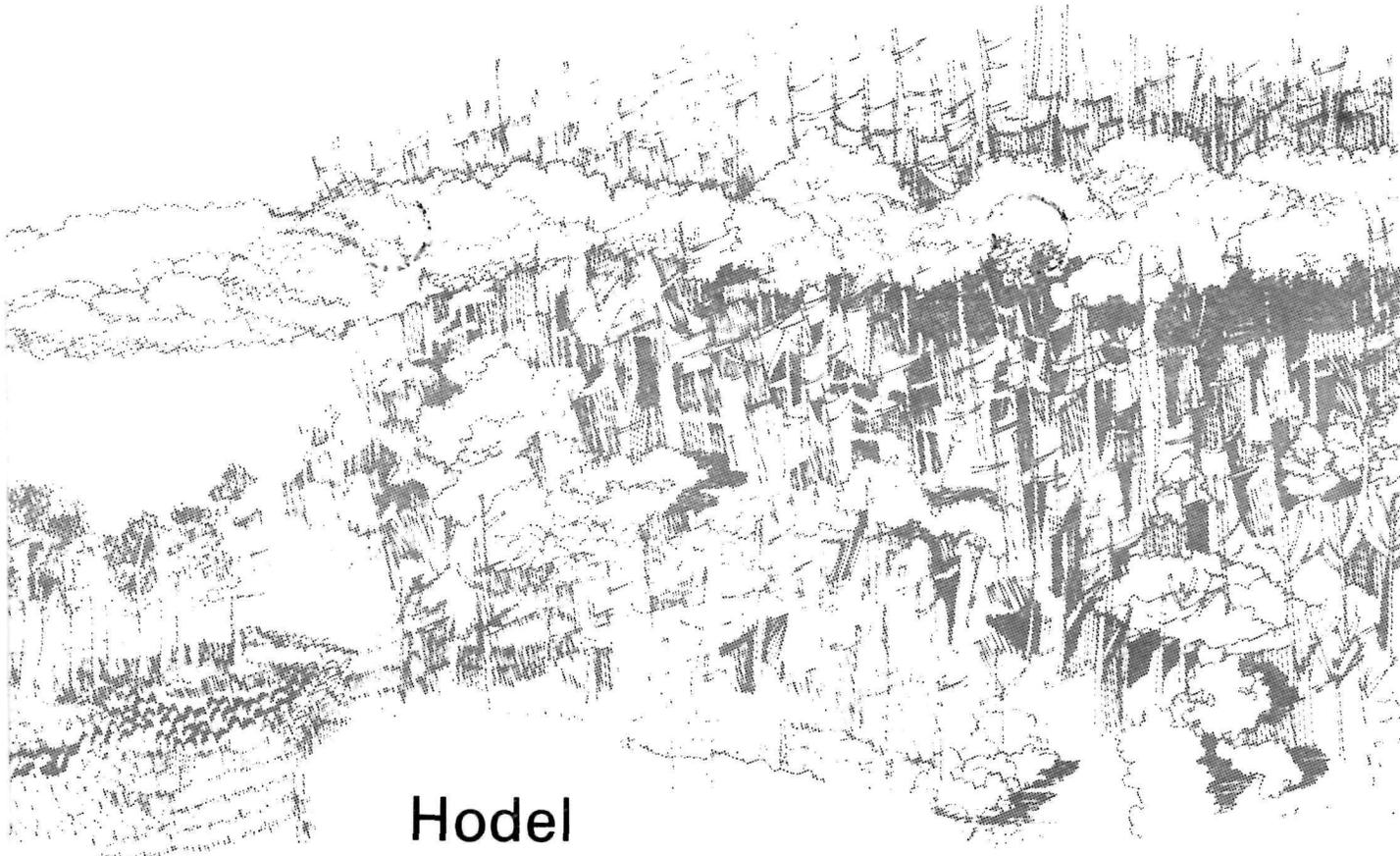


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES



Hodel on NPS Issues

"...I will not consider, I will not support
and I will not permit development activities
such as mining, drilling or timber harvesting
in the national parks."

