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April 13, 1965

Subject: "Government Land Acquisition, Washington Edition"

Enclosed is a copy of "Government Land Acquisition, Washington Edition." This booklet includes a brief history of federal land tenure, federal ownership, and data pertaining to Washington.

On page 31 is the statement: "Some land buying at all levels of government is inevitable and desirable for proper maintenance of the nation's health, welfare and safety. Such acquisitions can be kept within reasonable bounds, however, only if people are informed and alert."

A press release detailing pertinent facts of this study is enclosed for your convenience. We earnestly hope that you will use the information in the book to interpret the national and state situations to the citizens of Washington.

Samuel H. Brown  
Chairman

SHB/pl  
Enclosures



GOOD SIGNS FOR OUR STATE



[Enclosure. 13 Apr 65]

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American Forest Products Industries, Inc.  
1816 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

**TREES  
make  
NEWS**

GOVERNMENT LAND BUYING  
INCREASES, REVERSING TREND

Federal government land buying policy, if unchecked, may be dooming the traditional concept of private ownership. A monumental documentation--compiled mainly from the federal and state governments' published statistics--supports this claim and points up the resulting financial hardship worked upon smaller governmental units as well as private taxpayers.

The facts are in a booklet just published by the nation's forest products industries giving historical perspective to the federal government's land acquisition policies. Emphasis of these policies is on continued acquisition.

In the foreword to "Government Land Acquisition--A Summary of Land Acquisition by Federal, State and Local Governments up to 1964," Bernard L. Orell, president of American Forest Products Industries, points out:

"The federal government today owns 770 million acres of land in the 50 states....It also holds in trust more than 50 million acres of tax-free Indian land....The States own 78 million acres ....This means that about 61 percent of the land in the 50 states must carry nearly all of the land-tax load necessarily imposed by local governments."

--more--



First Add

While pointing out that this trend distinctly contrasts with the original intent of the federal government to move land from the public domain into private ownership, Mr. Orell writes that the booklet does not attempt either to justify or condemn government acquisition of more land.

Rather, the basic facts are presented in order to "increase general public understanding of this issue."

Subject headings in the 36-page booklet include: "Government Land Acquisition Today"; "The Evolution of Federal Land Tenure"; "Federally Owned Land Today"; "Federal Land Acquisitions and Disposals"; "State Owned Land"; "The Prospects for Continuing Land Acquisition."

Other portions give statistical summaries of federal land acquisitions and disposals from Colonial times up to 1964.

Special sections detail Washington's land picture -- ownership, acreage, land use, planned acquisitions, enabling legislation for federal land purchases, and facts about the state's forests and forest industries.

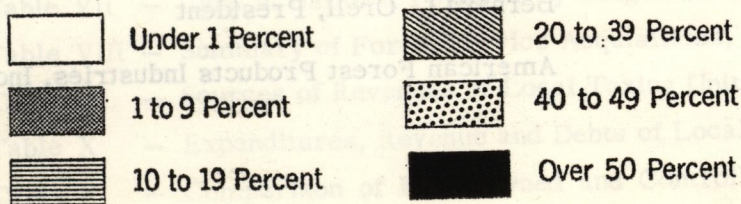
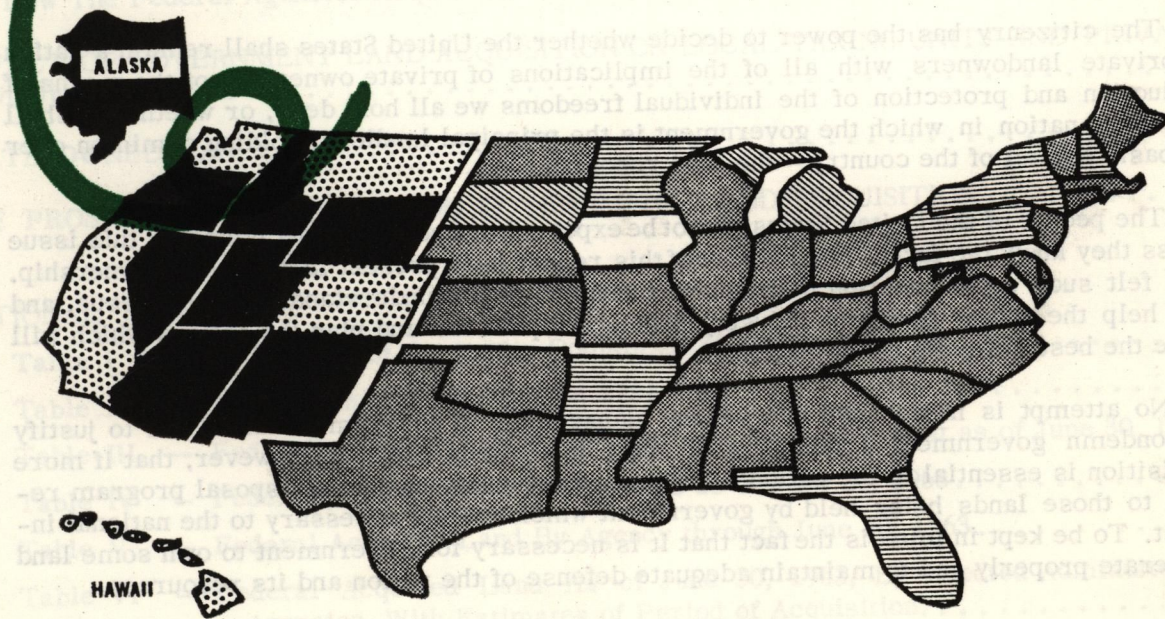
Single copies are available free from Washington Forest Industries Committee, 4404 White-Henry-Stuart Bldg., Seattle, Washington 98101.

# GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION

**A Summary of Land Acquisition by Federal, State  
and Local Governments up to 1964**

## WASHINGTON EDITION

PERCENTAGE OF LAND OWNED BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS  
AND TAX-EXEMPT INDIAN LAND IN THE UNITED STATES AS OF JUNE 30, 1963





## Foreword

The federal government owns 770 million acres of the land in the 50 states and the District of Columbia — 34 percent of the nation's total land area.

It also holds in trust more than 50 million acres of tax-free tribal and individually owned Indian land in 27 states — 2 percent of the land.

The states own 78 million acres — 3 percent of the nation's land area.

Thus, 39 percent of the land in the United States is exempt from local taxation.

This means that about 61 percent of the land in the 50 states must carry nearly all of the land-tax load necessarily imposed by local governments.

And this does not take into account the 18 million acres estimated to be owned by counties and other local units of government.

Governmental agencies will continue to acquire lands for highways, reservoirs, irrigation and flood control, air fields, urban renewal, urban recreation areas and other uses. Little of the land now held by government can be expected to be returned to private ownership, except possibly in Alaska.

Federal and state programs to acquire more land already underway or proposed, and the announced intentions of government agencies for other acquisitions, raises questions as to where such acquisition of private land will end, if it ends at all.

The citizenry has the power to decide whether the United States shall remain a nation of private landowners with all of the implications of private ownership of the means of production and protection of the individual freedoms we all hold dear, or whether it shall become a nation in which the government is the principal landlord, holding dominion over the basic capital of the country — the land resource.

The people of the United States cannot be expected to make wise decisions on this issue unless they know the facts. The purpose of this report is to present facts of land ownership. It is felt such a presentation will increase general public understanding of this issue, and will help the forest products industry formulate policies and plan the actions which will serve the best interests of the nation.

No attempt is made here to treat the management of government lands, nor to justify or condemn government acquisition of more land. It is believed, however, that if more acquisition is essential to the national interest, there must also be a disposal program related to those lands being held by government which are not necessary to the national interest. To be kept in mind is the fact that it is necessary for government to own some land to operate properly and to maintain adequate defense of the nation and its resources.

