
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

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SECRETARY UDALL PLEDGES SUPPORT OF ORRRC PROPOSALS

Implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission recommendations by "new, far-sighted conservation proposals" was pledged today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The ORRRC report, presented to President Kennedy and Congress Wednesday, was the result of a three-year study of the Nation's outdoor recreation needs by the Commission and its team of research assistants.

Secretary Udall paid tribute to Congress for its foresight in authorizing the Commission study.

"From that beginning in 1958 we have seen emergence of a blueprinted challenge made possible by the monumental efforts of the Commission's chairman, Laurance Rockefeller, and its members: United States Senators Clinton P. Anderson, Henry C. Dworshak, Henry M. Jackson, and Jack Miller; United States Representatives John P. Saylor, Gracie Pfof, Ralph J. Rivers, John H. Kyl; and Presidential Commissioners Samuel T. Dana, Mrs. Marian S. Dryfoos, Bernard L. Orell, Joseph W. Penfold, M. Frederick Smith, and Chester S. Wilson."

The Interior Secretary said that under direction of President Kennedy, top priority in legislative planning and recommendations would be given to the following ORRRC proposals:

1. Development of a long-range program of land acquisition to create new national parks and recreational areas, and formulation, in concert with other Departments, of outdoor recreation planning embracing lands administered by the U. S. Forest Service and U. S. Army Engineers.
2. Creation of programs to stimulate and assist States in meeting demands for outdoor recreation.
3. Formulation of a system of user fees and other "pay-as-you-go" measures to insure adequate financing.

4. Establishment of a new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Department of the Interior.

"Embodied in the ORRRC report is a searching look at America, and how we use our outdoor resources," Secretary Udall said. "The report, and the subsequent publication of the many detailed studies that went into it, will be of inestimable value to our land and recreation planners at every level of government for years to come."

Acquisition programming for new park, seashore, and recreational areas will recognize the priority needs of urban areas, especially those on the East Coast and major population centers, he said.

"This Nation, from the community level to the States and the Federal Government, faces an urgent assignment in developing a long-range program of treating our outdoor recreation facilities as a resource. Population growth and population concentration, coupled with increased mobility and leisure, create unprecedented problems and unprecedented opportunities.

Secretary Udall said his Department is completing a detailed list of recommendations to President Kennedy for use in the President's message on conservation, expected to be submitted on February 21.

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