we know of no such approvals having been granted to date. In view of the many high priority uses for the limited LWCF dollars available, especially during these times of fiscal constraints, purchase of publicly owned land is extremely difficult to justify. We recognize the desirability of including these areas in the refuge and will continue to try to acquire them by donation, exchange, or cooperative agreement until such time as more favorable conditions exist and other provisions can be made. We have been advised by some of the local units of government that they will insist that they be reimbursed for whatever interest we may acquire or for their original investment in the property.

3. We understand that legislation either recently proposed or enacted relating to the Voyageurs National Park would enable the National Park Service to accept money from a lender to construct a visitor center at the Park and to enter into some type of suitable agreement to pay the money back at an agreed upon rate of interest. We identified this as an alternative for funding the Interpretive Center in our memorandum to you of 4/23/82, along with another alternative of allowing a concessionaire to build the center and charge a user fee to the public. He would be allowed to recoup his investment over a period of years with the Service using the facility.

Either of these are viable alternatives in our opinion and should be seriously considered if funding cannot be made available to the Service to construct the Interpretive Center ourselves.

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley have prepared draft legislation that covers all three of these matters and have forwarded it to Senator Durenberger for his consideration.

If you need more detailed information please contact us.

cc: Confirmation Copy

ROBERT T. STAFFORD
CHAIRMAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Washington, D.C.

May 31, 198*3*

To: *Mrs. Elaine Mellott*

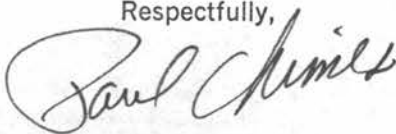
Please review and legibly correct your remarks, supply any additional information or exhibits requested, and return this copy of the transcript to—

Paul Chimes
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Room ~~4204~~ *SD-416*
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

It is essential to printing schedules that the transcript be returned no later than *6/14/83*

We will assume that you are satisfied with your remarks as transcribed if the transcript is not received by the due date.

Respectfully,



is-5

1 into the effort that I am confident will see the Minnesota
2 Valley National Wildlife Refuge to completion.

3 Senator Chafee. Thank you, Mr. Durenberger, Mrs. Mellott
4 We welcome you here, and do you have a statement?

5 Mrs. Mellott. Yes, Mr. Chairman, members and staff, and
6 I would like the entire ^{written} statement in the record.

7 Senator Chafee. Sure, we will. We definitely will do
8 that.

9 Mrs. Mellott. I am representing the Friends of the Minne-
10 sota Valley National Wildlife Refuge this morning, ~~and~~ I would
11 like to say that this National Wildlife Refuge is very impor-
12 tant to the State of Minnesota and a very popular project within
13 the state and the urban area. It is along a ^{major} river corridor,
14 ~~and~~ The marshes in that river corridor are considered unique
15 in the world and written about by Dr. Paul Errington, ^{The} ~~at the~~
16 University of Iowa, who spoke to their high productivity of
17 wildlife, ^(especially fur-bearing animals and birds) their geological characteristics, and the ecological
18 ^{unusual} benefits to the area in supplying fresh waters.

19 I would like to ask that the committee consider ^{and approve} the points
20 to which Senator Durenberger has spoken; that you would con-
21 sider increasing the boundaries of the refuge to incorporate
22 some natural water areas that were split out because of
23 political boundaries in the original legislation. Those politi-
24 cal entities now wish to have those wetlands included, ^{the boundary} ~~and because~~
25 we also ^{increase} have areas of ~~fins~~ ^{includes} orchid ~~fins~~ ^{fens} that are unique in the

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PAGE 53 (25) 53-5355

after
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1 United States ^{because of} in their size and ^{unique} plant communities.

2 I would like very much to --

3 Senator Chafee. What is ~~a fen~~ an orchid fen?

4 Mrs. Mellott. A ^efen is an area of land that is actually
5 held or raised up in the center because so much low PH fresh
6 water is flowing through it. The artisan activity in the
7 valley actually raises the land, and ^{supports} ~~there is~~ a unique commun-
8 ity of plants and some wildlife. ^{a fen} ~~That~~ is the opposite of a
9 ~~bog~~. bog in ~~water~~ water PH content.

10 Senator Chafee. Yes.

11 Mrs. Mellott. The opposite.

12 Senator Chafee. Thank you very much, Mrs. Mellott,
13 Senator Durenberger, of course, a very valuable member of this
14 committee and who has been active in this project, and we will
15 all work together with some amendments.

16 I understand the legislation is already on the floor, and
17 with Senator Durenberger's able assistance, we can present some
18 amendments. This sounds like a very worthwhile project. You
19 are preaching to the choir when you talk about wildlife refuges
20 to this committee, so we thank you for coming on and lending
21 your valuable support to this project.

22 Mrs. Mellott. Thank you for hearing me, Senator Chafee and
23 Senator Durenberger. I want you to know how much we appreciate
24 your commitment to preserving the environment.

25 Senator Chafee. That is nice.

RECEIVED
SENATOR CHAFE
SENATOR DURENBERGER
SENATOR MELLOTT
SENATOR CHAFE
SENATOR DURENBERGER
SENATOR MELLOTT

is-7

1 Senator Durenberger. I didn't tell her to say that.
2 Senator Chafee. That won't lose her any support, I tell
3 you.

4 Mrs. Mellott. Thank you.

5 (The statement of Mrs. Mellott for the record follows:)

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search and review requirements, the committee requests the Agency to appropriately apply such resources and personnel to the task of eliminating the present backlog. To accomplish this, the committee expects the Agency not to reduce its budgetary and personnel allocation for FOIA during the period of 2 years immediately following enactment of this legislation."

Is it correct that the CIA has agreed to these requests for a program and for resource allocations?

Mr. GOLDWATER. That is correct, after the bill is enacted.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the chairman, and I want to stress the importance of these commitments by the CIA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further discussion?

Without objection, the bill is ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and to be read the third time.

The bill (S. 1324) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. BYRD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN WILDLIFE REFUGES

Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, if the minority leader does not object, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to consideration of Calendar Order No. 148 H.R. 1723.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, there is no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, H.R. 1723, to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 1986 for the Great Dismal Swamp, Minnesota Valley, and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges.

AMENDMENT NO. 2646

(Purpose: To make authorized funds available until expended and to expand boundaries of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge)

Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator CHAFEE for himself, Mr. DURENBERGER, and Mr. STAFFORD, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. BAKER), for Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DURENBERGER, and Mr. STAFFORD, proposes an amendment numbered 2646.

Mr. BAKER. I ask unanimous consent that further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Amendments to Section 1. Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

On page 1, line 7, insert "as amended," immediately before "is".

On page 2, line 1, strike "\$34,100,000".

On page 2, line 2, strike "and ending September 30, 1986" and insert in lieu thereof "\$34,100,000, to remain available until expended".

Amendments to Section 2. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

On page 2, line 7, strike all through line 19, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"(a) Section 4(a)(1) of the Act entitled the 'Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act', approved October 8, 1976 (Public Law 97-466, 90 Stat. 1993), is amended by—

"(1) striking '\$5,500' and inserting in lieu thereof '\$12,500'; and

"(2) striking 'November 1975' and inserting in lieu thereof 'October 1983'.

"(b) Section 4(b)(1) of such Act of October 8, 1976 (90 Stat. 1993), is amended by—

"(1) striking 'within 6 years after the date of enactment of this Act'; and

"(2) adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: 'Notwithstanding any "least interest" policy, the Secretary shall accept and acquire by donation any lands, water, and interests therein, within the boundaries of the refuge, which are offered as a donation by any State or local government agency, person, or private organization.'"

"(c) Section 10(a) of such Act of October 8, 1976 (90 Stat. 1996), is amended by striking out '\$14,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1983' and inserting in lieu thereof '\$29,500,000, to remain available until expended'.

"(d) Section 10(b) of such Act of October 8, 1976 (90 Stat. 1996), is amended by striking out '\$6,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1986' and inserting in lieu thereof '\$9,000,000, to remain available until expended'."

Amendments to section 3. San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

On page 3, line 1, insert "as amended," immediately before "is" and insert "the close of" immediately after the quotation mark following "out".

On page 3, line 2, strike "September 30, 1986" and insert in lieu thereof "expended".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2646) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on the engrossment of the amendment and the third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time. The bill was read the third time and passed.

Mr. BAKER. I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. BYRD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

BILL HELD AT DESK—H.R. 4336

Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that once the Senate receives from the House, H.R. 4336, a bill to make certain miscellaneous changes in laws relating to the civil service, it be held at the desk pending further disposition.

Mr. BYRD. I have no objection, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OCEAN AND COASTAL PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on S. 1098.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1098) entitled, "An Act to consolidate and authorize certain ocean and coastal programs and functions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Department of Commerce", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert: That this Act may be cited as the "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ocean and Coastal Program Authorization Act".

TITLE I—NONLIVING MARINE RESOURCES AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out its non-living marine resource duties under law, \$800,000 for fiscal year 1984. Moneys appropriated pursuant to this authorization shall be used to fund those duties relating to non-living marine resources specified by the Act entitled "An Act to define the functions and duties of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and for other purposes", approved August 6, 1947, as amended (33 U.S.C. 883a), and any other law involving such duties. Such duties include, but are not limited to, polymetallic sulfide analysis and research.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 201. (a) Section 212 of the National Sea Grant Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1131) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) Not to exceed \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1984 and not to exceed \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 1985."

(b) Section 3(c) of the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976 (33 U.S.C. 1124a(c)) is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) For fiscal years 1984 and 1985, not to exceed \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year appropriated pursuant to section 212 of the National Sea Grant Program Act may be available to carry out this section."

TITLE III—OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION ACT AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 301. Section 416 of the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-320) is amended—

(1) by striking out "and"; and
(2) by striking out "1983" and inserting in lieu thereof "1983, not to exceed \$620,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984, and not to exceed \$800,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985."

On Page 2, Line 12

Strike "\$24,900,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$29,500,000";

On Page 2, Lines 13 and 14

Strike "September 30, 1986" and insert in lieu thereof "which shall be available until expended";

On Page 2, Line 19

Add the following new subsection:

(b) Section 4 of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (Public Law 94-466, 90 Stat. 1996) is amended --

(1) by amending subsection (a)(1) by striking out "9,500" and inserting in lieu thereof "12,500", and by striking out "November 1975" and inserting in lieu thereof "October 1983"

(2) and by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph "Notwithstanding any "least interest" policy, the Secretary shall accept any lands within the boundaries of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge which are offered for donation by any State or local government agency, person or private organization."

Calendar No. 148

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1723

[Report No. 98-93]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21 (legislative day, APRIL 18), 1983

Received; referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

MAY 16, 1983

Reported by Mr. CHAFEE, without amendment

AN ACT

To authorize appropriations through fiscal year 1986 for the Great Dismal Swamp, Minnesota Valley, and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE
4 REFUGE.

5 Section 4(4) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the
6 Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge", approved
7 August 30, 1974 (Public Law 93-402, 88 Stat. 802), is
8 amended to read as follows:

1 “(4) \$34,100,000 for the period beginning Octo-
2 ber 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1986, of which
3 not to exceed \$22,000,000 shall be available for land
4 acquisition and not to exceed \$12,100,000 shall be
5 available for purposes other than land acquisition.”.

6 SEC. 2. MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

7 Section 10 of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
8 Refuge Act (Public Law 94-466, 90 Stat. 1996) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (a) by striking out
11 “\$14,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof
12 “\$24,900,000”, and by striking out “September 30,
13 1983” and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30,
14 1986”; and

15 (2) by amending subsection (b) by striking out
16 “\$6,000,000” and inserting in lieu thereof
17 “\$9,800,000”, and by striking out “and ending Sep-
18 tember 30, 1986” and inserting in lieu thereof “which
19 shall be available until expended”.

20 SEC. 3. SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

21 Section 5(1) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for
22 the establishment of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife
23 Refuge”, approved June 30, 1972 (Public Law 92-330, 86

- 1 Stat. 400), is amended by striking out "September 30,
- 2 1983;" and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1986;".

Passed the House of Representatives April 19, 1983.

Attest:

BENJAMIN J. GUTHRIE,

Clerk.

C. LAND ACQUISITION

1. Fee Title

In 1976 the U. S. Congress appropriated 8.3 million dollars from Land and Water Conservation Funds for acquisition of lands in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge with land acquisition to be completed by 1983. One hundred and thirteen (113) publicly and privately-owned tracts of land ranging from 1842 acres to .1 acres are involved in the acquisition consisting of approximately 6488.4 acres. Public waters and the Black Dog Lake Unit make up the difference for a total of 9310 acres.

At this time, 59 of the 113 parcels of land have been acquired totaling 3,184.9 acres or 53% of total fee title acquisition. Five million, four hundred seventy-three thousand, four hundred dollars (\$5,473,400) or 66% of acquisition funds have been paid out to landowners with approximately 33% of total funds remaining. Table 2 gives the annual breakdown of LWCF appropriations.

Several parcels of the remaining land (totaling 480 acres) are owned by county and municipal governments which prohibit using money from the LWCF for their acquisition since they are already in public ownership. If this acreage can be included in the refuge without fee title acquisition, only 2,822 acres remain to be acquired. Table 3 indicates acreage acquired by refuge unit and Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 show amount of acreage acquired. Table 4 shows acquisition status.

2. Easements

A management agreement from Northern States Power Company of 1,306 acres for Black Dog Lake is currently being negotiated. Negotiation for the agreement is in its second year between the Field Solicitor and attorneys for NSP with a final agreement expected sometime this year. Under the agreement, the USFWS will post boundaries, patrol, census and carry out limited environmental education and wildlife management activities.

3. Other

Nothing to report.

1982

Table 2. ANNUAL BREAKDOWN OF LWCF APPROPRIATIONS

Fiscal Year	Amount
1977	\$75,000
1978	7,731,000
1979	400,000
Total	8,206,000
1980 (withdrawal)	-1,748,000
Total	6,458,000
1981	1,940,000
Total	\$8,398,000

Table 3. ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY REFUGE UNIT

Unit	Ultimate Acreage	% of Total Area	Acres Acquired	Acres Remaining To Be Acquired	Existing Public Land & Water
Long Meadow	2461.0	26.4	694.0	1246.0	521.0
Bloomington					
Ferry	384.0	4.2	160.9	221.4	1.8
Upgrala	2442.5	26.2	219.1	1040.7	1182.7
Chaska	590.5	6.3	270.1	197.7	122.6
Louisville					
Swamp	2125.5	22.9	1840.8	116.3	168.4
Total	8003.5	86.0	3184.9	2822.1	1996.5
Black Dog Lease	1306.0	14.0			
Grand Total	9309.5	100.0	3184.9	2822.1	1996.5

Table 4. ACQUISITION STATUS

Lands	Acres	Percent
Acres Acquired	3184.9	34.2
Existing Public		
Land & Water	1996.5	21.4
Black Dog Lease	1306.0	14.0
Total	6487.4	69.7
Acres Remaining to be Acquired	2822.1	30.3
Grand Total	9309.5	100.0

Statement to the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Environmental
Pollution on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
May 19, 1983

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members and Staff:

I am Elaine Mellott from Bloomington, MN., home of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge. I am representing the Friends of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail organization. The Friends of the Minnesota Valley Refuge is a two-year old organization with 125 core members. Many of these members have been working on this project for 10-15 years. Their perseverance in itself is an indication of the importance of the Minnesota River Valley as part of our national resources and refuge system. The members of our board represent interested citizens and a coalition of conservation interests numbering tens of thousands of persons in Minnesota alone.

Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area embodies a new concept in federal, state and local government in natural resource management. The backbone of the Refuge and Recreation Area will be a state trail running adjacent to the Minnesota River between Fort Snelling and Le Sueur. Currently, the trail connects wildlife and recreation lands managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and local units of government. There are 17 different units of government involved in this project.

As more people get involved in the refuge project, excitement builds over the rediscovery of forgotten values that have somehow survived the advance of urbanization.

Behind the natural silt levees that formed on both sides of the Minnesota River channel are 15 marshy lakes fed by springs bubbling from the base of the bluffs. The lakes are surrounded and separated by flood plain forest and farmland. This interspersed of water and diverse habitats accounts for the Valley's surprising abundance of wildlife.

Millions of birds pour through the Minnesota Valley during migration. It provides the best, and in some places the only, suitable corridor of habitat for some species to follow. About 100 species pass through the area each spring on their way to nesting grounds farther north. Another 150 species either nest in the area and head south in the fall, or spend the entire year on the refuge.

Notable migrants include pelicans, whistling swans and bald eagles. Herons, egrets, and wood ducks return to the flood plain forests and marshes each year to nest and raise their young. The most spectacular year-round resident is the pileated woodpecker, whose huge borings are evident on insect-ridden trees throughout the river bottoms.

About 50 different kinds of mammals inhabit the Refuge, including several hundred white-tailed deer. The marshes are peppered with muskrat houses, and beaver cuttings are common along the river's banks. Other species include raccoon, red fox, mink, weasel, squirrel, and rabbit. World marsh and ecology expert Paul Errington, wrote that the Minnesota River Valley marshes are unique in the world in their size, geological characteristics and wildlife productivity.

Future studies will reveal more about the dynamics and significance of the area's wildlife populations and habitats. We know that the refuge lies at the edge of the ranges of species like Bell's vireo and the prickly pear cactus. We know that it provides a staging area for the monarch butterfly migration. But there is so much that remains to be learned and to be taught. Not only about the natural function of ecosystems, but about the historic, present and future interactions of our own species with the land.

Last month, our organization sent to you a series of suggested amendments to P.L. 94-466. I would like to elaborate on the need for these amendments.

We suggest amending Section 4(a) (1) which accommodates the boundary realignment that has been recommended in the approved refuge master

plan and the draft Federal-State Joint Comprehensive Plan. It mainly realigns and consolidates the management responsibilities of Federal, State, and County land managing agencies within the original project. The new refuge boundaries include an important wetland complex that is owned by the county park reserve district but not actively managed for either wildlife or public use at this time. It is believed the USFWS could manage this 1200 acre parcel under a lease or cooperative agreement to be a much more productive wildlife and recreation area. The county no longer wants to be responsible for management of the area because it is inconsistent with the rest of their holdings and their land management priorities. They believe the entire Minneosta Valley project should be the responsibility of the federal and state governments.

Of the four land parcel additions we are requesting, two are natural wetlands and two incorporate orchid fens. These changes require the authorization for land acquisition be increased to \$29.5 million which is \$4.6 million more than the House recently authorized. The final authorized area for the refuge should be approximately 12,400 acres. But we must remember that most of this increase is boundary realignment of the originally approved plan.