Bernard L. Orell, President

American Forest Products Industries, Inc.

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## GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION TODAY

Ownership of land has been the traditional need and delight of Americans. To own land has been the birthright of every citizen since the nation was founded. The opportunity to live on land of their own and the promise of being independent of tyrannical governments and despotic landlords drew to this country from foreign nations a host of hardy and intelligent people who contributed immeasurably to the growth, culture and stature of this nation.

The craving for land for homes and subsistence and for establishing industries drew the expanding population of the young United States ever westward. The growing wealth and influence of the nation enabled it to acquire by 1867, from neighboring and European governments, the land extending from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific Coast, and the bulk of the area between the 30th and the 48th parallels, plus a large area in the North we know as Alaska.

From the day of its establishment, the intention of the federal government then was to encourage settlement on that land, to place it in private ownership as fairly and as quickly as possible. Recently a member of Congress and a student of U.S. land policies, in reviewing that era, stated "...our predecessors used land as the commodity that the Government could sell in order to raise revenue, and they used that land for the payment of those who would endure the hardships necessary to develop it. It was a revolutionary idea that our forebears had in this country. Never before did a nation voluntarily set out to encourage the transfer of the title to any and all of its land from the sovereign state to private ownership."(9)

With our country's population expanding rapidly, it was inevitable under those policies that cultivable and arable land in government ownership became progressively scarce. Eventually it became unusual, and applications for entry for homesteads dwindled to a trickle. Much productive land of the public domain that had not been sold or granted had been withdrawn from entry and held in government reservations, chiefly forests, grazing and mining.

Starting slowly and almost unnoticed by the people, the federal government then embarked on programs to acquire lands from private owners to add to its large holdings. The Weeks Law, passed by the Congress in 1911 "for the

purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers," enabled the U.S. Forest Service to expand its holdings in national forests by buying large areas of private land. First purchases under the Weeks Law were made in 1912 and since have continued every year.

During the depression years of the 1930's, the federal government bought land in large amounts, much of it termed "marginal" or "sub-marginal"—land too poor to be operated economically by private owners without considerable investment for rehabilitation. In anticipation of war in the late 1930's, and during the ensuing conflict throughout the 1940's, large areas of land were acquired from private owners to facilitate the national defense effort.

These and other programs initiated since the turn of the century have launched the federal government on a land-buying course that is a complete reversal of its former policy of selling and granting of the public lands to private individuals. Today there are indications that the nation is about to experience a new wave of land acquisition by all levels of government—federal, state, county and local.

### Definitions and Concepts

Several terms and ideas that will be used throughout this discussion need to be clarified at the outset in order to help in understanding the issues. Following are those definitions and explanations that seem necessary:

**Public Domain**—There are several concepts of the public domain current among authorities on federal land policies and tenure. Throughout this discussion, it seems best to use the term as meaning the land acquired by the United States from the territories of the original 13 states and from neighboring and European nations, to form the other 35 contiguous states and Alaska.

**Acquired Land**—Land acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift or exchange from private owners or states and local governments who held title to it. All of the land so acquired, excepting that in the original 13 states and Texas, was at one time public domain.



The legal authority for land acquisition by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior are cited below:

"When in the public interest it is desirable that lands not presently in federal ownership be available for use or management for forest, park, grazing, or wildlife refuge purposes, or to permit the consolidation of scattered land holdings, provisions have been made for the purchase, lease, or exchange of land, and the acceptance from donors of gifts of money and land. Land purchases are authorized for the establishment of national forests by the Secretary of Agriculture when approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission and consented to by the state legislature concerned (16 USC 513-17,521). The Congress also permits the exchange of national forest land or timber for privately owned land within the exterior boundaries of a national forest, if both tracts are within the same state and if the value of the land conveyed does not exceed the value of the land received (16 USC 485-86,516). Reservation by either party of the mineral rights on the lands exchanged is permitted. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting for the federal government, may accept donations of land, subject to reservation by the donor of the present stand of merchantable timber or of mineral or other rights for a period not exceeding twenty years. The rights retained by the donor are subject to the tax laws of the state in which the lands are located (16 USC 569).

"Similarly, the Secretary of the Interior has authority to accept gifts of privately owned grazing land and to exchange land with private individuals or with states (43 USC 315g).

"The laws relating to the national parks provide for the general acceptance of donated lands and money (16 USC 6, 6a), but authority to purchase property for park purposes or to make land exchanges, when granted, has been for specific parks. Similarly, the authority to purchase land or to accept donation of it for wildlife refuges is to be found in legislation for specific acquisitions. General authority has also been granted the Secretary of the Interior to acquire leaseholds or

to purchase or exchange land in order to provide refuges for wildlife (16 USC 695, 715d). Leaseholds on grazing lands in private or state ownership may be acquired and integrated with public land in a grazing district to permit the intermingled lands to be managed as a unit (43 USC 315m-1."\* (8)

**Reserved Land** — Land in the public domain withdrawn from disposal. Both the Congress and the President exercise the power to reserve or withdraw land from the public domain. Reservations of the public domain remain in force until revoked by the Secretary of the Interior or by an act of Congress.

**Federally Owned Land** — Throughout this discussion, the land referred to as being owned by the federal government is that in the 50 states only. Land owned in outlying areas, such as Guam, Virgin Islands, etc., and in foreign countries, is excluded.

## The Evolution of Federal Land Tenure

### Four Phases

Viewed in perspective, federal land tenure appears clearly to have evolved in distinct phases. Though not marked in time by abrupt beginnings and endings — they overlap in all instances — they can be identified definitely in their peak eras.

The phases of that evolution can be identified by (1) acquisition, in which the federal government acquired the vast area of public domain; (2) disposal, in which the primary purpose of the government was to sell and otherwise dispose of the public domain to the states and to private individuals to promote settlement and establishment of industries; (3) reservation, in which the purpose was to withdraw from homestead entry and other forms of disposal certain forest, grazing, mineral and scenic lands to be kept forever in government ownership; and currently (4) acquisition, in which the federal government again is engaged in buying large areas of land to add to its vast holdings, but now from private owners.

The present phase — that of acquisition of private land — probably has not yet reached its peak, but it has assumed proportions large enough and clear enough to be identified.

## Acquisition of the Public Domain

Acquisition of the public domain began shortly after the Colonies gained their independence and lasted until 1867, when Alaska was purchased. (Table I)

Starting in 1781 the 13 original states ceded to the federal government much of their territory that extended into the unexplored regions west of the Alleghenies. From 1781 to 1802 the federal government acquired nearly 237 million acres by such cessions.

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 added 530 million acres to the federal holdings, almost doubling the area of the United States.

Shortly thereafter — the date is not certain — almost 30 million acres were acquired in the basin of the Red River of the North, south of the 49th parallel in what is now North Dakota and Minnesota.

In 1819 Spain ceded her claims to Florida, bringing more than 46 million additional acres into the public domain.

Compromise of a boundary dispute with Great Britain in the Pacific Northwest — known as the Oregon Compromise — in 1846 added more than 183 million acres more to the holdings of the federal government.

In 1848, as a result of a peace treaty with Mexico, the United States acquired about 339 million acres in the Southwest, extending roughly from a north-south line through the center of Colorado and New Mexico west to the coast.

When Texas was annexed in 1845 its land remained its own and did not add to the public domain. However, in 1850 Texas sold to the federal government 79 million acres in an area extending northward into what is now Wyoming and westward to the territory ceded from Mexico in 1848.

In 1853 the Gadsden Purchase added 19 million acres more in a strip in the south of what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

The Alaska Purchase in 1867, almost as large as the Louisiana Purchase, brought 375 million acres to the public domain.