Natural Resources Programs

MAY 1985

Secretary Hodel recently has testified before a number of congressional committees and also has had a number of media interviews involving NPS matters. In the course of these discussions, the Secretary has made a series of statements concerning the protection and preservation of natural resources in parks and wilderness areas. He also has commented about development activities within and adjacent to parks.

The following excerpts are arranged in chronological order so as to properly reflect the Secretary's position as it has evolved and been articulated (in response to a range of questions posed to him) during the February-March period. What the Secretary essentially is saying is the following:

(1) All Bureaus and all managers need to recognize that there are categories of lands that clearly must be protected, specifically parks and wilderness areas, and that there are other lands that clearly are suitable for multiple use activities. We collectively need to reach a consensus on this so that we don't have to face the development versus protection controversy on every individual acre of federal land.

(2) Within the limits of the Secretary's authority, NPS lands, wilderness areas, and other selected environmentally sensitive lands managed by the Department will be off-limits to development and to multiple use activities. These lands are to be protected from development and from multiple use activities, irrespective of whether those activities are located internal or external to the units.

(3) When development and multiple use activities are approved on lands managed by the Department, we should assure that such activities begin with the least sensitive lands first; and further that development and multiple use activities should not be permitted adjacent to parks or in prospective wilderness areas except as a last resort.

(4) Where necessary to protect park lands and wilderness areas from development and multiple use threats, the Department should be prepared to take whatever steps are required to eliminate the threat situation, including land purchases, land exchanges, and seeking changes in existing laws.

(5) We should recognize that the legislated missions of different Bureaus sometimes will lead to conflict situations. We will try to avoid those conflicts by placing priorities on lands, setting aside parks and wilderness areas as protected zones. Where conflicts do exist, we will seek to implement administrative mechanisms designed to encourage resolution of such conflicts at the local level.

These comments by Secretary Hodel represent a renewed and important Departmental commitment to the protection of park resources; they also represent a public statement of policy and priorities that should be considered carefully by Superintendents and others in the Service as we take affirmative steps to respond to both internal and external actions that threaten park resources and values.

Excerpt from Secretary Hodel's testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (confirmation hearing 2/1/85)

As a westerner born and raised in Portland, Oregon, among the major influences of my boyhood was a love of the outdoors. I truly believe that America has been blessed with land, water and wildlife treasures. We are fortunate that our predecessors had the foresight to establish great national park, wilderness, and wildlife refuge systems to protect the best of those treasures. We now have an obligation to continue the national commitment to conserving and preserving those treasures.

If confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, I will not consider, I will not support and I will

not permit development activities such as mining, drilling or timber harvesting in the national parks.

America's wilderness system also must be protected. It is my goal to expedite the study of potential wilderness areas and to designate and protect those areas possessing wilderness characteristics. I also am committed to returning those areas not qualified for wilderness designation to other appropriate classifications. Let me again emphasize that, if confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, I will not consider, I will not support and I will not permit development activities such as mining, drilling or timber harvesting on the Nation's wilderness lands.

Excerpts from Secretary Hodel's responses to questions submitted after his confirmation hearing (2/11/85)

Senator JOHNSTON. What is your view on the need for legislation to afford greater protection to national parks from activities taking place on adjacent lands?

HODEL. If confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, I would prefer to continue the review currently underway at the Department to identify conflicts which may exist between the management and protection of national park lands and the management of adjoining public lands. I will seek to implement administrative mechanisms intended to minimize conflict and to encourage resolution of any conflict at the local level. Success in these endeavors would render broad legislative action concerning these lands premature or even unnecessary.

Senator JOHNSTON. In your statement, you pledge to "not permit development activities such as mining, drilling or timber harvesting in the national parks." What authorities are available to you as Secretary to permit such activities in national parks even if you wanted to develop them? Aren't you really just telling the Committee that you plan to obey the law

with respect to development in the national parks?

