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Office of the White House Press Secretary .

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

S. 327 - LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AMENDMENTS

The President today signed a bill that will substantially increase funding authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and expands the Federal role in the area of historic preservation. Additionally, the bill eases certain restrictions on the use of Federal oil shale revenues received by State governments.

HIGHLIGHTS OF S. 327

- Increases the annual authorized level of the Land and Water Conservation Fund from a current level of \$300 million annually to \$600 million for FY 1978, \$750 million for FY 1979 and \$900 million for each of FY's 1980 ~~and~~ 1989.
- Authorizes appropriations for Historic Preservation to increase from a current level of \$24.4 million annually to \$100 million each for FY 1978 and 1979 and to \$150 million each for FY's 1980 ~~to~~ 1981.

I. LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDBACKGROUND

The Land and Water Conservation (L&WCF) Act of 1965, as amended, created a new categorical grant program to provide expanded parks and outdoor recreation opportunities.

A. Purpose of the Act - The Act was designed to stimulate a nationwide action program to create new and expanded high quality outdoor recreation areas and facilities. L&WCF moneys are available for (1) acquisition of Federal recreation lands, and (2) matching grants to State and local governments for planning, acquisition, and development of recreation lands and facilities. The following are the primary features of the State side of the program:

- Require the development and maintenance of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans to guide State and local use of the Fund.
- Provide Grants-in-Aid to States to acquire land and develop facilities for outdoor recreation and conservation.
- Stimulate additional public investment to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation.

The Federal side of the program provides moneys for use in acquiring authorized National Park, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Forest, and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

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B. Administrative Process and Relationship with the States - For purposes of the Act, 55 "States" (the 50 States, plus Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia) share Fund money. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation expects and urges each State to share Fund money with their political subdivisions, such as cities, towns, counties, and special districts. The Fund legislation recently enacted by Congress would eventually add another Territory, the Northern Mariana Islands, as a 56th "State" when such islands achieve a commonwealth status. Forty percent of the total appropriation is spent by the Federal Government.

The Federal portion of the L&WCF is utilized by the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, to acquire land for the enjoyment of the American people. The Fund is the major source of funds available to these agencies for land acquisition at many unique and beautiful areas across our country. For example, the Fund is used to acquire lands for the preservation of wilderness; for national recreation areas; for the protection of endangered species habitat; the preservation of significant national resources and provision of recreation opportunities in the national parks, monuments, lakeshores, seashores, and historic sites; the protection and enjoyment of outstanding rivers and trails; the preservation of wildlife values; and for providing recreation opportunities on the National Forests.

Sixty percent of the Fund appropriation is apportioned to the States each fiscal year. Forty percent of this State's share is pro-rated equally among the 50 States, 55 percent is pro-rated to the 55 "States" on the basis of population (currently 30 percent is pro-rated on total population and 25 percent on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area populations), and 5 percent is retained for a Contingency Reserve used by the Secretary of the Interior for especially critical needs.

Grants-in-Aid financial assistance from the Fund is available to the States for the acquisition and/or development of a broad range of outdoor recreation areas and facilities located in areas ranging from high population density to wilderness and varying from bicycle paths to hiking trails, from roadside picnic areas to inner-city outdoor recreation complexes, and from park beautification to boating marinas.

C. Accomplishments of the Fund. Fund assistance to State and local governments as 50-50 matching assistance for acquisition and facility development is impressive. Some 16,700 projects have been approved to date and approximately 1.4 million acres of new recreation land have been acquired. In addition, new recreation facilities have been provided at approximately 8,500 State and local areas. To date \$1.6 billion has been appropriated for State purposes, and \$1.2 billion for Federal land-managing agencies. Some 1.6 million acres of Federal recreation lands have been purchased.

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Numerous institutional changes and related program spinoffs can be attributed directly or indirectly to the enactment and administration of the L&WCF Act:

- Prior to enactment, only four States had any type of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. As a result of the Act, each State now maintains a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to guide future acquisition, development, and programs.
- The L&WCF has provided a model for States to establish county and local assistance programs. It is significant to note that some 32 of these programs have been established since inception of the L&WCF and some depend upon the Fund for projects to be financed 50 percent Federal, 25 percent State, and 25 percent local.
- Development of a State plan has made possible a source document for use in preparing Environmental Impact Statements to determine the impact of construction projects on recreation resources.

Thirty-nine percent of all the money appropriated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund during the 11-year life of the program has been during President Ford's Administration.

II. HISTORIC PRESERVATION AMENDMENTS

A. Purpose

Title II of the Act amends the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and establishes a special Historic Preservation Fund in the U.S. Treasury. The fund is to be used for a program of matching grants-in-aid to the States, which are administered by the National Park Service (Department of the Interior). The grants are made available on a 50-50 matching basis to the States for state-wide preservation planning and for specific preservation projects involving sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Authorizations

In response to the needs identified by the States, the bill reauthorizes this program for a five-year period with the following funding authorizations:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Authorization (\$Millions)</u>
1977	\$ 24.4
1978)	
1979)	100.
1980)	
1981)	150.

The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, to use up to 50% of any year's appropriation for grants to the States on a 70% Federal - 30% State matching basis if those funds are used for statewide preservation planning and surveys.

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C. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Title II also changes the status of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to become an independent body. Established in 1966 to advise the President and the Congress and to comment on Federal activities affecting important historic properties, the Advisory Council has been staffed by the National Park Service.

The Council membership currently includes the Secretaries of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Treasury, Justice, Transportation, Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institution, the Administrator of General Services Administration, the Chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and ten citizen members.

Under this Act, the membership will be expanded to include: the Secretaries of State, Defense, Health, Education, and Welfare, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Chairman of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities. The President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers will also become a member in recognition of the partnership relationship between the States and the Federal government in implementing the national preservation program.

The Act further provides that the Council's legislative recommendation, testimony, and comments, as well as its budget requests, are to be submitted concurrently to the President and the Congress. The Advisory Council is exempted from the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

D. International Preservation Activities

Consistent with the United States' commitment to international preservation activities through the World Heritage Convention, Title II re-authorizes the participation of the United States in the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, located in Rome, Italy, and authorizes up to \$175,000 each year for this purpose through 1979.

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