We realize that our recommended change to Section 4(b) (a) to reimburse local governments for lands they own that are to be part of the refuge is probably not possible. We merely wish to re-emphasize some special financial assistance to local city governments which has not been realized. The City of Bloomington would use such funds in an innovative way in that they would set up an operating fund to manage their portion of the recreation area. The original refuge act implied such aid would be available.

Our recommended change to 6(a) is merely a house-keeping move. The original act required that the master plan be completed in 3 years. The master plan is now complete and therefore, we wish to have you ask the Secretary of the Interior to implement the master plan.

The recommended change to Section 7(a) is similar to 4(b) (a) above and our comments are the same as for that section.

In Section 10 (a), the House of Representatives increased the authorization to \$24.9 million for a three-year period. We concur with this increase and we are asking you to increase it further to \$29.5 to provide for purchase of the increased acreage added under Section 4(a) (1), and we would like the time frame extended indefinitely until the monies are spent. The three-year period is not sufficient to acquire the entire refuge and in a short time I would have to ask you for another extension.

The recommended change to Section 10 (b) is required to keep the development cost estimate in pace with inflation. The total for development is now estimated to be \$9.8 million. Again, the time frame should be indefinite.

The recommended change to Section 10 (c) wherein we requested you ask the Secretary of the Interior be authorized to accept gifts, devices, bequests or loans of money, real or personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein for the benefit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is intended to let you know the extent to which we are willing to go to begin and finish work on the Refuge Visitor's Center. The original refuge act promised this center and it is imperative that it be completed. A model for its construction could follow that used by many small towns in providing up-front capital monies to build needed post offices which were then leased on a buy-back basis. You may be aware of other mechanisms which could be used. But our emphasis is on getting visitor center construction underway in any way that seems appropriate.

Support for this facility is state and community-wide. The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and City Council have corresponded with you on this issue. These groups see the visitors center as a kick-off for their multi-billion dollar commercial development of our now abandoned 100 acre metro-area stadium site. In other words, the visitor center is seen as an economic stimulus as well as having recreational and educational values.

This area means a great deal to all of us. Seeing and sharing the results of the work the USFWS is doing on this land is the principle

substance of our lives.

A core of over 100 volunteers are helping the refuge staff. The tasks they do range from computer programming to maintenance work, trail patrolling and plant, bird and mammal studies. A recent deer tagging effort involved 50 other volunteers including the vice chairman of the board of a nearby corporation. The movement of those deer are now being reported on by many individuals.

The work and commitment of the USFWS in this country is the only effort I know of committed to habitat protection and management of the continental eco-systems. This makes the difference in how well we can live and to our survival. This effort must move forward with strength at the Federal level as well as must the other environmental issues your committee regularly deals with. We need your continued commitment and strength of purpose.

The following editorial by Mary Ziegenhagen which appeared in the April Bloomington Current, summarizes the refuge's importance to us all.

The Bloomington CURRENT, April 14, 1983

Editorial/Opinion

No silent spring

The Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge that spans the floodplain on both sides of the Minnesota River from the Mendota Bridge to Jordan is a national treasure in our own backyard. Especially in April and May, when the spring migration is at full tide and we hear again there is no silent spring.

The refuge is mostly wild with only a few trails making it accessible to walkers, and the variety of birding experiences is thrilling. The warblers that soon will come to the cottonwood trees near the Bass Ponds in east Bloomington present a different sight and sound from the huge flocks of ducks,

geese and gulls at Black Dog Lake just a few miles west. Louisville Swamp near Shakopee provides another experience altogether.

With so much of today mortgaged to the future, and this being tax time, we thought it would be good to remind ourselves of what our taxes have purchased for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

There could hardly be a better gift to the future than that of nature in a wildlife refuge in the heart of an otherwise urban area.

—Mary Ziegenhagen

Dave Durenberger news

U.S. Senator for Minnesota



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ISSUED MAY 19, 1983

CONTACT: KAREN DOYNE
(202) 224-7837

MINNESOTA GROUP, DURENBERGER
URGE FUNDING AND ENLARGEMENT
OF MINNESOTA VALLEY REFUGE

(Washington) -- Minnesota conservationists and Senator Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.) today joined in support of legislation to create the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge south of the Twin Cities.

At a hearing of the Senate Environmental Pollution Subcommittee, subcommittee-member Durenberger also announced that he will propose amendments to the bill, to extend the refuge's boundaries and to guarantee that funding is authorized until the project is finished.

(Funding for the refuge originally was authorized in 1976, but that authorization expires on Sept. 30, 1983.)

Bloomington resident Elaine Mellott, representing the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, defended the refuge project, which is to run from Fort Snelling State Park upstream to Carver Rapids near Jordan.

"Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the...Refuge and Recreation Area embodies a new concept in Federal, state and local government in natural resource management," Mellott said. "There are 17 different units of government involved in this project."

Mellott said the area "provides the best, and in some places the only, suitable corridor of habitat" for some species of migratory birds, millions of which inhabit the Valley. In addition, she said,

-MORE-

some 50 different kinds of mammals live in the marshes, including white-tailed deer, along with many other kinds of wildlife.

Durenberger agreed that the area is "an important natural resource to the people of Minnesota," adding that "refuge status, combining protection and access for this area, is an immensely beneficial public undertaking which will enrich the lives of tens of thousands of Americans over the years."

He said the project could be improved, however, through amendments supported by Minnesota conservation and environmental groups.

First, Durenberger said, the funding authorization should be permanent, rather than the three-year extension in the current bill.

"Despite the authorization of the project in 1976, we've had little success in getting money actually appropriated to be spent," he said. "We're determined to pry that funding loose, and soon. But in the meantime, the uncertain schedule for appropriations makes it vital to keep the authorization in force until the refuge is completed."

Second, Durenberger will request that the refuge area be increased from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres, and that the funding be "slightly increased" to allow for purchase of the additional land, much of which is already held by state or local governments.

Third, he said he will ask for a provision allowing for donation of land for the refuge.

The bill to reauthorize the refuge funding (H.R.1723) passed the House of Representatives in April, 1983, and is awaiting action by the full Senate. It authorizes nearly \$35 million in funding, an increase of \$14 million over the original authorization to compensate for inflation.

The refuge and Visitor's Center is expected to attract between 500,000 and 750,000 visitors per year.

BACKGROUND SHEET
on the
MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Legislation

The refuge originally was authorized by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1976. The funding authorization expires on Sept. 30, 1983.

The Act authorized \$14.5 million for land acquisition and \$6 million for development of the recreation area and education/visitor's center, including \$500 thousand for a master plan (which was completed in the fall of 1982). Since then, the Federal government has appropriated \$6.7 million for land acquisition -- not including \$1.6 million appropriated and later rescinded -- and no funding for development. There is no funding in the Administration's FY 1984 budget.

A bill (H.R.1723) to reauthorize the refuge passed the House on April 19, 1983, and was reported by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on May 11. The bill is a three-year authorization, increasing the funding levels for inflation: \$24.9 million for land acquisition and \$9.8 million for the visitor's center.

Environmental groups in Minnesota, such as the Friends of the Minnesota Valley and the Audubon Society, as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, are urging further changes in the authorization. These could include making the authorization permanent, extending the boundaries of the refuge to include another 3,000 acres of land, and providing for purchase of lands belonging to counties or cities.

The Refuge

The refuge area extends from Fort Snelling State Park in the southern suburbs of Minneapolis, upstream to Carver Rapids near Jordan. This area provides habitat for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife, presenting the opportunity for an unusual water-based refuge.

The valley's location in a metropolitan area increases its value as an educational and recreational area. The visitor's center, to be located in Bloomington, is expected to attract between 500,000 and 750,000 visitors a year, providing a major boost to the tourism industry in the metro area.

The size of the refuge, as currently authorized, is 9,500 acres. So far some 3,350 acres have been acquired. Funding is presently needed to acquire 2,800 acres of private land and 450 acres of city and county land.

Dave Durenberger news

U.S. Senator for Minnesota



OPENING STATEMENT
of
SENATOR DAVE DURENBERGER
before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEARING ON H.R. 1723
CONCERNING THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the opportunity of this hearing on H.R. 1723, a bill which in part reauthorizes the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We are especially grateful for the Committee action last week which put this bill on the Senate calendar. The House has already passed the bill, and the swift action of Senator Chafee gives us hope that the good friends of the Valley right here in Congress will be successful in making the refuge a reality.

The Minnesota Valley is an important natural resource to the people of my state. It lies within the Twin Cities metropolitan area, where half of all Minnesotans reside. Yet it includes diverse wildlife habitats that support an abundance and variety of bird, mammal and fish species not normally found in a metropolitan area. Refuge status, combining the values of protection and access for this area, is an immensely beneficial public undertaking which will enrich the lives of tens of thousands of Americans over the years.

Although I'm here to praise the bill and to thank the Chairman of this subcommittee for his efforts, I would also respectfully ask that we consider two or three amendments not included in the House language.

The refuge has been authorized for a number of years, but we have not had much success in getting appropriations for acquisition and development. Because of the uncertain schedule for future appropriations, I would ask that the authorization for both land acquisition and development be made permanent and that the funds authorized remain available until appropriated.

Second is the matter of boundaries. The original refuge authorization contemplated a land area of approximately 9,500 acres, although the Secretary of the Interior was given the power to add acreage if that would further the purposes of the refuge. Since the original authorization, a master plan for the Minnesota Valley Refuge has been completed and approved by the Secretary. This plan suggests a total land area of approximately 12,400 acres. Considering the policies of this Secretary, I think it would be in the best interest of the Valley if we included the specific boundaries identified by the master plan in the bill we eventually adopt.

-more-

Third, if the land area is increased to 12,400 acres we will need a slightly larger authorization for land acquisition. Not much larger, only slightly larger, because much of the land that would be included under a revised boundary are already held by state or local government.

One final substantive matter, Mr. Chairman. Current policy at the Interior Department requires that the Fish and Wildlife Service minimize the Federal role in management programs like this refuge. This is called the "least interest" policy, I believe. And under this policy Fish and Wildlife is negotiating cooperative agreements with local governments to manage the lands within the refuge where title is held by a local government.

It is my understanding that if the state or a local government wanted to donate the land to the Federal government instead of signing a cooperative agreement, Interior might actually refuse the donation under the "least interest" policy. That's wrong. We're not going to ask for compensation to local governments which want to donate land, but we should require that Interior accept any donation within the boundaries of the refuge, if it is offered.

My final task is a pleasant one. I would like to introduce Elaine Mellott to the Committee. She is a friend of the Valley, being a longtime member and, I believe, an original founder of the citizens' group bearing that name. I have read her testimony, Mr. Chairman. It is an excellent statement of the concerns that have brought scores of Minnesotans into the effort that I am confident will see the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to completion.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

From the Statement to the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Environmental
Pollution on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
May 19, 1983

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members and Staff:

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*Please enter my
entire statement
into the record
pub. Minn. Valley
Refuge
Elaine
Mellott*

Millions of birds pour through the Minnesota Valley during migration. It provides the best, and in some places the only, suitable corridor of habitat for some species to follow. About 100 species pass through the area each spring on their way to nesting grounds farther north. Another 150 species either nest in the area and head south in the fall, or spend the entire year on the refuge.

Notable migrants include pelicans, whistling swans and bald eagles. Herons, egrets, and wood ducks return to the flood plain forests and marshes each year to nest and raise their young. The most spectacular year-round resident is the pileated woodpecker, whose huge borings are evident on insect-ridden trees throughout the river bottoms.

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plan and the draft Federal-State Joint Comprehensive Plan. It mainly realigns and consolidates the management responsibilities of Federal, State, and County land managing agencies within the original project. The new refuge boundaries include an important wetland complex that is owned by the county park reserve district but not actively managed for either wildlife or public use at this time. It is believed the USFWS could manage this 1200 acre parcel under a lease or cooperative agreement to be a much more productive wildlife and recreation area. The county no longer wants to be responsible for management of the area because it is inconsistent with the rest of their holdings and their land management priorities. They believe the entire Minneosta Valley project should be the responsibility of the federal and state governments.

Of the four land parcel additions we are requesting, two are natural wetlands and two incorporate orchid fens. These changes require the authorization for land acquisition be increased to \$29.5 million which is \$4.6 million more than the House recently authorized. The final authorized area for the refuge should be approximately 12,400 acres. But we must remember that most of this increase is boundary realignment of the originally approved plan.

We realize that our recommended change to Section 4(b) (a) to reimburse local governments for lands they own that are to be part of the refuge is probably not possible. We merely wish to re-emphasize some special financial assistance to local city governments which has not been realized. The City of Bloomington would use such funds in an innovative way in that they would set up an operating fund to manage their portion of the recreation area. The original refuge act implied such aid would be available.

Our recommended change to 6(a) is merely a house-keeping move. The original act required that the master plan be completed in 3 years. The master plan is now complete and therefore, we wish to have you ask the Secretary of the Interior to implement the master plan.

The recommended change to Section 7(a) is similar to 4(b) (a) above and our comments are the same as for that section.

In Section 10 (a), the House of Representatives increased the authorization to \$24.9 million for a three-year period. We concur with this increase and we are asking you to increase it further to \$29.5 to provide for purchase of the increased acreage added under Section 4(a) (1), and we would like the time frame extended indefinitely until the monies are spent. The three-year period is not sufficient to acquire the entire refuge and in a short time I would have to ask you for another extension.

The recommended change to Section 10 (b) is required to keep the development cost estimate in pace with inflation. The total for development is now estimated to be \$9.8 million. Again, the time frame should be indefinite.

The recommended change to Section 10 (c) wherein we requested you ask the Secretary of the Interior be authorized to accept gifts, devices, bequests or loans of money, real or personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein for the benefit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is intended to let you know the extent to which we are willing to go to begin and finish work on the Refuge Visitor's Center. The original refuge act promised this center and it is imperative that it be completed. A model for its construction could follow that used by many small towns in providing up-front capital monies to build needed post offices which were then leased on a buy-back basis. You may be aware of other mechanisms which could be used. But our emphasis is on getting visitor center construction underway in any way that seems appropriate.

Support for this facility is state and community-wide. The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and City Council have corresponded with you on this issue. These groups see the visitors center as a kick-off for their multi-billion dollar commercial development of our now abandoned 100 acre metro-area stadium site. In other words, the visitor center is seen as an economic stimulus as well as having recreational and educational values.

This area means a great deal to all of us. Seeing and sharing the results of the work the USFWS is doing on this land is the principle

*Karen please
type final*

03532

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

- o THE MN. VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA ACT WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT FORD OCTOBER, 1976 (PUBLIC LAW 94-466) and amended in 1983 by Congress, but not yet signed into Public Law by the President.

Amended Act
~~Amended Act~~ IT INCLUDED:
~~original Act~~

12,500 - 9,500 ACRE REFUGE AND A VISITOR CENTER TO BE MANAGED BY USFWS

6,000 - 8,000 ACRE RECREATION AREA TO BE MANAGED BY STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

23.3 M - 8.3M AUTHORIZED FOR LAND ACQUISITION BY THE USFWS

6.2 M - 6.2M AUTHORIZED FOR LAND ACQUISITION BY THE STATE (INCLUDES A STATE TRAIL SYSTEM)

9.0 M - 6.0 M AUTHORIZED FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

- o THE REFUGE WAS ^{originally} AUTHORIZED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1983 and amended to ~~continue~~ acquisition ~~until~~ indefinitely until the funds are expended.
- o A REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WAS APPROVED IN 1981

- o A REFUGE MASTER PLAN WAS APPROVED IN AUGUST, 1982

- draft*
o A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ~~is~~ *has been reviewed by the public* NOW READY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND SHOULD BE APPROVED BY STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS BY JANUARY, 1984 *published in final in mid-1984.*

- o NO LAND ACQUISITION FUNDS WERE APPROPRIATED IN 1981, 1982, OR 1983, AND NONE ARE EXPECTED IN 1984 UNLESS THEY ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET. 1980 FUNDS WERE APPROPRIATED BUT THEN RESCINDED. *No funds were requested in the President's FY Fiscal year 1985 budget.*

E.M.M.
9/13/83

3/9/84

CURRENT REFUGE LAND STATUS:

~~3,200~~ ¹⁸⁵ ACRES PURCHASED UNDER ^{by USFWS} ~~REFUGE MANAGEMENT~~ 1976 - 1980
~~450~~ ACRES CITY OWNED
~~1,300~~ ACRES LEASED ^{from NSP} ~~UNDER REFUGE MANAGEMENT~~
~~4,950~~ ^{4,485}
~~2,850~~ ACRES PRIVATE LAND
~~1,700~~ ACRES PROTECTED WATERS
~~9,500~~ ACRES TOTAL

Amendment

1982 PROPOSED CHANGES IN REFUGE ACREAGE:

~~974 ACRES MASTER PLAN ADDITIONS (ORCHID FENS)
1,945 ACRES MASTER PLAN ADJUSTMENTS (WILKIE PARK)
2,919 ACRES
+9,500 ACRES ORIGINAL LEGISLATION
12,419 ACRES MASTER PLAN PROPOSED~~

Adds: - ~~the~~ Wilkie-Arce Lake Area 2,070 ac
(1,236 acres owned by Tenn Co. Park Reserve)

- Black Dog Fen & Cedar Springs Areas 203 ac.
- Upgella prairie bluff - 98 ac.
- Louisville Swamp & Wetland 600 ac.

original
V

PROJECTED REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA COST:

1976 - 1979	\$ 6.7M	SPENT
1980	<u>1.6</u>	RESCINDED
	\$ 8.3	FEDERAL
	<u>6.2</u>	STATE (no funds available)
	\$14.5M	TOTAL 1976 AUTHORIZATION

1982 MASTER PLAN PROJECTED COSTS:

~~\$8.3M~~ ~~\$ 8.3M~~ EXISTING FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION
Private Land and new
~~15.0M~~ ~~10.1M~~ ~~PRIVATE LAND AND~~ ADDITIONS ~~FOR~~ THE REFUGE (Amendments)
6.2M EXISTING STATE AUTHORIZATION
~~\$24.9M~~ TOTAL
29.5M

198⁵ LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY

- ~~0 EXTEND AUTHORIZATION PERIOD INDEFINITELY~~
- ~~0 ADD 2,919 ACRES OF LAND TO THE REFUGE~~
- ~~0 INCREASE THE SPENDING AUTHORITY FROM \$14.5M TO \$24.9M~~
- ~~0 ALLOW SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ACCEPT GIFTS (WITH RESERVATIONS) AND ALLOW FOR LEASE - PURCHASE OF A VISITOR CENTER~~
- ~~0 REQUEST REINSTATEMENT OF \$1.6M + .9M FOR 1984 LAND PURCHASE PLUS \$600K TO BEGIN VISITOR CENTER CONSTRUCTION~~

