Statement by the Hon. John A. Carver, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Land Management, before the Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1964, 88th Congress, First Session - March 1, 1963

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

The Secretary of the Interior appeared before this committee last week to relate the budget for the Department to the broad outlines of program objectives under his leadership.

In no bureau of the Department is the concept of conservation more meaningful than in the one charged with management of land and land-related resources belonging to all the people of the United States. It is this bureau's budget which is being considered today.

I would like to emphasize certain aspects of the program which illustrate the point. Last October a violent Pacific windstorm wreaked great damage to Federal timber, much of it under Interior management in the O & C checkerboard. Forest management, particularly the removal and sale of downed and damaged timber before insect infestations spread the damage to sound timber, requires the expenditure of additional monies. This is not a marketing problem but a matter of conservation in its best sense. Sustained yield management of this resource is vital; the law provides for it; nothing less is worthy of our efforts.

Much has been said recently about the condition of the public lands. The budget calls for intensified and accelerated rehabilitation efforts. Here also, there is more at stake than the immediate production of the forage for cattle or wildlife. It is the integrity of the
land itself which is our goal.

The budget also provides a stronger protection program to minimize damage to resources by fire.

Outdoor recreation is a preoccupation of government. Congress authorized and financed an Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission; outdoor recreation is an increasingly important aspect of multiple-purpose water developments; and it is the concern of so many Federal bureaus and offices that a cabinet level council and a new Interior bureau had to be created to coordinate it. But it also remains an intrusive management problem to the Bureau of Land Management. The mounting and unanswerable tide of people coming on the public lands, as they are entitled to do, for recreational purposes, makes it necessary to provide facilities as protective measures to prevent irreparable damage to the resource, and to prevent public health hazards.

Director Karl Lundstrom and his staff will furnish greater detail on these, and other aspects of the program of his bureau.