HODEL. The purpose of my statement was to assure the Committee in straightforward terms not only of my commitment to comply with the law, but, also, to express my personal policy on this subject.

Senator METZENBAUM. The Santa Fe Energy Company is now negotiating with the Department for leases to develop tar sands on 55,000 acres of unspoiled canyonlands in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and in BLM Wilderness Study Areas in Utah. The Park Service is on record opposing issuance of the leases, due to adverse environmental impacts which will result from development.

Do you believe the Department should issue these leases?

HODEL. As a general matter, I will be looking to see if there are compelling reasons for such a lease going forward rather than first developing areas of similar energy potential outside recreation areas.

I have been informed that the Santa Fe Energy Company is already holding oil and gas leases in these areas and has applied for conversion of the leases to allow them to explore, produce and develop tar sands, in accordance with procedures outlined in the Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act of 1981. I am not aware that the Park Service has taken a public position on the environmental impacts associated with conversion. I understand the environmental impact statement currently is in draft form and that a preferred alternative has not yet been identified. Until I review the data further and review all possible development scenarios, I am unable to make an informed judgment as to conversion.

Senator METZENBAUM. Under the Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act of 1981, applicants are only entitled to convert existing oil and gas leases into non-competitive tar sand leases if they have

submitted "an acceptable plan of operations which assures reasonable protection of the environment and diligent development of the resource." Both the Park Service and EPA have found that Santa Fe's plan of operation will result in unacceptable damage to the recreation and wilderness study area, including serious adverse impacts on air quality, wildlife, noise levels, scenic vistas, and recreation.

In light of these findings, do you believe that Santa Fe should be required to further refine its tar sands technology, and acquire the tar sand leases on a competitive basis?

As Secretary of the Interior, would you direct the National Park Service to either devise an acceptably scaled-back plan of operations for Santa Fe, or to oppose issuance of the tar sand leases?

HODEL. As a general matter, I will be looking to see if there are compelling reasons for such a lease going forward rather than first developing areas of similar energy potential outside recreation areas. I understand the Department currently is reviewing a range of possible development scenarios, including levels of production lower than those proposed by Santa Fe, before recommending a decision on this matter.

The Department advises that the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) contains a range of alternative development scenarios to be considered in the Department's decision process. I also understand modifications that are within that range, but not necessarily spelled out explicitly in the EIS, may be considered; one of those options may be a scaled-back plan of operations.

Excerpts from Secretary Hodel's testimony before House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee (2/28/85)

Development Activities in Parks

Mr. YATES. Mr. Secretary, you are quoted in the press as saying, I assume this was at your

confirmation hearing, that you will not consider, you will not support, you will not permit development activities such as mining, drilling or timber harvesting in national parks. Of course, the Committee agrees with you. Does that cover private holdings within the boundaries of the parks, too?

Secretary HODEL. Insofar as we have control over it, yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. YATES. What about outside the boundaries of the park where parks have possible threats from mines or nuclear waste storage and geothermal development?

Secretary HODEL. I know of no parks now that have any threat from nuclear waste storage. By the way, if the Department of Energy did not change the ranking that was submitted in December, I think that issue will be behind us.

Mr. YATES. What about geothermal on the outskirts of Yellowstone?

Secretary HODEL. It seems to me that, to take the easy case, if it is clear there is some kind of threat or jeopardy to the park (or a park availability) by that activity, we have no choice. We shouldn't have any reticence in attempting to resist it. The problem, of course, arises —

Mr. YATES. You want to keep Old Faithful faithful?

Secretary HODEL. Yes, or as faithful as it can be.

Mr. YATES. Okay.

Secretary HODEL. The problem we have, of course, is differences of opinion over whether or not a particular activity constitutes a threat to the park. That is where it gets extremely difficult for the Secretary of the Interior.

Coal Development near Zion National Park

Mr. YATES. Let's talk about Zion and the possible threat in coal development. Has that been brought to your attention?

Secretary HODEL. Not that I am aware of.