~~insert info from letter~~

B Visitor Center - \$6,000,000.
Wildlife and Recreation Improvement facilities ^{\$1,500,000.}
Land Acquisition (LWF) - \$4,000,000.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
DAKOTA & HENNEPIN COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

R. 24 W. R. 23 W.

TQMP

T. 28 N.

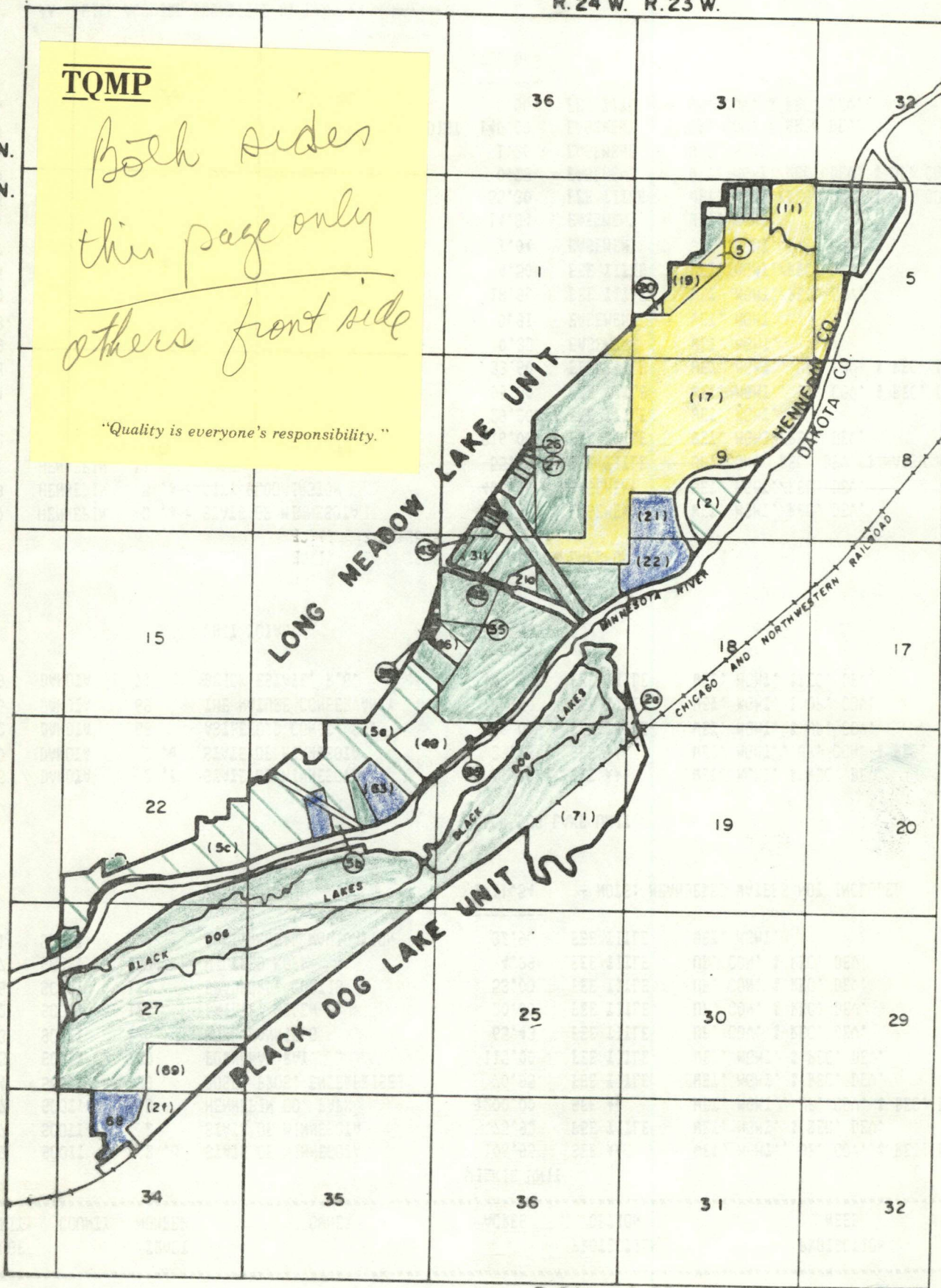
T. 27 N.

T. 28 N.

T. 27 N.

Both sides
thin page only
others front side

"Quality is everyone's responsibility."



R. 24 W. R. 23 W.

FOURTH & FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 Feet

- Refuge owned
- Public Owned but leases to refuge are planned
- Tracts which could be purchased with 3 mil. additional funds.
- Tracts likely to be very costly

2/85

W.D.C. Trip
me, Mike Shulz

REFUGE PRIORITY	COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES	PROTECTION OPTION	PROTECTION NEED

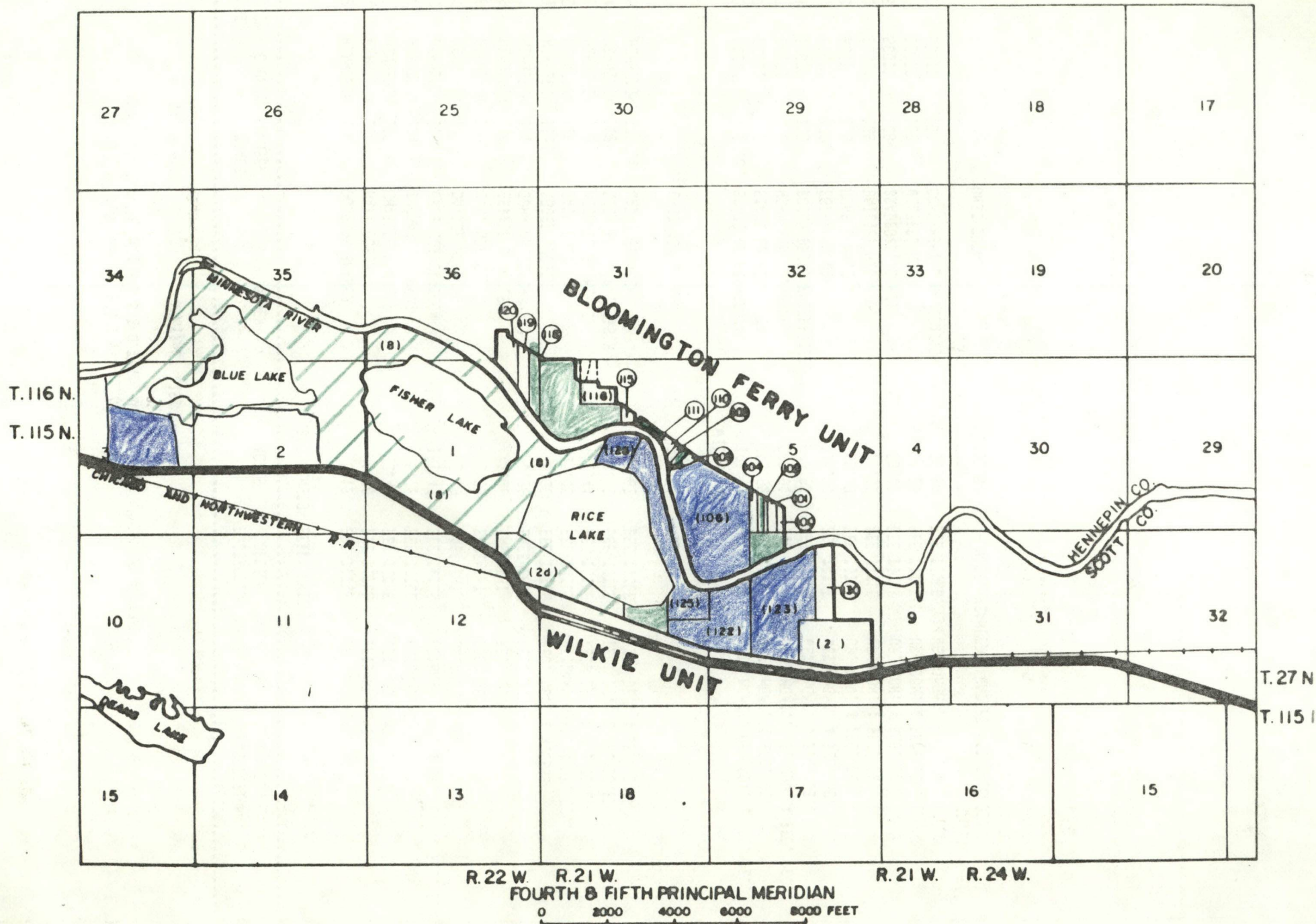
WILKIE UNIT						
8	SCOTT	2 ,d	STATE OF MINNESOTA	106.95	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
77	SCOTT	2	STATE OF MINNESOTA	75.92	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
7	SCOTT	8	HENNEPIN CO. PARK	1200.00	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
24	SCOTT	122	ROSEN BROS. ENTERPRISES	70.95	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
25	SCOTT	123	FORMANAC RAY	115.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
23	SCOTT	125	HONE FANNIE G	65.43	FEE TITLE	UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
22	SCOTT	126	BAILIF, HELEN M.	20.00	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
26	SCOTT	128	BRADFORD, CURTIS	53.00	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
27	SCOTT	129	WILFRED KOPP	4.29	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
61	SCOTT	130	CONTINENTAL NAVIGATION	32.90	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
UNIT TOTAL				1711.54	- NOTE: MEANDERED WATERS NOT INCLUDED	
BLACK DOG LAKE UNIT						
75	DAKOTA	2 ,f	STATE OF MINNESOTA	41.70	SEE **	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
40	DAKOTA	2 ,e	STATE OF MINNESOTA	29.28	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
42	DAKOTA	68	ASTLEFORD CONST. CO.	38.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
76	DAKOTA	69	THE MATURE CONSERVANCY	65.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
39	DAKOTA	71	BLICK ESTATE, R.G.	143.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
UNIT TOTAL				316.98		
LONG MEADOW LAKE UNIT						
20	HENNEPIN	2 ,a-c	STATE OF MINNESOTA	56.00	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV.
9	HENNEPIN	5 ,a-c	CITY BLOOMINGTON	400.00	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV.
1	HENNEPIN	11	NORTHWEST ORIENT	55.90	FEE TITLE	UP. CON., REC. DEV. & MARSH MGMT.
2	HENNEPIN	17	JAMES E. KELLEY	816.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV.
11	HENNEPIN	19	CONTROL DATA	29.20	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
4	HENNEPIN	21 ,a	BLOOMQUIST, ET AL.	99.50	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
3	HENNEPIN	22	MYRTLE PAHL/WAYNE PAHL	33.60	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
19	HENNEPIN	26	DEWEY WESTLY	0.32	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT.
18	HENNEPIN	27	WIN BROWN	0.91	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT.
10	HENNEPIN	31	BITUMINOUS ROADWAYS	18.96	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV.
14	HENNEPIN	42	LARS LODOEN	4.50	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV.
17	HENNEPIN	43	DAVID LONG	1.04	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT.
21	HENNEPIN	46	BRADLEY A. HUBER	14.84	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT.
5	HENNEPIN	49	WARREN CARPENTER	55.30	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV. & UP. COV.
16	HENNEPIN	55	RAYMOND OSTRUM	0.23	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT./REC. DEV. & UP. COV.
15	HENNEPIN	59	JAMES KROHN	1.26	EASEMENT	WET. MGMT.
13	HENNEPIN	61 ,a	LOWER MINNESOTA WATERSHED DIST	140.00	EASEMENT	UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
6	HENNEPIN	65	RAYMOND MAEG	0.50	FEE TITLE	UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
UNIT TOTAL				1728.06		

** WILL ACQUIRE FEE TITLE BY LAND EXCHANGE

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

R. 22 W. R. 21 W.

R. 21 W. R. 24 W.



MINNESOTA VALLEY

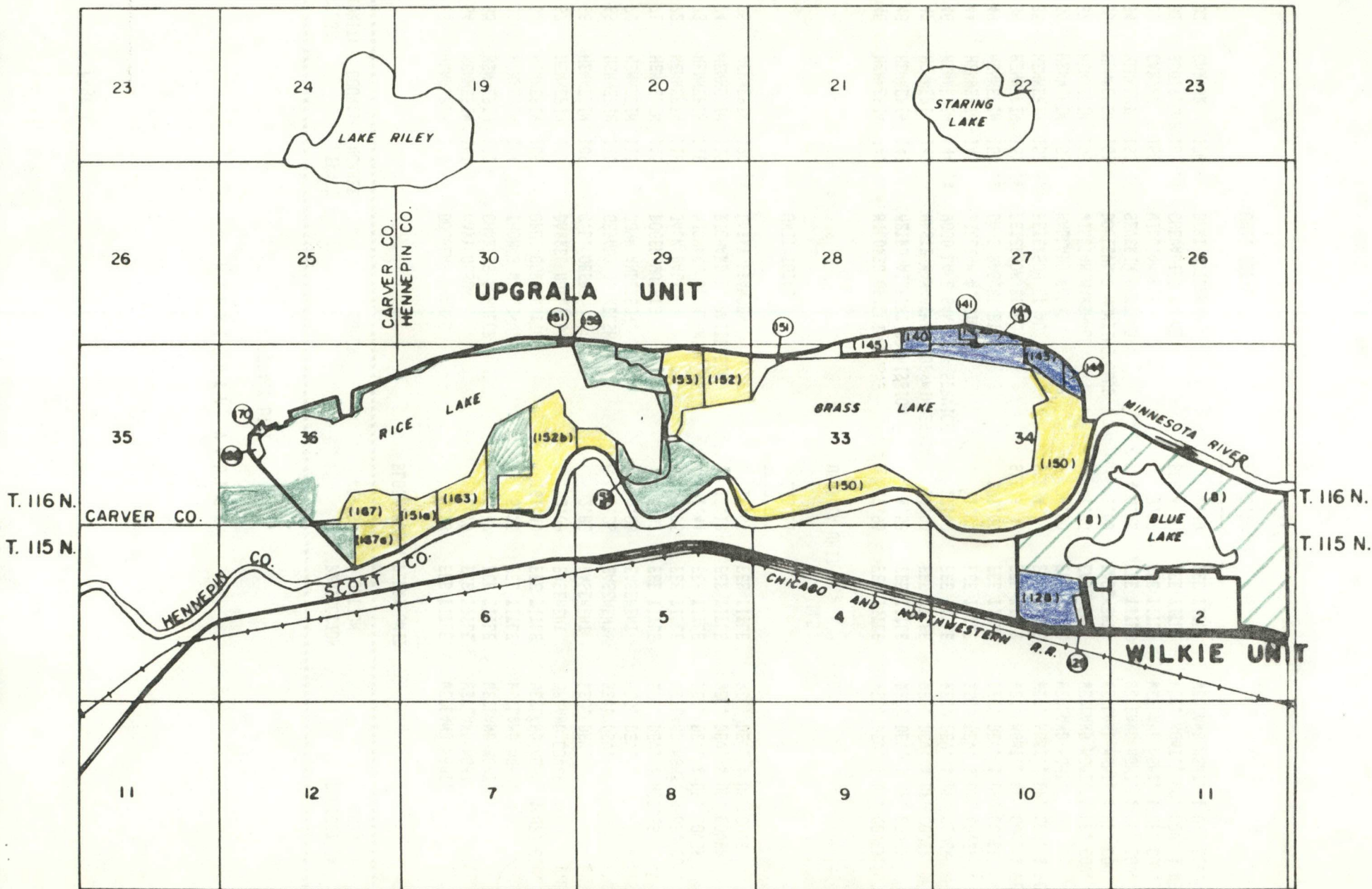
TRACT LIST

REFUGE PRIORITY	COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES	PROTECTION OPTION	PROTECTION NEED
BLOOMINGTON FERRY UNIT						
63	HENNEPIN	100	DOUGLAS SKANSE	5.13	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
64	HENNEPIN	101	MARY OLSON	6.70	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
65	HENNEPIN	102	CHARLES SCHULER	2.47	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
66	HENNEPIN	104	THOMAS W. LENVIN	5.75	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
62	HENNEPIN	106	OPUS CORPORATION	161.40	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
67	HENNEPIN	107	DARREL NORLING	2.09	EASEMENT	UPLAND COVER
68	HENNEPIN	109	C.L. OBERG	2.82	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
69	HENNEPIN	110	GERALD J. KESLH	3.26	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
70	HENNEPIN	111	JOHN ANDERSON, JR.	0.86	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
71	HENNEPIN	115	ROGER WUESTE	5.32	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & ACCESS
72	HENNEPIN	116	JACK DALY	15.05	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
73	HENNEPIN	118	MICHAEL J. MEHNER	1.44	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
74	HENNEPIN	119	RICHARD L. PATTERSON	12.19	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
75	HENNEPIN	120 ,a	LARRY FRANSEN	18.63	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
UNIT TOTAL				243.11		
WILKIE UNIT						
8	SCOTT	2 ,d	STATE OF MINNESOTA	106.95	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
77	SCOTT	2	STATE OF MINNESOTA	75.92	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
7	SCOTT	8	HENNEPIN CO. PARK	1200.00	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
24	SCOTT	122	ROSEN BROS. ENTERPRISES	70.95	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
25	SCOTT	123	FORMANAC RAY	115.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & REC. DEV.
23	SCOTT	125	HONE FANNIE G	65.43	FEE TITLE	UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
22	SCOTT	126	BAILIF, HELEN M.	20.00	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
26	SCOTT	128	BRADFORD, CURTIS	53.00	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
27	SCOTT	129	WILFRED KOPF	4.29	FEE TITLE	UP. CON. & REC. DEV.
61	SCOTT	130	CONTINENTAL NAVIGATION	32.90	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
UNIT TOTAL				1711.54	- NOTE: MEANDERED WATERS NOT INCLUDED	

3

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CARVER, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

R 23 W. R. 22 W.



