

Resolution Explains Administration Of 182 Million Acres Public Land

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Interior has been delegated responsibility for the management of approximately 182 million acres of public land in the United States, and

Whereas, the importance of these public lands to the people of the United States becomes progressively greater as the increasing population demands more water, recreation, timber, livestock, and other resources of the public lands, and

Whereas, the existing laws, regulations, and appropriations pertaining to the management of the public lands have been influenced

by special interest pressures and do not provide a sound multiple-use program or adequate protection of the basic soil and water resources, and

Whereas, abusive land management practices, primarily overgrazing, have often resulted in depletion of vegetative resources, destroyed watershed and recreational values, and greatly reduced the capacity of the public lands to produce timber, livestock, wildlife, and other wealth, and

Whereas, some commercial users of public lands have effectively restricted public access to said lands for recreation and other law-

ful purposes through closure of roads and trails upon their adjacent private lands.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Izaak Walton League of America that the Secretary of Interior exercise all existing authority to initiate a sound multiple-use land management program, resolve the many grazing and access problems upon the public lands, and recommend to the Congress the legislation and appropriations required to fulfill that objective.

The Izaak Walton League respectfully requests that the following suggestions be considered as constructive means of accomplishing the above objectives:

1. Increase grazing fees and rental rates to fair market value. The current fee of 22 cents per AUM is unreasonable when compared with existing rates of \$2 or more per AUM upon similar private lands. Section 15 rentals are 2 to 5 cents per acre, while property taxes upon identical private lands frequently exceed 20 cents per acre.

A fee based upon fair market value of forage would encourage better livestock management and could provide additional revenues for development of the public lands.

This procedure would also encourage disposal of small isolated tracts of public land.

2. Define the function of grazing district advisory boards to be "advisory" and not "administrative."

Proper consideration of all values of public lands and a balanced multiple-use program will not be implemented until the single-purpose grazing advisory board authorized by Section 18 of the Taylor Grazing Act are made subservient to a sound multiple-use policy or broadened to represent all interests. The present advisory boards consist of 12 grazing permittees and one wildlife representative.

3. Require that persons using the resources upon public lands (forage, timber, and minerals) by permit, lease, or agreement permit the public to use existing roads and trails serving those tracts of public land that have a high recreational value.

Such regulation is believed to be within the present authority of the secretary. The need for such regulation is acute in Western states where permittees frequently commercialize upon recreational values of public lands.

* Require that persons apply for a right of way upon public lands grant an access across roads or lands owned or controlled by the applicant.

The objective of this suggestion is to assure a permanent access to the public land. Limited access roads constructed to harvest federal timber and forage are frequently locked upon adjacent private lands.

5. Staff and equip the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to execute a sound multiple-use program based upon factual measures of resource values and requirements.

The League urges that the Secretary of Interior establish minimum qualifications for the director and other administrative officers of the Bureau of Land Management, which will require that appointees have broad experience and knowledge in the field of resource management. Failure of the bureau to develop and execute sound land management policies is believed to be largely the result of frustration arising from application of the Spoils System at the administrative level.

Sandy River Spot Assured

Sandy River trout and steelhead anglers will soon have free wheeling along another two miles or more of river frontage. Recently the game commission gave the green light to the purchase of some 29 acres of private land in three separate tracts along the big oxbow bend on the south side of the river upstream from the Hosner hole.

With the purchase of these private tracts, anglers will have access all the way from the Hosner access through the oxbow bend on either game commission access or on public domain lands.

Smelt funds will be used to purchase and develop the new acquisition. The cost will be around \$15,000.

Paul Waner holds the records for most runs batted in by a Pittsburgh Pirate in one season. He drove home 131 runs in 1927.



AH, THE LIFE OF A FISHERMAN gets an ample boost from Eugene Gatlin, 826 Upham, as he proudly displays a beauty of 11½ pounds caught on minnows in Shoalwater Bay in Upper Klamath Lake.



FISHING IS A FAMILY SPORT as evidenced by these members of the Decker family of Klamath Falls, enjoying angling at Spring Creek during last year's season. Left to right, Jim Decker, son Greg, 9, daughter Judy, 11, and Mrs. Decker. They were fishing just below the bridge.

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