Mr. YATES. Let me read to you from the *Deseret News*, Friday, November 16. I take it you don't read the *Deseret News* every day?

Secretary HODEL. Not routinely, sir.

Mr. YATES. Okay. This says that a southern Utah coal field adjacent to Zion National Park has been ruled suitable for development. The just-released Cedar, Beaver, Garfield, Antimony resource management plan and final environmental impact statement says that the development of the Kolob coal field is suitable, with the possible exception of areas that could be knocked out by rules against mining floodplains and alluvial valley floors. The decision ignores vital national resources the BLM is required to protect. The document issued by BLM threatens Zion with a coal development, an echo of an earlier battle over Bryce Canyon National Park. Bryce was finally protected by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who ruled most of the field off-limits to mining because of its impact on park visitors.

The Alton coal field near Bryce also is discussed in the report.

Well, that leaves an immense amount of coal land open to development, including the Kolob field. A Sierra Club letter to BLM says coal development directly adjacent to Zion National Park would significantly impact the air quality, watersheds that feed into the park, the visual resources of the area, wildlife, plus other resources.

BLM responded no resource conflicts with Zion National Park were identified regarding the coal unsuitability criteria that were applied. Additionally, no comments were received from Zion National Park officials regarding coal leasing.

Is that something you ought to look into?

Secretary HODEL. Sounds to me like it is something I will end up looking into, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. YATES. Okay.

Secretary HODEL. As a practical matter.

Mr. YATES. The reason I raised it at this point is because of your statement. It would seem that if indeed Zion Park, which is a beautiful park —

Secretary HODEL. Yes, it is.

Mr. YATES. — is threatened by a coal development, it is something you ought to look at. I thought I would just invite your attention.

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, in that regard, as I indicated, obviously that is not within the park.

Mr. YATES. Right.

Secretary HODEL. It is in some proximity. I have no idea how close it is to the park.

Mr. YATES. What can you do to protect the park in such instances? Can you exercise eminent domain?

Secretary HODEL. Apparently this is a BLM permit.

Mr. YATES. Yes.

Secretary HODEL. So it is presumably federal coal land.

Mr. YATES. So you can do a lot about it then.

Secretary HODEL. It can be made one of the criteria for determining whether it is suitable for leasing.

Mr. YATES. Yes.

Secretary HODEL. But it is interesting to me as you read the article, which is all I know about this.

Mr. YATES. Sure.

Secretary HODEL. That is precisely the point I made a moment ago, which is on these periperal or in-the-proximity of-park type issue. There can be a vast difference of opinion in the eyes of the beholder as to what constitutes a threat to the park. In this case, apparently there was a clear determination by the people at the BLM responsible for the environmental impact statement that there were no resource conflicts.

Mr. YATES. Can I add to your statement, which I read a few seconds ago, that you will not consider, will not support, will not permit development activities such as mining or timber harvesting in national parks. What would you say if you were to add to that, which threaten national parks? Would you have included that in your statement?

Secretary HODEL. If it threatens the national parks, that is right. The problem is, then we get down to whose judgment.

Mr. YATES. Well, you are the Secretary.

Secretary HODEL. In my judgment.

Mr. YATES. Okay. You are the Secretary. The buck stops somewhere around you, I think.

Secretary HODEL. Yes, it does. Well, pretty close.

Geothermal Activity near Crater Lake National Park

Mr. AUCOIN. There appears to be exactly that kind of situation at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. It is my understanding that there is a proposed geothermal activity directly adjacent to the park, and that in one instance, one of four permits is within 100 yards from the park boundary. Crater Lake National Park, as the Secretary knows, is one of the real gems in the park system. I am wondering what assurances you can provide the Committee that exploratory work, and if the exploration is successful, any develop-

mental work of the geothermal resource, won't be destructive to the lake and to the park.

