

Public use of water recreation areas, national parks and national forests has also greatly increased. Last year, it is estimated that 1.5 billion visits were made to public recreation areas—Federal, State and local. This is nearly double the 1960 estimate of 820 million visits.

We need more recreation areas. As Americans gain more leisure time, we especially need areas readily available to the growing urban population centers.

During the past 3 years the Nation has had its first continuing source of money to help provide expanded outdoor recreation opportunities. This money has come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Through the first 3 years of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, \$214,314,000 has been made available for State and local needs on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis. \$131,152,000 has been allocated from the fund to acquire needed recreation lands and waters in national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and other Federal recreation areas.

In spite of the tremendous accomplishments of the fund in stimulating efforts to meet the recreation needs of the American people, it has still fallen far behind the surging demand. Parks cost money—money to acquire property, money to develop the areas, money to maintain and expand existing facilities.

There is a large and growing gap between the cost of protecting our natural heritage for future generations and the money available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Unless this conservation gap is closed, much of the magnificent park legislation which has passed through this committee and the Congress in the past few years may stand on the statute books as an unfulfilled dream.

My own State of California has a crucial stake in the matter. By the turn of the century our population is expected to be 50 million, more than double what it is at present. Action must be taken now to make certain that adequate parks, recreational areas, seashores and wilderness areas are provided to keep pace with the huge human influx.

As the result of a 6-month study, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation concluded: "It seems fairly clear that the Land and Water Conservation Fund will fail to meet minimum program needs over the next 10 years by possibly \$2.7 billion, considering both Federal and State needs."

To meet this conservation gap, I called on the experience of the State of California and introduced S. 531 in January 1967. That bill, which would authorize the earmarking of all of the unallocated Outer Continental Shelf revenues and other relatively minor mineral leasing revenues for the land and water conservation fund, was cosponsored by Senators Brewster, Gruening, Long of Missouri, Metcalf, Morse, Moss, Nelson, Scott, Tydings, Yarborough, and Inouye.

The State of California pioneered a similar approach over 20 years ago. During the time when I was State controller California was financing its State park acquisitions with its tidelands oil revenues. By spending the people's income from their land resources for the acquisition and development of recreation areas, the State of California built an unparalleled State park system. Our Nation should borrow from the experience of the State of California.