

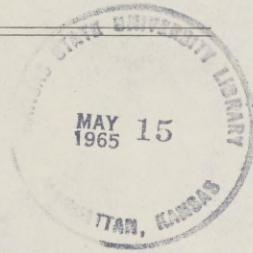
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SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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HEARING BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY UNITED STATES SENATE EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

S. 7

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION
AREA, IN THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

APRIL 1, 1965

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SPRUCE-KNOB-SENNECA ROCKS NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA

HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1965

U. S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOIL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2 p.m., in room 234, Old Senate Office Building, Senator Eugene L. McCarthy presiding.

Present: Senator McCarthy.

Also present: Senator Byrd of West Virginia.

Senator McCARTHY. We will call the committee to order.

The hearings today are on Senate bill 7. The bill will be placed in the record at this point.

(S. 7 is as follows:)

[S. 7, 89th Cong., 1st sess.]

A BILL To provide for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to provide for the public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment thereof by the people of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of West Virginia.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter called the "Secretary") shall—

(1) designate as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area within and adjacent to, and as a part of, the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia not to exceed in the aggregate one hundred thousand acres in such unit or units as he may determine, to include but not be limited to Spruce Knob, Smoke Holes, and Seneca Rocks, and lying primarily in the drainage of the south branch of the Potomac River; and

(2) publish notice of the designation in the Federal Register, together with a map showing the boundaries of the recreation area.

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary shall acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, by gift, exchange, condemnation, transfer from any Federal agency, or otherwise, such lands, waters, or interests therein within the boundaries of the recreation area as he determines to be needed or desirable for the purposes of this Act. Lands, waters, or interests therein owned by the State of West Virginia or any political subdivision of that State may be acquired only with the concurrence of such owner.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal property located within the boundaries of the recreation area may, with the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for use by him in implementing the purposes of this Act.

(c) In exercising his authority to acquire lands by exchange the Secretary may accept title to non-Federal property within the recreation area and convey to the grantor of such property any federally owned property in the State of West Virginia under his jurisdiction.

SEC. 4. (a) After the Secretary acquires an acreage within the area designated pursuant to paragraph (1) of section 2 of this Act that is in his opinion efficiently administrable to carry out the purposes of this Act, he shall institute an accelerated program of development of facilities for outdoor recreation. Said facilities shall be so devised to take advantage of the topography and geographical location of the lands in relation to the growing recreation needs of the people of the United States.

(b) The Secretary may cooperate with all Federal and State authorities and agencies that have programs which will hasten completion of the recreation area and render services which will aid him in evaluating and effectuating the establishment of adequate summer and winter outdoor recreation facilities.

SEC. 5. The administration, protection, and development of the recreation area shall be by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forests, in such manner as in his judgment will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of renewable natural resources as in his judgment will promote, or is compatible with, and does not significantly impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

Senator McCARTHY. There will also be placed in the record at this point letters to the chairman of the full committee from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.

(The letters referred to are as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., March 26, 1965.

HON. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request of January 21, 1965, for a report on S. 7, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, in the State of West Virginia and for other purposes.

We recommend that S. 7 be enacted with the amendment suggested herein.

S. 7 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the land to be included therein by the people of the United States. As soon as practicable after passage of the bill, the Secretary of Agriculture would designate the lands to comprise this recreation area and would publish notice of such designation, together with a map, in the Federal Register. The national recreation area would include, but not be limited to, such features as Spruce Knob, the Smoke Holes, and Seneca Rocks. It would comprise lands currently within and adjacent to the Monongahela National Forest. When so designated, it would be administered as a part of the Monongahela National Forest and the boundaries of the forest would be enlarged to include the entire area. The national recreation area would be situated primarily in the drainage of the South Branch of the Potomac River. A maximum of 100,000 acres could be included in the designated area.

The bill would direct the acquisition of lands within the designated area determined by the Secretary to be needed or desirable for the purposes of the bill. It would direct the Secretary to institute an accelerated program of development facilities for outdoor recreation to meet the growing recreation needs of the people of the United States. It would authorize the Secretary to cooperate with Federal and State authorities and agencies that have programs which might hasten completion of the recreation area or for the purpose of assisting in the evaluation and effectuation of the establishment of adequate summer and winter outdoor recreation facilities. The national recreation area would be administered, protected, and developed in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forests to provide for public outdoor recreation benefits, conservation of scenic, scientific, and other values, and management, utilization, and disposal of other renewable natural resources to the extent that such management will promote or is compatible with the basic purposes of the national recreation area.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area would be located in the upper reaches of the Potomac River—principally in the watershed of the South Branch of the Potomac River above Petersburg, W. Va., including

the North Fork of the South Branch. It would include Spruce Knob, the highest peak in West Virginia with an elevation of 4,860 feet and contiguous Spruce Mountain, Seneca Creek, large segments of the sidewalls and ridges of the South Branch of the Potomac and North Fork of South Branch above Royal Glen, the Smoke Holes area, North Mountain, Cave Mountain, Seneca Rocks, and other recreational, geologic, historic, and topographic features. It would be in Grant and Pendleton Counties, within and immediately adjoining the Monongahela National Forest.

About 40 percent of the lands within this area are national forest lands acquired under the Weeks law of March 1, 1911; some 60 percent are privately owned. Approximately 82 percent of the total area is forested, about 4 percent is cleared bottom land, and about 13 percent is other cleared lands—mainly in ridgetop and hillside farms; some abandoned and some still utilized.

The proposed national recreation area is easily accessible to a substantial part of the Nation's population. It is within a few hours' drive of over 6 million people, largely urban. Within 30 years, it is estimated that immediate tributary population will exceed 10 million people—predominantly city dwellers. Urban complexes of Pittsburgh, Washington, and Baltimore are within easy travel distance for weekend recreation, as are other cities and towns in southwest Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, Virginia, and western Maryland.

Recreation resources include the fast-flowing, clear streams of the South Branch of the Potomac and tributary North Fork, which offer white water canoeing and excellent fishing; the high mountain country around Spruce Knob and Spruce Mountain, with beautiful and extensive scenic views; the highly scenic sidewalls of the two main streams; the long vistas of North Mountain, Cave Mountain, and other of the high ridges in the area of hiking, touring, and hunting; abundant wildlife with a capacity for increase; interesting and impressive geologic formations, such as the spires of Seneca Rocks, rising 1,000 feet above the valley floor, and Blue Rock, Castle Rock, Eagle Rock; caverns and caves, including the intriguing Smoke Holes and Seneca Caverns; and extensive opportunities for camping, picnicking, hiking, touring, rock-hounding, and general scenic enjoyment. A high-level scenic highway for which surveys and construction plans are now under way by the Bureau of Public Roads, the State of West Virginia, and this Department will make these resources accessible and will add to the opportunities to enjoy their scenic and recreation values. It will parallel the westerly edge of the area for about 20 miles. Scenery is outstanding, climate good, and historic sites date from Indian use and the Revolutionary War.

There is a possibility that there will be recommended as a part of the Potomac River water development and control facilities a dam at Royal Glen on the South Branch of the Potomac River just below its confluence with the North Fork of the South Branch. If and when built, such dam would create a reservoir extending up both the South Branch and North Fork of the South Branch for several miles. This reservoir would create a 2,800-acre lake which would become an integral part of the overall recreation complex.

Other resources of the proposed national recreation area include water and watersheds, timber, wildlife, some livestock grazing, and minerals. Location of the area in the headwaters of the Potomac makes it of high importance from a watershed standpoint. Soils in the South Branch drainage particularly are thin and topography is extremely rough, so that conservative and sound land management is essential to build up and protect watershed capacities. About 82 percent of the area is forested. While these lands are not of exceptional quality for timber production, they are capable, under good forest management techniques, of producing sustained crops of usable forest products which can contribute substantially to the economic resources of the tributary area.

Production and the taking of wildlife through fishing and hunting is an important function of these lands. They are high quality habitat for deer, turkey, small game, and fish. Wildlife production can be enhanced by multiple-use management, including planwise harvesting of timber and the conversion of nonproductive areas and clearings to game habitat and game food patches. Much of the private land now is grazed by livestock. National forest lands are not grazed, except for two developed and maintained pastures in the vicinity of Spruce Knob. Known minerals include some low-grade iron ore in the South Fork of the Potomac drainage and limestone deposits in both the South Fork and the upper North Fork drainage. Most of the lands are under lease for gas exploration, but there is no oil or gas production to date.

Development and utilization of these resources is compatible and can be harmonized with use of the area for recreational purposes under multiple-use management programs carried out on national forest lands. The contributions of these resources to the economy of the counties concerned should be continued and increased.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area is well suited for designation and development as a national recreation area. To fully realize the benefits the area can provide there will need to be additional consolidation of national forest lands and there will need to be accelerated development of facilities for outdoor recreation. If this is done, there will result large and continuing increases in public use. To accommodate these users and to service their needs, there will have to be developed privately owned facilities in substantial quantity.

A national recreation area as proposed, therefore, would not only provide greatly increased public outdoor recreation opportunities in an area accessible to large centers of population, but also would materially advance the local economy. The counties involved are in areas of continued and substantial unemployment and a relatively low rate of economic activity. A national recreation area will benefit this situation, both immediately and in the long run, through: (a) the inflow of funds for accelerated development and intensified administration, and (b) the upbuilding of a permanent economic base oriented heavily to outdoor recreation but including also utilization of timber, minerals, and other resources.

Most of the lands, waters, or interests therein to be acquired for the proposed recreation area will be within the presently existing boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest. These may be acquired with appropriations from the land and water conservation fund. In order to facilitate the total acquisition program and permit purchase of the remaining areas with land and water conservation fund appropriations, we recommend that S. 7 be amended by adding the following sentence in line 17 on page 2 after the first sentence in section 3 (a): "For the purpose of section 6 of the Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 897, 903), the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest, as designated by the Secretary pursuant to section 2 of this Act, shall be treated as if they were the boundaries of that forest on January 1, 1965."

We also recommend that in line 6, page 4, the word "renewal" be deleted. This will make it clear that the development of mineral resources in the area could also be permitted.

The boundaries of the area that we propose for designation are presently known and shown on a map on file in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service. We therefore recommend that these boundaries be definitely referred to in the bill by the following amendment: Page 2, delete all in lines 4 through 8 and insert in lieu thereof the following: "comprised of the area including Spruce Knob, Smoke Holes, and Seneca Rock, and lying primarily in the drainage of the South Branch of the Potomac River, the boundaries of which shall be those shown on the map entitled 'Proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area,' dated March 1965, which is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and"

The Bureau of the Budget advises that the enactment of this proposed legislation would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely yours,

ORVILLE FREEMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., March 26, 1965.

HON. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR ELLENDER: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on S. 7, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes.

We recommend that the bill be enacted, with the amendments recommended herein.

The bill provides for establishment of an area of not more than 100,000 acres of land in West Virginia within and adjacent to the present boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest as the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. The area will include such unit or units as may be designated by

the Secretary of Agriculture, including but not limited to Spruce Knob, Smoke Holes, and Seneca Rocks.