Secretary HODEL. I have to say that it obviously will depend upon the best advice that is available about what constitutes a threat. I think in the eyes of some people the threat exists simply from the presence of non-park activities nearby to a park, the buffer zone concept. I am not aware where this activity is or whether it is in any way like the Yellowstone situation, where the question is whether the boundaries of the Caldera, where the research would be done, would also affect the geysers' activities within Yellowstone.

I am not aware whether there is that kind of concern or risk at Crater Lake. Crater Lake's boundaries are fairly large around the lake. They are not just immediately around the lake. As you well know, it is quite a large area, and I simply don't know where this is or how it relates. But it seems to me that if the conclusion is that such activities don't impede the use of the park, they don't impair the quality of the park, and therefore don't constitute a jeopardy, it would not appear to be, should not be, a problem.

Conversely, if the advice is that there is jeopardy to the park or geyser activities are affected, I think we have to take a dim view of it.

Mr. AUCOIN. As I have said, one of the permits is within 100 yards of the park boundary itself. I can understand that you can't possibly be familiar with a single permit for one geothermal activity in one park under your jurisdiction. But if you could provide the Committee with an update of the geothermal activity, exploratory activity around Crater Lake and your views on it, Mr. Secretary, it would be appreciated.

Secretary HODEL. Fine, yes.

Park Buffer Zone Concept

Mr. AUCOIN. I take it you don't agree with the buffer area concept either around parks or around other such public —

Secretary HODEL. I don't know what I have said that would cause you to believe that, because I have not so stated.

Mr. AUCOIN. I just took that from what you said earlier.

Secretary HODEL. No. In fact, I think it is precisely a buffer concept that you and I are discussing. I expressed to the Chairman that if there is an activity that might jeopardize the park, but takes place outside the park, and you decide therefore you are not going to permit that activity, you have created a buffer zone.

Mr. AUCOIN. De facto.

Secretary HODEL. I do not believe, based on the thinking when I was at Interior before and we were working on the buffer zone concept — looking at each park, you cannot come up with a single buffer zone definition that will fit every park. If we did, there are a lot of urban areas that would have to be changed tremendously because of the urban parks. Clearly, we don't intend that.

So, in the case of Yellowstone, we are talking about an area in some places that is 10 and 15 miles outside the park. In other areas it may well be that whatever activities take place at the boundary of the park have no effect and, therefore, maybe a buffer isn't appropriate for those activities.

Excerpts from Secretary Hodel's taped interview with *New York Times* Reporter, Phil Shabecoff (3/6/85)

SHABECOFF. Can I ask you about the whole general issue of development versus conservation of resources . . . do you think this is a dilemma that you have to face here?

Secretary HODEL. I think part of the problem is that the way the question is phrased in society creates a confrontation. It's an either/or kind of question — are you for development or are you for preservation; or are you for conservation or are you for mining, and so on. What I've been working on is a thesis that goes more like this. We've got 700 million acres of federal land in the country. I don't know what the exact number is — 790 some people use. That's a lot. We have nearly 80 million acres in parks. We have millions of acres in wilderness and another 24 million acres under study at the Department of Interior, and of course, you have the Forest Service, in addition. We have National Recreation Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. We have a lot of multiple use lands outside those under study. We also have state and local parks and recreation areas, and it seems to me that we have the opportunity — I'm talking about trying to create a consensus — to work toward a consensus.

One of the reasons I was so emphatic about not favoring any kind of developmental activities like mining and drilling and timber harvesting in the parks and wilderness areas was I was trying to make it as plain as I could to those who are concerned about that, that as far as I'm concerned those areas ought not to be under any kind of threat. It seems to me that there is enough federal land with enough potential that we can have beautiful, wonderful parks and wilderness areas that we can preserve and protect and conserve, and that our forest lands in the national forests and on BLM lands can be conserved. You can have appropriate levels of harvesting in those areas that are not parks and not wilderness. You can have multiple use, and I recognize there will always be conflicts over specific applications.

