

Ski Run Request Dropped

By James Flansburg

A request to operate commercial ski runs in Pilot Knob State Park near Forest City was withdrawn Tuesday.

Pilot Knob Ski and Recreation, Inc., asked the Iowa Conservation Commission to drop consideration of the request.

A number of conservation groups in the state had lined up against the proposal on grounds that ski runs and a ski lift would harm the park's wilderness features.

Governor's View

Last Saturday Gov. Harold Hughes, himself an active outdoorsman, jumped into the dispute and said he would fight the ski proposal.

"I can't see, with the limited remote areas we have in this state, that we can enjoy the



luxury of destruction through over-development of public recreational facilities," said the governor.

Conservation Commission Chairman Earl Jarvis of Wilton Junction said Tuesday that Pilot Knob Ski and Recreation withdrew the request "because public opinion has built up against it."

Other Places

Jarvis said the organization asked the commission to study the possibility of installing ski runs and other such uses in other places in the state.

The main uses of Pilot Knob Park, which has the only floating sphagnum moss bog in the state, are for nature study, wilderness camping and hiking.

The conservation groups contend that new park land should be acquired for such uses as skiing, trailer camping and picnicking.