We believe that the establishment of the proposed national recreation area is justified because of its geographic location, accessibility to large segments of our population, and outstanding recreation resources. The area meets the criteria for national recreation areas, set forth in Policy Circular No. 1, issued by the Recreation Advisory Council on March 26, 1963. The National Park Service of this Department, in its March 1961 report on West Virginia's recreation resources, identified the outstanding scenic, geologic, and recreation values of the area and recommended its establishment as a national recreation area. The report by the President's Appalachian Regional Commission, 1964 also specifically recommended the establishment of the area as a national recreation area.

Approximately 40 percent of the proposed recreation area is situated within the Monongahela National Forest. The Secretary of Agriculture would administer the area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forests to provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of renewable natural resources to promote the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

Significantly, the highest point in West Virginia, Spruce Knob, is located in the area. The mountains in this region have steep slopes, sheer cliffs, and large rock formations that rise spectacularly from the valley floor and mountainsides. Impressive geological exposures, limestone caverns, alpine-type high meadows, picturesque valleys, and an abundance of water in the form of clear mountain streams and large springs are a part of the natural scene. All of these features make the area ideally suited for outdoor recreation activities—camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, winter sports, canoeing, rock climbing, and the enjoyment of scenic and natural historic values.

The proposed national recreation area is located primarily in the watershed of the South Branch of the Potomac River. This branch of the Potomac and its tributaries offer white-water canoeing and excellent fishing; the high mountain country around Spruce Knob and Spruce Mountain, North Mountain, Cave Mountain, and other high ridges provides scenic vistas and varied opportunities for public recreation. Interesting and impressive geologic formations such as the Spires of Seneca Rocks, Blue Rock, Eagle Rock, the Smoke Holes, Seneca Caverns and other caverns and caves illustrate the power of earth-shaping forces and provide an inspiring backdrop for camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and mountain climbing.

The Corps of Engineers has proposed the construction of a Royal Glen Dam on the South Branch of the Potomac which would create a 2,800-acre reservoir. This reservoir would cover about one-half of the Smoke Holes, an outstanding stretch of wild river particularly attractive to white-water canoeists. In his February 8 message on natural beauty the President asked the Secretary of the Interior to review the Potomac River Basin development plan now under review by the Chief of Army Engineers.

Hunting and fishing are important uses of the area. The river and streams are famous for their trout and bass and the land is high-quality habitat for deer, turkey, and small game. Forest game habitat improvement work is carried on in the Spruce Knob area under the Federal aid in wildlife restoration program, which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Federal aid funds have been used by the State to develop game habitat for deer and turkey. The work consists primarily of game clearings, plantings of grain, grass, and legumes, waterhold development, and improvement of hunter access roads and trails.

The State department of natural resources also has participated in the construction of Spruce Knob Lake within the Monongahela National Forest. The lake has a surface area of 27 acres and cost about \$27,000. The State stocks the lake annually with legal size rainbow trout which provide a very popular sport fishery.

Because of its location in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains, proximity to large population masses, and outstanding recreation resources, this area will provide excellent recreation opportunities, particularly for the residents of Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. More than 30 million people, most of whom reside in urban areas, live within a 250-mile radius.

We recommend the following amendments of the bill :

1. On page 2, line 17, insert after the sentence ending on that line the following sentence: "For the purposes of section 6 of the Act of September 3, 1964

(78 Stat. 897, 903), the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest, as designated by the Secretary pursuant to section 2 of this Act, shall be treated as if they were the boundaries of that forest on January 1, 1965."

This amendment will enable all of the lands, waters, or interests therein acquired for the national recreation area to be financed from moneys appropriated from the land and water conservation fund.

2. On page 4, line 6, delete the word "renewable."

This amendment will enable the Secretary of Agriculture to permit mineral development within the recreation area, in the event he wishes to do so.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that the enactment of this bill, if amended as suggested in this report and in the report of the Department of Agriculture, would be in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. CARVER, Jr.,
Under Secretary of the Interior.

Senator McCARTHY. Senator Byrd, if you have any other of the people from your State, we have plenty of room for them to sit around the table.

Senator BYRD. I do have the prosecuting attorney from Pendleton County, Mr. George Sponaule.

And Mr. William McCoy who is a member of the West Virginia Legislature and editor of the Pendleton Times.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I have Mr. Robert Bowers, who is here to represent the Governor of West Virginia. Mr. Bowers is with the West Virginia Department of Commerce. Mr. Bowers will present a statement in behalf of the Governor and also a statement in behalf of himself.

With your permission, I would like for these gentlemen to sit at the table.

Senator McCARTHY. Surely.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT C. BYRD, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Senator BYRD. Mr. Chairman, I introduced S. 7 in behalf of myself and Senator Randolph. He will submit a statement for the record, with your permission.

Senator McCARTHY. I am sure there is no objection. We will file his statement for the record.

Senator BYRD. Mr. Chairman, in his inspiring message of February, 8, 1965, to the Congress on natural beauty of our country, President Johnson stated:

For centuries Americans have drawn strength and inspiration from the beauty of our country. It would be a neglectful generation indeed, indifferent alike to the judgment of history and the command of principle, which fails to preserve and extend such a heritage for its descendants.

In this message, also, the President proposed the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in West Virginia using appropriations from the land and water conservation funds to acquire the needed lands.

I believe that the principle embodied in the President's message expresses the desires of most Americans, but we must give it practical application through feasible and forward-looking programs.

The bill which I introduced and which is now before you, S. 7, is the same in content as the bill which I introduced in the 88th Congress, S. 1022. It is a desirable and practical application of the

President's program to conserve the natural beauty and the recreation resources of our country for the inspiration, enjoyment, and beneficial use not only for those of us who are living today but also for succeeding generations of Americans. S. 7 carries out the President's proposal for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in my State and provides for its consolidation in public ownership, development for public use and enjoyment, and for the conservation and wise use always of its many natural resources. Additionally, it will help promote the administration's program for a clear and beautiful Potomac River.

The projected national recreation area is located in the upper reaches of the Potomac River. It embraces portions of the South Branch of the Potomac, the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, and some of the attractive tributaries of these streams. These are beautiful and unspoiled waterways, and they should be kept so in line with President Johnson's urgent desire to make the Potomac River, "rich in history and memory, which flows by our Nation's Capital," a model of scenic and recreation values for the entire country. The lands which adjoin this river system are rough and rugged in large part, high in scenic beauty, productive of wildlife and forests and waters, and replete with numerous and varied opportunities for great numbers of our citizens to obtain healthful and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area is, as its name suggests, comprised of two units operated in close proximity, but it also has a third part, of impressive natural beauty—the Smoke Hole country. The Seneca Rocks, a spectacular formation located in the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, are known throughout the Eastern United States. These rocks form one of the most interesting natural wonders east of the Mississippi, and many travelers who view the formation as it rises more than 900 feet above the river say that it looks like a ruined ancient castle. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I should like to read into the record an excerpt from the Cleveland Plain Dealer Sunday magazine of May 17, 1964.

And as you will note, this article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer is captioned "Twelve on a Mountain," "Cleveland Climbing Club Trains at Seneca Rock."

This tells the story of a climbing club organized in Cleveland. And it also states that these mountain climbers who come from Cleveland have as their favorite Seneca Rock, about which I have just been reading. And I will read one paragraph which says:

A favorite of the local group is the Rock of Seneca, a 1,000-foot quartzite formation at the mouth of Seneca, W. Va., near the Maryland border. It is considered by climbers to be the best rock climb in the East and it becomes an objective for climbers every weekend. A frequent climber there is Barry C. Bishop, a member of the American team that conquered Mount Everest last year. During the World War II, it was the training ground for the Army's mountain troops. In fact, they left so many pitons embedded in on her face that it is called "The Face of 1,000 Pitons."

I would like to leave this with you, Mr. Chairman, for the committee to examine if it cares to.

Senator McCARTHY. Very well.

Senator BYRD. The rocks are themselves a gleaming, bulky mass of Tuscarora quartzite a thousand feet high, and rest on the western

shoulder of the North Fork mountain that forms the western boundary of the Smoke Hole Valley. This area was once the scene of many annual gatherings of the Seneca Indian Tribe, for which Seneca Rocks was named, and legends of the area are a famous part of the Indian folklore of our country.

In the same vicinity are Seneca Caverns, one of the famous West Virginia caves open to the public. And I say to you from my own personal experience, Mr. Chairman, that these caverns are very delightful caverns, and they are well-lighted with electricity, and many people throughout the country come to the caverns every year to view their picturesque halls.

The land area to be included with Seneca Rocks totals 74,000 acres of which 20 acres are now a part of the Monongahela National Forest, having been acquired under the Weeks law over the years.

Spruce Knob, 4,860 feet above the sea, is West Virginia's highest mountain and is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Seneca Rocks. I would like at this time, if I might, Mr. Chairman, to show you a picture of the top of Spruce Knob. You will see the scene here. The elevation is 4,860 feet. This is the highest point in West Virginia.

Now, in my Appropriations Committee, I intend to seek an appropriation to establish an observation tower and supporting facilities for the many thousands of tourists which come to see Spruce Knob every year. And of course, this will be located within the national recreation area which is to be established by the bill which we are discussing.

Spruce Knob lies slightly elevated above the general level of the crest ridge of Spruce Mountain in Pendleton County. The recreation area would encompass 26,000 acres adjacent to Spruce Knob, of which 19,000 acres have been acquired as part of the Monongahela National Forest. In total, the national recreation area boundaries would encompass 100,000 acres, of which 39,000 are now owned by the United States. Most of this country was logged over prior to and during World War I. About that time, the restoration program of the Forest Service was launched with protection against forest fires, timber stand improvement, forest plantations, wildlife habitat improvement, and other measures which have rebuilt and enhanced the attractiveness of the area and the natural resources it offers. The restored cover in the Spruce Knob area is a testimony to the effectiveness of this problem because as late as 1929 it was almost barren from fires that swept over it.

As I have indicated, the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will include two major tributaries of the Potomac River—the South Branch and the North Fork of the South Branch. Feeding into these tributaries are dozens of clear, cold, spring-fed streams flowing from forested watersheds, creating scenic attractions as they cascade out of high mountains into the valley below. To view these forests and streams is to become absorbed in their beauty.

Many features of public interest, in addition to Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks, would be included in this recreation project in the area known as the Smoke Hole country. The Smoke Hole is actually a canyon, an S-shaped slice gouged through the Allegheny Front for 22 miles, and drained by the South Branch of the Potomac River. It has long been noted for its extraordinary geological formations.

The Smoke Hole begins 1 mile north of the village of Upper Tract on U.S. Route 220 and extends more than 20 miles to the point where the South Branch joins North Fork a few miles south of Petersburg.

Strange plants grow in this section, and an accurate estimate of the variety of floral life to be found is suggested by the report of a botanist who in 1933 found 283 species of flora in a ground space of only $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in the area known as Hermit Island. Many nature-study groups make treks into the valley to collect rare plants. Game and fish are numerous and varied, but, strangely enough, there are few insects and no objectionable vermin.

One early American pioneer, after he first stood and viewed the gigantic heights and immense reaches of the Smoke Hole country, scratched a line on a stone wall at his feet, "Paradise Discovered October 23, 1725." A recent writer has said:

Today, as when first discovered, the Smoke Hole country lies in almost untouched beauty, as a haven of escape, a Shangri-la where topography still grants seclusion, and the virgin perfection of all things—trees, flowers, animal life, scenic vistas, and climate—provides a retreat from the disturbing noises of expanding American industrialism.

