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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEFACT SHEET

The President is today transmitting to Congress proposals for 37 new additions to our National Wilderness Preservation System. These additions comprise more than 9 million acres -- with the submission of these recommendations, the basic analytical portion of the original Wilderness Act is complete.

BACKGROUND

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of Federally-owned areas designated by the Congress as "wilderness areas" to be kept indefinitely in a wild, unspoiled condition.

The Act set aside certain specified lands as the initial components of the System and required that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior review certain additional land under their administration for suitability for later inclusion in the System. The President, on the basis of recommendations of the Secretaries, is then required to make recommendations to the Congress with respect to proposed additions.

The Administration has previously proposed the following additions to the Wilderness System:

- The Wilderness Act (1964) set aside 9.1 million acres covering 54 areas in the National Forest System as the initial components of the System.
- Congress has subsequently enacted 40 areas into the Wilderness System comprising about 3.8 million acres.
- Wilderness proposals pending before Congress: 6 areas comprising 0.7 million acres as proposed by the Johnson Administration.

75 areas comprising over 13.6 million acres as proposed by the Nixon Administration.

16 areas comprising 184,000 acres of eastern forest land was proposed by the Nixon Administration in September 1973; this legislation would also designate 37 eastern national forest areas for review as to their suitability for wilderness designation.

TODAY'S PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

The proposals for 37 additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System being transmitted to Congress today include:

- (1) Mount Rainier Wilderness, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington -- 210,700 acres.
- (2) Kenai Wilderness, Kenai National Moose Range, Alaska -- 829,000 acres.

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- (3) Cloud Peak Wilderness, Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming -- 150,490 acres.
- (4) Agassiz Wilderness, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota -- 4,000 acres.
- (5) Sheldon Wilderness, Sheldon National Antelope Refuge, Nevada -- 20,100 acres.
- (6) Monarch Wilderness, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, California -- 30,689 acres.
- (7) Santee Wilderness, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina -- 163 acres.
- (8) Everglades Wilderness, Everglades National Park, Florida -- 1,296,500 acres at the southernmost tip of the Florida mainland.
- (9) Salmon River and Idaho Wildernesses, Boise, Challis, Payette, Salmon, Bitterroot, and Nezperce National Forests, Idaho -- 1,143,487 acres.
- (10) Parker River Wilderness, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, Massachusetts -- 3,110 acres.
- (11) Hawaii Volcanoes Wilderness, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii -- 123,100 acres.
- (12) Big Lake Wilderness, Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas -- 1,818 acres.
- (13) Aleutian Islands, Wilderness, Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska -- 1,395,357 acres.
- (14) Beartooth Wilderness, Custer, and Gallatin National Forests, Montana -- 542,437 acres.
- (15) Swanquarter Wilderness, Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina -- 9,000 acres on various islands.
- (16) Dinosaur Wilderness, Dinosaur National Monument, Utah and Colorado -- 165,341 acres.
- (17) Lacassine Wilderness, Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana -- 2,854 acres.
- (18) Popo Agie Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming -- 81,820 acres.
- (19) Mattamuskeet Wilderness, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina -- 590 acres.
- (20) Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona -- 299,600 acres of Sonoran Desert lands.
- (21) J. N. "Ding" Darling Wilderness, J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Florida -- 2,735 acres.
- (22) Trinity Alps Wilderness, Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers National Forests, California -- 267,561 acres.

- (23) Assateague Island Wilderness, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia -- 1,740 acres.
- (24) Death Valley Wilderness, Death Valley National Monument, California and Nevada -- 1,908,000 acres.
- (25) Cedar Island Wilderness, Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina -- 180 acres.
- (26) Fort Niobrara Wilderness, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska -- 4,635 acres.
- (27) Medicine Lake Wilderness, Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Montana -- 11,366 acres.
- (28) Great Smoky Mountains Wilderness, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee -- 390,500 acres.
- (29) Big Blue, Courthouse Mountain, Dolores Peak, Mount Sneffels and Mount Wilson Wildernesses, San Juan and Uncompaghre National Forests, Colorado -- 80,130 acres.
- (30) Lake Woodruff Wilderness, Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, Florida -- 1,106 acres.
- (31) Anaho Island Wilderness, Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada -- 747.73 acres.
- (32) Noxubee Wilderness, Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi -- 1,200 acres.
- (33) UL Bend Wilderness, UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Montana -- 19,693 acres.
- (34) Pea Island Wilderness, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina -- 180 acres.
- (35) Bombay Hook Wilderness, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware -- 2,000 acres.
- (36) Back Bay Wilderness, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia -- 2,165 acres.
- (37) In addition, one existing wilderness -- the Gila Wilderness would be altered by a proposal transmitted today with the addition of 115,648 acres to that area.

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