

JULY 12, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 7792 -- Alpine Lakes Area Management Act of 1976. This bill establishes the Alpine Lakes Area in the State of Washington comprising some 920,359 acres, including the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Intended Wilderness units, and authorizes appropriations of \$57,500,000, primarily for land acquisition.

The bill will establish within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, in the State of Washington, the Alpine Lakes Area comprising 920,359 acres in three discrete units: (1) Alpine Lakes Wilderness -- 303,508 acres; (2) Intended Wilderness -- 88,050 acres including 43,543 acres of private land; and, (3) a management unit of 528,801 acres.

All private land within the Intended Wilderness must be acquired through purchase or exchange within three years of enactment -- such lands would become wilderness as they are acquired. After three years, an owner could initiate legal action to require the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately acquire the lands in question.

The bill directs the Secretary, within two years of enactment, to prepare and implement a single multiple-use plan for all Federal lands within the management unit (the non-wilderness lands within the Alpine Lakes Area). The completed plan would take affect and be implemented no earlier than 90 days and no later than 150 days following its transmittal to Congress.

The bill authorizes appropriations for land acquisition, including monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, of \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 1977, \$17,000,000 in fiscal year 1978, and \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 1979. In addition, \$500,000 is authorized to be appropriated for preparation of the multiple-use plan.

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