



PL 88-577 also directs the Secretary of the Interior to review within the next 10 years all roadless areas of 5,000 contiguous acres or more in the National Park System and all such areas and roadless islands in the National Wildlife Refuges and Game Ranges. These reviews will form the basis for recommendations to the President and the Congress as to whether the areas are suitable or not suitable for preservation as wilderness.

"Reviews of roadless areas and islands will be conducted as carefully as possible," Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said today. "Full public notice and opportunity for public hearings will be provided."

The Interior Department has estimated that units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuges and Game Ranges containing a gross area of 47 million acres will be subject to review to ascertain the suitability or nonsuitability of roadless areas and roadless islands for preservation as wilderness. Of the total, the State of Alaska contains 26 million acres of these units, and the remainder is in 18 other States.

"The National Park Service proposes to complete reviews of approximately 18 parks and monuments by March 1, 1967," Secretary Udall said. "The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has reviews under way on five game ranges and expects to begin review of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge."

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