This last acquisition brought the area of the original public domain to an estimated 1,838 million acres.

## Disposal of the Public Domain

Almost as soon as the government of the United States began to acquire this vast empire of rich bottomlands, lush grasslands, dense forests, arid desert lands, towering mountains and bountiful lakes and streams, it launched into an economic and political experiment that startled

the Old World. It set about quickly conveying the land to private owners by a variety of schemes — some routine, most of them novel. (Table II)

The wholesale transfer of the public domain to private ownership was made under the revolutionary political and economic idea that a nation of private landowners is the ideal democratic nation, that a nation in which the people are the landlords is a nation in which the maximum of individual freedom can best be assured.

Even before the cession of lands by the States was concluded, the federal government began disposing of its holdings. The means employed often put the government at a disadvantage in trying to keep disposal orderly and within legal limits, but the land did pass reasonably fairly and quickly into private hands.

Usually, the individual could select the land he wanted. Under this policy, the settlers chose what appeared to them to be the best land for agriculture, bypassing steep slopes, mountain tops and otherwise unattractive areas in government ownership.

Initially, land was given soldiers of the Colonial Army as a bonus for their service. At the same time, land was sold to all comers who had the small amount of money required to pay for it, to finance the new federal government. Some of the founding fathers hoped that such sales would provide the main source of revenue. But those hopes did not materialize. Not until 1814 did income from land sales reach 10 percent of federal revenues, and by then the worst financial crisis of the new nation had ended.

The first effective attempt of the federal government to bring law and order to its land disposal efforts was passage of the Homestead Act in 1862. This Act enabled a person to purchase a certain amount of land for a nominal sum if he had brought under cultivation a specified area and had made other improvements within a certain period of time.

After passage of the Homestead Act, numerous other laws — some scholars estimate as many as 5,000 — were enacted to bring order into the land disposal policies, to eliminate abuses of those policies and to try to be certain that the public interest was being served in disposal.

Homesteading and grants to soldiers were not the only means used to get the land in the hands of private owners. Huge areas were granted to the burgeoning railroad companies to encourage expanded transportation systems.

Grants were made to states for a variety of purposes — for schools and agricultural colleges,

\*From "Federal Lands — Their Use and Management," by Marion Clawson and Burnell Held, Copyright by the Johns Hopkins Press for Resources for the Future, Incorporated. Used by permission.



for hospitals and institutions, and to reclaim swamp or arid lands to make settlement possible.

Until almost the turn of the century, disposal of the public domain was a major objective of the federal government. During that time the growing young nation experienced some of the wildest and most dramatic internal events in its history. The movement of the population westward to use and settle those lands has provided a basic fare of the motion picture, radio and television industries for a generation. The cattlemen, the sheepmen, the homesteaders, the timbermen, the government and the miners all produced heroes and villains still remembered in fact and pictured in fiction.

By 1900 only about 560 million acres of the public domain in the 48 contiguous states remained open to entry and settlement. Much of it was arid land in the West, not suitable for agriculture unless irrigated.

Disposal of the remaining public domain was still a major objective of the federal government at that time and a means was sought for making these lands suitable for settlement and cultivation.

In 1902 the Congress passed the Reclamation Act. Its purpose was to provide water and improvements on the arid lands by construction of dams, ditches and other structures to impound and distribute water and to make the areas accessible. Payment of the cost of these improvements was to be made from receipts of the sale of the improved land. Originally the chief product of reclamation projects was cultivable land, but later facilities were installed for generating electricity with the power from falling water. Receipts from sale of lands have now shrunk to a mere 8.5 percent of the total Bureau of Reclamation receipts, while revenues from electric and water power have risen to 35.5 percent and royalties from oil and mineral leases provide 31.3 percent of the total.

To date about 8.5 million acres of formerly arid and uncultivable land have been brought into production through reclamation projects under provisions of the Reclamation Act, far below the optimistic estimate of some of the supporters of the original bill, that 100 million acres would be reclaimed.

Planning and initiation of projects under the Act are continuing as the Congress makes funds available.

## Reservation of the Public Domain

Even before passage of the Reclamation Act, when first thoughts were being given to means of making the arid lands attractive to settlers, lands in the public domain were, for a variety of reasons, being reserved from disposal.

As early as 1817 Congress delegated to the President authority to withdraw certain lands from entry to serve special purposes, such as military posts, lighthouse reserves and wagon roads. In 1832 authorization was given to reserve land with extraordinary natural values, and later authorizations provided for reservations for other purposes.

In the last decade of the 19th century, people in the East became alarmed at disappearance of the virgin forests, and sentiment began to develop for preservation of the forests of the West. Late in the 1880's a commission was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to study the forest situation and to make recommendations. Gifford Pinchot was a member of that commission. Its report so aroused sentiment, particularly in the East, that in March, 1891, Congress passed an Act, known as the "Creative Act," that stated, "...the President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any State or Territory having public land bearing forests, in any part of the public lands wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations, and the President shall, by public proclamation, declare the establishment of such reservations and the limits thereof."

With the authority provided by this Act, and subsequent ones, forest lands in the public domain were rapidly withdrawn from entry. Early in 1897 there were created 13 reserves with 21,379,840 acres. These, with those previously created, brought to 29 the number of forest reserves containing 38,897,840 acres. By 1905 the area in reserves had increased to 106,999,138 acres, principally forest land.

Other considerations, besides the preservation of timber, then entered the picture for reservation. In 1906 some 66 million acres of land considered "as probably containing workable deposits of coal" were withdrawn. Between December 1908 and February 1909 the Secretary of the Interior withdrew from entry 3,450,460 acres in the public domain and the national forests because of their possibilities as power sites and, also in 1908, he withdrew 4,699,160

acres in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho — land suspected of containing phosphate deposits.

President Theodore Roosevelt, during his term of office — Sept. 14, 1901, to March 4, 1909 — withdrew 141,267,530 acres of the gross area of the national forests. He also created five new national parks containing 213,886 acres and he withdrew 79,650,002 acres of coal lands for classification. However, by March 4, 1909, nearly half of these latter had been classified and restored to entry.

President Taft continued the withdrawals. In 1909 he reserved from all forms of entry 2,871,000 acres of petroleum land in California and 170,000 acres in Wyoming.

During the period of large-scale withdrawals, opposition to the movement in the West rose to great proportions. However, the "conservation movement," generated by President Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, enlisted eastern support that easily overcame that opposition and the withdrawals continued. The total reserved land listed in 1922 by the General Land Office totaled approximately 154,000,000 acres, which consisted of about 149,000,000 acres of national forests and 5,000,000 acres in power sites, reservoirs and miscellaneous reservations.

With passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, later amended, the public domain was virtually closed and an era in American history came to an end.(2)

## Acquisitions From Private Owners

Before the phase of withdrawals had ended the phase of acquiring land from private owners was underway.

In 1911, when the conservation movement was at its peak, Congress passed the Weeks Law. William B. Greeley, former Chief of the United States Forest Service, described the Law as ".....The most telling of all the moves to nationalize the Federal policy of forestry because it permitted ultimately the location of national forests and administrative units of the national Forest Service in 44 states and territories, with corresponding opportunities to influence public opinion and local actions."\*(1)

The Weeks Law authorized federal land acquisitions "for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers," but it insisted

that the consent of the state containing the lands must first be obtained.

The Federal courts construed "navigation" as including the movement of small boats, skiffs and rafts of logs, but according to Greeley, "The limitation did not seriously restrict the freedom of the Forest Service in selecting areas desired for national forests, but the Secretary of Agriculture could recommend for purchase only lands necessary in his judgment 'to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams.'"

