

STATEMENT BY JOHN A. CARVER, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS RELATING TO H. R. 797, A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE WHISKEYTOWN-SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MARCH 15

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I welcome the opportunity to be here and to express the support of our Department for this proposed legislation. H. R. 797 proposes to establish the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area in northern California. This area has a tremendous outdoor recreation potential. Properly developed and administered, it will benefit our Nation and that region.

President Kennedy, on September 28, 1963, dedicated the Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir. He referred to the natural beauty of the area and the recreation benefits. In referring to the 350 million Americans who will live in this country in less than 40 years, he asked the question, "How much recreation will be possible for them?" This bill will provide part of the answer.

The Department's report describes the area, its relationship to population centers, its potential for meeting recreation demand, the physical characteristics of the three units, and an explanation of proposed administration of the area. I will not repeat these details.

The proposed National Recreation Area provides opportunities for diversified public use. All units provide space for water-associated activities. Whiskeytown Lake is at a lower altitude and has a warmer

water temperature. The Shasta and Trinity Units, together with the surrounding national forest land attract the "back-country" hiker and camper. The lakes promise everchanging scenery in their many inlets and bays. The shoreline of the four lakes may exceed that of the entire Pacific coastline of California.

This bill will help to assure that an adequate amount of the available recreation resources of this region as well as our Nation are protected under a long-range plan of development.

If the area is to be accorded National Recreation Area status, the decision should be made promptly. Even with Clair Engle and Whiskeytown Lakes barely more than a year old, land values in Shasta and Trinity Counties increased markedly over those of 1962. As development now under way at these two new projects progresses, popularity of the area will expand proportionately.

In 1956, a total of 1-1/4 million people visited Shasta Lake. Visitation doubled by 1963. Based on an actual count of 2-1/2 million in 1963, there are reasons to believe that our earlier estimates, which forecast 5 million by 1975 and 10 million by 2000, were too conservative.

The framework for Federal administration of the National Recreation Areas is worthy of special mention. By an interdepartmental agreement in 1963 Secretary Freeman and Secretary Udall stipulated that recreation areas around Shasta Lake and Clair Engle and Lewiston Lakes, within the

Shasta and the Trinity National Forests, would be administered by the Forest Service, while the Whiskeytown Lake, outside the National Forest, would be administered by the National Park Service. The proposed bill would continue this plan.

The bill before your Committee recommends, in our opinion, the minimum acreage required. The proposed boundaries of the three separate units are the result of an interdepartmental study based on existing resources, the extent of Federal land ownership, principally National Forest lands, and looking forward to a plan of development and administration that both this Department and the Department of Agriculture and the local public interests could support.

Improved private property will not be taken without the consent of the owner if there is compliance with zoning standards acceptable to local authorities and to the appropriate Department. Some private lands will need to be acquired by purchase or exchange for public use facilities such as campgrounds, boat landings, and launching ramps, parking areas, and for access.

The plans for the areas propose substantial undeveloped areas largely in their natural state, to provide protection of future recreation values for the development of riding and hiking trails, and for the preservation of scenic resources.

The bill provides for hunting and fishing within the area in accordance with laws of the State of California, subject, of course, to necessary

administrative regulation of hunting and fishing during certain periods for reasons of public safety and administration of the area.

Appropriate mineral development may be carried on within the area as prescribed in Section 6.

Establishment of this National Recreation Area will give national recognition to this outstanding recreation resource. This will stimulate the development and use of the area, thereby resulting in realization of the full recreation potential of the area for the public benefit.

When President Kennedy was at Whiskeytown, he recalled Stephen Vincent Benet:

I have fallen in love with American names, the sharp-thought names that never get fat, the snake-skin title of mining claims, the plumed war bonnets of Medicine Hat, Tucson and Deadwood, and Lost Mule Flat.

President Kennedy thought Whiskeytown could be added to that roster, "because the name of this community tells a good deal about the early beginnings of this State and country."

The President meant no disrespect. I hope I won't be misunderstood when I say that as a name for a National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown will be hard to forget.