R. 23 W. R. 22 W.

FOURTH & FIFTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 FEET

MINNESOTA VALLEY

TRACT LIST

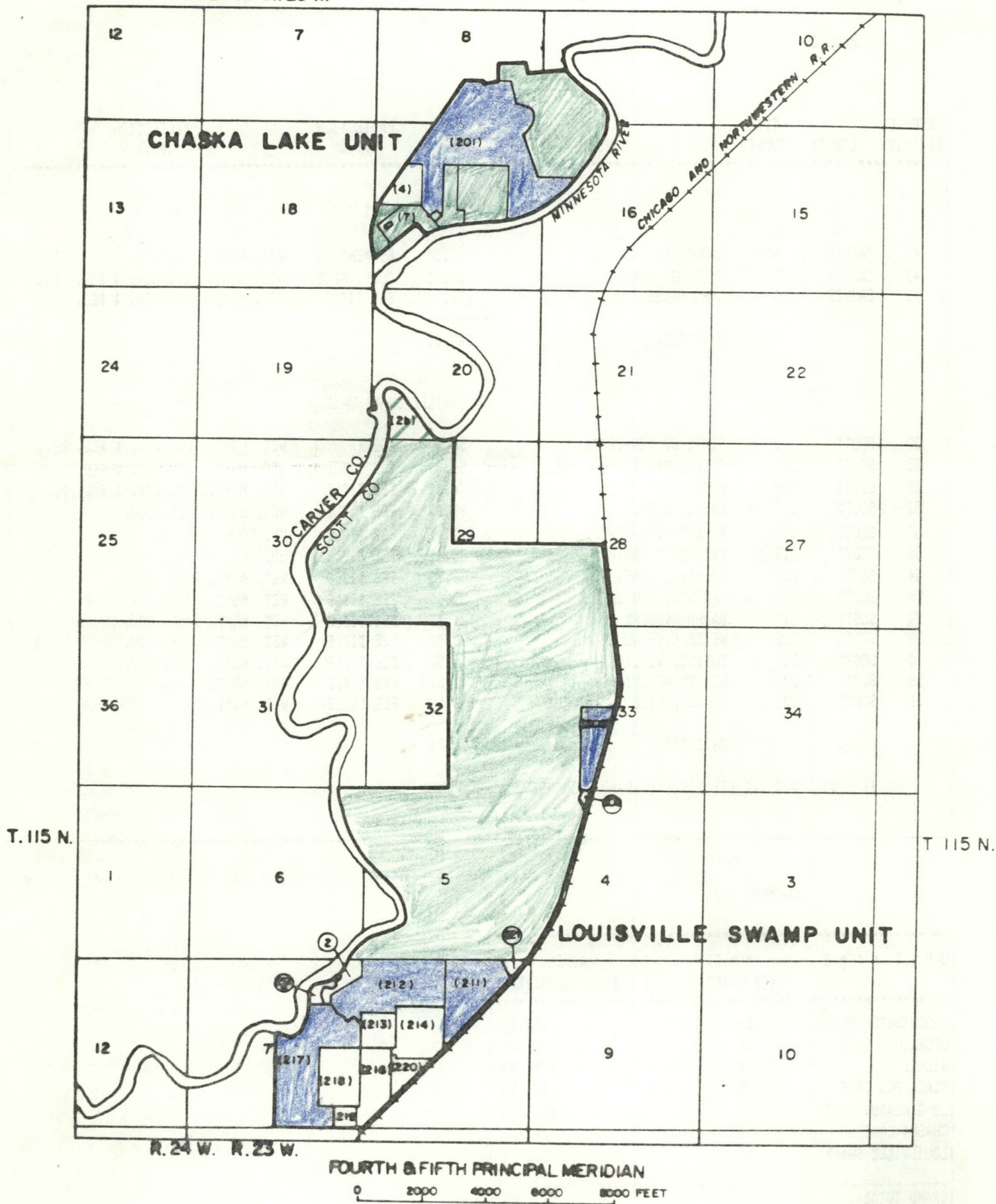
REFUGE PRIORITY	COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES	PROTECTION OPTION	PROTECTION NEED
BLOOMINGTON FERRY UNIT						
63	HENNEPIN	100	DOUGLAS SKANSE	5.13	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
64	HENNEPIN	101	MARY OLSON	6.70	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
65	HENNEPIN	102	CHARLES SCHULER	2.47	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
66	HENNEPIN	104	THOMAS W. LENVIK	5.75	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
62	HENNEPIN	106	OPUS CORPORATION	161.40	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
67	HENNEPIN	107	DARREL NORLING	2.09	EASEMENT	UPLAND COVER
68	HENNEPIN	109	C.L. OBERG	2.82	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
69	HENNEPIN	110	GERALD J. KELSH	3.26	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
70	HENNEPIN	111	JOHN ANDERSON, JR.	0.86	EASEMENT	REC. DEV.
71	HENNEPIN	115	ROGER WUESTE	5.32	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & ACCESS
72	HENNEPIN	116	JACK DALY	15.05	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
73	HENNEPIN	118	MICHAEL J. MEHNER	1.44	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
74	HENNEPIN	119	RICHARD L. PATTERSON	12.19	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
75	HENNEPIN	120 ,a	LARRY FRANSEN	18.63	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
UNIT TOTAL				243.11		
UPGRALA UNIT						
45	HENNEPIN	140	MILDRED GRILL	17.95	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
48	HENNEPIN	141	METRO AIRPORT COMMISSION	4.58	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
47	HENNEPIN	143	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MINNESOTA	20.00	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
46	HENNEPIN	144 ,a	WOOD LAKE SANITARY SERVICE	27.00	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
44	HENNEPIN	145	WILLIAM A. STANLEY	11.87	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
49	HENNEPIN	150 ,a	DAVE RAGUET ET AL	371.00	FEE TITLE	REC. DEV. & UP. COVER
36	HENNEPIN	151 ,a	PETERSON ET AL	SEE *	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
35	HENNEPIN	152 a,b	PETERSON ET AL	SEE *	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
50	HENNEPIN	153	MALLARD FARMS	76.50	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT.
37	HENNEPIN	159	WILLIAM MARSHALL	1.70	EASEMENT	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
38	HENNEPIN	161	BOULEVARD HUNTING CLUB	1.00	EASEMENT	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
34	HENNEPIN	163	SEVERIN PETERSON	426.45	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
31	CARVER	166	WILLIAM BOE	3.27	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
33	SCOTT,CARV	167 ,a	CHEVALIER ET AL	SEE *	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
32	CARVER	170	BERT NOTERMAN	1.40	FEE TITLE	WETLAND MGMT. & UP. COV.
UNIT TOTAL				962.72		

* ACRES INCLUDED IN TRACT 163

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CARVER & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

4

R. 24 W. R. 23 W.



REFUGE PRIORITY	COUNTY	TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES	PROTECTION OPTION	PROTECTION NEED
CHASKA LAKE UNIT						
41	CARVER	4	CARVER COUNTY	25.00	ESEMENT	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
43	CARVER	7	CITY OF CARVER	24.00	COOP. AREE.	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
12	CARVER	201	LAND DEVEL. CO.	198.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
UNIT TOTAL				247.00		
LOUISVILLE SWAMP UNIT						
30	SCOTT	2 ,b	STATE OF MINNESOTA	58.00	SEE **	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
28	SCOTT	208	SHEELY GRAVEL CO., INC.	56.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
29	SCOTT	209	RUTH FRISK	4.28	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT., UP. COV. & REC. DEV.
52	SCOTT	211	VALLEY VIEW, INC.	80.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
53	SCOTT	212	ROBERT O. SWEENEY	117.47	FEE TITLE	UP. COV.
55	SCOTT	213	TWIN CITY RADIO	35.41	FEE TITLE	UP. COV.
54	SCOTT	214	MICHAEL, JAMES H.	58.10	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
59	SCOTT	216	CARLSON, LOUISE L.	52.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
57	SCOTT	217	BARND, ROBERT E.	134.17	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
58	SCOTT	218	WEIERKE, PAUL ET AL.	60.00	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
60	SCOTT	219	TUTTLE, WILLIAM	11.50	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT. & UP. COV.
56	SCOTT	220	HEALTH AFFILIATES, INC.	42.31	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
51	SCOTT	221	KOVICH, MIKE	3.50	FEE TITLE	WET. MGMT.
UNIT TOTAL				712.74		
** WILL ACQUIRE FEE TITLE BY LAND EXCHANGE						

SUMMARY TABLE

UNIT NAME	NUMBER OF TRACTS	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED
BLOOMINGTON FERRY	14	243.11
UPGRALA	15	962.72
WILKIE	9	1744.44
BLACK DOG LAKE	5	316.98
LONG MEADOW LAKE	18	1728.06
CHASKA LAKE	3	247.00
LOUISVILLE SWAMP	13	712.74
GRAND TOTAL	77	5955.05

85 D.C. Trip

✓

Don Knowles 202-224-~~7257~~ 7257
Senate Interior Appropriations

Kathy Tollerton, Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th St. N.W.
20836

Ron / 5
Senator Kussel
Bldg.

Senators

D. Durenberger

Judy Erickson

Wash D.C. 202-224-7837

Subcommittee on Interior

Bonnie McCarvel
Environ. aid

Mpls.

349-5111

R. Boschwitz

Pat Parnis, Staff
Director
Dan Meyer,

Mpls.

221-0904

D.C. 202-224-5641

Congressmen

W. Frauzel

Maybeth Christenson
Offic. Director

Mpls.

881-4600

Elizabeth Culligan Budget
~~Lambert Lambert~~, Environ.
aid

D.C. 202-225-2871

J. Oberstar

Nancy Smith

D.C. 202-225-6211

M. Sabo

Kathleen Anderson, Environ. Mpls. 348-1649
349-5110
Drene Baumgartner D.C. 202-225-4755

Vento

Mary T. Schertler, Edm.
Asst.

Mpls.

725-7724

~~Charlene McCortney~~

D.C. 202 225-6631

Katy Long

Rick Healy, Dale Crone
10 Am

current as of
1/28/85

1444 #17

if ~~BB~~ when need 1B

Why could our

L RW CON

cash a need there if is id there

competition position?

Russ

Earned

Poor Proj. Dar

Poor Proj. Dar

BB

W. Albert

Ar. are private

Chief of Party

Neil Balchunas

Dick Eickhorn

Nealty

Dr. W. J. J.

Allen ~~Patterson~~ Gains

USFW

Leg. Pierce

South E new metro
rite to corner

down old to rite

1/2 look across so

House Army 1 - more
so. ad end of block

TS 8th floor

8/8

Jim
Leone
H. B.
Bridgman

Shirley Ashlund 890-6753 H
830-9339 W
Mike Branko 881-0258 H
195 P.C. Trip 473-7989 W

Judy Erickson 224-5641
202-224-~~7837~~
as of 5/15/85

Wait list
NW 726-1234 Call Sat.
Repl. 726-7100 4 Sun.

[DuPont Plaza 202-483-6000
Connecticut & Mass. Av. \$99.
check with front desk 79.]

Wilderness Society priority

Steneary McClure/Jeff Celi

NW Travel from X5868

NW #68 \$159 2/24 leaves 5 PM
also wait listed on 6 PM flight arrive 8:10 PM

return 2/26 NW 4:35 ar. 6 PM.
confirmed

Mon.

9-9:30 AM deliver papers to Judy for she & Don Knowls
432 Hard Bldg. senate.

10 AM see Rich Dealy Cannon Bldg (Vanto) 226-7736
225-6631

11 AM Nancy Smith (Vrester) 225-6211
2351 Rayburn Bldg.

1 PM Dan Meyer ^{SH 506} v Hard. confirm? (Beschowitz) 224-5641

2:30 Elizabeth Culligan 1026 Longworth (Frouzel) 225-2871

3:30 Irene Baumgartner ⁴³⁶ Cannon Bldg (Lubo) call to confirm
225-4755 she is in.

Tues.

8:30 Breakfast Dave & Judy 432 Hard Bldg.

9:30 Love Testifies - Senate hearing chamber.

10:30 Main Interior Bldg. @ Ron Lamberton, Asst. Director Resources
{reports to Craig Potter} has seen refuge - last year.
{acting for Arnett}

⑥ Walt McAlister, Land acq., & John Cady, Timmy Worthington
or John Gillette, Refuge Dir. Toni's seal for

1 PM Tom Knowls - Staff director, Interior Appropriation - Senate

Stewart

1763-526
W. 1763-526

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

- o The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area Act was signed into law by President Ford, October 1976 (Public Law 94-466) and amended in 1983 by Congress, but not yet signed into Public Law by the President. *Congress and President Reagan.*

<u>Amended Act</u>	<u>Original Act</u>	
12,500	9,500	Acre refuge and a visitor center to be managed by USFWS
6,000	8,000	Acre recreation area to be managed by state, local governments
23.3M	8.3M	Authorized for land acquisition by the USFWS
6.2M	6.2M	Authorized for land acquisition by the state (includes a state trail system)
9.0M	6.0M	Authorized for facility construction

- o The refuge was originally authorized to be completed by September 30, 1983 and ammended to continued acquisition indefinetly until the funds are expended.
- o A Refuge and Recreation Area Environmental Impact Statement was approved in 1981.
- o A Refuge Master Plan was approved in August, 1982.
- o A draft Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed by the public and should be published in final by state and federal officials in mid-1984. *was approved in July, 1984.*
- o No land acquisition funds were appropriated in 1981, 1982, 1983 or 1983⁵, but \$1,000,000 ~~was~~ approved in 1984. No funds were requested in the President's fiscal year 1985 budget. *is being*

\$15.7 million has requested from congress for 1986.

3/9/84

1/25/85

CURRENT REFUGE LAND STATUS:

3,385	3,185	Acres purchased by USFWS, 1976-1980/4
2,600	1,300	Acres leased from NSP <i>out of Hennepin County</i>
5,985	4,485	

AMMENDMENT CHANGES IN REFUGE ACREAGE:

Adds:

Wilkie-Rice lake area - 2,070 acres
(1,236 acres owned by Hennepin County Park Reserve)

Black Dog Fen and Cedar Springs areas - 203 acres

Upgrala Prairie Bluff - 98 acres

Louisville Swamp Extension - 600 acres

ORIGINAL REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA COST:

1976 - 1979	\$ 6.7M	Spent
1980	1.6	Rescinded
	\$ 8.3	Federal
	6.2	State (no funds available)
	\$14.5M	Total 1976 Authorization

1982 MASTER PLAN PROJECTED COSTS:

8.3M	Existing federal authorization
15.0M	Private land and new additions to the Refuge (Ammendments)
6.2M	Existing state authorization
\$29.5M	Total land cost
9.0M	Visitor center

1982 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY:

Visitor Center - \$6,000,000

~~Wildlife and Recreation improvement facilities \$1,500,000~~

Land Acquisition (LWF) - ~~\$4,000,000~~

7,500,000 5/4/84

E. M. Mellott

klh/0353d

various agreements entered the ref
19 acres agreement
100 30 accreted
Upgrala see title
agreement for add 1300
Henn. Co.

Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

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ISSUE BRIEF

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
and Recreation Area**

February 21, 1955
8

<u>Funding Needs:</u>		<u>(\$000)</u>
1986	Visitor Center Planning	600
	Land acquisition	6,900
	TOTAL	\$7,500
1987	Visitor Center Construction	\$6,000

Background:

About 50% of 12,500 acres authorized for this refuge have been purchased or are being managed through lease agreements. About 2,000 acres of the land yet to be purchased is in two individually owned parcels of approximately 1,000 acres each. A major appropriation is needed to purchase these parcels. The cost of lands purchased in 1984-85 ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,200 per acre. The later parcel, 21 acres in size, included purchase of mineral and gravel rights.

Concerns:

- Due to patchwork nature of past land acquisition it is difficult to perform effective wildlife management and maximize the current investment. Contiguous acres and unit completion are needed.
- Visitor access and use cannot be promoted until land acquisition is complete.
- Speculation is escalating land prices in the floodplain near a planned racetrack.
- Stormwater and racetrack runoff and waste site discharge can be better managed subsequent to unit completion.

Positive Refuge Impacts:

- Quality, rare and migratory wildlife habitats are being conserved.
- Rare and endangered plant species are being protected.
- Bald eagles are wintering on refuge unit 1 and the Blackdog unit.
- The presence of the refuge protects the flood plain and impacts bluff development in a beneficial manner.
- Flood plain protection has minimized flood control costs.
- Federal dollars and refuge designation has generated tax dollars and brought more stable land use and planning adjacent to the refuge - examples are:
 - Ellerbe Condominiums
 - Rauenhorst
 - Hotel and motel sites are being oriented toward the river in the city of Shakopee (Corporate Headquarters)
- The refuge provides urban people with educational opportunities, and the chance to see how a floodplain ecosystem functions and supports wildlife.

3/1/85

Wash. D. C. trip

Don Knowles - agenda

1. mops * 2.5M buys
5.0 M buys
.6 Visitor Center

2. Issues - concerns

Lawson in '85

Fed share \$360 M.

60 USFWS

100 Parks

40 Forests

240

Sen Conte *200 M - without loan

24 M yed unappropriated - depd allocation

LAWCON = *900 M yr. mtd.

of this 300 for BLM Parks etc - funds don't accrue

new org. committee for LAWCON.

AMENDMENT TO

P.L. 94-466

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (Public Law 94-466), authorizing the establishment of a national wildlife refuge in the Minnesota River Valley, is amended by amending and adding the following sections:

Amending Sec. 4(a)(1) to read -

"Approximately 12,400 acres of lands, marshes, submerged lands, and open waters in the lower Minnesota River Valley, which are depicted as a wildlife refuge on a map dated June 1982 and entitled "Official Map - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area", which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior;" and

Adjusts refuge boundaries to include Wilkie Park and other special areas identified in Master Plan as needing protection.

Amending Sec. 4(b)(1) to read -

"The Secretary shall acquire lands, waters, and interests therein, including public lands owned by the State of Minnesota and its political subdivisions, within the boundaries of the refuge by (A) donation; (B) purchase or lease (with donated, transferred, or appropriated funds); or (C) exchange."

Authorizes Secretary of the Interior to purchase city or county-owned lands.

Amending Sec. 6(a) to read -

"General - The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the State and political subdivisions thereof, develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the conservation, protection, preservation and interpretation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent wildlife recreation area."

Deletes 3-year requirement for Master Plan and instructs Secretary of the Interior to implement plan.

Amending Sec. 7(a) -

"Grants - The Secretary shall provide sufficient financial assistance to the State and its political subdivisions to enable it to acquire and develop lands, waters and interests therein in the wildlife recreation area. The Secretary may reimburse the State and its political subdivisions for lands, waters and interests therein contained within the wildlife refuge at the time of its establishment. Such grants shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary."

Gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to assist State and cities in acquisition of land on recreation area and reimburse them for refuge lands.

Amending Sec. 10(a) -

"Acquisition - There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary for acquisition of lands, waters, and interests therein in the refuge-recreation area, pursuant to Sections 4(b)(1) and (7)(a) of this Act, except that such sums shall not exceed a total of \$29,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977 extending indefinitely until the monies available are expended."

Increases spending authority to keep up with inflation and deletes time deadline.

Amending Sec. 10(b) -

"Development - There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary for the development of the refuge-recreation area, except that such sums shall not exceed \$9,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977, extending indefinitely until the monies available are expended."

Increases
spending authority
to keep up with
inflation.

