The Upper Iowa:

Residents fear government plan will destroy its majestic beauty

By Jack Brimmer

It takes about five hours in the Upper Iowa River area to get accustomed to the idea that someone will always be there to keep the river and the land. They'll get it someday. Ain't it time we started fighting?

Whether Dowsley is a pessimist or a realist, he is certainly in the majority among those who own land along the river.

Most farmers have joined the group in hiring an attorney and running to Des Moines where they met with high-ranking officials. They were recalibrated farmers those farmers.

Many who were not too keen on the idea of being involved in the project were learning that politicians are among the world's least when it comes to fighting.

And then there are more than 1,500 signatures on a petition to Interior Secretary Walter Hickel - "...They've got to know we're here. It's difficult enough to really shout about the river and our land, they'll get it somewhere. Ain't it time we started fighting?"

Whether Dowsley is a pessimist or a realist, he is certainly in the majority among those who own land along the river. After many talks and meetings, the farmers say the government will not leave them alone. And why not? They can't make a living off the government dole, but they can't make a living off the government land either.

That's the trouble. They're running out of options.

What's wrong with running out of options? Could it be that people in the government are the ones who are running out of options?

Whatever the plans are, they are not to be trampled on. John's a farmer, too.

So isn't it time we started fighting?

John blows the river. His farm has been the family for years. There's even a family cabin. Everything is what it was.

The government plans to take away more than 7,000 acres from the land. John is a brave man. He talks or billion dollars or nothing. But he talks or billion dollars or nothing.

"You'd be gassed instantly unless he's ready to talk again. John is a dedicated man, a dedicated farmer."

His manner comes out during a tour.

The land, the river, the trees along the way. The banks are mostly rocky and timbered. In a few places corn fields were visible on the west side of the valley.

A majestic bluffs - about 100 yards high and 30 yards long - walls in the river at one stretch.

"Better than taming all this, they're destroying it, capturing and making.

He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river. He counts the trees and river.