According to one authority, "The history of large-scale acquisition by the federal government of land other than that in the public domain dates from 1911, with the passage of the Weeks Act," and that as of 1950, that single act accounted for 48 percent of the lands acquired by the federal government. The same authority states further that, "Although the Weeks Act laid the groundwork for present land purchase and acceptance practices, most of the 'acquired' land was added after 1933, at a rate which attracted attention to both the process and the acreage."\*\*(2)

The depression of the 1930's spurred federal land acquisitions, presumably as a measure to relieve the financial plight of private owners who could not pay the taxes on unproductive land nor make the investments necessary to bring it into production. Purchases were made under authority of The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, the Emergency Relief Act of 1935 and Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

At the close of 1939, under these authorities the federal government had completed commitments for the purchase of approximately 10,800,000 acres of land for a total purchase price of \$47,500,000. These were "marginal" and "submarginal" lands — forest lands, grasslands and some croplands. Approximately 9,000,000 acres of these lands subsequently were transferred to the administration of the Forest Service for incorporation into national forests or for management as national grasslands.

Toward the end of the 1930's and at the beginning of the 1940's, the course of war in Europe forced the United States into a period of intense preparations for defending our national interests. Military establishments sprang up overnight, resulting in large-scale land buying

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\*\* From the "Closing of the Public Domain," by E. Louise Pepper. Copyright Stanford University Press. Used by permission.



for camps, training grounds, storage facilities, research and development sites, manufacturing facilities and many other establishments.

Those two occasions for federal land acquisition — the depression years and national defense — sparked the greatest land-buying movement since 1867.

Authoritative estimates place federal land acquisition in the period 1934 to 1945 at 34,425,000 acres — an average of 2,648,070 acres each year during the period.(2)

The ending of the war and the return of prosperity did not halt the land buying, though since it has slowed down a bit. Instead, relative peace abroad and mounting prosperity at home have generated a new motive for the government to acquire more land, this time to provide space for outdoor recreation for a population with increasing leisure, mobility and restlessness.

The total area acquired by the federal government through June 30, 1963, is reported by the General Services Administration to be 51,787,889 acres.(3) This is equal in size to the area of the New England States plus New Jersey and Maryland. Most of this — 47,000,000 acres — has been acquired since 1912, a rate of acquisition over the period 1912 to 1963 of more than 900,000 acres a year. (Table VI)

## Federally Owned Land Today

The first inventory of federally owned land in the United States was made in 1953 at the request of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Since 1955 inventories have been made annually by the General Services Administration.

Because large areas in many states are yet unsurveyed — particularly in Alaska — some agencies of the government are able to report only estimates of the acreage they administer. But each year the inventories are becoming more accurate.

The General Services Administration reports that on June 30, 1963, the federal government owned 769,787,889 acres in the United States. Of this, 718,115,449 acres were land remaining in the public domain in 30 states. The rest — 51,787,889 acres — has been acquired.

Alaska alone has 365,480,079 acres of the public domain and 365,497,004 acres of the total federal ownership. (Table XI)

Federal ownership amounts to 33.9 percent of the total area of the 50 states. In the 48

contiguous states the federal government has 404,406,000 acres — 21 percent of the total area of those states.

## What Kind of Land It Is

Two thirds of the federally owned land is classified by the General Services Administration as forest and wildlife land. Another one fifth is grazing land, and about three percent is in parks and historic sites. The rest is in a variety of categories that includes airfields, military installations, office sites, flood control and navigation areas, harbor and port facilities and other areas. (Table III)

## What Agencies Administer It

The Department of the Interior administers the largest portion of the federal land — 551,375,301 acres, or more than 71 percent of the total. (Table IV) The Department of Agriculture administers 186.6 million acres, nearly all of it in national forests. The armed services and the Corps of Engineers together are responsible for 22,741,235 acres. The National Capitol Housing Authority has the smallest area — 2 acres in Washington, D.C. The rest is under the control of a variety of bureaus and departments.

## Where It Is

Federally owned land is in every one of the 50 states. (Table XI)

About 47 percent of the total federally owned acreage is in Alaska. All but about 17,000 acres of this, which have been acquired, is public domain land.

Eleven western states that were formed out of the public domain have 359,384,510 acres of the federal land. That is 89 percent of the total federally owned acreage in the 48 contiguous states. In those states are 347,142,000 acres of the public domain land outside of Alaska.

But of the acquired land, 39,344,520 acres — 76 percent of the total — are in the other 37 states.

Florida leads in acreage of federally acquired land with 2,997,608 acres. Other states in which the federal government has acquired more than 2 million acres are California, Georgia, Michigan, Montana, Texas and Virginia.

In each of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, North

Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin the federal government has acquired between one million and two million acres of land.

More than 7 million acres have been acquired in the original 13 states.

## Federal Land Acquisitions and Disposals

Emphasis of the federal government today in its public land policies is on acquisition of land, but in some quarters there is modest activity in disposal.

## Public Land Disposals

The records of the General Services Administration show a decrease of 900,000 acres in federal land during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, ".....consisting of a decrease of 1.3 million acres in the public domain and 0.4 million acres increase in acquired land."(3)

GSA explains that "The decrease in public domain is due to sizable adjustments amounting to a net decrease of 1.7 million acres by Department of the Interior, particularly in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, California, Utah and Wyoming following a research of records and corrections to acreage submitted in previous years. Department of Defense, military functions, shows an increase of 0.4 million acres of public domain lands, principally in Alaska."

Most activity in land disposal is in Alaska where, when the territory was admitted as a state, the federal government owned all but a small fraction of the area. Some 100 million acres are being conveyed to the State of Alaska for disposal.

The Bureau of Land Management reported disposal of 639,316 acres in fiscal year 1963.(4) About 120,000 acres were conveyed to private owners under several authorities. The rest was conveyed to states, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies and counties and local governments.

The Forest Service occasionally disposes of some of its public lands under authority of public land laws. In 1963 the Chief of the Forest Service reported disposal of 1,583 acres by grants, sales, mining patents, reconveyances and homesteads.

The Bureau of Reclamation disposes of some of the reclaimed public land under its

administration and the military services dispose of some of their property as it becomes surplus.

## Land Acquisition

Most agencies of the federal government acquire land which they judge to be essential to the performance of their duties and functions. Office sites are purchased on which to erect buildings to house government bureaus; land for airfields, for road-rights-of-way, for military installations, for research and development and for institutions and many other purposes is needed and acquired.

In the past decade the movement for government to acquire large areas of rural land for recreation has been gaining momentum at a rate that is attracting widespread attention and giving pause for serious reflection in many quarters. The movement is active in all levels of government, but is spearheaded by federal agencies. Agencies with authority to buy land for public works, for national defense and for development and improvement of natural resources are now including in their acquisition plans additional acreage for recreation.

Some acquiring agencies have given this movement an aura of urgency that is viewed by some people as unwarranted. For instance, the Department of the Interior presents its acquisition case to the public as a "Race For Inner Space" asking support for its acquisitions before the land is preempted for other uses and before land values rise so high that the federal government can not afford to buy it.(11) And in a leaflet prepared and distributed by the National Park Service, the Service proposes acquisition of land for establishment of 34 new national parks "while there's still time," warning that "The time is now" and "There is an urgency for action."(12)

Federally acquired land increased 364,172 acres in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963. Forty states experienced increased acreage. The other states registered slight declines in acquired acreage due largely to disposals by the military services and adjustments of records of previous purchases.

## What Federal Agencies Are Acquiring Land

Only a few of the federal agencies with authority to acquire land have active programs of land purchases. Some of them, however, are becoming increasingly active and have long-range plans for continuing their acquisitions.