As the Potomac River winds its way down between the rock cliffs of the gorge of the South Fork, it creates some of the most spectacular fishing water and scenic beauty to be found in the Eastern United States. Two commercially developed caves are already in existence and the Smoke Hole country is rich in cavern which attract spelunkers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Among these, Smoke Hole Cave, high in a mountain top overlooking the river, is a circular chamber of about 40 feet high and 15 feet in diameter with several corridors leading from the main room. The cave was so named because of its use by the Indians as a smoke-curing chamber for preserving meat. Later, early white settlers adopted this practice, curing venison and buffalo and bear steak. From this usage came the name "Smoke Hole Country."

Another cavern, Big Cave, is formed in solid rock at an altitude of 2,200 feet on Cave Mountain, and is the best known of the many caves in the Smoke Hole. In it, early settlers and Confederate soldiers dug niter which they boiled in iron kettles and used in manufacturing gunpowder. Big Spring, at the base of Cave Mountain, is a famous fishing ground, as trout gather there where the water is always cool. The Shawnee Indians first used the area, but were driven out by the Seneca, who eventually ruled all of the region now contained in Pendleton County.

The high country around Spruce Knob is a bit of Canada transplanted into the West Virginia countryside, with native red spruce and other forest tree species being unique in the typically Appalachian hardwood area.

The South Branch of the Potomac River is a noted fishing and white river water canoeing stream. The many other streams also provide excellent fishing and there is good hunting in season. The scenery in this part of the Allegheny Mountains is superb and there are opportunities without limit for hiking, for camping and picknicking, for riding and touring, and for simply enjoying the forest and pastoral scenes.

The Spruce Knob unit is heavily timbered, but the Seneca Rocks unit is less so, although there is good timberland within it. Other

uses now are livestock grazing, and some farming. There has been some exploration for minerals, but there is no current production. All of these uses will continue under the national recreation area to the extent compatible with public development, use, and enjoyment of the recreational resources.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will be within a few hours' drive of such metropolitan centers as Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Charleston, Richmond, and others. Over 27 million people live within a 150-mile radius of this area. Over 60 million people live within a 300-mile radius. New highways and continued improvement of present highways and access roads, as envisioned in the Appalachian Regional Development Act, will make the attractions of this beautiful land more and more accessible to the millions of people in cities, towns, and surrounding countryside who find in the beauty of our great, unspoiled outdoor areas the inspiration, health, and spiritual renewal so essential to modern living. We in West Virginia are happy to have people come to our State to enjoy the beauties and recreational opportunities in which the Mountain State abounds.

To accommodate the users of this land, however, and to make this area truly an outstanding public asset, there will need to be increased public ownership of recreation lands and increased public development to assure safe and enjoyable use to permit visitors to get to and enjoy the many unique and attractive opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Forest Service currently is managing and developing recreation facilities and wildlife on the lands which it controls. More must be done, and quickly, if we are indeed to preserve the natural beauty of this area for, and to make it available to, public use.

There must be more trails, and there are splendid opportunities for scenic drives or recreation ways. Several hundred additional public camping and picnicking units will be necessary in the near future to protect public health and the natural resources and to guard against pollution of the waters. Trails for hiking and riding will greatly increase the enjoyment of the area by people who favor these types of recreational pursuits; and, in fact, they should be one of the first uses of these lands. The propagation of game and fish can be increased. The many observation points from which inspiring and soul-satisfying views of the Appalachian Range can be obtained should be made accessible to the visiting public.

As a matter of tremendous importance to West Virginia, this recreational project will be of great economic benefit to the citizens of the State. Scenic beauty and opportunity for outdoor recreation are among the great undeveloped assets of this portion of the Mountain State, which is the only State wholly located in the Appalachian region for which the Congress has recently provided an extensive and forward-looking program of economic betterment. This national recreation area will complement other measures in the Appalachian Regional Development Act, will be in harmony with its purposes, and will contribute much toward lifting the economic level of this area as well as providing broadened opportunities for its citizens.

The Forest Service estimates that by 1970, at the end of the first 5 years of operation, if the recreation area is established this year, there will be an annual use of the area amounting to 1 million visitor-days and that by the year 2000 this use will have increased to from 3 to 5

million visitor-days. Each visitor contributes to the economic welfare of the area where he goes for recreational benefits. Overnight visitors, or tourists, will each spend several dollars per day in a recreational area. The potential yearly expenditure aggregates \$6,500,000 to \$10 million. This estimate is based on records of average expenditures in 1958 and 1959 in similar areas in Minnesota, Oregon, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Furthermore, projected estimates into the year 2000 offer an expectation of 3 to 5 million visitors annually with a \$32,500,000 potential expenditure believed possible.

I visualize a growing recreation industry oriented around the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area which will result in more hotels, motels, restaurants, service stations, and other service industries, and, consequently, in an enhanced level of employment for West Virginians and a greatly enlarged tax base.

These facts are of prime importance to my economically depressed State and to all West Virginians, most especially to the citizens living in the area. The opening of their lands to tourism will mean a long-delayed, much-needed expansion of their personal horizons and the coming of opportunities scarcely dreamed of.

Basically, however, I believe that this national recreation area is in the long-term interest of all the people of the United States. It will conserve and develop the natural beauty of a lovely sector of our country. It will conserve and develop and make available to increasing numbers of people opportunities for healthful and enjoyable outdoor recreation. It will help conserve our natural resources so that we will pass on to those who follow us not ugliness, or depleted and misused lands, or polluted and dull streams, but enhanced beauty, well-managed lands and forests and waters, more wildlife, and sparkling water—a section of the Potomac River which truly will “serve as a model of scenic and recreation values for the entire country.”

I wish to place in the record the fact sheet prepared by specialists in the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Senator McCARTHY. Without objection, it will be placed in the record at this point.

(The fact sheet referred to follows:)

Proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, Monongahela National Forest, R-7, West Virginia

	Spruce Knob unit	Seneca Rocks unit
Area (100,000 acres).....	26,000 acres (26 percent).....	74,000 acres (74 percent); about 4,000 acres outside present national forest boundary.
Present ownership:		
National forest (39,228 acres, 39 percent).	18,663 acres (71 percent).....	20,565 acres (28 percent).
Private land (60,772 acres, 61 percent).	7,337 acres (29 percent).....	53,435 acres (72 percent).
Elevations.....	3,000-4,860 feet (Spruce Knob).....	930-3,800 feet.
Average precipitation.....	50 inches.....	30-35 inches.
Scenic attractions.....	a. Spruce Knob (highest point in West Virginia). b. 5 other peaks over 4,000 feet.. c. 5 visible mountain ridges (Fore Knoke, North Fork Mountain, Shenandoah Mountains, Massanutten Mountains and Blue Ridge Mountains). d. Spruce Knob Lake, near unit	a. Smoke Hole Caverns. b. Deep gorge of South Fork. c. Numerous spectacular rock outcrops. d. Seneca Rocks (100-foot shaft). e. Caves.

Proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, Monongahela National Forest, R-7, West Virginia—Continued

	Spruce Knob unit	Seneca Rocks unit
Existing Forest Service improvements:		
Family units (38)-----	8-----	30.
Trails (miles) (47)-----	25-----	22.
Scenic drives (miles) (2)-----	2-----	
Recreation uses and potential-----	a. Scenic drives and vistas-----	a. Scenic driving.
	b. Camping and picnicking-----	b. Camping and picnicking.
	c. Hiking-----	c. White water canoeing, 40 miles
	d. Horse riding-----	d. Hiking.
	e. Trout fishing-----	e. Rock climbing.
	f. Hunting—large and small game-----	f. Hunting—large and small game.
	g. Winter sports potential-----	g. Fishing.
		h. Cave exploration.
		i. Historical studies, Revolutionary War.
		j. Archeological studies.
Wildlife-----	a. Deer, black bear-----	a. Deer, black bear.
	b. Wild turkey-----	b. Wild turkey, ruffed grouse, quail.
	c. Gray squirrels-----	c. Gray squirrels, cottontail rabbits.
	d. Beaver-----	d. Native and stocked trout.
	e. Native and stocked trout-----	
	f. 37 wildlife food and cover plots maintained by State.	
Timber resource, national forest land-----	a. Spruce, fir, and northern hardwood zones.	a. Oak-hickory zone.
	b. 18,180 acres commercial-----	b. 15,600 acres commercial.
	c. 610 acres noncommercial-----	c. 4,180 acres noncommercial.
	d. Volume:	d. Volume:
	32,800 M-----	23,300 M.
	67,200 cords-----	56,300 cords.
	e. Estimate annual growth:	e. Estimated annual growth:
	2,730 M-----	1,720 M.
	5,040 cords-----	2,800 cords.
Private, not known: grazing, numbers not known.	Both private and national forests lands basis of much of local economy.	Limited to private lands.
Present uses of land (acres):		
Cleared ¹ (17,764)-----	3,036	14,728
Forested (United States) (39,228)-----	18,663	20,565
Forested (private) (43,008)-----	4,301	38,707
Total forested (82,236)-----	(22,964)	(59,272)
Total-----	26,000	74,000
Existing economic uses-----	a. Grazing-----	a. Limited agriculture.
	b. Limited farming-----	b. 2 commercial caverns, private land.
	c. Timber harvest-----	c. 3 tourist facilities (motels and restaurants).
	d. 8 gas and oil leases ² -----	d. 16 gas and oil leases. ²
Other uses (private lands, some incompatible with MRA; Royal Glen Reservoir would flood others)	a. 2 summer homes-----	e. 2 limestone quarries.
1964 recreation visitor-days-----	b. 15 cabins-----	a. 40 summer homes.
		b. 95 cabins----
	226,400	

¹ Includes bottom lands, 4,403 acres, Spruce Knob, 282 acres; Seneca Rocks, 4,121 acres.

² Only explorations to date; general area not considered "hot" prospect since it lies too far east of known commercial areas.

NOTES

Potential visitors and probable recreation expenditures:

a. 27,000,000 people within 150 miles (Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Charleston, W. Va.).

b. 60,000,000 people within 300 miles (New York, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati).

c. Estimated visitor-days:

(a) End 1st 5 years, 1,000,000 annually (\$6,500,000 potential expenditures).

(b) By year 2000, 3,000,000-5,000,000 annually (\$19,500,000 to \$32,500,000 potential expenditures).

Estimated tourist expenditures, average \$6.50 per visitor-day recognizing both day and overnight visitors (average for daytime visitor \$2):

a. Basis:

 Minnesota, 1958, \$6.82.

 Oregon, 1959, \$5.20.

 Average, \$8+10 percent for cost increases and rounded to \$6.50.

Data relating to proposed Royal Glen Reservoir:

a. Dam would be located 3.6 miles west of Petersburg just below confluence of North Fork of South Branch and South Branch of Potomac River.

b. 3,200 acres.

c. Extend 17.35 miles up South Branch; 7.0 miles up North Fork.

d. Shoreline, 53 miles.

e. 75 percent of reservoir would be within present boundaries of Monongahela National Forest and would flood 70 acres of national forest.

