

Currently I am a member of the Public Land Law Review Commission's Advisory Council. As members of this committee are well aware, the Commission is making a detailed review of our national land laws and policies and will be recommending changes needed to assure the best future use of our resources.

In testimony before this committee in 1963 and 1964, representatives of the industry urged that money from the land and water conservation fund be available for development of recreational facilities on Federal lands. The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission emphasized that large sections of our national parks and national forests were underused. This, I believe, is still the case today.

The fund has encouraged States to develop recreation plans and facilities designed to meet the expressed needs of their people. The bond issues and appropriations which many of the States have made are truly impressive when compared to the situation less than 10 years ago. A new depth in State, county, and municipal recreation planning and development has become apparent in many parts of this Nation.

Development of facilities on Federal areas have not maintained the same pace. The emphasis has been on acquisition of raw land, rather than on development in areas of known high demand.

As Mr. Fitzgerald stated, recreation is only one land use which must exist side by side with other uses if our land base, public and private, is to meet increasing demands being placed on it. There is increasing recognition from all resource users, especially those dependent on Federal resources, that multiple use is feasible and essential.

All resource use is steadily increasing and demand will soon outstrip available land capability to produce commodities and social benefits if there is not clear recognition of the nonexclusive character of many essential uses.

Our industry strongly urges that the Congress and the administrative agencies develop the full recreation potential of existing Federal lands, commensurate with other basic resource needs and the stability of dependent communities and industries.

We recommend specifically that Public Law 88-578 be amended to provide that the Federal portion of the land and water conservation fund shall be available for development of recreational areas and facilities on Federal lands as well as for additional land acquisition.

RECREATION ON PRIVATE LANDS

One of the basic recommendations made by ORRRC in its report was the charging of user fees for recreational use of public lands and facilities. This had two purposes: Creation of income and the encouragement of private development of the recreational potential of private lands. The report pointed out that if adequate recreational opportunity were to be provided future generations the private sector must make a major contribution. It recommended that Government encourage public use of private lands and private development of facilities. To date, this has largely been ignored.

Much of the land now sought by Federal, State, and municipal agencies for recreation is currently in private hands. Simple transfer of ownership does not affect the recreation potential of the land.