The Forest Service as of June 30, 1963 accounted for 50.5 percent of all land acquired by the federal government to date. The Department of the Interior accounted for 23 percent, and the Defense Department, including the civil functions of the Corps of Engineers, 23 percent. (Table V)

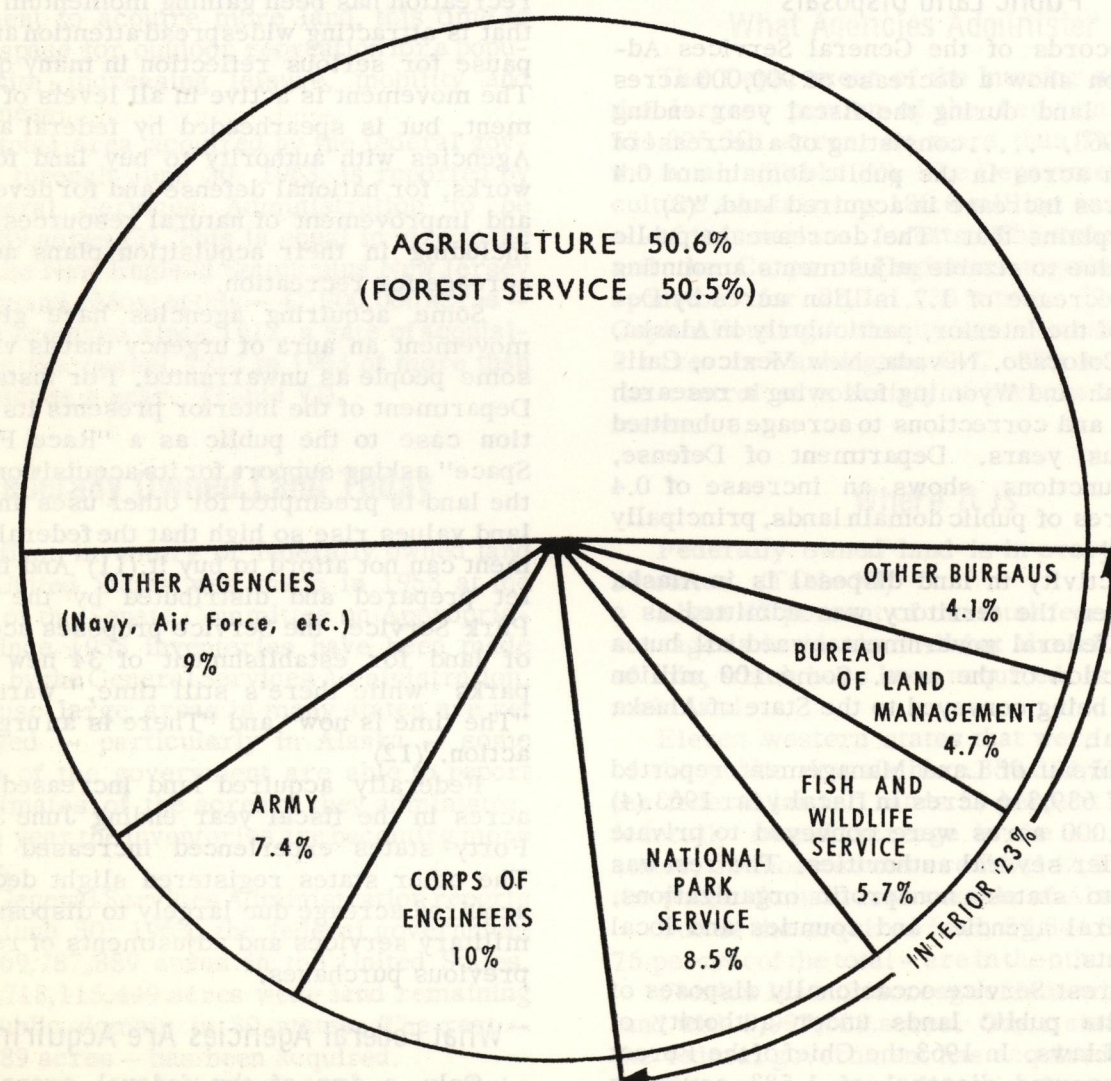
The inventory report of the General Services Administration shows that in the fiscal year

ending June 30, 1963, the Forest Service acquired 36,897 acres, the Fish and Wildlife Service 51,618 acres and the National Park Service 29,042 acres. Those agencies are the most active in land acquisition at present and all have plans for extensive further additions.

Other sizable purchases were made by the Corps of Engineers, the Army, the Navy and the Bureau of Reclamation.

### Federal Acquired Land By Agency\* (As of June 30, 1963)

Source: Inventory Report on Real Property owned by the United States Throughout the World, as Of June 30, 1963.



\* Total land acquired by the federal government from 1900 through June 30, 1963 - 51,787,889 acres. Acquisitions in outlying areas and foreign countries excluded. Acreage acquired before 1900 is estimated to be insignificant. Large-scale acquisition started in 1912. Estimated acreage acquired before 1912 set at 5 million to 6 million acres.

### Why They Are Acquiring Land

The reasons for many government land acquisitions are obvious, but reasons for purchasing land in addition to what is judged to be necessary for proper operation are not always clearly understood.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, for instance, was created to improve the navigability of the Tennessee River, to provide for flood control on the river, provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the valley, provide for the agricultural and industrial development of the valley and to operate government properties at and near Muscle Shoals in the State of Alabama.(5) But today TVA is proposing acquisition of large areas of agricultural and forest land in Kentucky and Tennessee to establish "A demonstration in recreation resource development."(10)

"In the early days of the Reclamation program a dam was built solely to regulate river flow and to provide irrigation for growing crops" but, because people have been using reclamation project sites for recreation, the Bureau of Reclamation reports that "In recent years provisions for public facilities have been included in plans for new Reclamation projects."(4)

"Generally speaking, the land required for canals and laterals, pumping systems, power-plants, and transmission lines will be established by and limited to the areas necessary to construct, operate, and maintain these facilities. Similarly, the minimum take line on reservoirs is that necessary to contain the reservoir and provide the land necessary for access by the operation and maintenance organization along the lake periphery at high-water level. However, the lake values related to recreation and to the preservation of the fishery and wildlife often have land requirements in addition to the minimum area needed for water and power operation. When these additional values can be developed, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife cooperate with the Bureau of Reclamation in planning the project. These agencies designate and provide justification for acquiring such additional project lands as are needed for the purposes falling within their respective interests."(14)

The Corps of Engineers builds and operates structures for flood control and to maintain the navigability of inland waters, as well as military installations. The Corps now includes in many of its acquisition plans for civilian functions

some land and water areas for recreational purposes.

The Forest Service is authorized by the Weeks Law to "...purchase such forested, cut-over, or denuded lands within the watersheds of navigable streams as in his (the Secretary of Agriculture) judgment may be necessary to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams or for the production of timber..."(6)

Under the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield law of 1960, recreational development was given equal status with watershed protection and timber production in the management of national forests. Consequently, the Forest Service now acquires some land primarily for recreational use. It also acquires land to extend the national forest system, to consolidate national forest holdings by acquisition of "in-holdings" of private land within the exterior boundaries of the national forests and to establish experiment stations and experimental forests. An acquisition program now under consideration by the Forest Service in Arkansas is being studied for its potential "...to assist a depressed rural economy."(13)

The National Park Service purchases land to extend the National Park systems and National Monuments and to consolidate federal holdings within the exterior boundaries of existing National Parks and Monuments which are for the purpose of conserving "...the scenery and natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same...."

The Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, acquires land to establish wildlife refuges, game ranges, national fish hatcheries, and other conservation areas for "appropriate or secondary use for public recreation, to the extent that such use is compatible with the primary purposes of such areas."(4)

### How The Federal Agencies Acquire Land

All but two or three of the federal agencies need the approval of Congress for each specific acquisition. The National Park Service, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Defense Department, for instance, must get Congressional approval and appropriated funds for each purchase.