Senator BYRD. I also wish to include an editorial from the March 22 edition of the Evening Star—Washington, D.C.—newspaper, entitled "Conservation Brass Tacks," expressing support of this proposal. (The editorial referred to is as follows:)

CONSERVATION BRASS TACKS

An early American, fighting to tame the watercourses of his newly won land, would have found it hard to believe that within two centuries a President of the United States would be fighting to keep a few rivers free. He would have had equal trouble with the idea that this same President would propose concurrently a crash program to save what was left of the seemingly limitless miles of wildshore, lakeshore, forest, and mountain that stretched on every hand.

Yet this is precisely what has come to pass. Translating the broad generalities of his message to Congress on national conservation and rebeautification into specific legislative proposals, Mr. Johnson now is getting down to cases.

Two of his specific proposals to augment the recreational resources of the Nation are especially worthy of note. One would begin a program of retaining in a wild state—conoting undammed, relatively unpolluted, and unbuilt-up—15 American rivers. The other, actually a series of separate bills, would set aside 12 new scenic areas possessing great beauty and recreational potential—3 seashores, 2 lakeshores, 6 recreation areas, and a new park.

A new fiscal tool, equally deserving of note, would be used to finance these acquisitions. This is the land and water conservation fund, established last year, by which fees charged to people using Federal recreational facilities, the proceeds from the sale of surplus property, and excise taxes on motorboat fuel are earmarked to pay for conserving our natural heritage.

Areas across the Nation are included, three of them within easy distance of Washington; Assateague Island, the Cacapon River, which flows north into the Potomac near Berkeley Springs, W. Va., and up to 100,000 acres in what is known as the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area encompassing in part the upper reaches of the South Branch of the Potomac to the southwest of the valley of the Cacapon.

The long-range effects of these proposals may be even more important than their specific goals, for both lay the groundwork for future expansion that will include other rivers and recreational areas throughout the country.

We hope Congress deals kindly with this hopeful legislation.

Senator BYRD. I also wish to include an editorial from the March 14 edition of the Washington Post—Washington, D.C.—newspaper, pointing out that 5 million Americans are expected to purchase the new \$7 sticker to permit auto and tourist entrance into Federal recreation areas and discussing the manner in which the proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will fit into the system. (The editorial referred to is as follows:)

SEVEN-DOLLAR STAMPS TO HELP PAY FOR PARK AREAS

(By Aubrey Graves)

The new \$7 sticker that will entitle drivers of private noncommercial autos and all their passengers to admission to most Federal recreation areas this year are to go on public sale soon.

Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall "put the bee" on President Johnson to buy the first one. A White House aid, appearing for the President, showed up at the banquet of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference here last week and shelled out the seven bills.

Said Lee White, as he pocketed the stamp and handed the cash to Udall: "If Congress is asked to authorize some new appropriation for, say something like \$7,000,007, you'll know how the \$7 figures in it."

Five million Americans are expected to buy the stamp this year as a bargain for vacations and outdoor holidays.

Proceeds from sticker sales, authorized by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, will be used to help finance the expansion of recreational opportunities.

The idea is to speed acquisition of adequate recreational lands for the future before they are used for other purposes, like private resorts or industrial development, or before they become prohibitively expensive.

As part of his natural program, President Johnson proposed last month that Congress appropriate \$125 million from the fund in 1965 to acquire land for 12 new areas this year.

The 12 new areas include 6 east of the Mississippi River, 5 of which were subjects of a series of articles appearing on this page during the past 4 weeks, namely:

Assateague Island National Seashore, Cape Lookout National Seashore, Tocks Island National Recreation Area, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The sixth, easily accessible to people from the Washington metropolitan area, is Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Park, which would include up to 100,000 acres within and adjacent to Monongahela National Forest in the eastern part of West Virginia, including the State's highest peak, Spruce Knob.

First, Congress must authorize establishment of an area. After that, it can appropriate money from the Fund to the agency charged with establishing the area.

The stamp will admit visitors to more National Forest recreation areas at which an entrance fee is charged, for instance, than a person could possibly visit in a year.

"In fact," Agricultural Secretary Orville L. Freeman points out, "if a person were to visit a different national forest charge area every single day, it would take almost 10 years to cover all of them."

And, of course, national forest areas are only a portion of all the Federal recreation areas involved.

Other areas covered are those administered by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife and Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U.S. section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (United States and Mexico).

The recreation-conservation stickers may be bought from field offices of Federal agencies administering recreation areas. There is no limit to the number of times they may be used but the length of stay will be determined by local rules.

Purchase of the sticker is optional. An alternative single-entry fee, or in some places a weekly fee, may be paid in lieu of purchase of the sticker. In the national forests, the single-visit fee per person will be 25 cents, 50 cents, 75 cents, or \$1, depending on the facilities and services made available by the Government.

Under some circumstances, in addition to the sticker or entrance fee, there may be supplemental charges for special facilities, such as mechanical boat launching equipment and the above-the-ordinary trailer and camp sites, or for special services such as reservations for large groups.

The regulations also list the types of areas and activities exempt from fees. For example, no Federal hunting or fishing licenses or fees may be charged.

Senator BYRD. I wish also, Mr. Chairman, to point out that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has indicated its approval of this bill, S. 7, with the recommended amendment germane to the funding process.

This measure has been favorably commented upon by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

And the Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of these departmental reports from the standpoint of the administration's program.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience in allowing me to present this rather lengthy statement. And I am grateful also for your courtesy in hearing the statements of these gentlemen who have already been introduced.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you very much, Senator Byrd, for your presentation.

Could I ask you: Are the amendments satisfactory to you and the people of your State who are involved?

Senator BYRD. Yes, they are, Mr. Chairman. If I might oversimplify them, they would, in the main, permit the Land and Water Conservation Funds Act of 1965 to be utilized in the acquisition of this area. They would also clearly delineate the boundaries and give assurance of freedom in developing mineral resources. I certainly support them. And I think, as a matter of fact, they are necessary for the achievement of the objective sought by the bill.

Senator McCARTHY. Senator, were there any hearings held on this bill in the last Congress?

Senator BYRD. No, Mr. Chairman.

Senator McCARTHY. And there is no previous record on it?

Senator BYRD. No.

Senator McCARTHY. I don't think I have any further questions.

We will insert Senator Randolph's statement at this point.

(The statement of Senator Jennings Randolph follows:)

For each of us concerned with the preservation, utilization, and development of this Nation's vast potentials in recreational resources, this is a decisive time. The complexity and rapid pace of modern living, coupled with the tensions of world events, create new problems daily for mankind. Not merely change, but the widening scope of change, is a fact of the sixties.

Expanding population is a valid example of a problem which is accelerating at an ever-increasing rate. Since 1940 the population of the earth has grown from approximately 2.5 billion to approximately 3.2 billion. This 700-million increase, in 25 years, exceeds the total estimated population of the world in the year 1800.

In the United States we have a substantial rate of population growth, with our 193 million inhabitants expected to increase to 225 million by 1967; then to about 322 million in the year 2000, and by 2050 we could reach 700 million. The implications of such growth are obvious. Need for citizen services and facilities also will increase by geometric progression. The demand will be tremendous.

Consider yet another symptom of our time—the rapid migration of population from rural areas to an urban or metropolitan environment.

Approximately 7 out of 10 Americans now live in areas designated by the Bureau of the Census as "metropolitan." These areas, which constitute less than 10 percent of our total land, accounted for 84 percent of the population increase between 1950 and 1960. In 50 years the United States has changed from a predominantly rural and agrarian nation to one in which nearly three-quarters of our people live in urban communities, and are employed in industry, trade, or specialized services.

The 1960 census revealed that we are 70 percent city dwellers. By 1980, according to forecasts by the Urban Land Institute, our population will be nearly four-fifths urban. The institute further predicts that metropolitan areas will absorb all of the 70 million population growth in the decade 1970-80.

These revealing statistics make it clear that more and more Americans will be traveling—seeking the beauty and inspiration of the out of doors, and the recreational opportunity it can provide.

Yet another consideration, equal in importance to increased population and urbanization, is the fact that added prosperity and mobility, and the increase in available leisure time will influence greater utilization of available recreational facilities. Wages and earnings are up; daily hours and the workweek are growing shorter; automobiles are the property of nearly every family. In large numbers the outdoor enthusiasts and serious campers will seek the beauty and serenity of the American wilderness; families will gather at areas where resource development has been carried forward, and where attractive facilities have been constructed. National, regional, State, county, and city parks—all will feel the impact of millions of recreation seekers.

In the Mountain State of West Virginia more attention is being focused on the development of the park system. Literature most requested of our office here

in Washington describes the beauties of our parks and public forests, and the attractions which they offer.

I use this personal reference as an example. But it is clear that utilization of public recreational facilities is skyrocketing everywhere, and that the time for imaginative action is at hand.

In response to the need, President Johnson has delivered to Congress a comprehensive and imaginative message on natural beauty. He has urged every citizen to participate in creating a "new conservation" to meet the converging problems of our modern society.

In his message, the President said, "Our conservation must be not just the classic conservation of protection and development, but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation. Its concern is not with nature alone, but with the total relation between man and the world around him. Its object is not just man's welfare but the dignity of man's spirit."

This is the "new conservation."

It draws into sharp focus what we must do if we are to preserve the heritage of a beautiful America for the generations following us. It is the first such message of this thrust and scope presented by a President, and it should serve to stimulate our action on the needs and problems we now face and will face.

This exciting approach to conservation follows closely achievements of the 88th Congress. That Congress passed more than 30 important conservation bills, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Wilderness Act, and the Outdoor Recreation Act. In the last 2 years we established continental America's first new national park in 17 years, 23 new national park areas, 4 new national seashores, and a national riverway.

The establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area is a logical and needed supplement to this effort. The sheer beauty and beckoning recreational potentials of the Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob region have attracted and inspired generations of West Virginians. It is fitting that these natural wonders in Pendleton and other counties should be added to the fund of resources set aside to promote the physical and spiritual fulfillment of all Americans.

The location of West Virginia is an additional advantage in creating the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. The National Park Service has stated that "West Virginia's recreation resources are so attractive that, if properly preserved and developed, they will serve not only the population of that State but also many millions of persons from adjacent States."

These words are particularly thought-provoking when one considers that West Virginia is within 500 miles of four of the five major markets in America—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit—and within reasonable traveling distance of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, Knoxville, Charlotte, and Richmond. The tourism potential for West Virginia, with its proximity to such centers of population, is extensive, and it is a potential which must be developed in the public interest.

And so, Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly endorse S. 7, and express the conviction that its passage would result in significant long-range benefits for the Nation and our people. The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area should be an important part of informed congressional response to the pressing need for public recreational capability and the safeguarding of our precious natural heritage and resources. This subcommittee, I trust, will act affirmatively and expeditiously on this meaningful measure in which I am gratified to join with my colleague, Robert C. Byrd, who introduced the legislation for us in the 88th Congress, and again this year on January 6, 1965.

Senator McCARTHY. Mr. Nelson?

STATEMENT OF M. M. NELSON, DEPUTY CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. NELSON. I am Mr. Nelson, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I am happy to appear before you today in support of Senate bill No. 7. The Department of Agriculture recommends that this bill be enacted. We have

suggested three clarifying amendments which are discussed in detail in our report on the bill.

