



. . .Define "wildlife" to include wild mammals and birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, mollusks, crustacea, and all other classes of wild animals.

. . .Prohibit violation of regulations set by United States agencies responsible for wildlife areas concerning automobiles, disorderly conduct, or littering.

. . .Provide new authority to Interior Department employees to arrest persons violating regulations and to search for and seize any property used or possessed illegally.

A third recommendation would amend the Criminal Code governing importation of injurious species of wildlife. At present, the Secretaries of Interior and Treasury share enforcement responsibility, but there is no provision for arrests or seizure of property used in violation of this section. The proposed bill would provide Interior and Customs Bureau employees with this authority.

A bill submitted to Congress by the Department of the Interior, would also make unlawful interstate or foreign commerce in wild animals or birds without marking the package with the name of sender and consignee, and the contents by number and kind. Included would be reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustacea--thus authorizing Federal game management agents to aid State enforcement further of laws intended to curb illegal traffic in alligator hides.

Interior's bill would increase the jurisdiction of a United States Commissioner who now, when designated by a court for the purpose, may try and sentence persons committing petty offenses in any place over which Congress has exclusive power to legislate or over which the United States has concurrent jurisdiction with a State. While petty offenders in national parks may be tried by Commissioner, there is no statutory authority for their jurisdiction over such violations on most national wildlife refuges and other Federal wildlife areas, the Department said.

The proposal would extend such jurisdiction to any Federal area. A Commissioner also could try violators of laws and regulations administered by the Secretary of the Interior for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, regardless of where the offense was committed. This would include violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, "Duck Stamp Act," Bald Eagle Act, and Black Bass Act.

In 1964, Congress authorized Commissioners to have jurisdiction over offenses in National Forests. At present, a petty offender can choose to be tried by a District Court, but may not be tried by a Commissioner without the suspect's written consent. This choice would be retained under the expanded jurisdiction.