The military services, the Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority and most other federal agencies can institute condemnation proceedings to acquire the land they want if the



owners are reluctant to sell. But in all cases the government tries first to purchase from a "willing seller" after having made its intentions known some time in advance.

There are some exceptions from the usual procedures, where Congressional approval is not required and where Congressional appropriations are not necessary.

One exception is the Forest Service.

Following passage of the Weeks Law in 1911, many states passed enabling acts giving the consent of the State to acquisition of land for national forest purposes. Some States placed a limit on the acreage the Forest Service may acquire, or they placed restrictions on the areas where land may be acquired. Some others require the specific approval of the governor or of a State or local body for each acquisition.

In virtually all states only the approval of the National Forest Reservation Commission is required for each Forest Service acquisition through purchase or exchange. The Commission is composed of the Secretaries of the Army, Agriculture and Interior and two members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives appointed by the President.

Following approval by the Commission for purchase, the necessary funds must be appropriated by Congress.

Under certain authorizations and certain conditions, the Forest Service may exchange federal lands or standing timber for private lands for additions to national forests. If the National Forest Reservation Commission approves an exchange, no action by Congress nor appropriation of funds is necessary.

The Forest Service is also authorized by law to accept donations of land.

Excepting in cases where a new national forest is being established, only land lying within the exterior boundaries of a national forest may be acquired by purchase or exchange. However, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to change the locations of those exterior boundaries when he deems it desirable or necessary.

Of the more than 186,000,000 acres in National Forests on June 30, 1963, about 26,000,000 acres were acquired largely through the processes described above. (Table VII)

In recent years the chief means of acquisition of land for National Forests has been by exchange of federal land and stumpage for private acres. (Table VIII)

Another agency that acquires land without Congressional approval or appropriations is the

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, in the Fish and Wildlife Service, which acquires land for migratory waterfowl refuges.

Approval for acquisitions for the refuges is given by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. This Commission is composed of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and two Senators and two Representatives appointed by the President.

Funds for purchases come from sale of duck stamps. Because receipts from this source in recent years have not been sufficient to finance the planned acquisitions Congress in 1961 passed the Wetlands Loan Act. Under this Act, an appropriation of \$105 million was authorized for land acquisition, to be repaid from duck stamp receipts beginning in fiscal year 1969. However, acquisition of land in any state can be accomplished only with consent of the Governor.

## Effect of Government Land Acquisition On Local Taxing Units and Private Landowners

Under the Constitution federally owned land is exempted from taxation.

Traditionally, real property has been the chief source of revenue for states, counties, townships, school districts and municipalities. Removal of land from the tax rolls by government acquisition has long posed a serious problem for local taxing units everywhere. As demands on local governments skyrocket for increased services and facilities, such as they have been doing in the past decade, the land remaining in private ownership must bear an increasing tax load to sustain the taxing units, and other sources of revenue must be found.

It is an inescapable fact that as the tax base of a local government is narrowed by removal of property from the rolls, the rate on the property remaining in private hands goes up.

THE COUNTY OFFICER, official publication of the National Association of Counties, reports, "In the five-year period 1957-1962, the total expenditures of county government rose by 48% and indebtedness by 77%." (7)

Speaking of the revenues of counties, the same publication states, "County government revenue was virtually all from taxes or other general revenue sources. The property tax provided 46% of the total." That was in the period 1957-1962.

By way of contrast, property taxes provided 73% of the revenue of local governments in 1902. (Table IX)

Narrowing property-tax bases make local governments increasingly dependent on higher levels of government—state and federal—for operating revenues. Since 1902 the share of local government revenues from state and federal governments has risen from 6 percent of the total to 25 percent. Most of this increase is in help from states who get much of the aid money from the federal government.

Though some agencies of the federal government make payments in lieu of taxes, not all agencies do so. Those that do, do so under a variety of policies and methods that leave local governments confused and frustrated, especially where several agencies have land in one county. Regardless of the amounts paid in lieu of taxes, payments are made without regard to the needs of local taxing units.

In some cases, as in the case of the Forest Service payments of 25% of net receipts from national forests to states for distribution to counties in which national forests are located, the federal government specifies that the money must be spent only for schools and roads. And the counties have no assurance from one year to the other what amount they will receive, thus being put at a disadvantage in making up their budgets. For instance, the supervisor of Texas national forests reported payments in 1958 of \$572,315; 1959, \$629,484; 1960, \$636,548; 1961, \$471,827; 1962, \$317,921; and 1963, \$319,230.

The Illinois Legislative Council, Research Department, studied the problem and published a report in 1942, PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES UNDER HOUSING AND FEDERAL LAND PURCHASE PROGRAMS. In the report appears this statement:

"Each law concerning payments in lieu of taxes was enacted to meet a particular problem with little consideration as to how that particular addition fitted into the general structure, so no settled policy exists. Sometimes Federal property is assessed in the same manner as other property; at other times it is not, but full tax equivalents are paid. Sometimes Federal payments are sent without warning; in other cases local taxing units must take the initiative in formulating an agreement for payments. Sometimes Federal agencies are authorized to make payments; again, they may be directed to do so.

Sometimes Congress insists that money paid shall be spent for certain specific purposes; in other connections no such restrictions are made. Sometimes payments are made to the various State treasuries with instructions to pay part or all to local governments; in other cases no such instructions are given."

In 1952 the Forest Service made a study of estimated taxes on national forests using as a base a sample of 135 counties chosen at random from the 652 counties that contained national forest land. Credit was given the Forest Service for improvements constructed and for maintenance of the property. In addition to those "contributions in kind," the 25% of gross receipts paid to the counties was included in the reckoning.

From the study it appeared that, overall, local governments were not losing because the national forest lands are tax exempt. But in some cases it showed individual counties to have been losing revenue. (8)

Two years earlier, in 1950, the National Education Association made a study in the 11 public land states of the West. Using data for 1948, local tax officials were asked to estimate the taxes on federal property in their jurisdictions and the estimates were then compared with the revenue paid to the counties by all the federal landowning agencies under a variety of arrangements. This study showed that payments to the counties by the federal government amounted to only 31.4 percent of estimated taxes. (8)

Of more recent concern, though, is the financial plight of county and local governments today, resulting from a combination of sharply rising costs of services, facilities and administration, increasing demand for services, and preemption of sources of revenue by other levels of government. Removal of land from the tax rolls only adds to the woes of local governments. (Table X)

A financial paper reported early in 1964 that "The debts of America's states and towns have rocketed 448% since World War II," and that the per capita indebtedness of State and local governments jumped from \$120 in 1946 to \$467 in 1963. (15)

That removal of land from the tax rolls by government acquisition is causing concern to state and local government officials in some areas can be seen in this statement which appears in the 1963 Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior, reported by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife: "The program (of land



acquisition) in the Prairie States has been slowed by reluctance of State Governors to grant the approval required by the Wetlands Loan Act because of removal of land from local tax rolls."(4)

The WALL STREET JOURNAL, September 18, 1964, reported:

"Expansion of the Federal Government's tax-exempt properties is a particular problem in some areas.

"In northwest Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park used to be 20 miles from the Teton County seat of Jackson. But the park has been overflowing onto land acquired and donated by the Rockefellers, and its edge is now a mere two miles from Jackson; only an elk refuge separates park from town.

"This expansion has preserved spectacular mountain scenery for tourists. But in the past 15 years it also has taken 36,697 acres of formerly taxed land off the rolls; only 76,262 of the county's 1,816,960 acres are still subject to tax. 'The result is very frugal county government,' says one Teton County rancher—Wyoming's Gov. Clifford P. Hansen."

