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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ACTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTING LAND-USE PROBLEMS IN ALASKA

Action to cancel a grazing lease on a coastal section of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in Kodiak Island, Alaska, was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton as the first step the Department is undertaking toward resolution of conflicting land-use problems in that area involving grazing leases and administration of the refuge for preservation of the giant Kodiak brown bear.

The lessee has been advised that this action was instituted because of his failure to meet minimum stocking requirements of his lease.

Negotiations are under way with a second lessee for relocation of his lease to a more suitable site outside the refuge, the Secretary added.

Executive Order 8857 which created the refuge in 1941 provided for grazing in a one-mile shoreline strip around the refuge. The present action is designed to resolve the conflicting uses which have resulted from this provision.

In addition, the Department has for review a joint field report of a 1956 survey conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to this matter. The survey explored the possibility of amending the Executive order to adjust the refuge boundaries, looking toward the elimination of the provision for grazing in the one-mile coastal strip, and effecting a land exchange whereby grazing activities may be transferred to other equally suitable but nonconflicting areas.

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