

U.S. preserves wilderness areas

Are you aware that approximately 150 million acres of National Forest land are in the United States and of that, 32 million acres are dedicated to wilderness? In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act, and it's like to share what it is all about with you.

The act begins with this statement of policy: "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the U.S. and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Dance event set for Sunday

Kan Kouran, a West African dance company from Washington, D.C., will be one of the dance groups performing at 3 p.m. Sunday at Orchestra Hall in a multi cultural event sponsored by the Starlighters.

Others on the program are Hindu Temple Rhythms, Les Flamencos Dance Theatre, Young Hearts of

and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as 'wilderness areas' except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act."

Now, what is a wilderness? In the act, it is defined as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

THIS ACT was enacted to preserve the natural and primitive areas of our country for the perpetual use and enjoyment, and education of our nation. For instance, the number of persons and livestock (horses) are controlled to protect the land and the wildlife. Equipment, such as power saws, is regulated. The good pools of the natural vegetation are being protected as are the minerals and other resources.

The care of these forests is under the jurisdiction of the United States government. Records, maps, legal descriptions and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions are available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forester supervisors and forest rangers.

Our state is blessed with 2.7 million acres of national forests. Within

Thursday, January 18, 1989 O&E

(S.F.6XO12)



down to earth

Marty Figley

this acreage are three: Ottawa, in the Western Upper Peninsula; Hiaawatha, in Central and Eastern Upper Peninsula; and Huron-Manistee, in the Northern Lower Peninsula. The last is actually two — Huron is in northeastern lower Michigan, Manistee is in northwestern lower Michigan. Last year 12,000 acres in Michigan were dedicated to the Wilderness System.

As you enjoy the great beauty and

wonder of these natural places in our country, may I encourage you to be aware of the trust that has been given us to use the areas and to respect them and leave them in the same condition in which they were found."

As we visit these forests at any season of the year to enjoy the unique beauty of each area, we must respect nature and be glad that our government has entrusted us to take care of what we have.

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