That makes this such an exciting job. But we ought to be able to reach agreement on the basic overarching issues in such an area so we don't have to fight the whole war every time we talk about what ought to happen to a particular acre. Now I don't see it as an either/or type of question, and if I permit

myself to get cast into that role, then I've lost the struggle. If we can get somewhere, what I'd like to do if you and I were here as the Board of Directors of an institute which was responsible for managing all of the federal lands, and we were free agents to do what we wanted to do, I submit to you that we would prioritize, we would set priorities for that land. We would say parks and wilderness are clearly areas that ought to be protected and then we'd do the same thing with recreation areas, and refuges, and wetlands, and on and on. We'd also have land which was clearly multiple use land, some of it suitable for grazing, some suitable for offroad vehicle recreation, some of it suitable for skiing, camping, farming, and grazing, timber harvesting and mineral exploration. What I submit we would do is we would say that the exploration for minerals ought to begin with the least sensitive lands and we ought to work from the least sensitive upward. We should not leap, as has happened, from the least sensitive to those that are adjacent to parks, or in prospective wilderness areas.

The thing that drove that was the impending statutory creation of wilderness. It seems to me that it's got our priorities all backwards. I'd like to get out of that box, and say whoa. Can't we reach some agreement on some priorities, because if we do, when I suggest that an acre of coal land somewhere ought to be leased, a person concerned about a national park doesn't have to feel that's a nose of the camel getting under the edge of the tent. And if I advocate some wilderness areas be added to the wilderness system, people who favor coal and mining development shouldn't have to say — oh my gosh, pretty soon the whole world will be a wilderness area if you let this go on. And that's been our problem, as you well know. The believers from both sides have seen themselves threatened because there was no clear consensus on what was protected and what was recognized fair for development.

SHABECOFF. Are you familiar with the tar sands situation?

Secretary HODEL. Yes. Preference Right Lease Act. The question I've raised is this. I do not yet know what the statute requires. Let me ask you a question. There are five tar sand areas in the United States. I don't know if that's exactly right, but let's assume it is. One of them is inside a National Recreation Area. Now the economics of tar sands today are absolutely not competitive. You can't produce oil from tar sand for, or less than, probably three times, maybe more, the cost of available oil. Therefore, the first tar sands project is going to be a test and we'll probably try to duplicate what the Canadians are trying to do, and they're having a terrible time producing oil from tar sands.

The question is that I've raised, and I don't have an answer back yet, is why should we encourage or permit tar sand activity inside a National Recreation Area when we haven't proven up, tested it, in areas that are less sensitive first. Nobody can give me an answer to that, except they talk about statutes. So I've got to find out what the statute says. Because if the statute says that, then we ought to seek to change the statute. Coming back to my priorities. Don't you think that if we were running this entity of ours, we'd say, wait a minute, we've agreed this is an NRA, a National Recreation Area, let's try to keep it as a National Recreation Area, and it may be 500 years before somebody proves up, or 50 years, before somebody proves up how to make tar sands. We have four major areas to be developed, billions of tons of the stuff, before we ever even have to look at the — whether the national security is such that somebody — long after I'm dead and gone — wants to suggest a Congressman do something else. We ought to be able to defer that issue. Somebody says to me, well, OK — they've got economic rights. But if we're not talking about the survival of the country, and I don't think we are, we ought not to be raising the fundamental concerns about whether the parks or wilderness or NRAs or refuges

are in jeopardy. As you well know, I'm going to have friends from my Energy days who will say — my gosh, this is terrible.

And it raises the whole question of what is legal, what is the legal status of this. That's what I'm waiting to hear.

Excerpt from Secretary Hodel's TV appearance on ABC's Good Morning America Program (3/14/85)

PETERSON, ABC NEWS. Hodel says he'll continue leasing more offshore land for oil and gas exploration, but only those areas with high potential that are not environmentally sensitive. He also plans to lease federal coal lands later this year — but only, he says — at fair market value.

On the sensitive issue of expanding national parks, Hodel says he favors it within budget limitations.

