

During this same period the National Park Service has acquired 86,143 acres with the funds made available to it, the Forest Service 219,515 acres, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife 2,239 acres.

UNMET NEEDS

In spite of the tremendous accomplishments of the Fund in stimulating Federal, State, and local efforts to meet the recreation needs of the American people, it has still fallen far behind the surging demand. The 89th Congress alone authorized 23 additional recreation areas requiring the acquisition of 250,000 acres at an estimated cost of \$119 million. The three Federal agencies whose acquisitions are financed by the Land and Water Conservation Fund estimate the cost of their total acquisition needs for the next 10 years as over \$1 billion. These future needs include the Redwoods, North Cascades, Scenic Rivers, National Trails, Apostle Islands, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Biscayne Bay, Florissant Fossil Beds, and Great Salt Lake, all pending before the present Congress.

The States in their State plans have indicated that they will need a capital investment of \$7.1 billion for acquisition and development projects over the next 10 years. It is estimated that State and local sources can fund approximately \$4½ billion of this total but that some \$2½ billion of Federal assistance will be needed to make up the difference.

S. 1401 Amending the Fund Act

S. 1401 introduced by Senator Jackson of Washington for himself, and Anderson of New Mexico, Kuchel of California, and Nelson of Wisconsin would amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 by adding to the Fund for a five-year period the revenues accruing under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 and those unearmarked revenues from the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the national forests which now are deposited in miscellaneous receipts of the United States Treasury. It also would authorize for the head of the department concerned to contract, under certain restrictions, for the acquisition of property within authorized areas in advance of the actual appropriation of moneys from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for such acquisition, and it would authorize a lease-back and sell-back land management program for the property acquired for the National Park System.

The need for advance land purchase contract authority for Federal agencies participating in the Land and Water Conservation Fund arises from the normally unavoidable time lag between authorization of an area by Congress and the first appropriation for such area, which frequently is nine or more months. This is the period when land values often rise sharply. The escalation problem could be minimized greatly and substantial saving made if these agencies were authorized during such period to go ahead with mapping, land title search, and other acquisition planning and to acquire quickly key recreation tracts most in danger of rising land values.

As indicated above, the programs sponsored by the Land and Water Conservation Fund require all of this revenue to meet identified recreation needs of the American people. However, current domestic and foreign obligations are such that the Administration, while strongly endorsing the principles of these bills, has recommended that only Continental Shelf oil revenues should be added to the Fund for the five-year period and only that portion of those revenues needed to stabilize revenue into the Fund at \$200 million a year. It further suggests that the costs of authorized Federal areas are so great that 50 percent of this expanded Land and Water Conservation Fund should be appropriated for Federal acquisition and 50 percent apportioned to the States for the grant program. Under the unamended law, revenues are estimated at \$465 million for this five-year period. With a 60-40 split the States would receive \$279 million and the Federal agencies \$186 million. Under the Administration suggested modification of S. 1401 and with a 50-50 split, the States would receive \$500 million (up \$221 million) and the three Federal agencies \$500 million (up \$314 million).

SUMMARY OF LAND ACQUISITION UNDER THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM AT FEDERAL RECREATION AREAS, JANUARY 1965 THROUGH DECEMBER 1967

With money available under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Federal agencies are making a concerted effort to select recreation lands in areas that will make the greatest contribution to closing the gap between recreation needs and available opportunities.