

Statement by the Hon. John A. Carver, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Public Land Management, before the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1964, 88th Congress, First Session - January 29, 1963

Mr. Chairman:

Yesterday Secretary Udall appeared before this committee. His statement put the Department's program in the perspective of history, and the points of emphasis he then made reflected the determination of the Department, under his leadership, that the public's lands committed to Interior's stewardship shall be managed wisely and well, for the good of all the people. In the President's words, we seek a "greater conservation effort."

Today you begin detailed consideration of the budget estimates for the Bureau of Land Management. This budget calls for intensified management and accelerated rehabilitation of public land used for grazing. This is an effort on two fronts, because we are looking also to the users for a greater participation, in fees paid and in improvement works contributed.

The Columbus Day 1962, windstorm on the Pacific Coast did substantial damage to federally owned timber. Forest management, particularly sales of the downed and damaged timber before insect infestation damages green timber, is called for.

Stronger protection programs to minimize damage to resources by fire are provided for. The accelerated use of public land for recreation makes construction of facilities to handle the unstemmable

tide of people a must. In shorthand terms, we ask for money for recreational facilities; it would be equally accurate to say that facilities funds are necessary as protective measures to prevent irreparable damage to the resource.

As in the past, the Director and his staff will furnish greater detail on each of these, and other adjustments in going programs.

Thank you for the opportunity of appearing today.