This bill would establish a national recreation area to be comprised of approximately 100,000 acres situated in the headwaters of the Potomac River in West Virginia. With the exception of about 4,000 acres, all of the proposed national recreation area would be within the Monongahela National Forest. This national forest is one of the earliest established under the Weeks law of March 1, 1911.

The national recreation area would be in the upper reaches of the South Branch of the Potomac River and its principal tributary, the North Fork of the South Branch. These are beautiful, unspoiled mountain streams in a rough and rugged forested country—broken by occasional farms which add to the attractive pastoral environment. In his message to the Congress on the natural beauty of our country, President Johnson included the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area as one of the projects to be established through use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. This national recreation area will effectively promote the President's program for making the Potomac River a model of scenic beauty and recreation values.

In this part of the country there is still time to accomplish the measures necessary to preserve the natural beauty and to secure permanently for the American public the valuable outdoor recreation resources it offers. This is so, if we act promptly and adequately.

The purposes of the national recreation area would be to provide outdoor recreational use of its lands, waters, forests, and wildlife for enjoyment by the people of the United States; to conserve the scenic, scientific, historic, and other values which will contribute to public use and enjoyment; and to assure continuance of the management and utilization of other disposable natural resources—timber, forage, minerals—in such manner as is compatible with the recreational use and enjoyment of the area.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to acquire such lands or interests in lands as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of the national recreation area, and to develop and administer the area, in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forests. Authority is also provided to cooperate with other Federal and State authorities and agencies which have programs that might be of assistance in achieving the purposes of the national recreation area.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area would consist of two units as shown on the map before you. These areas contain approximately 100,000 acres in total. This map will be kept on file in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service. We have recommended in our report that S. 7 be amended to indicate that the boundaries of the national recreation area will be as shown on this map.

The smaller unit takes its name from Spruce Knob, the highest peak in West Virginia, located at the southerly edge of this unit. The Spruce Knob unit includes 26,000 acres, of which 18,663 acres are now national forest lands acquired through the Weeks law. Timber types are spruce, fir, and northern hardwoods and the unit contains good timber-growing lands cut over many years ago and now reproducing excellently. Spruce Knob provides outstanding views of the Allegheny Mountains. The unit includes five other peaks over

4,000 feet high. The Highland Scenic Drive, now under construction by the State of West Virginia and the Bureau of Public Roads, will skirt the west edge of this unit and will provide a scenic recreation drive of great beauty and access to many and varied recreation opportunities. Recreational uses besides touring and scenic viewing include hunting, fishing, and hiking along numerous trails.

The Seneca Rocks unit includes 74,000 acres, of which 20,565 acres have been acquired by the United States. This unit includes major stretches of the South Branch of the Potomac River and the North Fork of the South Branch. These are clear, free-flowing streams and the South Branch affords opportunities for white-water canoeing as well as good fishing. Its lower reaches flow through a deep and rugged gorge thus adding to its unique scenic attractions. The Smoke Holes, which is a local landmark of long standing, is in this unit. The Seneca Rocks is a spectacular vertical formation some 1,000 feet high, and attractive for rock climbing. This is a distinctive and historic landmark. Much of the land in this unit is of low-site quality for timber production but there are some good timberlands within it. Scenic and recreation values are high. There are good opportunities for all kinds of outdoor pursuits with many features of scientific and popular interest.

Portions of both units have been leased for oil and gas exploration but there has been no production to date.

Within 150 miles of the national recreation area there is a population of some 27 million people. Within 300 miles there is a population of over 60 million people. This national recreation area, therefore, lies within a day's drive of about one-third of the population of the United States. It, therefore, meets an important qualification for a national recreation area—which is reasonable distance to concentrations of people who need opportunities for healthful outdoor recreation.

Only about 40 percent of the national recreation area now is publicly owned. Additional lands will need to be acquired to protect the scenic qualities and the natural beauty of the area and to provide for public use. We also contemplate the use of scenic easements, where these prove adequate, to protect roadside beauty.

There will need to be a very substantial acceleration of physical development of the national recreation area to accommodate the anticipated steady increase in uses. Existing public recreation facilities are few and not adequate to the present needs because of the scattered pattern of Government ownership, particularly in the Seneca Rocks unit. Private facilities also are limited.

Improved access, and the designation of the area as a national recreation area will result in greatly increased visitation. We estimate that use will increase to 3 to 5 million visitor-days by the year 2000. Necessary facilities will include many additional family camping and picnic units, recreation trails, scenic drives, viewpoints, stream improvement structures, and visitor information services. We anticipate that the costs of acquiring land and scenic easements will be met with appropriations from the fund established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

We think that establishment of a national recreation area will be of very substantial economic benefit to local communities and coun-

ties. This is an area of persistent unemployment and a relatively low rate of economic activity. Outdoor recreation is one of its great natural assets. The location is such, in relation to urban areas, that many visitors will choose to spend weekends and longer periods in it if the recreation facilities are developed and the area brought to public attention. Increased tourism can substantially bolster the inflow of money to this area. There also will be a substantial input of funds from the land acquisition and development programs contemplated for the national recreation area.

We would anticipate the development of substantial numbers of privately owned motels, restaurants, stores, and other service facilities for recreationists and tourists in and about the national recreation area—either on private lands or on public lands through concession agreements. We think this national recreation area will provide a firm economic base and a high level of local economic activity. The national need for increased outdoor recreation opportunities, and the need for conservation of natural resources and scenic beauty—will both be served in good measure. We believe this national program will complement State and local programs for the overall public good.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Senator McCARTHY. Mr. Nelson, has the Department of Agriculture had any experience with a project of this size?

Mr. NELSON. We have considerable experience with recreation developments. There has, to date, never been a national recreation area established either on the national forests or otherwise. And I speak of a national recreation area being in accord with the criteria set up by the President's Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council. There are a number of bills before the Congress that would establish national recreation areas where the Forest Service would be involved, but none have passed or have been set up at the present time. We served in the national forest, last year, 124 million recreation visitors. So we are experienced with handling outdoor recreation.

Senator McCARTHY. And you have jurisdiction in areas where you have this mixed kind of recreation that you are going to provide here?

Mr. NELSON. Yes, we have a considerable amount of it. In fact, our eastern national forests are somewhat like this area here. We own in some of them less than half the land, and in none of them do we own all the land. And so all of our experience, especially in the East, has been with mixed ownership, with private land as well as national forests.

Senator McCARTHY. Is the authority for condemnation unique in a bill of this kind? Do you usually try to start out by acquiring the land without the authority of the act?

Mr. NELSON. We always do.

Senator McCARTHY. And you use the condemnation authority only when you need it to get the land?

Mr. NELSON. We don't use condemnation unless we have to.

Senator McCARTHY. Sometimes you don't even have authority for it; isn't that true?

Mr. NELSON. Wherever we have basic authority to purchase, unless it is specifically forbidden in the law, we do have the authority to

condemn if it is needed. And the authority that would be used here is the Weeks law of 1911.

Senator McCARTHY. Does this apply to mineral rights on the land? Will you try to clear up everything as you develop this?

Mr. NELSON. No. We have a great deal of land, and we have a lot of experience with land where the mineral rights are owned by a third party. Now, there would be some parts of it where it would be necessary and desirable to own both the mineral rights and the surface rights. But we would believe that quite a lot of mineral rights would not have to be purchased.

Senator McCARTHY. You would not deal with those at all?

Mr. NELSON. An exception would be along the scenic drive, for instance. And we are working on a scenic drive in Arkansas and Oklahoma at the present time. And there we are buying the mineral rights that would disturb the scenic drive itself, and the immediate area. Now, some of that is gas-and-oil land, as some of this might be developed. And there we have bought the mineral rights to the extent that they might continue to develop them, but they would develop them under the Secretary's regulations that would preserve the scenic attractions of the land. Slant drilling would be one example in that case.

Senator McCARTHY. These mineral rights are all under the jurisdiction of the Interior, are they not?

Mr. NELSON. No, Senator—

Senator McCARTHY. How does the jurisdiction run on this project?

Mr. NELSON. We handle the mineral business on the lands that we acquire. The Interior Department is responsible for the minerals on the national forests that were established by reservation from the public domain. But on the acquired land, such as the eastern national forests, we handle the minerals.

Senator McCARTHY. So on this the Department of Agriculture would—

Mr. NELSON. We do work with the Interior Department on that. And I believe—Mr. Grover just informed me that the actual formal leasing is issued by the Interior.

Senator BYRD. Mr. Chairman, one of the amendments that is being proposed by the Department of Agriculture would permit the development of the mineral resources in the area. And I think this would be a desirable amendment to have attached.

Senator McCARTHY. Then this is not a problem and there is no controversy as to the mineral rights. The owners of the minerals are not upset, and the Department of Agriculture finds this wholly acceptable with the amendment and I assume Interior also?

Mr. NELSON. Yes. We may have to, on an area that needs to be actually developed for recreation use, and the minerals are owned by a third party—we might have a little trouble buying the minerals. If we did, we might have to condemn in that case.

Senator McCARTHY. What is the estimate on the overall cost of the project to the Government?

Mr. NELSON. We estimate that in the first 5 years we would spend about \$9 million. About \$1,200,000 would be for acquisition of lands.

Senator McCARTHY. And this would not require separate appropriations as far as you know?

Mr. NELSON. No. The acquisition of land would be under the water and land conservation fund; the funds for putting in the roads and the overlooks and the campgrounds would have to be regular appropriation, but no special authority.

Senator McCARTHY. Do you have any questions, Senator Byrd?

Senator BYRD. I would like to ask one question of you, Mr. Nelson: I have received some letters from constituents who live in the territory which would be included in the national recreation area and they are concerned about their possibility having to sell their properties. And I think the record ought to make clear what the policy of the Department will be in connection with those properties which the owners thereof do not wish to sell?

Mr. NELSON. As I indicated in my testimony, we would anticipate that we would not buy all of the land, and parts of it would be available for improvement by the landowners. I also indicated that we would propose to take care of some of the needs of the public through scenic easements. Now, if we take a farm down on the north branch that you are acquainted with, on some of that good flatland, which probably adds to the scenic attraction rather than detracting from it, and in order to keep that farmer from turning his farm or a portion of it into a junkyard, we might buy from him a scenic easement that would prevent him doing certain things with his land, such as using them in some manner that would be adverse to the overall scenic enjoyment of the national recreation area.

Senator BYRD. But if his operation is a profitable one and he has a productive farm, you would not force him to sell his farm?

Mr. NELSON. No; unless there would be a few areas where we absolutely didn't have enough land to develop it for the public need for developed areas, such as a camp ground or a picnic ground, we might find that the only land that was available would be a piece of land that was a part of the farm that he didn't want to sell, but we would have to have that for development. But we anticipate that there will be ample opportunity to buy land from willing sellers for all of the developments that we can see at the present time. We also anticipate that some of the private lands left there would be the lands upon which the motels and other features would be located that would take care of the recreation areas by private capital.

Senator BYRD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator McCARTHY. To what extent do you have authority with reference to scenic easements decisions? If an owner wanted to remodel his house and put on a blue Johns-Manville tar paper roof, could you buy him out?