Secretary HODEL. We ought to be buying park land where it's in jeopardy — in other words we should not let the land that's inside the parks be damaged or destroyed or converted to some other use by the person owning it — and if in order to prevent that from happening we have to buy it, then let's get out there and buy it.

Excerpt from Secretary Hodel's meeting with DOI Schedule C Appointees (March 1985)

You may have noticed at the confirmation hearing, I made a great point of saying that I will not support, I will not consider and I will not permit mining or drilling or timber harvesting in the national parks. And I also said the same thing about the wilderness areas. And I'm aware of all the exceptions that people want to throw up at me when I say that kind of thing, but the fact is, that's got to be our basic position.

One of the things on which I hope we can reach a consensus is that the parks and the wilderness areas of this country need to be protected, they need to be enhanced, and if we can reach some consensus and agreement on that, perhaps when we talk about the multiple use lands of America, which are clearly multiple use lands, their development and use will not be seen as some kind of threat to the parks and the wilderness areas. We clearly make the delineation ourselves.

I think we'll be serving the country much better and both interests will be better served than if we fail to make that clear and permit people to stop worrying about — I sometimes felt when we were going through these struggles, that on a multiple use acreage, when we talked about leasing it or grazing on it or harvesting it or whatever it happened to be, that the perception in some people's mind was that was the beginning, that was the opening wedge of doing that across the board to all of the lands of America. And I think if we can set aside wilderness and park lands, without having to threaten them, that it will help us.

When we talk about multiple use lands, that's all we're talking about. We're not talking about the wilderness lands of America or the park lands. It would be my feeling that if we put priorities on things, that from a priority standpoint, just rationally, if you had no Congress and you had no constituent groups to worry about, that you were planning to search the lands of America for resources — any reasonable approach — you would not start searching in what you think may be wilderness areas or may be park land potential. You'd start with the lands that clearly don't have those values first. And you would work through all of those before you'd begin searching those that may have wilderness potential or have wildlife values or recreation potential. In other words, you'd categorize your lands and you'd move from those with the least other effects to those with increasing amounts. And probably there would be a gray area for lots of people

to argue about. And that's where we'll have our fun.

But I'm hoping this is a kind of consensus we can try to bring about. If we are able to do that, we'll still have a lot of — don't worry that we're going to be out of things to argue about. We'll still have lots of things to argue about at the specific application level, but maybe we can get out of this total conflagration over some of the issues. I think Secretary Clark, during this last year, has done a great deal to calm concerns on those issues.

I also believe in the importance of recreation. I get kidded — I don't understand this. People kid me for being a workaholic and they kid me for being an avid skier. I can't figure that out. Those two don't seem to me to be compatible. And I think I'm — I think I'm just very practical and reasonable about both. I'd like to go skiing all the time. It's just, work gets in the way of it now and then.

But I think this nation is well served, any nation is well served, by having opportunities for recreation for people. This is why I hope that we can — in those areas that are suitable for recreation, suitable for outdoor use — that we can find ways to make them available on a reasonable basis to the American people. And that's why I will hope that we can work in a supportive fashion with those organizations which are concerned about multiple use, concerned about making it possible for people to use those lands of America that are set aside for such use in a way that doesn't destroy them for future generations. I think that we can. I think we can do both. I really believe it.

And, you know, I've always said I do not think we have to choose between an adequate energy supply and an improving environment. I think this nation is proof to the world that we can have and do both. But it requires a certain amount of intelligence and integrity in approaching the issues to do that. I hope we can provide some of that.

QUESTION. Mr. Secretary, in your statements about mining and drilling in the parks, Secretary Clark made it a policy that there would be the same sort of a moratorium as far as wildlife refuges.

You can certainly recall when Secretary Watt was here, our regulations will allow that provided they're compatible. We had a lot of problems on the Hill because of it. Secretary Clark put the hammer down on it and it went away. So my question to you is, which way do we go?