Adding to Sec. 10(c) -

"In furtherance of the purposes of Section 4(c) of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept unrestricted or conditional gifts, devises, bequests or loans of money, real or personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, for the benefit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition or servitude which may include the obligation to repay loans or conditional gifts of money, or to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for a term not to exceed twenty (20) years, for a visitor center and related facilities, or any other covenant, condition or servitude, deemed by the Secretary to be in accordance with law and compatible with the purpose for which acceptance is sought, subject to appropriation by Congress."

Allows
Secretary of the
Interior to accept
gifts with reser-
vations and allow
for lease-purchase
of visitor center.

"Any gifts or bequests of money, and proceeds from the sales of other property received as gifts or bequests pursuant to this subsection, shall be disbursed upon order of the Secretary for the benefit of programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service."

"For the purpose of Federal income, estate, and gift taxes, money, property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, accepted under this subsection shall be considered as a gift or bequest or conditional gift or bequest to the United States."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ISSUE: Funding and Acquisition Authority for Minnesota Valley NWR

BACKGROUND:

Establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was authorized in 1976 by enactment of Public Law 94-466 (98 Stat. 1993). The refuge is to include approximately 9,500 acres in the lower Minnesota River Valley and is to be acquired and managed by the Secretary of the Interior. The statute authorizes appropriations of \$14.5 million for acquisition of the refuge-recreation area for the period October 1, 1977 through September 30, 1983, and \$6 million for development of the refuge-recreation area. The legislative history indicates that Congress intended that \$8.3 million of the authorized sums are to be used for refuge acquisition and \$6.2 million to match sums from the state's normal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of the recreation area.

The total appropriated through Fiscal Year 1983 for refuge acquisition is \$8.3 million (although \$1.6 million was rescinded in FY-81), of which \$6.7 million has been obligated through February 1983. Approximately 3,200 acres have been purchased, 450 acres are publicly owned, 1,300 acres have been leased, 2,850 acres of private land remain to be acquired and the remainder is state protected or meandered waters for a total of 9,500 acres.

Program and Funding

	<u>FY 1981</u>	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>	<u>FY 1984</u>
Land Acquisition	0	0	0	0
Development	0	0	0	0

DISCUSSION: The authorization in PL 94-466 to appropriate funds for refuge land acquisition expires on September 30, 1983. We estimate only 600 to 800 acres of land could be purchased with the remaining \$1.6 million which was rescinded. We will recommend a \$10.4 million increase in the authorization for appropriations to cover acquisition of the remaining refuge areas and an increase of \$3.8 million for the interpretive center and other facilities recommended by the master plan as well as an extension of time during which the funds would be available for expenditure. This is the only way to carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in PL 94-466. To do otherwise would have the refuge at approximately one-half of the acreage originally specified in scattered parcels that will pose serious management problems.

Funding needed to complete land acquisition - \$1.6 million authorized and rescinded plus \$10.4 million new authorization for a total of \$12.0 million.

Funding needed for development - \$6.0 million authorized but not appropriated, plus \$3.8 million new authorization for a total of \$9.8 million. The \$500,000 spent for planning was from reprogrammed BLHP funds.

1985

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

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is being

3/9/84

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<u>1,300</u>	Acres leased from NSP
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Adds:

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8.3M	Existing federal authorization
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\$29.5M	Total

1985 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY:

Visitor Center - \$6,000,000

~~Wildlife and Recreation improvement facilities \$1,500,000~~ E. M.

Land Acquisition (LWF) - ³~~\$4~~,000,000 E. M. 5/4/84

E. M. Mellott

klh/0353d

marshes - Lakes are
adjutinted waters
own bottom lake, public
can cross surface waters

Elaine -

Approximate land costs.

Most recent transactions (84-85)

Long Meadow Lake Unit (Bituminous Property)	21.83 Acres	\$5,200 / Acre
Ugjala Unit	96.45 Acres 110 Acres	\$2,060 / acre 2,060 / acre \$2,152 / acre 2,152 / acre
Wikie Unit	15.5 Acres	\$3,226 / acre

- Note: Tract Acreages are listed on reverse of the
attached maps.

The color brochure is also useful to see current land ownership
status.

Tom W.

AREA 3

DRAFT

GENERAL LOCATION:

South of West Old Shakopee Road along the
Bloomington-Eden Prairie border

SIZE:

84.7 acres

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
DESIGNATION:

Medium-Density Residential -- 28.5 acres
High-Density Residential -- 37.2 acres
Right-of-Way -- 19.0 acres

The Bluff Report District Plan designates this area as an "area of intensive development". Recognizing that the proposed new river crossing will create a major entrance to the City, the District Plan recommends that taller buildings should be permitted to emphasize bluff height and to create landmarks. (Pages B2/56-57)

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL:

Medium-Density -- 214 dwelling units
High-Density -- 558 dwelling units

EXISTING DWELLING UNITS:

10 single-family dwellings

EXISTING LAND USE:

Single-Family Residential, Vacant, Agriculture

SURROUNDING LAND USE
AND ZONING:

North -- Townhouse Residential; R-1(PD)
South -- Vacant; R-1 and R-1(FH)
East -- Public (Dred Scott Playfield); R-1
West -- Vacant (City of Eden Prairie)

TOPOGRAPHY:

Rolling, rising from West Old Shakopee Road south to the steep slopes of the Minnesota River Bluff

VEGETATION:

Grassland, urban with vegetation, upland woods

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The southerly boundary of this area includes a portion of the Minnesota River Bluff, much of which consists of steep slopes. This portion of the site provides excellent views of the river valley and good solar orientation due to its southwest exposure.

The site contains a major segment of the Bloomington Ferry Indian burial mound group; approximately 62 individual mound sites are located generally above the bluff line.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Streets: A significant portion (19 acres) of this study area includes potential future right-of-way for the CSAH 18 river crossing. No development should be permitted which would interfere with the completion of this roadway. Similarly, development which is allowed should take into account potential noise impact generated by the roadway.
- Park Needs: Lands on the Minnesota River Bluff below the 760 foot contour should be dedicated as public park.
- Grading: There are no particular constraints to grading on the northerly portion of the area, which is generally flat and gently rolling, and devoid of major tree cover. Standard erosion control precautions must be taken in this area. The wooded bluffs should not be developed, or only with great care.
- Any grading or development plan must carefully consider the location of ~~Indian~~ mounds along the top of the bluff. *prehistoric*
- Surface Water: Surface water discharge over the bluff should not exceed present discharge.

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Dred Scott Playfield, located immediately to the east, significantly impacts the easterly half of this study area. The height and intensity of lighting fixtures and the large number of people attracted to the activities of this park will require that the physical design of any development provide protection from the impact of the park uses.

The impacts of the park and of the proposed river crossing limit the attractiveness of this area of single-family detached dwellings. High-intensity multiple-family structures can provide the best internal protection for these negative impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Comprehensive Plan: Expand the area designated as Conservation Open Space on the land use map to the north to coincide with the 760 contour.

- Zoning: Rezone to RM-24 **NO**

AREA 4

GENERAL LOCATION: South of Dred Scott Playfield; west of
Bloomington Ferry Road

SIZE: 44.3 acres

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
DESIGNATION: Low-Density Residential -- 42.4 acres
Public -- 1.9 acres

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL: Low-Density -- 106 dwelling units

EXISTING DWELLING UNITS: 8 single-family dwellings, some of which are on
landlocked parcels.

EXISTING LAND USE: Single-Family Residential; Vacant

SURROUNDING LAND USE
AND ZONING: North -- Public (Dred Scott Playfield); R-1
South -- Vacant; R-1
East -- Single-Family Residential; R-1 and
R-1(PD)
West -- Vacant; R-1 and R-1(FH)

TOPOGRAPHY: Rolling, with steep slopes on the south and
southwest. The northerly portion of the area is
flat.

VEGETATION: Upland woods, lowland woods, urban with vege-
tation. The northerly portion of the site is
primarily grassland, having been previously used
agriculturally.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Contains a portion of the Bloomington Ferry
Indian burial mound group; approximately 29
individual mound sites are located generally
along the bluff line

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Streets: The area is generally well-served by minor
arterial and collector streets (West Old
Shakopee Road, Bloomington Ferry Road and
Minnesota Bluffs Drive). The two-lane river
crossing on Bloomington Ferry Road does cause
some congestion on that street during peak
hours. However, the long range plans to upgrade
and relocate County Highway 18 will result in
the closing of this river crossing, which will
reduce traffic to local street levels.

The northerly portion of the site will be served by West 110th Street, for which half the rights-of-way have been dedicated along the south edge of Dred Scott Playfield. This street, along with Yukon Avenue on the west side of the park, will complete a loop around the park. West 110th Street will also provide an alternate access to the large underdeveloped area to the west of Dred Scott Playfield.

The southerly three-quarters of the site has very limited access to Bloomington Ferry Road, primarily due to the very large single-family lots, some of which do not have public street frontage. Due to the steep slopes separating the northerly and southerly portions, there is limited opportunity to extend public streets, or even private streets, between the two sections.

Some of the parcels presently have private driveways extending to the north on easements. Development of the northerly portion should be required to provide better access to those parcels.

Utilities:

The northerly portion of the study area is servicable with pubic sewer and water, which will be extended from the east and available in West 110th Street. Dwellings in the southerly portion presently have private sewer and water systems. While public water could be extended into this area, sanitary sewer service would require a lift station which would be uneconomical unless substantial redevelopment occurred.

Grading:

Grading on the northerly portion of the study presents no major concerns due to the lack of major tree masses and relatively flat topographic character. Particular care should be taken at the crest of the steep slopes of the river bluff to prevent erosion. No massive grading should be permitted on the slopes in the southerly portion without extensive erosion and sedimentation control.

Any grading or development plan must carefully consider the location of Indian mounds along the top of the bluff. *Indian mounds*

Surface Water:

Discharge of surface water over the bluff should be limited to the existing volume to prevent erosion. Surface water in the northern portion of the site should be collected in storm sewers and directed to the public storm sewer system.

DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATIONS:

Dred Scott Playfield, located immediately to the north, significantly impacts the northerly portion of this study area. The height and intensity of lighting fixtures and the large number of people attracted to the activities of this park will require that the physical design of any development provide protection from the impact of the park uses.

This study area is topographically divided into two areas: the readily-developable northern portion and the steeply-sloped southern portion. Some form of attached housing, preferably in the low-density range (up to five units per acre), is appropriate for the northern portion along West 110th Street to allow protection from the impact of Dred Scott Playfield.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Comprehensive Plan: Retain the present designation of low-density residential.

Zoning:

Northerly portion -- permit rezoning to R-1(PD) to allow development of attached housing up to five units per acre.

Southerly portion -- rezone to RS-2 Large Lot Single Family.

This IS OK NOW —



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 99th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 131

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1985

No. 168—Part II

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1985

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, I congratulate my distinguished colleague from Idaho, Senator McCURE, for his leadership in putting this bill together and bringing it to the floor.

Minnesota is often associated with eastern States. While it is closer to the Atlantic than Pacific, we are really a western State. We are west of the Mississippi. Originally part of the Louisiana Purchase we were known as the Northwest Territory and eventually became the 32nd State to join the Union in 1858.

Historically and culturally we are tied with the West. We had our share of Indian wars. The coming of the railroad did as much for Minnesota as it did for other frontier States in terms of expanding markets and spurring economic development.

The things which brought pioneers west brought them to Minnesota. Fur traders, trappers, timber men, and prairie farmers, those men and women who made America great, found a place in Minnesota.

Mr. President, we really aren't all that different from Idaho. We don't have spectacular mountain ranges or deep, coursing rivers, but we do have many outstanding natural resources of comparable beauty and grace; sparkling glacial lakes, quiet flowing rivers surrounded by fertile farm land and superb waterfowl and wildlife habitat, still forests and wide open plains. One can sing "Home on the Range" in Minnesota and not be out of place.

Finally, we do have strong Federal presence in Minnesota in terms of natural resource management, particularly in northern Minnesota. The Chipewewa and Superior National Forests are the largest in the Forest Service's eastern region. The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the most popular yet complex wilderness areas in the country. Voyageurs National Park is a young park whose potential is yet to be realized.

The Federal Government is also involved in the management and protection of our three major water ways:

the Mississippi River, the St. Croix River and the Minnesota River. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service manages over 440,000 acres of wildlife refuges around the State and an especially important one in the metropolitan area; the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

To a large extent the funding for this Federal presence is contained in this legislation. Several of these projects are of particular importance to the people of Minnesota.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

First authorized in 1976, Congress last year passed amendments which included a permanent authorization of \$24.9 million for land acquisition and \$9.8 million for the visitor's center, increased the size of the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres, and included a provision which will allow local governments to donate lands which are inside the boundaries of the refuge.

Minnesota Valley is a unique and valuable component of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Situated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers extraordinary educational and recreational opportunities not usually available to city dwellers while providing a sanctuary for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge embodies a new and important concept in Federal, State, and local government relations, cooperative management of our natural resource. In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are over 17 different units of Government involved in the project.

Following the original authorization of 1976, \$6.5 million was appropriated for land acquisition. Since that time, however, funding has been scarce and sporadic. The \$1.6 million which had been appropriated for land acquisition

in fiscal year 1981 was rescinded. Further, no funds were appropriated in fiscal years 1982, 1983, or 1985. The \$1 million which was appropriated for fiscal year 1984 was held pending congressional passage of H.R. 1723 which reauthorized the refuge. That money is currently being expended.

With the authorization behind us, we are very eager to move forward with and complete the Comprehensive Refuge and Recreation and Management Plan which was approved in 1984. The committee has graciously included \$2 million to continue land acquisition.

\$600,000 is included in the House bill for final planning and site preparation for the visitor's center. The site of the proposed visitor's center has been the scene of considerable highway improvement work. That work is near completion and the site will have all of the utilities, access road, major landscaping and interstate highway directional signing ready for the visitor center construction. Senator McCLURE, I am hopeful that the Senate will recede to the House language on this project.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's only national park. It is the only water-based park in the United States, with 80,000 acres of its 200,000 acres being water. Lying on the Minnesota-Ontario border, it is an area of spectacular beauty with unique historical significance.

The committee has been very helpful over the years in obtaining funds for land acquisition and other development projects. In late August with a great sense of achievement we held the ground breaking ceremony for the visitor's center.

The Kettle Falls Hotel is an important historical and cultural resource of the park. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For many

years it was a gathering place for loggers, and more recently for anglers and tourists.

This hotel has been in a dangerous state of disrepair for several years. During consideration of the fiscal year 1984 Interior appropriation's bill, Senator BOSCHWITZ and I participated in a similar colloquy with you regarding funds for restoration of this valuable historic hotel. You have provided \$1.1 million toward that goal and the House has provided \$2.1 million. Now that we have a start, it is my hope we can move forward with this project.

Mr. McCLURE. Mr. President, my friends from Minnesota have indeed raised this issue with me many times. I am sympathetic to the need to rehabilitate that facility. I cannot make any firm commitments on what will happen in conference, but I assure my colleagues from Minnesota that we

will give it every consideration when we meet with the House conferees.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Grand Portage, MN is a place of very great historical significance. It is one of the premier historical sites in North America for the interpretation of fur trade history.

There is a great need for a new interpretive / administrative / maintenance complex for the monument.

The interpretive facilities are woefully inadequate. The present administrative headquarters for the monument are located in Grand Marais, some 37 miles to the west. This makes the administration and supervision of the monument very difficult.

The House has made \$275,000 in planning funds available for this facility. This represents a giant step forward for the project. It is my hope, and those in Minnesota, that the Senate will consider accepting this project in conference.

Mr. McCLURE. I am very aware of the support of the Minnesota Senators for this project. I cannot give them any firm commitments on what will happen in the conference with the House, however, I assure them we will closely review this project in relation to other spending needs and give it every consideration.



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No. 168—Part II

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1985

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, I congratulate my distinguished colleague from Idaho, Senator McClure, for his leadership in putting this bill together and bringing it to the floor.

Minnesota is often associated with eastern States. While it is closer to the Atlantic than Pacific, we are really a western State. We are west of the Mississippi. Originally part of the Louisiana Purchase we were known as the Northwest Territory and eventually became the 32nd State to join the Union in 1858.

Historically and culturally we are tied with the West. We had our share of Indian wars. The coming of the railroad did as much for Minnesota as it did for other frontier States in terms of expanding markets and spurring economic development.

The things which brought pioneers west brought them to Minnesota. Fur traders, trappers, timber men, and prairie farmers, those men and women who made America great, found a place in Minnesota.

Mr. President, we really aren't all that different from Idaho. We don't have spectacular mountain ranges or deep, coursing rivers, but we do have many outstanding natural resources of comparable beauty and grace; sparkling glacial lakes, quiet flowing rivers surrounded by fertile farm land and superb waterfowl and wildlife habitat; still forests and wide open plains. One can sing "Home on the Range" in Minnesota and not be out of place.

Finally, we do have strong Federal presence in Minnesota in terms of natural resource management, particularly in northern Minnesota. The Chipewewa and Superior National Forests are the largest in the Forest Service's eastern region. The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness is one of the most popular yet complex wilderness areas in the country. Voyageurs National Park is a young park whose potential is yet to be realized.

The Federal Government is also involved in the management and protection of our three major water ways;

the Mississippi River, the St. Croix River and the Minnesota River. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service manages over 440,000 acres of wildlife refuges around the State and an especially important one in the metropolitan area; the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

To a large extent the funding for this Federal presence is contained in this legislation. Several of these projects are of particular importance to the people of Minnesota.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

First authorized in 1976, Congress last year passed amendments which included a permanent authorization of \$24.9 million for land acquisition and \$9.8 million for the visitor's center, increased the size of the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres, and included a provision which will allow local governments to donate lands which are inside the boundaries of the refuge.

Minnesota Valley is a unique and valuable component of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Situated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers extraordinary educational and recreational opportunities not usually available to city dwellers while providing a sanctuary for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Forming a wildlife buffer between four metropolitan counties and eight suburban communities, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge embodies a new and important concept in Federal, State, and local government relations, cooperative management of our natural resource. In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, there are over 17 different units of Government involved in the project.

Following the original authorization of 1976, \$6.5 million was appropriated for land acquisition. Since that time, however, funding has been scarce and sporadic. The \$1.6 million which had been appropriated for land acquisition

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in fiscal year 1981 was rescinded. Further, no funds were appropriated in fiscal years 1982, 1983, or 1985. The \$1 million which was appropriated for fiscal year 1984 was held pending congressional passage of H.R. 1723 which reauthorized the refuge. That money is currently being expended.

With the authorization behind us, we are very eager to move forward with and complete the Comprehensive Refuge and Recreation and Management Plan which was approved in 1984. The committee has graciously included \$2 million to continue land acquisition.

