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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

PUBLIC USE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES--1951 TO 1961

The increase in public use on the National Wildlife Refuges in 1961 continued a trend begun in 1951--the first year such records were gathered--when 3½ million visitors were on these areas. In 1961, the number of visitors exceeded 11 million.

This increased use is most evident in connection with the enjoyment of the refuges for wildlife observations, photography, picnicking, and swimming. The number of areas on which public use has been permitted increased also during this period from a few over 100 to the present 153 out of 284 refuges. There has been liberalization, through congressional legislation, in opening refuges to public hunting. In 1951, hunting was permitted on parts of 41 areas, while in 1961, some type of hunting was permitted on 90 refuges.

Recreation on National Wildlife Refuges is limited to designated areas where such activities can be accommodated without interfering with the primary function of the refuges in protecting and propagating wildlife resources.

Public use by major categories is shown in the following summary:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hunting Use</u>	<u>Fishing Use</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
1951	222,470	1,309,362	1,911,085	3,442,917
1952	260,340	1,524,731	2,475,718	4,260,789
1953	347,988	1,433,445	2,905,476	4,686,909
1954	361,366	1,612,189	3,228,705	5,202,260
1955	406,219	2,677,452	3,890,776	6,974,447
1956	435,046	2,765,611	4,354,677	7,555,334
1957	388,995	2,908,435	5,371,150	8,668,580
1958	352,155	3,330,125	5,431,385	9,113,665
1959	481,504	3,185,342	6,269,299	9,936,145
1960	363,466	3,328,479	7,062,047	10,753,992
1961	302,472	3,334,361	7,484,145	11,120,933