



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

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#### LAND PURCHASE POLICY ON FEDERAL RESERVOIRS CLARIFIED FOR RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT

The Departments of the Army and the Interior today announced clarification of the agencies' joint land purchase policy so as to enable fuller benefits to be gained from recreation and fish and wildlife potentialities inherent in construction of Federal reservoirs.

The two Departments have agreed upon a supplement to their land acquisition policy which clarifies the consideration to be given recreation and fish and wildlife resources early in the planning stage of reservoir projects. The new supplement has received Presidential approval.

The text of the supplement follows:

1. Federal water storage reservoirs are important elements in the Nation's outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife resources.
2. Recreation and fish and wildlife opportunities, both present and potential shall be considered throughout the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of reservoir projects in cooperation with Federal, State and local governmental agencies having responsibilities relative to public recreation and fish and wildlife. The purpose of this supplement is to assure that when reservoir projects are being formulated for other purposes recreation and fish and wildlife purposes would also be considered and the limited land areas needed to protect and preserve recreation and fish and wildlife potentials will be defined. Recommendations submitted to the Congress will, of course, be subjected to normal Bureau of the Budget review.

3. The development and utilization of the public recreational and fish and wildlife potentialities shall be a correlative purpose of reservoir projects undertaken by the Federal Government. By correlative purpose is meant that while a reservoir project would not be recommended solely for recreation or fish and wildlife purposes, once it is determined that a reservoir project is required for other purposes, then recreation and fish and wildlife purposes will receive parallel consideration in the formulation, design and operation of the project.

4. The public recreational and fish and wildlife potentialities created by reservoir projects constructed with Federal funds should be protected and preserved for the benefit of the general public and the acquisition of such shore-line lands as are needed for that purpose shall be recommended to the Congress, to the extent such acquisition is justified by the public benefits which would otherwise be foregone.

5. When acquisition of lands is justified for recreation and fish and wildlife purposes as set forth in paragraph 4 above such lands shall be shown separately in reports of project plans to insure that Congress has full information upon which to base a decision as to their inclusion in the project authorization.

6. The primary responsibility of State and local governmental agencies for providing recreational facilities for their people shall be recognized but the Federal Government should cooperate with the state and local governmental agencies in protecting and preserving recreational opportunities in connection with the construction, maintenance, and operation of Federal navigation, flood control, irrigation, or multiple-purpose reservoir projects.

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said that today's action is in accord with the spirit of the National Outdoor Recreational Resources Review Act of 1958 and the amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, approved by Congress on August 12, 1958. He pointed out that both measures were recommended and endorsed by the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army.

Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker and Secretary Seaton emphasized that current discussions between the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior were being conducted relating to the development of mutually acceptable cooperative procedures to be followed in implementing today's policy announcement.

Policy directives of both Departments, they said, were being changed to provide guidance for water resource planners of both agencies.

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