



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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Tom Wilson 202/343-3171

INTERIOR SECRETARY HODEL SEEKS GREATER CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN INTERIOR RESOURCE POLICY QUESTIONS

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel told the National Wildlife Federation today that he will "encourage greater involvement by our citizens and community organizations in caring for their resources."

Speaking to the Federation's national convention in Washington, Hodel said that many natural resource issues confronting the Department "are particularly difficult and challenging, and they will not be resolved without serious effort on the part of all of us... They will require extensive discussion -- even among friends."

Hodel said all Americans share a commitment to protecting outstanding recreational opportunities. "While the word 'recreation' has come to mean 'fun,' its root is clearly 're-creation,' or remaking oneself. It is in that sense that I view the word. In our increasingly industrialized and urbanized society, it is imperative that our citizens be able to enjoy RE-creative experiences offered by our national treasures."

The Secretary emphasized that these treasures "also include multiple use lands. These are the lands which do not possess the special qualities of parks, wilderness, refuges, or other specially protected lands."

Multiple use lands, Hodel said, have the potential to produce much of the Nation's future energy and mineral supplies and help increase "energy independence and national security."

"It is part of the Interior Secretary's stewardship to seek to provide access to those domestic resources while insisting upon full environmental safeguards. I am committed to doing just that. Through consultation and consensus building, I believe we can, over time, reduce the conflicts arising over these issues."

Hodel told the Federation he supports reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act through fiscal 1989 and would support park entrance fee increases "not across the board, but only where reasonable and appropriate."