\$600,000 is included in the House bill for final planning and site preparation for the visitor's center. The site of the proposed visitor's center has been the scene of considerable highway improvement work. That work is near completion and the site will have all of the utilities, access road, major landscaping and interstate highway directional signing ready for the visitor center construction. Senator McCLURE, I am hopeful that the Senate will recede to the House language on this project.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's only national park. It is the only water-based park in the United States, with 80,000 acres of its 200,000 acres being water. Lying on the Minnesota-Ontario border, it is an area of spectacular beauty with unique historical significance.

The committee has been very helpful over the years in obtaining funds for land acquisition and other development projects. In late August with a great sense of achievement we held the ground breaking ceremony for the visitor's center.

The Kettle Falls Hotel is an important historical and cultural resource of the park. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For many

years it was a gathering place for loggers, and more recently for anglers and tourists.

This hotel has been in a dangerous state of disrepair for several years. During consideration of the fiscal year 1984 Interior appropriation's bill, Senator Boschwitz and I participated in a similar colloquy with you regarding funds for restoration of this valuable historic hotel. You have provided \$1.1 million toward that goal and the House has provided \$2.1 million. Now that we have a start, it is my hope we can move forward with this project.

Mr. McCLURE. Mr. President, my friends from Minnesota have indeed raised this issue with me many times. I am sympathetic to the need to rehabilitate that facility. I cannot make any firm commitments on what will happen in conference, but I assure my colleagues from Minnesota that we

will give it every consideration when we meet with the House conferees.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Grand Portage, MN is a place of very great historical significance. It is one of the premier historical sites in North America for the interpretation of fur trade history.

There is a great need for a new interpretive / administrative / maintenance complex for the monument.

The interpretive facilities are woefully inadequate. The present administrative headquarters for the monument are located in Grand Marais, some 37 miles to the west. This makes the administration and supervision of the monument very difficult.

The House has made \$275,000 in planning funds available for this facility. This represents a giant step forward for the project. It is my hope, and those in Minnesota, that the Senate will consider accepting this project in conference.

Mr. McCLURE. I am very aware of the support of the Minnesota Senators for this project. I cannot give them any firm commitments on what will happen in the conference with the House, however, I assure them we will closely review this project in relation to other spending needs and give it every consideration.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

BACKGROUND:

- o The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area Act was signed into law by President Ford, October 1976 (Public Law 94-466) and amended in 1983 by Congress and President Reagan.

o The Ammended Act includes:

- a 12,500 Acre refuge and a visitor center to be managed by USFWS
- an 8,000 Acre recreation area to be managed by state, local governments
- \$ 23.3M Authorized for land acquisition by the USFWS
- \$ 6.2M Authorized for land acquisition by the state (includes a state trail system)
- \$ 9.0M Authorized for ^{visitor center} facility construction

- o The refuge was originally authorized to be completed by September 30, 1983 and ammended to ^{allow} continued acquisition indefinitely until the funds are expended.
- o A Refuge and Recreation Area Environmental Impact Statement was approved in 1981.
- o A Refuge Master Plan was approved in August, 1982.
- o A Comprehensive Plan was approved in July, 1984.
- o No land acquisition funds were appropriated in 1981, 1982, 1983 or 1985, but \$1,000,000 was approved in 1984.

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CURRENT REFUGE LAND STATUS:

3,385 Acres purchased by USFWS, 1976 - 1984
2,600 Acres leased from NSP and Hennepin County
5,985

1982 MASTER PLAN PROJECTED COSTS:

8.3M Existing federal authorization
15.0M Private land and new additions to the Refuge
(Ammendments)
6.2M Existing state authorization
29.5M Land Cost
9.0M Visitor Center
\$38.5M TOTAL

1986 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY:

Visitor Center - \$6,000,000.

Land Acquisition (LWF) - \$7,500,000

E. M. Mellott

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COST ESTIMATES AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES
WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION CENTER
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Design

a. Final Design \$600,000

- Architectural, engineering and site design specifications and drawings.
- Interior, graphic art and exhibit design drawings and layout.

Subtotal \$600,000

Construction

PHASE I \$2,900,000

a. Site Work

- Clean-up site, remove debris, excavation for footings, walls and site improvements to include removal of above and below grade obstructions. Removal of excess material from site and placement of granular backfill material with sheet piling support where necessary.
- Utility connection for city water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, electricity and telephone.
- Erosion control measures including seeding, mulching and installation of erosion barriers.
- Construction of entrance road, visitor parking and visitor hiking trails.

Subtotal \$1,200,000

b. Structural Construction

- Concrete work (poured and precast) for footings and walls.
- Steel work (support and freestanding) columns, beams and roof joists and decking.

Subtotal \$1,700,000

PHASE II \$2,500,000

a. Interior/Exterior Finishing

- Exterior masonry (stone and block).
- Installation of interior/exterior doors, windows, thermal and moisture protection, finishes, equipment and furnishings including exhibit and interpretive displays.
- Mechanical including heating and cooling systems, electrical and plumbing.

Subtotal \$2,100,000

b. Landscaping

- Grade to final elevations and cover with top soil, installation shrubs, trees and sod.

Subtotal \$50,000

c. Solar systems

- Installation of active solar panels for heating purposes.

Subtotal \$350,000

can cut -> + reduce smaller interior spaces - wing

1984 for '85 need to add to \$5M

1/86

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Wildlife Interpretive Center

1980 Preliminary Design Completed

Reception/Staging Area	5,500 ft ²	gross
Restroom/Bookstore		
Exhibit Space	10,000	
Office	3,400	
Conference/Storage/Exhibit Prep	4,600	
Shop/Mechanical	1,500	
Auditorium	2,800	
Class/Lab	6,800	
	34,600 ft ²	gross

Cost Estimates	1982	1987
Site and Facility	\$3,362,000	4,752,000
Interpretive Exhibit Construction	800,000	1,090,000
Furnishing and Equipment	65,000	84,000
Site and Facility A&E	275,000	384,000
Exhibit Design Fee	200,000	297,000
Interior Design Fee	12,000	19,000
	\$4,714,000	6,626,000

Background:

When Congress passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act (PL94-466) in 1976 a message was sent to the people of Minnesota that the preservation of the valley and floodplain of the lower Minnesota River was important not only to Minnesotans but to the entire country.

In the nine years since that legislation was enacted the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge has accomplished much. Today the refuge has grown to a little over 5,000 acres, and is authorized to acquire an additional 7,500 acres.

The Minnesota River Valley and its related floodplain supports a large number of wildlife species. During the spring and fall especially, the Valley's floodplain accomodates thousands of migrating birds. The Valley provides them with an abundance of food to restore migratory fat reserves. It also provides a shelter belt along the migratory track. Pre-breeding pair bonds are being formed in isolated floodplain wetlands. While migratory uses of the habitat may be the most intensive use, production of birds and mammals during the summer is excellent. Again because of the diversity of habitats and the Valley's relative isolation within the urban setting, approximately

100 species of birds are nesting within the Valley. The area also provides critical winter shelter. Muskrat and other furbearer production is high. All these wildlife needs are being provided in the Minnesota Valley in defiance of outside urban influences.

Wildlife Values:

The goal of refuge wildlife management practices is to restore habitat which has been altered to optimize wildlife populations and diversity in the valley. These practices include the following activities:

1. Restore drained wetlands.
2. Reduce aging rate of floodplain lakes.
3. Increase habitat edges.
4. Restore monoculture agriculture lands to more diverse habitats including permanent nesting cover.
5. Reintroduce fire as a management tool to increase habitat diversity of grasslands and savanna.
6. Increase nesting, breeding, and migrating bird feeding areas.
7. Accelerate the outflow of low quality water and the retention of high quality water.

During a time in which over 400,000 acres of wetlands are

destroyed nation-wide each year and in a state in which losses of wetlands so vital to the production of migrating waterfowl is significant, the protection and enhancement of the Minnesota River Valley's floodplain marshes becomes even more important.

In addition to being valuable wildlife areas these wetlands provide many other values to the community:

1. Flood control by temporarily storing flood waters to prevent downstream loss of property and life.
2. Water quality maintenance by removing silt load, filtering pollution and absorbing water-borne chemicals and nutrients.
3. Erosion buffers to protect upland areas.
4. Groundwater recharge and stream flow maintenance.

Public Use Values:

While ensuring that the natural resource are managed to provide a high diversity and abundance of wildlife the refuge also provides opportunities for the public enjoyment and understanding of the area's wildlife values.

Presently over seven miles of multi-purpose trails cross the refuge, connecting with state and local trail networks and

providing wildlife viewing for thousands of visitors annually.

Wildlife management techniques used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service throughout the country, such as prescribed burning and marsh water level manipulation, are demonstrated and explained in special programs conducted for the public.

Volunteers actively become a part of the refuge management team by getting involved in wildlife monitoring programs, censusing bird life and wildflower growth along established transects.

Because of its proximity to the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan centers Minnesota Valley is active in environmental education. Outdoor classroom materials and lesson plans developed by the refuge are distributed to local teachers and schools to guide their use of the refuge's environmental study area.

Minnesota Valley has also become a model for public/private cooperation. A local major utility company leases at low cost to the government 1,300 acres of marsh and lake for the Service to manage as wildlife refuge. A neighboring high technology corporation works with refuge staff in developing computer based environmental education instructional software.

The refuge demonstrates a good neighbor policy by working side by side with state and local governmental agencies and planning councils, jointly developing visitor facilities and habitat improvement projects. The Minnesota Valley Refuge has taken an active voice in the regional community by providing guidance and technical assistance to local planners and city councils, helping them recognize the values and importance of making wise use of the Minnesota Valley's resources.

Outlook:

Clearly the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is becoming a showplace where the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is opening its doors to the public and opening the public's eyes about how it as an agency is working to manage the nation's wildlife resources for the benefit of the public. Yet, the full potential of the refuge cannot be realized without additional and continued support from Congress.

Land acquisition funds are needed to complete the refuge. The present patch-work status of refuge land ownership prevents the refuge from completing most of the planned habitat improvement and public facility development projects. Protection of many of the refuge owned tracts is made difficult because they are isolated from other refuge

tracts. Proper management of these areas is almost impossible. With additional land acquisition funds the refuge can complete manangment unit development and further the realization of the refuge's ambitious goals.

With funding to build the planned Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center the refuge can also become a regional center for educating the public about the environment and about the national wildlife refuge system.

Two million people live within a half-hour's drive or bus ride of the proposed Center site. This means that programs can be developed for thoses who don't ordinarily have opportunities to visit the nation's wild lands or to see its wildlife. It means that, through reduced travel distance and use of mass transit, people can save fuel and money by enjoying wildlife oriented recreation closer to home. But most important, it means that ecological principles can be taught through universtiy research projects, program assistance to 500 local primary and secondary schools, all-age community education efforts, and a variety of communications media.

With continued support for land acquisition and visitor center funding Minnesota Valley Refuge can succeed in promoting the diversity of wildlife so vital to a healthy ecosystem and can be a center for the study of the

environment, ensuring that following generations perpetuate an ethic of wise land stewardship demonstrated so clearly by the lawmakers and land managers of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

there are numerous fatalities and inju- funding for many of these items is in-



Judith L. Erickson

Legislative Assistant

Senator Dave Durenberger
Minnesota

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Mr. SPECTER. I do understand that and am confident that the distinguished chairman will do all that he can to reach the higher number. I thank the Senator.

Mr. HEINZ. I would like to associate myself with the comments of the Senator from Pennsylvania and also urge that Senator McCURE attempt to reach the House figure in conference. I thank the chairman for his attention to this matter.

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. President, I rise to engage the chairman in a colloquy for the purpose of clarifying various items of interest and concern.

Mr. McCURE. I am pleased to oblige the Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BROYHILL. I appreciate the chairman's indulgence and the opportunity to highlight areas of concern contained in the bill before us. Let me first commend the distinguished chairman and members of the committee on their diligence in delivering this bill in good order.

Mr. McCURE. I thank the Senator for his kind remarks.

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. Chairman, I intended to offer an amendment today to restore funding levels for many Federal programs and activities of national importance and of interest to the State of North Carolina. Because

the other body's measure, I draw my amendment. I will offer any amendments the chairman can give me an assurance the Senate conferees will consider to acceding to the other body's funding levels for I am about to discuss. Is the chairman prepared to offer such an as-

Mr. McCURE. As chairman, I am the Senator that appropriate action will be accorded these items to the extent that budgetary requirements and agreement can be

BROYHILL. Included in the body's allowance is an appropriation of \$55,000 for studies related to the Little Kinnakeet lifesaving station at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Of that amount, \$30,000 would be used to fund a historic furnishing and \$25,000 for a historic study. Among the other recommendations, not included in the Senate's bill, is a reprogramming of existing funds totalling \$100,000 for the acquisition of an additional 6,000 acre tract at Alligator National Wildlife Refuge. As this would require no new authority. This tract would be purchased and maintained as a nature preserve for the protection of the refuge's prime and most extensive remaining stands of mature Atlantic cedar. The other body's bill also included use of Alligator National Wildlife Refuge as a pre-

ferred site for the reintroduction of the Red Wolf and provided an increase of \$135,000 to facilitate the recovery of this endangered species. Contained in the other body's report accompanying its bill is language urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make available management and technical support to the State of North Carolina and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as required to complete the comprehensive research plan for the Albemarle/Pamlico estuary which is of national significance. It is my fervent hope that the Senate conferees will be able to agree to and accept funding levels provided in the other version of the bill when they meet with Members of the other body.

Mr. McCURE. I will be mindful of these items when the Senate confers with the other body.

Mr. BROYHILL. I thank the chairman. I would also like to express appreciation to the chairman and members of the committee for providing funds necessary to restore the lighthouse district at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park. In addition, I am grateful to the chairman for the provision of funds necessary to enlarge the Great Dismal Swamp and for recommending funding levels for various items identical to those contained in the other body's bill.

Mr. McCURE. I thank the Senator. We will endeavor to accommodate the requests he has made.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. President, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, situated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, offers local citizens a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities while providing sanctuary to a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

Last year Congress provided \$600,000 in planning funds for design of the visitor's center. Preliminary work on utilities, access roads, major landscaping and interstate highway directional signing is completed. In short the site is ready for construction to begin.

Mr. Chairman, now that the planning is nearly completed, it is vital that construction funds be forthcoming. The House included \$3.32 million to begin phase I of the construction. I would appreciate it very much if you would agree to the House language in conference on the fiscal year 1967 Interior appropriations bill.

Mr. McCURE. I am familiar with this project and appreciate the time the good Senator from Minnesota has devoted to establishing this unique urban wildlife refuge. The educational opportunities the refuge will offer to the citizens of the Twin Cities are outstanding and you can be sure I will give your request every consideration when conferring with the House.

Mr. DURENBERGER. Mr. Chairman, currently there are 29 States with fish and wildlife or combined cooperative research units. Minnesota, despite their vast fish and wildlife resources, does not have such a unit. While the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have a solid record of achievement in wildlife research, education or management, the scope of Minnesota's resources makes it difficult to accomplish all that needs to be done.

The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have put together a program direction statement for a cooperative fish and wildlife research unit in Minnesota. I will ask unanimous consent later that this statement be included in the RECORD.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year I asked the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations to review this proposal, and if it had merit to direct the Secretary to fund it out of available funds in fiscal year 1987. Has the Senator had a chance to review this proposal?

Mr. McCURE. I appreciate the Senator from Minnesota bringing this to my attention. I have reviewed the program direction statement for a cooperative unit in Minnesota and agree to direct the Secretary of Interior to fund the project out of available funds in fiscal year 1987.

Mr. DURENBERGER. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the program direction statement be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PROGRAM DIRECTION STATEMENT—MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT

The Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Units Program was established to facilitate cooperation between the Service, universities, State fish and wildlife agencies and private organizations, and to conduct programs of research and education related to fish and wildlife resource management. The objectives of the Units are to: 1) conduct research directed toward the solution of problems of mutual concern related to fish, wildlife and their habitats; 2) provide academic training toward advanced degrees in the fish and wildlife field; 3) provide technical assistance to federal, state, and other conservation agencies related to fish and wildlife management; 4) provide conservation education through publication, lecture and demonstration. The operations of the Unit are governed by a formal Cooperative Agreement signed by the Service, university, state fish and wildlife agency, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

The Minnesota Unit will emphasize research regarding impacts of human activities on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which are of state, regional and national significance. The research program will address not only the biological, but also social and economic aspects of both game and nongame fisheries and wildlife management; hence, the Unit will be in the most advantageous position to provide information for strategic and long-range planning by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Minnesota has a vast fishery and wildlife resource and occupies a geographic area that contains aquatic and terrestrial habitats associated with some of the most important regional and national fishery and wildlife research needs. The state is biogeographically unique, with boreal forest, northern coniferous forest, transition zone and prairie, all of which are, in one way or another, under increasing or changing pressures from human activities. Minnesota is an ideal model for research on effects of these activities on fish and wildlife because the vastness of the resource and variation in habitats within regions provide an unusually large selection of research sites for comparative studies.

Biological studies will involve a wide range of applied and basic research projects designed to mitigate or enhance fish and wildlife in habitats with the potential for severe degradation, heavy use, or offering considerable possibilities for enhancement. These habitats include but are not limited to urban fisheries, agricultural lands, peatlands, and the agriculture-forest transition zone where land-use changes are accelerating with human expansion in the area. All of these problem areas in Minnesota are representative of similar concerns regionally and nationally.

The great surge in public interest in nongame species in recent years across the nation constitutes both a challenge and opportunity for resource management agencies and teaching and research institutions. The public now expects agencies to carry out programs specifically for nongame species. As a result, it is opportune and appro-

priate to have the Unit involved in nongame research.

There is a growing need to incorporate sociological and economic information into fish and wildlife management programs. Public user attitudes, expectations and needs are becoming increasingly important in the formulation of management programs and priorities. Likewise, reliable information on the economic importance of fish and wildlife is becoming an essential ingredient for enlightened planning to help insure that the value of these resources is adequately considered in the formulation of public policy. This is particularly relevant to circumstances in Minnesota where a significant part of the tourist and recreation industry is fish and wildlife oriented. Because public acceptance of fisheries and wildlife management programs is frequently an obstacle to successful implementation, a primary focus of the research will be to examine the economic and social ramifications of proposed management programs and to compare alternatives. This integration of ecological, social and economic research is crucial for decision making regarding fisheries and wildlife policy and planning and yet there are few researchers addressing this issue. The Unit is expected to become a "Center for Excellence" for this integrated research and thereby serve the state and nation as a source of information for public agencies in their development and implementation of fisheries and wildlife management plans.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be temporarily set aside.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2775

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. McCURE) proposes an amendment numbered 2775.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 14, lines 7-9, begin linetype with the comma after the word "Fund" and continue the linetype through "290" on line 9.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, the amendment I am proposing will bring the bill into compliance with the committee report adopting H.R. 5234. This language was inadvertently omitted from the bill and would provide a limitation on the amount of purchaser credits that will be available in fiscal year 1987 for timber purchases.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, we concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HECHT). The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2775) was agreed to.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, it is an appropriate occasion at this particular time to note that the distinguished occupant of the Chair, the junior Senator from the State of Nevada, Senator CHIC HECHT, as of 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, had presided over the Senate for 100 hours. Senator HECHT will join three colleagues, Senators PRESSLER, GORTON, and EVANS, in receiving the golden gavel award for the time he has given the Senate by presiding over the Senate during the 99th Congress. I am very pleased to make this notation for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the Senator very much.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further proceedings under the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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Mr. McCURE. Mr. President, there is a pending committee amendment which deals with Park Service fees, and it was excepted from those that were adopted by unanimous consent.