Mr. NELSON. That would depend upon what we bought when we bought a scenic easement from him. And we have not determined exactly what all that would be. It could be in the scenic easement that we pay him something for maintaining it, in a manner that would not be objectionable from a recreation and scenery standpoint, which would exclude the possibility of a bright tin roof, or painting that place yellow.

Senator McCARTHY. You could go that far?

Mr. NELSON. We could go that far.

Senator McCARTHY. I have no further questions, Mr. Nelson. Thank you very much.

Mr. NELSON. Thank you.

Senator McCARTHY. The next witness is Mr. Robert Bowers, the West Virginia Department of Commerce, representing the Governor.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT R. BOWERS, DIRECTOR, TRAVEL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CHARLESTON, W. VA.

Mr. BOWERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to advise that I have also brought a statement of my own at the Governor's request, and at the request of Senator Byrd, which for the sake of time I would like to have entered into the record. But with the Chairman's sanction, I will forego reading it here today and confine this reading to the statement by Governor Smith.

Senator McCARTHY. You ask that your statement be put in the record?

Mr. BOWERS. Yes, sir.

Senator McCARTHY. Following the Governor's statement?

Mr. BOWERS. Yes.

Senator McCARTHY. Very well; you may proceed.

Mr. BOWERS (reading Gov. Hulett C. Smith's statement):

It is an honor and a pleasure to present my testimony, at the request of Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia.

This statement is presented not only on behalf of the people of West Virginia, but millions of Americans who live in highly congested industrial areas of the East—areas where recreational opportunity in the great outdoors is all but totally lacking.

My statement is also on behalf of the proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area which would be located approximately 150 miles west of our Nation's Capital and would encompass approximately 100,000 acres of the Nation's most beautiful, rugged, and versatile terrain. This area is generally considered in two sections, one being the Spruce Knob section which is the highest point in West Virginia, and the Seneca Rocks-Smoke Hole section which is located in the head of the beautiful South Branch Valley. The Spruce Knob area contains approximately 26,000 acres while the Seneca Rocks land area encompasses approximately 74,000 acres.

It is important to understand that while West Virginia greatly favors this proposal for a national recreation area, the conclusion was first drawn by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, region 1, in a preliminary plan for recreation resource development in West Virginia as compiled and published in March 1961. It was recommended by this report that a State recreation area system be established, that it contain areas of high recreation potential and that the units be strategically located primarily to serve urban areas.

In addition, it was recommended that the Federal Government give serious consideration to ways and means of participation in the plans for development of recreational resources of West Virginia such as: "establishing a national recreation area in the Spruce Knob region—an area of outstanding scenic and geologic interest, capable of furnishing a rewarding recreation experience to millions of people along the eastern seaboard of the United States."

This is the same area essentially of which we speak here today. Protecting the headwaters of the great Potomac, this land area gives rise to dozens of trout streams as well as to some of the Nation's finest smallmouth bass fishing rivers.

Seneca Rocks itself is a 1,000-foot mountain of gleaming medina sandstone and is a focal point of the area along the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. This weekend in that area more than 14,000 canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts from 21 States will gather along the river to record, document, and enjoy a spectacular national canoe championship race and the eastern kayak championship races. These nationally significant races lone point up the urgency of protecting and preserving the beauty, cleanliness, and rarity of this

crystalline white water of the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River.

Seneca Rocks itself, however, is indeed also unique. It does not lay on a plane, but is heaved up vertically, and these 1,000-foot jagged rocks are aimed as if in readiness for leaving the launching pad.

In addition, hiking clubs from throughout the United States visit here to hike and climb these uniquely significant rock formations.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer calls Seneca Rocks the finest mountain-climbing area in the East, while the 900-member Appalachian Trail Club from Maryland and Washington, D.C., has been climbing these rocks since 1939. They have been consistently called back by the beauty, challenge, uniqueness, proximity, and relative safety of these sturdy formations.

This entire region is the heart of the Mountain State's hunting areas. Here, the bear and the wild turkey still roam free, and the ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare and a multitude of northern- and southern-type game species thrive.

Spruce Knob, our highest point, is where nature took its flora and fauna from the north and placed it here for the people of our Nation to enjoy. Here is truly one of the most versatile and beautiful recreational offerings found in the Eastern United States, and it lies only a day's drive from 70 million people and a half-day's drive from the great population of the District of Columbia.

No area offers so much in such relative proximity to such crowded, congested populations as these eastern counties of West Virginia. The whim or fancy of every group has a special little niche in this rugged land. So versatile is the natural appeal of this area that people from two dozen foreign lands, 50 States and all the continents of the world visit it annually in ever-increasing numbers. They come to camp, fish, canoe, kayak, and hunt. They come for nature walking, wild flower study, sightseeing, pleasure driving, photography, and resting—all of this from a natural wealth of resources which are unspoiled by human encroachment and which are now becoming fully recognized for their real value as a playland of the Eastern United States.

It is essential, not only for West Virginia's sake but for the sake of a growing population in the midst of a dwindling recreational opportunity, that this land be preserved. A national guardianship can guarantee in perpetuity this wondrous endowment which providence has placed so close to so many and has yet allowed to remain unspoiled.

West Virginia can be destined to become the vacationland of the Eastern United States and a prominent destination for travelers of the Nation and the world.

I submit, therefore, that nothing gives the State of West Virginia greater joy than to share her natural beauty and her bountiful offering with her neighbors. We recognize the tourist as a person who pays much and takes away a fond recollection of his visit. We hope, therefore, to share with America, and with the world, our bountiful blessings for enjoyment for people everywhere.

We believe that this land of Spruce Knob and of Seneca Rocks and all of the natural uniqueness of the general region can be most properly preserved and most expeditiously developed in a manner in keeping with the ever-growing national needs as Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knob-Smoke Hole National Recreation Area.

Toward this end, we are here today to ask that you provide for the recreational future of America by authorizing this area as one of the newest in a growing chain of national recreation areas. The longer we delay, the greater the cost for these acres. The more the Nation becomes aware of West Virginia's countryside as a playground, the greater will be the price, and the dearer the land, and the longer we will be delayed in meeting the demands of a growing and great society.

Thank you.

(The statement of Mr. Bowers is as follows:)

Travel in West Virginia has grown steadily, 7 to 9 percent per year, for the past 4 years and now supports upward of 30,000 jobs in the Mountain State.

Upon the completion of West Virginia's Interstate System, which is progressing rapidly, as well as the upgrading of various highways and easier access through the Appalachian highway system, the volume of traffic that will be poured into the Mountain State will startle even the most vivid imagination.

We can predict in almost total confidence that, upon the completion of these roads, the number of jobs that the tourist industry will support in West Virginia in the next 10 years will double the number which is supported today.

It is mandatory that we recognize the certainty of this growth, and that we plan now for the inevitable demand upon our natural areas. While there is still time, while land prices are within reason, we must plan for proper development of those areas of outstanding beauty, uniqueness, and recreational opportunity, which so logically serve so many of our citizens from so many States and nations.

In support of this information, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has said, and I quote, "because of its natural recreation resources and its strategic location, West Virginia needs and should encourage outdoor recreation planning to promote its economic development by serving its own recreation needs and those of its neighboring states.

"The future development of recreation in West Virginia must be primarily focused on tourism and the vacation market. Some areas have resident needs, but the major emphasis in recreation planning and development is oriented toward the nonresident.

"The wild land resources of West Virginia afford an excellent opportunity for building a tourist industry attractive to the surrounding industrial areas including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania to the north, but also the eastern seaboard and the developing South."

Gov. Hulett Smith, when he was Commissioner for the Department of Commerce from 1961 to 1963, was instrumental in the establishment of a State recreation advisory council. This council consists of public and private officials who advise the Department in recreation matters and coordinate the recreation programs of the State, the region, the county, and local governments.

This council has been highly successful in focusing attention upon the elements of outdoor recreation which can contribute substantially to the State's economic growth.

West Virginia can participate in any Federal program which will promote and encourage a proper and orderly development of recreational facilities in West Virginia. State legislation designates the West Virginia Department of Commerce as the organization to promote, undertake, participate in and otherwise assist efforts and programs designed to develop recreational facilities throughout the State.

Currently, the West Virginia Department of Commerce is working hard on a statewide comprehensive recreational plan. This plan is being developed in cooperation with the department of natural resources, the State road commission, and other State agencies, and is scheduled for completion July 1, 1965.

This plan will enable the State to participate actively in the land and water conservation fund program. The establishment of the recreation advisory council represents a major development and a farsightedness in the State's political and recreational leadership.

I make these statements only to emphasize that West Virginia looks forward with the Federal Government in an effort to assist and implement a recreational plan which is well underway in West Virginia.

We have recognized our destiny as the recreational playground of the Eastern United States for these many years. Now we are at the stage in professional planning where we fully recognize and properly classify our natural assets and attractions.

We are now prepared to implement a policy of the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time. Based upon this policy, we visualize definite roles for private enterprise, State government, and, by all means, the Federal Government.

Neither private enterprise nor State government alone, or together, can provide the land and undertake the development necessary to meet the needs and demands of a growing eastern seaboard. The Federal Government must assume a great share of this responsibility, not for West Virginia's sake, but for the sake of our natural heritage, which can offer recreational excitement or solitude to 70 million people who live within a day's drive of West Virginia's eastern counties.

If the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation area is authorized by Congress, the State of West Virginia will strive to encourage the development of private and State travel-oriented facilities. These will be developed in a planned and complementing fashion in order that the region may realize its full potential as a job producer, a recreational opportunity and vacationland.

West Virginia's eastern counties are a vast, underdeveloped reservoir of opportunity, that could well result in recreation and tourism becoming a dominant State industry within the foreseeable future.

We look to the Interstate System of Highways, the Appalachian system of highways and the sheer mushrooming of human populations to make West Virginia a wilderness haven for the frayed nerves of congested urbanized populations. Dr. Edward Crafts, Director of Bureau of Recreation, says our population will be double in America in 47 years. That, gentlemen, is within the lifetime of most of us and within the lifetime of all of our children.

Without proper planning of the type described here, this last vestige of elbow room and esthetic recreational opportunity could be absorbed in the flood of an ever-expanding, overcrowded humanity.

Our goal in West Virginia is to provide jobs for our people, and there is no better way to do it than by providing rest, relaxation and recreation for a versatile, recreation-minded people from throughout the Nation and the world.

West Virginia has sent movies of her travel attractions and her people have visited the travel agencies of Europe. We have poured literature into all the continents of the world, in the hope that these people will be enticed to the versatile offerings of West Virginia. We have strived through the designing of tours and personal contact, and through the hosting of travel agencies and dignitaries from other lands, to make the attraction of West Virginia a more glowing portion of the American scene.

The 150 miles that our Nation's capital is from Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob is also that far from the embassies of the world in Washington, D.C. The 350 miles that this area is from the United Nations Building in New York, extend its importance from an American playground to an area of international concern. To this international traveler, West Virginia becomes a showcase for a broad cross section of America. Many of the impressions that foreign visitors take home will come from West Virginia.

We shall do all in our power to encourage increased foreign visitation to our State. We must make certain these people return home with a truer picture of the beauty, courtesy, recreation, and hospitality of America. In this view, we also seek authorization for this national recreational area in order that all the people of the world may be better served.

Senator McCARTHY. Mr. William McCoy.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM McCOY, JR., FRANKLIN, W. VA.

