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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FIRST CLASS

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Following are summaries of recreational opportunities on Interior-administered areas and some basic safety rules:

National Park Service

The National Park Service, which administers 225 areas and anticipates 128 million visitors during 1966, its 50th Anniversary Year, offers these tips:

1. See a Ranger, especially if it is your first visit to an area, to become acquainted with unusual weather conditions, terrain, wildlife, or other features.
2. Let Park headquarters know if you plan a trip away from the "populated" areas of a park.
3. Stay away from wild animals--they may attack without warning. Keep food safely stored to prevent raids.
4. Children should be watched so they won't become lost or venture into dangerous areas.
5. Drive carefully. Be prepared to stop for animals. Be alert for natural hazards, such as loose rocks. Guard against "freezing" at the wheel because of precipitous cliffs. Even in daytime driving, keep your headlights on. Drive defensively; others probably are also strangers to the road.
6. Don't over-exert. Wear proper clothing and low-heeled shoes when walking.
7. Be extremely careful with fire; do not build any kind of fire in an unventilated or poorly ventilated space.
8. Never swim alone. When you do swim, avoid dangerous water.
9. Ask a Ranger's advice before boating on any park water.

The Park Service points out that motor vehicle accidents and falls of persons lead in causes of nonfatal injuries in Park areas. Fatal accidents are almost evenly divided between motor vehicle accidents and drowning. Falls rank next.

Bureau of Land Management

About 460 million acres of public land, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, await vacationers. More than 100 developed campgrounds are ready for use in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. You are welcome to make your own camp, away from developed facilities, if you observe a few rules. Some safety tips:

1. Be extremely careful with fire.
2. Observe regulations and common-sense rules regarding firearms.
3. Watch for wild animals on roads. Give logging trucks ample room.
4. Do not go into remote areas without leaving word as to your destination and your intended length of stay. Take ample water, a good map, compass, first-aid kit, spare rations, extra clothing.
5. If you are on a hike--or are walking back from a disabled vehicle, walk on the left--facing traffic.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian tribes, which operate recreational areas in 22 States and are planning to be hosts to 7 million visitors this year, have been busy installing additional safety devices, including warning signs, fencing, and guardrails.

Because many of the recreation areas have expanses of water, Bureau of Indian Affairs safety officials urge guests on reservations to observe normal precautionary measures. These include: Remain on shore during inclement weather. Permit only experienced handlers to operate boats. Be watchful of children and do not permit inexperienced swimmers to go beyond safe depths. Do not "horseplay."

"Horseplay," add the Indians, "is for horses--not for humans enjoying water sports."

In addition to water activities, outings on reservations can be devoted to sightseeing, picnicking, scientific-historic studies, attendance at Indian ceremonials and dramas, fishing, hunting, hiking, and mountain climbing.

Some of the reservations offer horseback riding and golfing.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Scattered throughout the United States are 297 National Wildlife Refuges totaling 28 million acres, which are expected to be the scene of 16 million visitor-days of use this year.

While these areas, which include lakes and streams, are managed primarily for various species of wildlife, they are open to the public as long as basic purposes of the refuges are not jeopardized. Activities available include picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and wildlife observation.

Water safety and fire prevention are stressed along with the warning: "Do not feed or handle any animals."

Designated swimming areas will be roped-in during periods of peak use. Roads have been improved for safety, but not for high-speed use.

Public awareness has helped prevent damage to signs and other safety installations, but vandalism still remains a problem.

Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation, which has created 200 recreation areas encompassing over 4½ million acres in the 17 Western States while developing water-resource projects primarily for irrigation and power, expects a considerable increase this year over the more than 35 million visitors who enjoyed these spots last year.

Reclamation has a carefully planned safety program, "Operation Westwide," which is conducted in cooperation with the American Red Cross. Thirty-six community water-safety councils have been created to educate and protect the public in recreation areas throughout the West.

Chief among causes of drowning at Reclamation sites are children swimming without adult supervision, overloaded boats, and insufficient water safety equipment in boats.

In predicting increased use of Reclamation-created water areas, the Bureau points out that one of its new lakes--Lake Meredith, created by the recently completed Sanford Dam--drew approximately 250,000 fun seekers to the Texas Panhandle the first six months it was open to the public.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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For Release MAY 12, 1966

INTERIOR ASKS \$1.1 MILLION INCREASE IN FUND FOR EXPERT ASSISTANCE LOANS TO INDIAN GROUPS

The Department of the Interior has recommended that Congress increase to \$2 million the revolving fund that provides loans for expert assistance to Indian tribes that have filed claims before the Indian Claims Commission.

The Department has proposed an amendment to increase by \$1.1 million the present fund which was established under an Act of November 4, 1963. The fund now provides \$900,000 for loans to Indian tribes or groups that lack funds to secure expert services, other than counsel, in the preparation and trial of their claims.

As of March 1, 1966, the Department reported, loans totaling \$800,404 had been approved, and new loan applications totaling \$444,706 were pending against the \$99,596 balance available. An estimated 35 tribal groups that are expected to need similar financial assistance may apply for an additional \$1.5 million, the Department estimated, because the average loan is \$47,000.

Recognizing the revolving feature of the fund, Department spokesmen pointed out that a number of factors preclude sizable repayments on the outstanding loans for several years. Such repayments are usually made out of judgment funds.

Where Indian land title must be determined and the services of historians, anthropologists, and ethnologists required, the loans may be outstanding for an estimated five to seven years. When title has been determined, appraisals of land, minerals, and timber may delay repayment from judgment funds for three to five years.

Progress of claims cases may be further delayed by the adverse actions of parties other than the petitioning Indians; by the need to dispose of issues on overlapping land interests; or by the appeal of Indian Claims Commission decisions to the Court of Claims.

The Department of the Interior believes that the proposed increase in the loan fund would expedite the settlement of pending claims.

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