

This area is a very valuable public outdoor recreation resource. Outdoor recreation, particularly esthetic and wilderness enjoyment, should be recognized as a key value in the management of these lands. Recent intrusive and potentially destructive developments represent the greatest immediate threat to the scenic integrity of valley lands and enjoyment of the area by visitors.

S. 1267 would provide authorities and programs to substantially accomplish the required protection, development, and public enjoyment of this extraordinary land.

Under the provisions of this bill, the Secretary of the Interior may transfer the public domain lands to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The bill contemplates that, in general, scenic easements will be acquired in privately owned land. It would prohibit the acquisition of fee title to State and private lands in the area by condemnation except for certain specified purposes. To assure that the use and development of privately owned property is consistent with the purposes of the national recreation area, the bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture will establish, by regulation, standards for the use of the various tracts of private property within the national recreation area. So long as the lands are used in accord with these standards, the authority of the Department of Agriculture to acquire scenic easements without the consent of the owner would be suspended.

We could acquire any interest, including fee title, by amicable negotiation or through condemnation consented to by the owner. If the established standards for use of a particular tract were not met by the owner, we then could acquire through condemnation scenic easements adequate to maintain the compatible use of the land. Such scenic easements, however, would not affect uses of the lands existing prior to acquisition of the easement.

Frankly, this responsibility for the issuance and application of regulations coupled with the limitation on acquisition of privately owned property in the area by condemnation will pose some administrative problems for us. I want to make it clear, though, that we fully support the concept of scenic easements here.

With the changes we propose primarily to clarify certain provisions of the bill, we believe we can make this one of the outstanding recreation spots in the Northwest.

The Department of Agriculture, in bringing to bear its full resources to meet the needs of our people in the year 2000 and beyond, views conservation as the full sweep of interrelated natural resources and their management and use. The use, restoration, and preservation of resources must be made compatible.

Mr. Chairman, may I deviate from my statement at this point and direct the committee's attention to "Resources in Action," a Department of Agriculture pamphlet, which we have prepared in the Department, in which we sought to set down standards and goals looking to the kind of resources use that we would envisage in the year 2000. I don't know that this need to be in the record—

Senator BIBLE. We would be very happy to have those for the use of the committee. Will you hand them to our staff member? I don't think I will make them a part of this particular record. But we will circularize them among the members of the committee for their use, and also keep a copy before the committee.