Mr. McCoy. Mr. Chairman, I am William McCoy, Jr., of Franklin. I am appearing in support of Senate bill 7 in my own personal capacity, although I am confident that I can speak for the great majority of the people in Pendleton County when I say that they are very enthusiastically in support of the establishment of this national recreational area.

I am a member of the Pendleton County Rural Areas Development Committee and the Pendleton Industry Corp., which is a local nonprofit corporation for the development of the economy of the area, and the local Lions Club. And I am confident that all these organizations are very much interested in this bill.

I support the bill for two principal reasons. One is all enthusiastic and the other is selfish. First, I believe that this area is ideally suited for a national recreation area. The beauty of the rugged mountain scenery in this area has no peer in my opinion. In this area is Spruce Knob, which is the highest point in the State, with sweeping panoramic views of distant mountains and valleys and pastoral scenes of great beauty.

I will not try to list the features of the area which other speakers have mentioned. But I would say that just this weekend in the Smoke Hole is being conducted the national downriver boating competition which utilizes white water sometimes.

Also on Labor Day weekend of each year hundreds of the members of the National Speleological Society come to Pendleton County to meet and explore its 55 caves in this area.

So I think that the area is ideally suited for a national recreation area.

Secondly, I support this bill because I believe that it would help the economy of our area. Our area is historically an agricultural area. And with the mechanization of our farms the number of jobs has decreased very much. And it would seem that the resources of the area are more suitable for the development of recreation than for any other single purpose. And for that reason I believe that with some organized supervision and development that recreation and tourism could become a very substantial factor in the economy of the area.

For these two reasons, I support this bill. And I feel that the great majority of the people of our county support it.

Thank you, sir.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you very much.

May I ask this question? How many months out of the year would this area be well used?

Mr. McCoy. It would seem to me that it could be used to advantage 12 months out of the year. Spruce Knob, which is the highest point in the State, could be utilized for skiing. About 2 or 3 years ago, they had from 4 to 6 feet of snow there that lasted all winter long. And I think that it would be ideally adaptable for winter recreation purposes. And other areas would be more adaptable for summer and fall and spring uses.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sponaugle?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE I. SPONAUGLE, FRANKLIN, W. VA.

Mr. SPONAUGLE. Mr. Chairman, my name is George I. Sponaugle. I am a lifelong resident of Franklin, Pendleton County, W. Va. I am prosecuting attorney of Pendleton County, and have been since 1949. And I am also president of Pendleton Industries, Inc., which Mr. McCoy spoke of.

And I want to tell you that I am very grateful and thankful to you, Mr. Chairman, and especially to Senator Byrd, for the privilege of the invitation to appear before this committee in support of Senate bill 7.

Basically, Pendleton County is an agricultural and lumbering area. The lumbering in the county has been worked extensively. There aren't too many large virgin tracts of timber left except what has been preserved by the national forest. The agricultural part of the county has been mostly by small farmers. And the small farmer, as we all know, is becoming nonexistent, more so each day. And in looking at the map which Mr. Nelson has here showing particularly the Spruce Knob unit, and then also the other unit, most of the farms in those two areas which I believe might be affected by this bill are mountain farms. And they have been used mostly for the grazing of livestock. The younger people on those farms are no longer there. And if you visit those farms and you will find as a rule two elderly

people, because there is nothing left for the young people to do, and they have departed, moved into urban areas.

So in that respect I feel that this bill is important not only to our area, but is important, I think, to the whole eastern part of the United States, because there is some of the most magnificent scenery and beauty in this Spruce Knob and Seneca Rocks and Smoke Hole area which I think exists anywhere.

But the sad feature of the whole thing is that no one individual or even the State of West Virginia itself, I don't think, could ever properly develop and utilize the potentials that are there.

Now, it has only been within the past couple of years that you could drive to the top of Spruce Knob, the highest point in the State of West Virginia. But now the Forest Service has erected and built a dirt drive up there so that you can drive to it.

So I feel that we should have this as a recreational area not only for that reason but because of the importance of this area to Washington, D.C. The headwaters of the Potomac River is just outside this area, although the water that flows by it comes from there. So the water resources could be utilized and developed and conserved.

Speaking of the boat races, which Mr. McCoy mentioned a while ago, this is the first time in their history, or so I am advised, that the national champion boat races have been held east of the Rocky Mountains. I don't know, but I am so advised. And I think that is true. And they held their boat races there last year in this same north fork of the south branch of the Potomac River, and they were so impressed with the white water, and so forth, that they wanted to come back and hold their national championship.

I don't feel, Mr. Chairman, that there is too much more that I can say or add to what has already been said here in describing the topography and the country in general. But I know that Pendleton County is in the depressed-area region. And I feel that this bill, if it passes, if this area is developed as the thinking is now, that it will be a big boost in the economy to the people of our area, and it will also serve as an outlet to millions of people in this eastern part of the United States that live in the cities and do not get out into the beautiful countryside too often.

So, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the privilege of appearing here. And I certainly recommend passage of this bill.

Thank you.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Robert Dennis, of the Izaak Walton League. Mr. Dennis?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT T. DENNIS, ASSISTANT CONSERVATION DIRECTOR, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

MR. DENNIS. Mr. Chairman, I am Robert T. Dennis, assistant conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America. I have a prepared statement and would like to request that it be placed in the record in its entirety.

We have today from West Virginia a representative of the West Virginia division of the Izaak Walton League and a man whose property is within the proposed national recreation area. And I would like to request that most of the time of the league be used by him.

I would like to make a couple of comments, however. First of all, the Izaak Walton League of America does support this bill, and we hope that it will be enacted shortly. We see this bill as a precedent setter. It is the first time so far as we know that the Congress has considered establishing a national recreation area under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. We know that there is another bill over on the House side which would establish a national recreation area under Forest Service jurisdiction in southwest Virginia, and we hope that that will be considered, too. Because this bill will set a precedent we hope that its language will be carefully considered. And we have a couple of comments in that regard which are in the statement.

You will note that we do suggest one amendment. I don't believe that it is technically necessary, because of the administrative authorities of the Department of Agriculture, and because of the record which the Forest Service has already made in cooperating with the States in managing fish and wildlife reserves. But we did feel that it might be desirable to amend the bill somewhat along the lines that we suggest just to make those things very clear, and to bring the bills pertaining to national recreation areas managed by the Forest Service into conformity insofar as possible with the national recreation areas managed by the Park Service.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

(The prepared statement of Mr. Dennis is as follows:)

Mr. Chairman, I am Robert T. Dennis, assistant conservation director of the Izaak Walton League of America. The league is a nationwide organization of citizens dedicated to wise and proper management and use of America's natural resources. Since its establishment in 1922, the league has had a priority interest in assuring adequate outdoor recreation opportunity for the people of the United States and has worked continuously toward that goal at all levels of government. We, therefore, especially appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

The Izaak Walton League supports enactment of S. 7, providing for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of West Virginia.

We believe that this scenic area possesses outdoor values and recreational potential of national significance, and that it should therefore be given national designation. We recognize that the Secretary of Agriculture already possesses general authority to classify and manage this area for outdoor recreation, but believe that enactment of S. 7 would provide a desirable and necessary congressional directive that these things be done. Furthermore, by designating the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks region as a national recreation area, Congress would make it clear that land and water conservation fund money shall be available for land acquisition.

Mr. Chairman, the league recognizes S. 7 as a precedent-setting bill. So far as we know, this is the first time Congress has considered establishing a national recreation area under sole jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. We expect this proposal will be followed by others similar to it; indeed, Congressman Jennings has introduced legislation to establish the Mount Rogers-Whitetop region of Virginia as a national recreation area administered by the Department of Agriculture, and we hope his bill (H.R. 316) will soon receive consideration.

Because S. 7 would set precedent, we have a few specific comments.

We understand that the Department of Agriculture suggests that section 2 be amended to establish the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in accordance with a boundary map already prepared by the Department. We believe it desirable that national recreation area boundaries be clearly defined by law, and therefore, support such amendment.

In connection with section 3, we would hope—in order both to realize the full public potential of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area, and to protect it from incompatible development—that the Department will acquire most of the private inholdings within its boundaries. We realize, however, that it may not be necessary or even desirable to acquire full title to all such properties, and therefore, endorse the provision permitting acquisition of partial interests.

Section 4 emphasizes the need to develop outdoor recreation facilities. We recognize this need. But we would point out that portions of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks region possess wild land values which should not be impaired. National recreation areas are established to provide a range of recreational opportunity. We would certainly agree that facilities must be available for a wide variety of outdoor uses, but would urge that their location be planned so as to preserve intact the most important areas of back country. We believe that this would be in accordance with the management priorities set forth in section 5 of S. 7, with which we concur.

Finally, in order both to clarify a matter which has caused some concern, and to bring uniformity to laws governing administration of national recreation areas, we suggest addition to the bill of a new section:

"In administering the national recreation area the Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction in accordance with the laws of West Virginia. The Secretary, after consultation with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, may designate zones and establish periods where and when no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment, and issue regulations consistent with this section."

Mr. Chairman, the Izaak Walton League thanks you for the opportunity to present its views on S. 7. We hope that the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will soon be established.

Senator McCARTHY. Is there reason to believe that the Forest Service might not follow the same practices as the Park Service?

Mr. DENNIS. No, sir; I do not have reason to believe that it would not. We just feel that it would be desirable in order to create this uniformity to put in language specifically pertaining to hunting and fishing. Of course, this is much more necessary with the Park Service, because they have historically not had this as a primary concern. But we did feel—we are talking about national recreation areas—national recreation areas managed by the Forest Service will be quite similar to those managed by the Park Service, and it might be advisable to promote as much uniformity as possible in controlling legislation.

Senator McCARTHY. Is it the general policy of the Izaak Walton League to recommend that hunting and fishing be under State jurisdiction, or is it only in cases like West Virginia where you feel that the hunting and fishing is perhaps more properly administered? Do you recommend this in every State or does it depend on the State?

Mr. DENNIS. No; we believe nationally that resident fish and game is a responsibility of the State, and that it should be contained there.

Senator McCARTHY. In the national parks?

Mr. DENNIS. Well, the national parks there are a special case; we do support fishing in the national parks, we do not support hunting in the national parks.

Senator McCARTHY. You support fishing under Federal regulation—and you oppose hunting, and in that case you are opposed to having State laws generally prevail?

Mr. DENNIS. We do not feel that—a recreational area is like a national park, we feel that a national park is a special case which needs special control. But as far as the national recreation areas are concerned, we could support hunting and fishing under the laws of the State involved.

Senator McCARTHY. I think this is important, since, as you say, this is a precedent-setting action. It perhaps ought to have some clarification with regard to hunting and fishing within the areas, and the manner in which the Park Service administers these problems, whether

those should be changed, or whether there is some reason to believe that the Forest Service might not administer them as well. I think the testimony of the Izaak Walton League on this might be very important.

Mr. DENNIS. Well, as I say, I personally have reason to believe that were this language not in the bill, that things would go on as they have been to the full satisfaction of the people of West Virginia. But I think that there have been some questions asked about this, and it might be desirable to clarify the situation.

Senator McCARTHY. Very well.

Mr. DENNIS. If possible, now, we would like to have Mr. Sions representing the West Virginia division appear as a witness.