In testimony before a Congressional committee investigating federal land acquisition practices and policies, the Mayor of Kuttawa, Kentucky, (population 794) where the Corps of Engineers acquired land for a project, made this statement:

"The principal source of revenue of the City of Kuttawa is the property tax. Based on the revenue in 1958, the last year before acquisition of property in the city began, revenue from property tax in 1959 was 88 percent, in 1960 was 65 percent, in 1961 was 56 percent and in 1962, 46 percent. Revenues from city-owned utilities have decreased during the same period approximately 30 percent. A request for relief in this regard, based on a study by competent engineers and offered to the Congress, has never gotten off the ground.

"Kuttawa has been forced to live off capital received from the sale of timber and from proceeds of small city-owned tracts taken by the U. S. Government."(16)

## State-Owned Land

Each of the 50 states owns land.

State-owned land in 1962 totaled approximately 78 million acres, exclusive of road

rights-of-way and identifiable water areas. (Table XII) The Economic Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which compiled the state-land figures cited in this report, said that, "A sizable number of State institutional areas were also omitted for lack of information but this omission probably totals no more than a few hundred thousand acres."

To each of the states formed out of the public domain the federal government conveyed some land. Most of the state-owned land in the so-called "public land" states of the West came from this source. The state land in the eastern states has all been acquired from other owners, mostly private.

On its admission as a State in 1959, Alaska was promised 100 million acres of the federal land with the right to choose the land it desired. In mid-1963 transfer of this land to the State was underway but no formal conveyance had been made.

Much of the land owned by states in the Lake States region was transferred from private ownership because of tax-delinquency. This condition resulted from the rush of pioneers to acquire forest land and cutover "stump-land" in the mistaken belief that the soil was of agricultural quality. On finding they could not subsist on it, the owners defaulted the taxes and states and counties took it over.

In the depression years of the thirties the Federal government bought large areas of marginal and submarginal land, land that was not productive enough to support agricultural enterprise. Managed by the federal government in "land utilization" units, it was gradually rehabilitated and some of it turned over to the states.

In some states of the East, the young state forestry departments in the first decades of the 1900's bought large areas of cutover forest land to manage as state forests. Pennsylvania was among the leaders in this movement. In New York large areas of forest land were acquired for inclusion in a State Forest Preserve, an area designated by the legislature to be kept forever wild.

In 1935 Congress passed the Fulmer Act which authorizes federal appropriations to pay a state half the cost of acquisition of state forests provided they are set up under federal standards. However, Congress so far has been reluctant to divert funds from the federal treasury for purchase of state lands and the proposed monetary aid has not yet materialized.

Most of the state-owned land is classed as farming and grazing land. Forest land not grazed comprises about one fourth of the total state ownerships.

The Rocky Mountain and Pacific States have more than half the total state-owned land.

Acquisition of land by the states is being given new impetus by the emphasis on outdoor recreation generated by a rise in population and increased mobility and income of the people. Prospects of substantial federal financial aid to acquire additional land for recreational purposes promises accelerated state-acquisition programs, particularly in the East.

## The Prospects for Continuing Government Land Acquisition

An expanding population with increasing mobility, leisure and income and a rising standard of living—such as ours is experiencing—requires expanded services and facilities from the government. In order for government to provide many of the new and expanded facilities demanded, it must certainly acquire some land. A problem for the people of the United States and government officials is to determine what acquisitions are absolutely necessary and what ones only seem so.

Flood control and navigation projects will continue to be given consideration by the Corps of Engineers, and construction of some of them will be undertaken. The Bureau of Reclamation will continue to build dams, reservoirs and other structures. Both those agencies will need to acquire land that will be inundated or otherwise rendered unfit for private ownership. The Department of Defense will always need land for use in defense of the nation and can be expected to require more when crises threaten. Increasing air traffic and use of larger aircraft seem almost certain to require more and larger commercial airfields. Extension of the nation's highway system shows no signs of slowing down. Demands for outdoor recreation and for the land and facilities to provide the opportunities for meeting the demands will continue in greater or lesser degree. All these considerations point to continuing government land purchasing and to demands from some quarters for immediate and greatly accelerated acquisition.

Some federal and state agencies have indicated their desires for more land and have drawn

up plans for acquisitions in the future. Some project plans already well along give hints of what may be expected.

For instance, a bill introduced in the 88th Congress—H. R. 2010—contemplated construction of a 2,470-mile long parkway from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, complete with parks and scenic and rest areas. If only a modest 200-foot wide right-of-way is used in this project, nearly 60,000 acres would be needed. How much of the required land is already in government ownership and how much would be acquired from private owners has not yet been determined.

Public Law 88-578, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, will provide funds for federal agencies and state and local governments to acquire lands for recreation purposes. The federal share of the estimated \$1.8 billion to be collected under provisions of the Act would be approximately \$750 million—40 percent of the fund—to be spent only for acquisition of land largely by the National Park Service, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forest Service plans to acquire about 4 million acres of "Inholdings within wilderness areas of the National Forest System and other areas of national forests as the boundaries of those forests exist on the effective date of this Act, which other areas are primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes..." Eighty-five percent of the Forest Service purchases must be made east of the 100th meridian; that is, east of a north-south line approximately bisecting Texas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota.

The National Park Service has publicly announced its desire to establish 34 new recreational areas in 26 states, largely by acquisition of private lands, acreage unspecified. In addition, the Service in the 1963 Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior stated that 673,400 acres of non-federal land and water within national park areas need to be acquired because they have "...continued as an administrative handicap and prevented complete conservation and full utilization of adjoining Federal lands for public park purposes."

In the same report the Secretary of Interior declares that, "To preserve migratory waterfowl resources for the future, the Department of the Interior has a long-range goal of 4.5 million additional acres of wetlands for refuges under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and for Waterfowl production areas under the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act."



The Forest Service since 1950 has not publicly disclosed its long-range acquisition plans. In that year, however, the then-chief of the Forest Service made the following statement in his annual report:

"The existing national forests and purchase units, however, include about 35 million acres of lands still unacquired, although primarily suitable for national forest purposes. Some 23 million acres of the unacquired lands are situated within national forests and purchase units east of the Great Plains. These national-forest areas were in large measure established under the purchase program authorized by the Weeks Law, as amended, to facilitate and promote watershed protection and timber production. Consolidation and development of these national forests within a reasonable period of time will require a greatly accelerated purchase program. Such a program, however, would certainly be a basic step toward better protected watersheds, increased supplies of timber, expanded public recreational opportunities, and enlarged public hunting and fishing grounds."

In 1953, a former Chief of the Forest Service, W. B. Greeley, stated:

"The extension of the Federal holdings into an impressive group of properties, representing every type of forest and near forest in the United States and its possessions, has been a persistent, unchanging policy of the U.S. Forest Service. ...The Forest Service adheres, however, to an aggressive policy of forest acquisition, setting its minimum goal at an additional 34 million acres to fill in largely the existing national forest boundaries."(1)

In 1963 the gross area in purchase units of the national forests totaled 220,265,664 acres. Of this, 182,238,263 acres were administered by the Service, leaving 38,027,401 acres, most of which is privately owned, "still unacquired," located chiefly in the states east of the Great Plains.

Land acquisitions by states and other government units are being stimulated and accelerated by federal financial aid. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 will make available to states about \$1 billion—60 percent of the fund—"For the acquisition of land, waters, or interests in land or waters (other than land, waters or interests in land or waters acquired from the United States for less than fair market value), but not including incidental costs relating to acquisition," and for development of recreational areas. The states must match federal payments dollar for dollar, and only those acquisitions and developments that are approved by the Secretary of the Interior are eligible for federal funds.