Secretary HODEL. I don't have any reason for wanting to change Secretary Clark's policy. I think that goes along with what I said a little while ago, that if there were no review process, nobody outside checking us, it would still seem reasonable that you wouldn't start your resource development in your more sensitive areas. I did not say anything about refuges in my opening statement because I knew of the compatibility requirement and I was not aware that Clark had just said no way.

I think I'd like to see that. I'd like to see how that was done. But certainly in principle it seems to me that we're just asking for a lot of trouble if it does more damage to the resource development program on multiple use lands than it does help.

Excerpt from Secretary Hodel's meeting with DOI employees in Denver (4/1/85)

I'm hoping we can reach agreement on some of the larger issues. For instance, at my confirmation hearing, I went out of my way to emphasize that I would not support, I would not consider, I would not permit development activities in the national parks. Development activities such as drilling, mining or timber harvesting. And I did that purposely, it was with malice of forethought. I did it in order to try to begin to build a bridge to those people who feel that the development activities of the Department pose a threat to the national parks. They cannot and they

must not. This society is not about to turn its back on a National Park System, which is the envy of the world. We are proud of those national parks. I grew up admiring them and enjoying them living in Oregon. And I remember my father, my parents came to this country from Canada as young adults, and I remember my father praising a society which had enough sense of the value of nature to set aside those wonderful reserves as national parks. Places that we could go and be recreated. I keep making the point that the word recreation has come to mean fun. The root of that re-creation. We go out and we are reminded of the creation of this world that we live in and the wonders of nature and the appreciation of it, and I don't know how you respond, but I come back from even a short time out there wishing I didn't have to go back to Washington, D.C., and a much better person, I think. Much better able to deal with the daily problems of my life. So we've got to make, I think, a clear recognition that we're not about to challenge or threaten those parks. They can't be. There's still going to be enormous arguments about what constitutes a threat from outside the park; those are areas we need to deal with. But when we propose on what is multiple use land, to do a multiple use activity, those people, I think all of us who are concerned about the parks, shouldn't be worrying that, uh oh, this is the foot in the door, this is the beginning and pretty soon there will be activities in the parks that we don't want in the parks. That is why I said what I did there and why I've done a number of the things.

On the multiple use side of the ledger, it seems to me with the amount of land this nation has under federal ownership, we have enormous blocks of land which are clearly suitable for multiple use that have not yet been explored or examined for their potential multiple use in the way of energy generation or minerals production or the like that need to be developed. I've suggested that if you and I were constituted sole deciders of what should happen to the land of America, and we just had a clean slate, we would look

over that land and we would put some priorities on it. We'd say, this is a park area, this is an area that ought to be a park, this is an area that should be pristine. And by pristine I don't mean we're going to send a lot of people through it. It would be a wilderness but it would be pristine. There'll be wilderness that should be available for people to go through. And there'll be wild and scenic rivers. And we'd go on down the line and we would also find that there are hundreds of millions of acres of land that don't qualify for wilderness or parks or recreation areas, but which are suitable for grazing or timber harvesting or mineral development or oil and gas development. And what I suggest we would do, is we would try to see to it that the most appropriate areas are promptly set aside as we have done in national parks and wilderness and the like, and we're still in that process, and will continue. And then we would move to the other end of the spectrum to the multiple use land and we would say, begin your development at the least sensitive lands first. And you have some kind of priority and you'd work through it in that fashion. And with the amount of land we've got it would be hundreds of years before, in some cases, you'd begin to have a conflict over, should this be mined, or drilled or whatever. Hundreds of years. Instead of that we had a legal system, statutes which have actually precipitated a conflict which we never should have had. Statutes which said, you explore the wilderness for its mineral potential before you designate it as wilderness. And that put a premium on people not exploring, as I've suggested, the least sensitive lands first, but jumping over to lands which might be wilderness quality and taking a look for the resources. And I suggest to you that we've ignored a lot of land in between that on a priority basis we would have looked at before we ever looked at the wilderness-type land. And it's the kind of thing I hope we can approach in a fashion which will minimize that conflict, because we're not gaining as a society from that kind of conflict.



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