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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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INTERIOR ISSUES REVISED PROPOSAL FOR RULES ON CABIN SITE PERMITS

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced proposed regulations concerning private recreational use of Government or privately owned cabins on fish and wildlife areas and public recreational areas administered by the Department.

The proposed regulations, which are being published in the Federal Register, will be open to public comment and suggestions for a 90-day period after they are published. If sufficient interest is demonstrated, public hearings will be held.

A first notice describing the cabin-use policy under consideration by the Department was published in the Federal Register, July 15, 1965.

"This notice resulted in many valuable public suggestions and comments, which have been incorporated into the proposed regulations," Secretary Udall said. "The objective of the regulations is to reconcile the public interest in the use of public recreational areas, with fair and equitable treatment to those individuals who may own or occupy Government or private cabins on such areas, and who may have made substantial investment in improvements on the site."

Secretary Udall said the proposed regulations make several important points:

...No cancellation of existing permits is contemplated prior to their existing termination date.

...The proposed regulations will allow the renewal, extension, or issuance of new permits in those areas where the Department concludes that the continued use of private cabins is consistent with the public interest.

...The need to protect the future public use of dwindling recreational resources in the face of an increasing public demand will require that any issuance, renewal, or extension of permits for cabin sites be closely reviewed and be subjected to appropriate safeguards. However, full consideration will be given to the interest of cabin site occupants in the substantial investment they may have made in improvements on these sites.

Secretary Udall emphasized that the proposed regulations are designed to protect the public interest in the use of valuable public recreation areas while also assuring "fair and just treatment" to those individuals occupying cabins on these sites.

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