



Sport fishing is also encouraged when it does not conflict with fish and wildlife management. Fishermen on Bureau areas must comply with State regulations and those of the Federal Government.

Although National Wildlife Refuges are established primarily to conserve wildlife, sound management does call for public hunting on a number of these areas, Director Gottschalk explained. Under complete protection, some kinds of small game populations can increase until they compete with migratory waterfowl or other wildlife. Hunting is one method of controlling overpopulations. Hunting on Bureau areas is subject to Federal and State regulations, and may be further restricted by special regulations to prevent conflicts with the purpose for which the refuge was established.

All recreational use of Bureau lands must be compatible with the primary purpose of each area, the Director said.

Noting a recent decision by the Interior Department's Deputy Solicitor regarding the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to manage fish and game on Federal refuges, Director Gottschalk said it was his intention to cooperate with State fish and game departments in establishing mutually acceptable hunting and fishing regulations.

"In general," Director Gottschalk said, "an effort will be made to conform Bureau regulations for nonmigratory game animals and fish to State regulations applicable to the general area in which the refuge is located."

Mr. Gottschalk said it will be the responsibility of refuge managers and regional directors of the Bureau to work out appropriate recreational plans for these areas. He noted that more than 28 million acres of fish and wildlife lands are managed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and said these lands "can and must make a significant contribution to the Nation's outdoor recreation potential."

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