

The Commission's Report further concluded that one of the central problems of outdoor recreation over the next forty years will be to provide reasonable access to the out-of-doors for large concentrations of population, particularly in regard to "the day and weekend needs of the metropolitan residents" of moderate and low incomes.

The vast majority of our people live in urban areas and need outdoor recreation opportunities close at hand. In many cases, this will require acquisition by state and local governments of close-in, high-priced land while such land is still undeveloped. The Department of the Interior has forecast state and local needs for planning acquisition and development at \$7.1 billion dollars over the next decade. State and local sources are expected to meet \$4.6 billion of this, leaving a deficit of some \$2.5 billion. Thus state and local programs will bear the brunt of the total estimated Fund deficit of \$2.7 billion.

If the quality of the urban environment is to be improved, these state and local needs must be met.

ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL

The Administration has proposed amending S. 1401 to provide new revenue to the Land and Water Conservation Fund only from Outer Continental Shelf receipts, and then only to the extent needed to bring total Fund revenues to an annual level of \$200 million. Further, the Administration proposes that this amount be divided equally between state and federal needs over the next five years, rather than on the 60% State-40% Federal allocation now being followed.

We do not support this proposal for two reasons: (1) It would bring the Fund only up to level of financing originally envisioned when the Act was passed in 1965. This has already proved to be quite inadequate. (2) The proposed change in allocation would shift funds needed by the states to federal use, covering two-thirds of estimated federal needs over the next five years, but less than half of the estimated state needs. We believe this is contrary to the basic philosophy of the Act respecting the vital role of the states. The 60-40 allocation formula should be retained.

Concern has been expressed in these hearings that the earmarking of federal mineral and national forest receipts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as S. 1401 provides, would hamper federal agencies administering these programs in obtaining appropriations for necessary resource management activities. While it would not be wise to neglect these important management needs, we believe that elimination of this provision from S. 1401 should be considered only if no ceiling is placed on the addition of Outer Continental Shelf receipts to the Fund. Furthermore, earmarking of these funds, in itself, does not lessen their significance in support of other resource management programs.

In summary, regarding the new revenue provisions of S. 1401, as introduced, we believe:

1. Time is of the essence if desirable recreation land is to be acquired. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created by Congress to provide for needed acquisitions, and must be funded *now* if it is to fulfill its purpose.
2. S. 1401 will provide needed funds in time to meet priority requirements and overcome the major problem of price escalation.
3. State and local programs are vital to an effective national outdoor recreation program and should continue to receive 60% of Fund disbursements.
4. Eliminating mineral and national forest receipts *and* placing a ceiling on Outer Continental Shelf receipts would forestall an effective national program.

OTHER PROVISIONS OF S. 1401

We also support the other provisions of S. 1401, inasmuch as they are designed to allow for much-needed flexibility in federal acquisition procedures. Advance obligation authority will make it possible to acquire key tracts in newly authorized areas in advance of opportunistic private development and spiraling prices.

Passage of S. 1401, as introduced, will permit acquisition of important scenic and recreational land while it is still available. It will mean more open space accessible to urban dwellers, parks and natural areas within spreading suburban perimeters, state and regional parks to serve an increasingly mobile resident and tourist population, and preservation of outstanding, irreplaceable scenic and ecological sites.