Senator McCARTHY. Very well.

Will you identify yourself for the record?

STATEMENT OF CREAD SIONS, CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, PETERSBURG, W. VA.

Mr. SIONS. Mr. Chairman, I am Cread Sions, county superintendent of schools of Grant County. I am also a member of the Conservation Committee of the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America.

I was asked by the president to represent the West Virginia division in behalf of Senate bill No. 7.

I have with me a resolution adopted by the board of directors of the West Virginia division, Izaak Walton League of America, which I would like to present for the record at this time.

Senator McCARTHY. Fine.

(The resolution is as follows:)

SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Whereas there is a need to develop and preserve for the good of all the people those areas of the American landscape which are of outstanding significance; and

Whereas the membership of the West Virginia division, Izaak Walton League of America, concurs in the opinion that Seneca Caverns, the Smoke Hole, Smoke Hole Caverns, Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob (at 4,860 feet, the highest point in West Virginia), the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River, and adjacent portions of the Pendleton and Grant Counties, possess scenic, biological, geological, and other natural values which are of national significance; and

Whereas the area in question is now partially owned by the U.S. Forest Service, and is located almost entirely within the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest; and

Whereas the President of the United States has specifically mentioned the national significance of this area: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the board of directors, West Virginia division, Izaak Walton League of America, meeting this 21st day of March 1965 at Blackwater Falls State Park, That the U.S. Congress be respectfully urged to establish, under jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 100,000 acres and to include the features listed above, and be it further

Resolved, That in administering this area, the U.S. Forest Service assure preservation of its outstanding natural wildland values.

Mr. SIONS. I also live within the boundaries of this proposed project.

I have enjoyed the scenery, the hunting and fishing here all my life. By comparison, I have visited and enjoyed the scenery and fished

and/or hunted in other mountains, for instance, the Alps of Switzerland and Italy, the mountains of Norway, Finland, Sweden, the highland of Scotland, the moors of Ireland, the mountains of our own country including the Rockies, the Great Smokies, and by comparison, I honestly believe that the variety of scenery, game, and fish found here cannot be equaled anyplace else I have ever been. An abundance of certain species in other parts of the world, yes, but in variety, no.

In looking for paper to put a few notes on this morning, I picked up a brochure "Valleys of History." It suggested to me that if there are valleys there must be highlands. I suggest to you that some of the highland or mountains that are erected in the memory of man—in fact, the lasting and the most important ones are not built of mortar or stone, but they are the actions, institutions, reforms that man brings as contributions to the society in which he lives.

By illustration, I would like to mention Teddy Roosevelt's program in connection with national parks. I think that this Congress is working now on a new and needed type of recreation. I think this is it. I think that Senate bill No. 7 will bring about one of the 12 objectives mentioned in the recent speech by President Johnson as has been mentioned previously. I think it is a part of a great program for this Great Society. It may not necessarily be a part of it, but certainly complements some of the other acts of this Congress, and much of the programs of President Johnson. It certainly complements and possibly can be considered a part of the Appalachia program, the entire war on poverty. It certainly is a part of the recent job given by President Johnson to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. In fact, this region comprises a large part of the upper Potomac which he is to make a study of and make recommendations to the Congress.

We think, the Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, that this is the best section that we know of in eastern West Virginia for the beginning of a program such as this, national recreation areas.

I would like to give some of the reasons. First, there are many places other than Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob that the average person doesn't know about that those of us who live there know about and which can be seen by other people once roads are built in. I would like to mention just a few. On Seneca Creek or River there are two falls, magnificent, beautiful, the upper and the lower. The lower can be seen by some people now, but the upper can only be seen by those who walk a long distance. There are two live caverns, I mean caverns with life formations.

Champ Rock is almost as beautiful, and it has history connected with the Revolutionary War.

Chimney Rock, Blue Rock: Blue Rock can be seen only by those who go in by jeep or boat. I have taken several groups of photographers and riders through, and they never cease to be astonished and surprised at such a wonderful scene that is so seldom seen by people as Blue Rock.

Eagle Rock: This section comprises a part of what was once the Fairfax grant. And therefore, it is of importance in history. The name itself comes from an Indian tribe, the life of the Seneca Indians and the legend of the Seneca Indians.

The white water canoe race has been mentioned.

This is the home of the golden trout, the eastern species, that was propagated in this section. There are still native trout in the waters.

There are black bear, wild turkeys, deer, and other game.

The second important reason has been mentioned, the nearness to Washington.

Another, we believe, as has been mentioned also, that we must preserve some of the wild rivers. One of my instructors at the university pointed out how much more valuable this type of a program would be in restoration, to preserve the waters of the upper Potomac and the Royal Glen and some of the big dams that have been recommended in this section.

Tourism is beginning to be an important business, not only for the people who visit, but the people in the section who are the hosts to the visitors.

It is already a part of the Monongahela National Forest.

And so we believe that it is a great, new, needed program that is important and will in time to come, be as much a part of the conservation and the observation and enjoyment of the natural resources of our country as the national park program now is, especially in the West.

And it will be a living monument to the people who worked to establish it that will be long remembered and enjoyed after possibly some monuments that be built from stone or mason in memory of the people, you people who are working on this program.

I have some brochures. The ones that I have here, I will not bother to mention except to leave them with you. They are all of the white water festival, the caverns, fishing and hunting. But some members of your committee might want to look through them.

Senator McCARTHY. We will distribute them to the committee.

Mr. SIONS. And last, I would like to congratulate you and the people who are working, this Congress and this administration and the other people who have the privilege of working on this program.

And I certainly, for the people and the members of the Izaak Walton League of West Virginia and America, want to thank you for this privilege, and also thank you for the personal privilege of appearing before this committee.

Senator McCARTHY. Thank you very much.

Are there any other witnesses who are not listed?

Here is the statement of the National Wildlife Federation to be inserted in the record.

(The statement referred to follows:)

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 31, 1965.

HON. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
Room 324, Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We welcome the invitation and opportunity to comment briefly upon S. 7, a bill "to provide for the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in West Virginia" and would appreciate having this letter made a part of the record for the hearings scheduled for April 1, 1965.

The National Wildlife Federation long has supported the concept of providing public outdoor recreation opportunities in suitable locations. It is our information that the general area proposed for incorporation into the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area meets all of the criteria for providing outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking,

touring, camping, and general scenic appreciation. We are particularly impressed with recreational opportunities along the fast-flowing streams which constitute the South Branch of the Potomac River and the North Fork. Furthermore, the proposed area is near a large concentration of the Nation's urban population.

It is our understanding that this proposal is precedent setting in that this would be the first national recreation area to be located exclusively within boundaries of a national forest. We believe that these resources offer much in this regard and are hopeful that this area can be established.

It has been the policy of the National Wildlife Federation in respect to other national recreation areas to urge that hunting and fishing be permitted under laws of the States concerned. In accord with this policy, we would recommend that S. 7 contain a provision which would read: "The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws. The Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment, and shall issue regulations after consultation with the Department of Natural Resources of the State of West Virginia." This would make administration of the area with respect to hunting and fishing in accord with those areas administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and we believe it is important that this section be included in this initial bill.

Thank you for the opportunity of making these observations.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. KIMBALL,
Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation.

Senator McCARTHY. The record will remain open until next Tuesday for any additional statements or reports to be made a part of the official record.

The committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon at 3:25 p.m., the subcommittee adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.)

(Additional statements filed for the record are as follows:)

STATEMENT OF HANS McCOURT, WEBSTER SPRINGS, W. VA.

The proposed national recreation area is in Pendleton and Grant Counties which are a part of the scenic highlands of West Virginia. This highland region of the State has, without doubt, the greatest recreational use potential in the eastern part of the United States. The rugged mountain scenery, the cold mountain streams, the white waters of the turbulent, rushing rivers, the limestone caverns, the great variations in the flora and fauna from the valleys to the higher elevations, the wildlife including the white-tailed deer and the black bear—all these are the things that people are looking for in recreation. Whether it is mountain climbing, trout fishing, spelunking, hunting, camping, picnicking, nature study, or just plain "settin'" and relaxing, this region has it.

The establishment of a national recreation area in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area would serve to identify the recreational potential of the highlands region of West Virginia. Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia, and Seneca Rocks are noteworthy attractions. However, within a few hours' drive can be found many other recreation facilities. In the immediate area are the Smoke Hole area, the Seneca Caverns, and the famous trough on the south branch of the Potomac River. Also within a few hours' drive are located Watoga State Park, the scenic Cass Railroad, the Greenbank Observatory, Blackwater Falls State Park, Seneca State Forest, Kumbrabow State Forest, Greenbrier State Forest, Cranberry Glades, Lost River State Park, and Holly River State Park.

The location of a national recreation area in this part of West Virginia would be of service to a large segment of the Nation's population. Within a 150-mile radius of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks there lives 27 million people. Not only would such a national recreation area serve as a recreational facility, but its importance in conservation of our lands and water on the headwaters of the Potomac cannot be overlooked. This one factor alone should be sufficient reason for the establishment of national recreation area as provided for in S. 7.

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 6, 1965.

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
U.S. Senator, Chairman, Subcommittee on Soil Conservation and Forestry,
Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR EASTLAND: The American Automobile Association supports and calls for early enactment of S. 7 by Senators Byrd, Democrat, of West Virginia, and Randolph Democrat, West Virginia, which provides for the establishment of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of West Virginia.

AAA policy, as established in annual convention calls for an expansion of recreational facilities:

"Development of recreation and vacation areas has not kept pace with the requirements of the American people, nor can these regions continue to meet the needs of an expanding population. The AAA believes that Government—State and Federal—must place increasing emphasis on the creation of new recreational travel resources throughout the country."

The development and preservation of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will provide almost 100,000 acres of scenic land and water for boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, touring, hunting, camping, picnicking, and general scenic enjoyment.

Within a 350-mile radius are the majority of the great metropolitan areas of the East and Midwest of our country. The Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, estimates that within this 350-mile radius reside over 65 million people or one-third of the entire population of the United States.

In 1964, according to the National Park Service, a total of 102,375,100 people visited U.S. national parks and other areas administered by the National Park Service. Of this total, it is estimated that 96 percent visited these national parks and recreation areas by automobile.

The AAA supports the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area because we feel it will help fulfill the need for additional recreational service facilities such as boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, hunting, touring, camping, picnicking, etc.

It is requested that this letter be made a part of the official hearings of your subcommittee.

Sincerely,

GEORGE F. KACHLEIN, Jr.,
Executive Vice President,
American Automobile Association.

STATEMENT OF CARL GAINER, RICHMOND, W. VA.

The Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area will be probably the best natural recreation area available to the fast-growing population of the Maryland-Virginia east coast people. The 57th Legislature of West Virginia recognized the importance of this area in passing SCR Nos. 9 and 10 which I sponsored. SCR No. 9 urges the Federal agencies to establish a "Wild River Area" and SCR No. 10 opposes the construction of any high-level dam on the South Branch of the Potomac River which would flood the Smoke Hole Recreation Area.

The Seneca Rocks, Spruce Knob, and the Smoke Hole have, for many years, been in the top five natural wonders in West Virginia and with the proper development can become the top attraction for our rapidly increasing tourist business.