There is one major amendment and one minor amendment of which I am aware, and there are a variety of colloquies which Members have indicated they wish to undertake with the chairman of the subcommittee. Other than that, we are ready to go to third reading of the bill.

I urge that those who have an interest in these matters or others which they have not yet brought to our attention—I hope there are not such others—will get to the floor and take care of those matters.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I join the distinguished Senator from Idaho in urging Senators to come to the floor at this point and bring up their amendments or their colloquies.

I think we have been contacted personally by only one Senator asking for protection. We have been made aware of others who are interested in amendments, and we will try to protect them.

I know that the distinguished Senator from Idaho is anxious to get the bill over with. So I urge Senators who have amendments to come to the floor right away, because we are ready to deal with them, and we should soon be ready for final passage of the bill. That will not take place until after the caucuses. But I hope that shortly after

Interior Appropriations conferees to follow the House's lead and appropriate \$480,000 for phase II construction of Kettle Falls Hotel. This money will go toward access trails to the hotel as well as other essential facilities to the hotel's operation.

Mr. JOHNSTON. I understand the importance of completing the Kettles Falls Hotel and what it will mean to Voyageurs National Park and northern Minnesota. Accordingly, I will make sure that every consideration is given the funds recommended by the House for the project.

Mr. McCURE. Completing the historic Kettles Falls, a place of memories and stories of the great logging days at the turn of the century, will not only enhance Voyageurs National Park, but revive the memories of those days of Paul Bunyon and the lumberjack. Depending on the final allocation of the subcommittee, I will make sure the project receives every consideration and that the \$480,000 be appropriated for the hotel.

Mr. DURENBERGER. I thank my esteemed colleagues for their willingness to help on this matter and their recognition of the historic and recreational value the Kettles Falls Hotel serves.

WETLANDS PROTECTION

Mr. DURENBERGER. Wetlands are being lost at a tremendous rate. The loss is due to urban expansion, pollution, and we all know about the drought that is racking the Upper Midwest of this country. The result of the loss is seen in many ways, but most ominously in the decline in the Nation's waterfowl population.

It is for this reason that I rise to commend my colleagues for their foresight and commitment to wetlands protection. They have made the wise decision to allocate funds for purchase and management of high priority wetlands. For this I thank the leaders, Senators JOHNSTON and McCURE and other members of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

It is within this framework that I urge the leaders to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase those precious wetlands that are within the authorized boundaries of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is in the critical Central Mississippi Flyway, the primary flyway for the waterfowl in the United States. In addition, the wetlands of the refuge are critically located as a stopping and refueling point for weary waterfowl as they fly from Canada to the points south.

Finally, the refuge, because it is located within a major urban center, that of Minneapolis-St. Paul, its wetlands are threatened by loss due to expansion and needs further protection.

Thus, to me and the outdoorsmen of the Upper Midwest, the wetlands of the Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge are high priority wetlands and deserve to be purchased from the funds set aside so wisely by the Interior

or Appropriations Subcommittee. The House has appropriated \$500,000 for land acquisition for the refuge and I urge the Senate Interior Appropriations conferees to accept the House's recommendation.

Mr. McCURE. I am aware of the importance of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Depending on the final allocation of the subcommittee, I will make sure the project receives every consideration and that \$500,000 be appropriated for wetlands acquisition within the refuge.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Coming from a State where most of the waterfowl from the Upper Midwest winter, I am aware how important the wetlands of the refuge are to waterfowl migration. Accordingly, I will give this project every consideration in conference with the House.

Mr. DURENBERGER. On a similar topic, having spoken of the importance of wetlands and their complexity, it is time that people are fully educated of their importance. For this reason, I urge the Senate Interior Appropriation leaders to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service to allocate funds for a Wetlands Interpretative Center in Fergus Falls, MN. Fergus Falls is the heart of the North American Prairie Pothole country so it is fitting that an educational and learning center would be well-placed in this very fine community.

Mr. McCURE. I understand your desire to provide a wetlands learning center and your expression that Fergus Falls is a good site for such a center. I will certainly give it consideration at the appropriate time.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Wetlands come in many shapes, sizes, and ecology and the Prairie Pothole wetlands are among the most important. They are the key breeding grounds for most of the Nation's waterfowl. Accordingly, I will give this project serious consideration.

THE NAVAJO INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, as the Senate considers H.R. 4867, the Department of the Interior appropriation bill, I would like to bring one of its most vital provisions to the attention of my colleagues: The Navajo Indian Irrigation project.

Congress authorized the Navajo Indian Irrigation project [NIIP] in 1962 when the Navajo Tribe, the State of New Mexico, and the Federal Government reached a crucial water supply agreement. Under the agreement, the Navajo Tribe agreed to relinquish valuable water rights, and the Federal Government made a firm commitment to construct a project that would irrigate 110,630 acres of land and provide for 503,000 acre feet of water. The Federal Government still has a statutory obligation to complete construction of this project.

Despite the Federal Government's responsibility, the inspector general of the Department of the Interior 3 months ago recommended that we dis-

continue funding of NIIP because he thought its costs were too high. He suggested that we offer the Navajo Tribe a cash settlement in exchange for the cutoff in funding.

I and other Members of the House and Senate vigorously protested the inspector general's recommendation. I am pleased that the members of the Appropriations Committee also agreed that it must be rejected.

The economic and social benefits that flow from the Federal Government's commitment to the project are indeed many—both to the Navajo people and this country generally. As NIIP thrives, so too will the Navajo Tribe's related farm operation—the Navajo Agriculture Products Industry [NAPI]—which uses water provided by NIIP. Intergration of the two projects will draw more and more agriculture-related industries to the reservation. More and more Navajos will find employment, and more and more economic growth will occur. Currently, more than 500 Navajos are employed by NIIP and NAPI, and the potential for increased employment is real and imminent.

Today, the Federal investment in NIIP—and the vital water it ensures—has enabled the Navajo Tribe to join with a national food processing company and distributor in breaking ground for a food-processing plant on the reservation. The plant is a key component of a \$12 million venture that should create at least 600 new jobs for members of the Navajo Tribe.

The new venture is unique among the series of ventures recently launched in the Navajo Nation as a result of a job-generating campaign being waged by the Navajo tribal government with the assistance of the Federal Government. Its financing is a cooperative effort between the Navajo Nation and the city of Farmington, NM. As such, it is a major advance in joint economic development by an Indian nation and one of its border towns. The venture will be financed by Industrial Revenue Bonds issued by the city of Farmington.

Part of the venture includes the growing of fresh fruits and vegetables on Navajo farmland. Produce such as potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, strawberries, and raspberries will be grown and processed from the Navajo-Farmington area and will reach markets throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Basin.

Such a venture has great potential for the Navajo people, the State of New Mexico, and this country generally. I applaud the diligence and work of the Navajo Tribe and the city of Farmington, and I am pleased that the Senate acknowledges the importance of this project and the importance of the Federal Government's commitment to the Navajo people.

NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK FOREST STUDY

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, over 1.1 million acres of forest land in



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FEDERAL BUILDING, FORT SNELLING
TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA 55111

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/ARW-RE

JAN 5 1989

Ms. Elaine Mellott
Friends of The Minnesota Valley
9400 Cedar Avenue
Apartment 101
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott:

Terry Shriner, Acting Refuge Manager of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge said you wanted information about the status of land acquisition on the Refuge. Enclosed is a fact sheet that shows we need approximately \$7.7 million dollars to complete acquisition. As purchase of the remaining tracts by voluntary sale is questionable, the figures represent estimates only.

Please contact Ross Grimwood of my Realty Staff at 725-3564, should you desire additional information.

Sincerely,

Marvin E. Moriarty
Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Minnesota Valley NWR

LWCF FY 1989

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Land and Water Conservation Fund

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, and Scott Counties, Minnesota

ACQUISITION AUTHORITY : Special Legislation: Public Law 94-466 of
10/08/76, as amended. \$29,500,000
authorized until expended.

LOCATION : Adjacent to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

APPROPRIATIONS : FY 1977 reprogramming \$ 75,000
FY 1978 7,800,000
FY 1979 425,000
FY 1981 recission -1,634,000
FY 1984 1,000,000
FY 1985 0
FY 1986 1,903,000
FY 1987 1,500,000
FY 1988 0
Total Appropriated \$11,069,000

UNOBLIGATED STATUS : \$1,038,000

ACQUISITION STATUS :

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost*</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>
Acquired thru FY 1987	91	7,143	\$10,031,000	\$1,400
Planned FY 1988	2	156	1,038,000	6,654
Remaining	51	1,927	7,662,777	3,977
Total	144	9,226	\$18,731,777	\$2,030

* Includes incidental acquisition costs

PURPOSE OF ACQUISITION : To help the refuge, improve boundary
administration, and add land to the Refuge's
habitat base.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION :

<u>Senators</u>	<u>Representatives</u>	<u>District</u>
David F. Durenberger (R)	Gerry Sikorski (D)	6
Rudy Boschwitz (R)	Bill Frenzel (R)	3
	Martin Olav Sabo (D)	5



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

FEDERAL BUILDING, FORT SNELLING
TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA 55111



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/ARW-RE - Minnesota
Minnesota Valley

January 17, 1989

Ms. Elaine Mellott
Friends of The Minnesota Valley
9400 Cedar Avenue
Apartment 101
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott:

In keeping with your phone conversation with Ross Grimwood of my realty staff, enclosed is a listing of the tracts yet to be acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I hope this information is of use to you. A similar list has been provided to Congressman Sabo.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve this important natural resource.

Sincerely,

Wm. A. Swanson
Senior Realty Officer
Division of Realty

Enclosure

MINNESOTA VALLEY

TRACT LIST 1-12-89

TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES
BLOOMINGTON FERRY UNIT		
100	DOUGLAS SKANSE	5.13
101	Hulting, Thomas J.	6.70
102	CHARLES SCHULER	2.47
106	OPUS CORPORATION	172.00
107	DARREL NORLING	2.09
109	C.L. OBERG	2.82
111	JOHN ANDERSON, JR.	0.86
115	John C. Trijonis	3.60
116	JACK DALY	15.05
118	MICHAEL J. MEHNER	1.44
119	RICHARD L. PATTERSON	12.19
120 ,a	LARRY FRANSEN	18.63
UPGRALA UNIT		
141	METRO AIRPORT COMMISSION	4.58
143	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MINNESOTA	20.00
144 ,a	WOOD LAKE SANITARY SERVICE	27.00
150 ,a	DAVE RAGUET ET AL	371.00
151 ,a	PETERSON ET AL	SEE *
152 a,b	PETERSON ET AL	SEE *
153	MALLARD FARMS	76.50
163	Darrell PETERSON	426.45
166	WILLIAM BOE	3.27
167 ,a	CHEVALIER ET AL	SEE *
170	Noterman, Bert	1.40

* ACRES INCLUDED IN TRACT 163

TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES
WILKIE UNIT		
2 ,d	STATE OF MINNESOTA	28.50
125	HONE FANNIE G	65.43
130	CONTINENTAL NAVIGATION	32.90

BLACK DOG LAKE UNIT		
2 ,f	STATE OF MINNESOTA	41.70
2 ,e	STATE OF MINNESOTA	29.28
69	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	65.00

LONG MEADOW LAKE UNIT		
2 ,a-c	STATE OF MINNESOTA	56.00
5 ,a-c	CITY BLOOMINGTON	400.00
11	NORTHWEST ORIENT	55.90
17	JAMES E. KELLEY	816.00
19	CONTROL DATA	29.20
22	WAYNE PAHL	33.60
26	DEWEY WESTLY	0.32
27	WIN BROWN	0.91
43	DAVID LONG	1.04
49	WARREN CARPENTER	55.30
55	RAYMOND OSTRUM	0.23
65	RAYMOND HAEG	0.50

TRACT NUMBER	OWNER	ACRES
CHASKA LAKE UNIT		
7	CITY OF CARVER	24.00
201	LANO DEVEL. CO.	198.00
UNIT TOTAL		222.00

LOUISVILLE SWAMP UNIT		
2 ,g	STATE OF MINNESOTA	15.40
208	SHEELY GRAVEL CO., INC.	56.00

209 RUTH FRISK 4.28
217 BARND, ROBERT E. 134.17
219 Heil, mary 11.50
220 Scott County (detox center) 42.31
221 KOVICH, MIKE 3.50
UNIT TOTAL 267.16



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 28, 1989

Ms. Maureen Otwell
Education Specialist
Minnesota Historical Society
James J. Hill House
240 Summit
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Otwell:

Earlier this year one of our volunteers, Diane Christianson, participated in a tour of the Minnesota River Valley that was hosted by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Science Museum of Minnesota. Diane has shared with me the background materials packet, "Teacher Materials for a Minnesota River Valley Tour."

Diane has called to my attention that these materials lack historical information specifically about the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Enclosed, for your consideration, is a narrative of the refuge's Native American history that Diane has written. She has written the narrative in such a way that it could be used on your tour.

I would appreciate any comments you might have on the accuracy or usefulness of this information. If you offer this tour again and wish to visit the refuge, we would be happy to assist you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

John Schomaker
Senior Outdoor Recreation Planner



CJW
8/25/89

JB
8/28/89

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Native American History

By Diane Christianson

The lower Minnesota River was the pre-uprising home of six villages of the Mdewakanton Santee Dakotas who were later moved to the Lower Sioux Agency, one of the later stops on this trip. Further upstream you will pass the villages of some Wahpeton Santee Dakota who were later moved to the Upper Sioux Agency.

These Native Americans, the Santee Dakotas (also called the Eastern Sioux) formerly lived south of the Mille Lacs area. The primary, late pre-historic village sites of these Dakota people were on the Rum River Lakes -- Ogechie, Shakopee, and Onamia, as well as on small streams and bays that were protected from the weather. The villages were not on the big lake of Mille Lacs itself. The housing in the Mille Lacs area included summer elm bark houses and winter earth lodges. These are the same people that Father Hennepin probably visited in 1680 at Kathio. (Institute for Minnesota Archaeology)

The Santee Dakota, more specifically the sub branch known as the Mdewakantons, is the main focus of this historical narrative.

If your route from the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge headquarters follows Highways 13, 101, and 169 on the south side of the river you will be traveling the approximate route of another historic trail, the old Red River Oxcart Trail (between Traverse des Sioux and Shakopee, then to Mendota).

This route passes the sites of several Dakota villages. If Cedar Avenue bridge is taken from the Refuge Headquarters area you will cross the Minnesota River between two of the sites of the "Black Dog" villages. To your right (west) is the older village called "Tetankatane," said to be the former site of an old Iowa Indian village (between the river and Black Dog Lake, on the south side of the river). To your left (east), closer to Mendota, was the more recent village site called "Magayuteshnee" meaning "Eat not geese." Residents of this village found it more beneficial to sell the geese at Fort Snelling than to eat them.

If you cross the Minnesota River on Interstate 35W, just below and to your left (east) of the bridge on the north side of the river is the location of perhaps the first semi-permanent Dakota settlement after the Mdewakantons left the Mille Lacs area. This village, at the mouth of Nine Mile Creek, was said to be the village of head Chief Wabasha. Wabasha was said to be half Dakota, his mother being a captive Chippewa. The village name was Oanoska, meaning "Long Avenue Village." The exact date of this village is uncertain, but probably around 1760. Chief Wabasha later moved with some of the group to southern Minnesota along the Mississippi River. His successor as chief of the group was the son of a French trader and a Dakota woman from the village. It was from this hereditary line that Chief Good Road and Chief Mankato were produced, both of whom were born at this village site.

To the East just a short distance beyond Oanoska was the much more recent villages of Chief Cloudman, and beyond that, Chief Karboka, "The Drifter." Both chiefs came from the experimental farming site at Lake Calhoun.

Traveling west along Highway 13 (just west of the Savage, Credit River area, and to the area of the Bloomington Ferry and Boiling Springs just behind the "Stagecoach" south of the highway) were the various sites of Chief Eagle Head. Chief Eaglehead, Chief Shakopee's brother-in-law, left Shakopee's village after he killed a woman at that village. Eagle Head took his family and a few followers and went into exile to avoid the wrath of the family of the murdered woman, thus becoming a chief of his own little band.

As you approach the east end of Shakopee you will see a fenced area called Murphy's Landing on your right. A historic site of a ferry, the old Murphy's Inn, also such points of interest as the old Oliver Faribault trading post, and the old Pond Grist Mill. This is also said to be the site of the 1858 Battle of Shakopee, between the Chippewa and Dakotas. A steamboat full of travelers was said to have stopped on the river to watch the battle.

On your left just before you pass a stream is a rock and marker of the Samuel Pond mission house. On the west side of the stream is the actual site of the Oliver Faribault trading post, which is now at Murphy's Landing. On the prairie to the south of these two sites was the village of Chief Shakopee. The village was called "Prairie Village" and led to the first name proposed for the city of Shakopee to be "Prairieville." This was a very large village which at one time contained as many as 600 Indians. This is the last of the Mdewakanton villages on the lower Minnesota.

Traveling upstream along Highway 169 on the right side you will pass the Louisville Swamp access to the Wildlife Refuge. Inside at the River there is

a site called "Little Rapids", or currently, Carver Rapids. It was the site of the Wahpeton (Santee Dakota) village of Chief Mazomani or Iron Walker. Another interesting feature of this particular site is the giant (as big as a house) boulder of granite which was deposited here by the glaciers thousands of years ago.

The next Wahpeton village is on the site of Sand Creek on the river bluff at Jordan on the right side of the road. Beyond that at Belle Plaine is the Wahpeton village of Chief Wakandioranki, also known as "Broken Arm" or Bras Casse.

At Traverse des Sioux was a Wahpeton Village called "Crossing". The old Chief was Tankamani, "Big Walker" and was succeeded in 1846 by Chief Mazasha or "Red Iron", said to be the brother of "Iron Walker" of the Little Rapids.

Keeping in mind that it was primarily the Mdewakantonwans that were involved in the uprising, it is of interest to know where these groups lived before the uprising and before they were moved to the Lower Sioux Agency.

TEACHER MATERIALS
for a
Minnesota River Valley Tour

Historical text developed by
Fred Johnson and David Thofen

with Natural History notes by
Susan Anderson and James Heintzman

supported by
the Minnesota Historical Society
and
the Science Museum of Minnesota

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

KEY CONCEPT:

Introduction and overview of the Minnesota River valley, its geologic, human, and natural history.

[illegible]

STOP #3

TRAVERSE DES SIOUX

KEY CONCEPT:

Ramsey's goal was to open to settlement Dakota lands west of the Mississippi, thus guaranteeing a huge influx of immigrants. By agreeing (reluctantly in some cases) to the sale, the Dakota were soon to see Ramsey's goal fulfilled.



FOUNDED IN 1849

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 • (612) 296-8205

Copy sent
to Diane C.
9/25/89

September 11, 1989

Mr. John Schomaker
Senior Outdoor Recreation Planner
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
4101 East 80th St.
Bloomington, MN 55425

Dear Mr. Schomaker:

Maureen Otwell has referred to me your letter of August 28 and the enclosed manuscript by Diane Christianson. We are always grateful for feedback on our programs and especially for helpful material such as you and Ms. Christianson have offered. Maureen felt that I was more qualified than she to comment on the accuracy of the information.

Over the years, I've done a fair amount of work on Dakota history, although not in quite as much local detail as this covers. Ms. Christianson has clearly done a lot of careful research, and her work seems generally accurate. My one caution to you would be that no two sources on this history are in complete agreement. From a historian's point of view, it would be much more helpful if she had identified where she found each fact. No doubt she has a record of this but felt that footnotes would needlessly clutter the manuscript. I would urge her to put all of it down in footnotes or some other organized form, so that when questions arise it will be possible to check the source and perhaps compare it with others.

For example, I was not aware that Wabasha's band ever occupied the site at Nine Mile Creek, and I would be interested in learning the source in which Ms. Christianson found this. It is not improbable, but I simply have never seen it before.

Another example of the need for sources is the statement: "Wabasha was said to be half Dakota, his mother being a captive Chippewa." There are several versions of this. William Warren, in his History of the Ojibway People (Borealis edition, 1984) p. 219, says that Wabasha was the son of an Ojibway woman who had married a Dakota during the long period of peace between the tribes in the early 1700s. She was therefore not a captive, but when war broke out in 1736 she was forced to return to her own people, leaving her two sons with her Dakota husband. She later married an

Ojibway and by him had the noted Ojibway leader,
Ma-mong-e-se-da.

The Wabasha family preserves an entirely different version. According to a conversation with Vernell Wabasha in 1987, I learned that according to their tradition, Wabasha himself was full Dakota but married an Ojibway woman. When she returned to her own people she took her two sons with her, and one of them was Ma-mong-e-se-da. (Note that in the Ojibway version a famous Dakota leader was half Ojibway; in the Dakota version, an Ojibway leader was half Dakota.)

I cite this simply to illustrate the hazards of accepting any statement--even from a generally reliable source--as absolutely certain. In this case both versions are drawn from oral tradition, and the fact that one was written down in the 1850s gives it no more real validity. It's interesting to note, also, that both versions agree on several important facts: that enmity did not always exist between the tribes, that intermarriage did occur, and that Wabasha always refused to make war on the Ojibway band among whom he had kinsfolk.

Thank you again for sharing this work with us. If we should ever do this particular tour again we will certainly include some of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rhoda R. Gilman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rhoda R. Gilman
Senior Research Fellow

cc: Maureen Otwell

Proposed agenda: Hon Board/Cong. staff aide luncheon
Friday, May 24

- 11:45-12:15 PM - Reception, Classrooms A and B, main floor
- 12:15-1:00 PM - Catered luncheon, Classrooms A and B
- 1:00-1:30 PM - Introduction of guests: Joe Harrison, Friends President
- Reports: Tom Larson, Refuge Manager
 - Jennifer Hengelfelt, Heritage Registry Coordinator
 - Briefing report: Federal appropriations request, Ed Garvey, former Legislative Assistant for Sen. Dave Durenberger and Friends board member
 - Heritage Registry: Fund-raising efforts, Joe Harrison
- 1:30-2:15 PM - Visitor Center orientation film and tour of the center

Suggestions for 2nd letter:

- 1) Mail on May 3 to May 6
- 2) Ask for an RSVP by Monday, May 20 - furnish one or two phone #,s
- 3) Include agenda
- 4) Mention starting time of 11:45 AM
- 5) Include vicinity map (included in attached material)

Joe, you may want to consider putting together a folder for the Hon. Board attendees. If so, consider including:

- reprint of Ron Schara article (copies attached)
 - copies of pages describing the Nat'l Wildlife Foundation (from their annual report) - See comments below.
 - list of past donors to the Heritage Program (4/89 list attached)
 - list of corporations and foundations we intend to resubmit grant requests to
 - copies of Jennifer's HRP status reports (even though they will have received them by then)
 - 4-color refuge brochure or newest Visitor Center brochure
- (The Friends labels/name tags for the outside of a folder are in one of our file cabinets with the envelopes and stationery.)

The Nat'l Wildlife Foundation matching grant program, I feel, would be an excellent way to get the Hon. Bd. involved in our HRP fund-raising efforts. If we submitted our proposal ASAP, perhaps it would be approved in time for the luncheon.

HRP grants

Elmer L. and Eleanor Andersen Foundation

Jeffrey Peterson, Asst Secretary

W555- 1st Natl Bank Bldg, St Paul, Min. 55101

James and Margaret Kelley Foundation

Mr. Tim Dwyer, 425 Hamam Bldg, St. Paul, Min 55102

Marbrook Foundation

Conley Brooks, Jr., Exec. Director

510 Baker Bldg, Mpls, Min 55402

3 M Foundation Mr. Stule, Secy

3 M Center, Bldg. 521-11-01, St. Paul, Min 55144-1000

Control Data Foundation

Scott Phillips, Director, Public Affairs, P.O. Box 0-HQ N035,
Mpls, Min 55440

State of Minnesota, DNR, non-game Wildlife Program

Carroll Henderson, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, Min 55155-4007

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jim Gritman, Regional Director

Bishop Whipple Federal Bldg, St. Paul, Min 55110

General Mills Foundation

Reatha Clark King, General Mills Exec. Officer

P.O. Box 1113, Mpls, Min 55440

Richfield Bank and Trust Co

William Kirchner, Chairman

6625 Lyndale Ave. So, Richfield, Min 55423

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY

GRANTS (includes general operating grants, and
Heritage Registry Proposal grants) and CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

(Revised - April, 1989)

1983 NSP	\$ 500.00
1984 Control Data Corp. (volunteer grant)	\$ 500.00
General Mills	500.00
Rahr Foundation	250.00
First Bank Systems Foundation	1,000.00
Richfield Bank & Trust	1,000.00
Margaret & James Kelley Foundation	125.00
	<u>\$3,375.00</u>
1985 Pentair (for U.S. Fish and Wildlife volunteer program)	\$1,000.00
Richfield Bank & Trust	600.00
General Mills	500.00
Rahr Foundation	250.00
	<u>\$2,350.00</u>
1986 Rahr Foundation	\$ 250.00
1987 (corp. - Corporate memberships)	
Ellerbe Corp. (corp.)	250.00
BFI (corp.)	250.00
H. B. Fuller Company Foundation (corp.)	250.00
Rahr Malting Co. (corp.)	250.00
Control Data Corp. (volunteer grants)	1,500.00
Richfield Bank & Trust (corp.)	1,000.00
Okabena Company (Douglas Dayton-corp.)	100.00
	<u>\$3,600.00</u>
1988 (HRP - Heritage Registry Program grant)	
✓ General Mills Foundation (HRP)	\$ 1,000.00
✓ Elmer L. & Eleanor Andersen Foundation (HRP) (\$1,000 per year for 1988, 1989, 1990)	3,000.00
✓ James and Margaret Kelley Foundation (HRP)	5,000.00
✓ Marbrook Foundation (HRP)	1,000.00
✓ 3M Foundation (HRP)	1,000.00
✓ Control Data Corporation (HRP-volunteer grant for educational materials)	1,500.00
✓ State of Minnesota, DNR, Non-game Wildlife Program (HRP)	1,000.00
✓ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (HRP)	1,700.00
✓ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (HRP) (in-kind office services)	23,300.00
Total HRP grants:	<u>\$38,500.00</u>
ADC Telecommunications (corp.)	250.00
Rahr Malting Co. (corp.)	250.00
Total 1988:	<u>\$39,000.00</u>
✓ 1989 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (HRP)	\$ 5,000.00

DRAFT: Standing Committees and proposal for special issues
or task force committees

Standing committees: These committees and their functions are established in the Friends' Operations Handbook, as approved in 1990.

Legislative
Membership
Grant/Fund Raising

Newsletter (Valley Vision)
Program (Chair: Vice-President)

Logically one board member would be selected to chair each of these committees, but chairs could be appointed by the board from the general membership, with oversight and liason provided by a designated board member.

Issues/Task force/Opportunities Committees

The following issue areas would be assigned to individual "task force" or "opportunity" committees for study, data-gathering, monitoring and resolution and recommendation to the board for consideration and possible board action/policy statement.

These issue areas are drawn from the priority list of issues which evolved from the board's day-long workshop held in January, 1990.

These special committees would be "advertised" in the Valley Vision, and could become the focal point and catalyst for our long-desired goal of greater participation in the Friends by the general membership. Members would be invited to serve on the committee relevant to their particular interest and/or expertise. Each committee would select its own chair. Appropriate titles for these committees could be decided on by the board or the committee itself.

- 1) "Critical area" designation for the lower Minnesota River valley-
Study the feasibility and desirability of obtaining such a designation.
- 2) Local government cooperation and communication-
Establishing channels of communication and liason with city councils, planning commissions and natural resource commissions in communities adjacent to the lower Minnesota River valley.
- 3) Environmental threats to the refuge-
Monitoring the impacts of storm water run-off, water pollution, and location of airport runways and subsequent flight patterns over the river valley.
- 4) Public use impacts on the refuge-
Measuring the effects of recreational use and over-use within the refuge.
- 5) Monitoring of hunting, trapping, and fishing activities in the refuge.
- 6) Minnesota State Trail developments and other DNR issues, and completion of the recreation portion of the Refuge's master plan.
Maintaining a close relationship with the DNR in these areas.
- 7) Laison with other volunteer organizations, including the Ft. Snelling State Park Association and the Minn. Parks and Trails Council

DRAFT: Standing Committees and proposal for special issues
or task force committees

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Legislative
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The following issue areas would be assigned to individual "task force" or "opportunity" committees for study, data-gathering, monitoring and resolution and recommendation to the board for consideration and possible board action/policy statement.

These issue areas are drawn from the priority list of issues which evolved from the board's day-long workshop held in January, 1990.

These special committees would be "advertised" in the Valley Vision, and could become the focal point and catalyst for our long-desired goal of greater participation in the Friends by the general membership. Members would be invited to serve on the committee relevant to their particular interest and/or expertise. Each committee would select its own chair. Appropriate titles for these committees could be decided on by the board or the committee itself.

- 1) "Critical area" designation for the lower Minnesota River valley-
Study the feasibility and desirability of obtaining such a designation.
- 2) Local government cooperation and communication-
Establishing channels of communication and liason with city councils, planning commissions and natural resource commissions in communities adjacent to the lower Minnesota River valley.
- 3) Environmental threats to the refuge-
Monitoring the impacts of storm water run-off, water pollution, and location of airport runways and subsequent flight patterns over the river valley.
- 4) Public use impacts on the refuge-
Measuring the effects of recreational use and over-use within the refuge.
- 5) Monitoring of hunting, trapping, and fishing activities in the refuge.
- 6) Minnesota State Trail developments and other DNR issues, and completion of the recreation portion of the Refuge's master plan.
Maintaining a close relationship with the DNR in these areas.
- 7) Laison with other volunteer organizations, including the Ft. Snelling State Park Association and the Minn. Parks and Trails Council

FINANCIAL PLAN

PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS OF THE

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY AT THE BLUFFTOP BOOKSHOP

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is a non-profit organization with a current paid membership of about 190 individuals, families and corporations. It was begun in 1982 by citizens from Minnesota River valley communities from Bloomington and Burnsville to LeSueur who had led the effort to convince Congress to protect this river valley with the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in 1976.

Since 1982 efforts by the Friends have resulted in Congressional appropriation of most of the authorized monies for land acquisition in the refuge and for the construction of the new Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center.

At its meeting on April 4, 1990, the board of directors of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley unanimously approved the following resolution:

The Board requests that the Minnesota Valley Interpretive Association consider adopting a policy of providing a discount of 20% on purchases at the Blufftop Bookshop made by members of The Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

The Friends' Board makes this request because:

- a) It would like to, in a small way, thank its members for their support of the Friends and of the refuge.
- b) Such a discount would serve as an incentive for present members to renew their membership and for others to become new members.
- c) Such a policy would be in keeping with that followed by other similar non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities, including the Science Museum of Minnesota (Explore Stores-10%), the Bell Museum of Natural History (Blue Heron Bookshop-10%), and the Minnesota Historical Society (25% at all their facilities throughout Minnesota).

Benefits to the Blufftop Bookshop would include:

- a) increased sales to Friends' members wishing to take advantage of the discount
- b) increased awareness of the bookshop and possible purchases by those visiting the visitors' center with Friends' members, and by word-of-mouth advertising emanating from Friends' members
- c) additional profits: With a 40% mark-up on merchandise, the bookshop, in granting a 20% discount, will still realize a 20% profit on every item sold to Friends' members.

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY - Congressional Staff Aides, 3/91

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8120 Penn Ave. So., Suite 152, Bloomington, MN 55431

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Kate Seng, Rep. Bruce Vento 224-4503
175 5th St. E., Rm 727, Box 100, St. Paul, Mn 55101

Scott Adams, Sen. Paul Wellstone 645-0323
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(Jeff Blodgett, Staff Director)

Karen Humphrey, Sen. Dave Durenberger 370-3382
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(Charlene McCartney, Interior Subcomm., National Parks and Lands
- (202) 226-7736

Mike Casper, Sen Paul Wellstone (202) 224-5641
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Jeff Cotter, Sen. Dave Durenberger (202) 224-3244
154 Russell Off. Bldg., Washington. D.C. 20510

Neal Sigmon, Rep. Sidney Yates, Chairman,
House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
B308 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20515

Jeff Cilek, Minority Staff for Sen. James McClure, Senate Sub-
committee on Interior Approp., 134 Dirksen Bldg., Wash.DC 20510

Charlie Estes, Majority Staff: Sen. Robert Byrd, Senate Sub-
committee on Interior Approp., 122 Dirksen Bldg., Wash.DC.20510

Friends' Program Meetings: 1982 through Winter, 1991

1982 Fall: Organizational Meeting: Film, "MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge", with Tex Hawkins (refuge staff; slides by Craig Blacklock (Nicollet Jr. High, Burnsville, Sep. 27)

1983 Winter: Slide presentation by staff of Murphy's Landing (Shakopee), and cross-country skiing at Louisville Swamp unit (Murphy's Landing, Sat., Jan. 29).

Spring: Walking tour of the Bass Ponds, led by Elaine Mellott and Tex Hawkins (Refuge's Bass Ponds, Wed., Wednesday evening, May 18)

Fall (annual Mtg.): Slides by Craig Blacklock, and presentation about the Black Dog Fen area and rare species in the Valley, by Bob Djupstrom, director of the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) Program (Nicollet Jr. High, Burnsville, Tuesday, Sep. 20).

1984 Winter: Cross-country skiing and snow-shoe trek at Ft. Snelling State Park's Pike Island Interpretive Center, and talk by park naturalist Joe Stedman. (Sat., Feb. 11)

Spring: No program meeting held.

Fall (Annual mtg.): Removal of muskie fingerlings from the Bass Ponds, by Muskies, Inc., and migratory bird-viewing walks. (Bass Ponds, Sat. Sep. 22)

1985 Winter: No program meeting held

Spring: Canoe tour of Long Meadow Lake, led by refuge staff (Sat. April 27)

Fall (annual mtg.): Bird-watch hike, up-date by Refuge staff, tour of Bass Ponds led by staff member Ed Moyer, and removal of muskie fingerlings, Muskie, Inc. (Bass Ponds, Sat., Sep. 21)

1986 Winter: Cross-country ski tour of Louisville Swamp unit (Sat., Feb. 1)

Spring: "Clean Up the Valley Day", as part of the Take Pride in Minnesota Valley program (parking lot, old Cedar Avenue bridge, Sat., April 26)

Fall (annual mtg.): Boat cruise on the Minnesota River, on the paddle-wheeler Emmy Lou (Shakopee, Sat., Sep. 27)

1987 Winter: Refuge up-date, with slides, by Refuge Manager Ed Crozier (Refuge HQ, evening of Feb. 19)

Spring - No meeting held.

Fall (annual mtg.): Presentation on plans for the new Visitor's Center by architects of Ellerbe and Assoc. (Refuge HQ, Tuesday, Sep. 15).

1988 Winter: Dr. Patrick Redig, Director, Raptor Research and Rehabilitation Program (U of M) (Holiday Inn Internat'l, Tuesday, Feb. 16).

Spring: Bluebird Trail Field Trip, and demonstration of bluebird nest-box building (home of Bob and Lyla Smith, and Louisville Swamp Visit, Sat., May 7).

Fall (annual mtg.): Boat cruise on the Minnesota River, on the paddle-wheeler Emmy Lou (Shakopee, Saturday, Sep. 24)

1989 Winter: No meeting (Refuge's winter programs publicized in Valley Vision)

Spring: Jim Gilbert, local naturalist and author, illustrated talk - "Spring Phenology" (Holiday Inn Internat'l, Wednesday, April 19).

Fall (annual mtg.): Guided interpretive walk through the Black Dog Prairie, MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (Black Dog Prairie, Burnsville, Sat., Sep. 16).

1990 Winter: Legends and lore of the Minn. Valley, storyteller Duke Addicks (Holiday Inn Internat'l, Wednesday, Jan. 31)

Spring - no meeting held

Fall (annual mtg.): Slide/film presentation, "taking Flight", by Joan Galli, DNR non-game Wildlife Specialist and guided tour of the new Visitor's Center. (Visitor's Center, Sat., Oct. 20).

1991 Winter Photography of Scott Sharkey, wildlife and nature photographer. (Visitor's Center, Wednesday, Feb. 20).