And S.7, pending in the Congress, would double the federal subsidy authorization to States and their subdivisions from \$50 million to \$100 million to acquire land "...to preserve open space land in and around urban areas" and to strengthen federal control over the use of the funds and of the land acquired.

Land acquisition plans of federal agencies have been summarized for scrutiny of a Congressional committee investigating federal land acquisition practices. The records show that 19 agencies estimate their purchases in fee over the five-year period from January 1, 1964 to December 31, 1968 will average each year more than 700,000 acres for a total of 3,650,465 acres. In addition, in the same period the federal government will acquire some interests, such as scenic easements, in 2,118,948 acres more.(17)

Table 1  
ACQUISITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN  
1781 - 1963  
LAND ACQUISITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN  
1781 - 1963  
Area (acres)

Acquisition	Land	Inland Water	Total	Cost (millions)
State Cessions (1781-1803)	223,415,680	3,409,920	226,825,600	2.62
Land Purchase	323,415,680	3,409,920	326,825,600	2.62
Red River Basin	32,000,000	32,000,000	64,000,000	2.62
Land from Spain	47,342,720	2,301,920	49,644,640	6.7
Land from Mexico	180,644,480	183,386,240	364,030,720	18.3
Land from Texas	78,842,880	83,840	78,926,720	18.3
Land from California	18,921,920	30,880	18,952,800	18.3
Land from Alaska	365,481,600	2,814,400	368,296,000	7.2
TOTAL PUBLIC DOMAIN	1,807,681,920	30,080,640	1,837,762,560	382.1

National Tables

Unless otherwise noted, all figures are as of June 30, 1963.  
All acreage figures rounded off to the nearest acre.

Source: "Public Land Statistics, 1963," U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

Acquisition	Land	Inland Water	Total	Cost (millions)
State Cessions (1781-1803)	223,415,680	3,409,920	226,825,600	2.62
Land Purchase	323,415,680	3,409,920	326,825,600	2.62
Red River Basin	32,000,000	32,000,000	64,000,000	2.62
Land from Spain	47,342,720	2,301,920	49,644,640	6.7
Land from Mexico	180,644,480	183,386,240	364,030,720	18.3
Land from Texas	78,842,880	83,840	78,926,720	18.3
Land from California	18,921,920	30,880	18,952,800	18.3
Land from Alaska	365,481,600	2,814,400	368,296,000	7.2
TOTAL PUBLIC DOMAIN	1,807,681,920	30,080,640	1,837,762,560	382.1



Table I

ACQUISITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN  
1781 - 1867

Acquisition	Area (acres)		Total	Cost (millions)
	Land	Inland Water		
State cessions (1781-1802).....	233,415,680	3,409,920	236,825,600	\$ 6.2
Louisiana Purchase (1803)*.....	523,446,400	6,465,280	529,911,680	23.2
Red River Basin**.....	29,066,880	535,040	29,601,920	--
Cession from Spain (1819).....	43,342,720	2,801,920	46,144,640	6.7
Oregon Compromise (1846).....	180,644,480	2,741,760	183,386,240	--
Mexican Cession (1848).....	344,479,360	4,201,600	338,680,960	16.3
Purchase from Texas (1850).....	78,842,880	83,840	78,926,720	15.5
Gadsen Purchase (1853).....	18,951,920	26,880	18,998,000	10.0
Alaska Purchase (1867).....	365,481,600	9,814,400	375,296,000	7.2
TOTAL PUBLIC DOMAIN	1,807,681,920	30,080,640	1,837,762,560	\$85.1

Source: "Public Land Statistics, 1963" U. S. Department of the Interior

\* Excludes areas eliminated by Treaty of 1819 with Spain.

\*\* Basin of the Red River of the North, south of the 49th parallel.

Table II

DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LANDS  
1781 - 1963

Type of Disposition	Acres*
Granted or sold to homesteaders.....	287,300,000
Granted to states for:--	
Support of common schools.....	78,600,000
Reclamation of swampland.....	64,900,000
Construction of railroads.....	37,200,000
Support of miscellaneous institutions.....	22,300,000
Canals and rivers.....	6,100,000
Construction of wagon roads.....	3,400,000
Purposes not elsewhere classified.....	118,000,000
Total granted to states.....	330,500,000
Granted to railroad corporations.....	94,300,000
Granted to veterans as military bounties.....	61,000,000
Confirmed as private claims**.....	34,000,000
Sold under Timber and Stone law.....	13,900,000
Granted or sold under timber culture law***.....	10,900,000
Sold under desert land law****.....	10,100,000
Disposed of by methods not elsewhere classified.....	301,800,000
GRAND TOTAL.....	1,143,800,000

Source: "Public Land Statistics, 1963," Department of the Interior

\* Acres for this table, and Table I, are estimated from available records. All areas of public domain acquisitions except Alaska were computed in 1912 and have not been adjusted for the re-computation of the area of the United States which was made for the 1950 decennial census. Therefore, the difference in acreage between computed acquisitions and disposals does not equal present estimates of remaining public domain.

\*\* Confirmed title to lands claimed under valid grants made by foreign governments prior to acquisition by the United States.

\*\*\* Granted to settlers on condition that they plant and cultivate trees on the land.

\*\*\*\* Sales of desert lands to settlers who irrigate them and bring them under cultivation.



Table III

FEDERALLY OWNED LAND, BY PREDOMINANT USAGE AND COST  
As of June 30, 1963

Predominant Usage	Acres	Cost*
Agriculture.....	32,119	\$ 551,000
Grazing .....	164,391,679	17,762,000
Forest and wildlife.....	515,101,754	216,104,000
Parks and historic sites .....	22,404,927	155,076,000
Office building locations .....	8,245	328,803,000
Military (excluding airfields) .....	16,377,775	357,877,000
Airfields.....	1,923,475	274,397,000
Harbor and port facilities .....	26,118	24,652,000
Power development and distribution.....	1,916,914	177,264,000
Reclamation and irrigation.....	8,020,034	250,585,000
Flood control and navigation.....	6,224,563	1,569,170,000
Institutional.....	104,020	59,532,000
Housing .....	1,020	1,262,000
Storage.....	522,798	42,357,000
Industrial .....	2,604,653	166,197,000
Research and development.....	1,446,323	57,257,000
Vacant .....	3,007	15,407,000
Other** .....	28,763,914	50,328,000
TOTALS .....	769,903,338	\$3,764,581,000

Source: General Services Administration.

\* Original cost at time of acquisition, does not represent present value.

\*\* Includes 2,577,947 acres and \$19,562,000 cost for military functions in Alaska and Hawaii.

Table IV

FEDERALLY OWNED LAND BY AGENCIES  
As of June 30, 1963

Agency	Acres
Department of Agriculture.....	186,601,087
Department of Commerce .....	9,348
Department of Health, Education and Welfare .....	5,423
Department of the Interior.....	551,375,301
Department of Labor.....	38,932
Post Office Department.....	1,611
State Department .....	74,383
Treasury Department .....	67,815
General Services Administration.....	13,327
Housing and Home Finance Administration .....	295
Veteran's Administration.....	26,835
Atomic Energy Commission.....	2,106,719
Central Intelligence Agency .....	718
Federal Aviation Agency .....	111,345
Federal Communications Commission .....	2,799
Government Printing Office.....	6
National Aeronautics and Space Administration .....	66,563
National Capitol Housing Authority .....	2
National Science Foundation.....	2,657
St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. ....	2,963
Smithsonian Institution .....	252
Tennessee Valley Authority .....	697,633
U. S. Information Agency .....	8,387
Department of the Army .....	10,404,902
Air Force.....	8,725,591
Department of the Navy.....	3,610,742
Corps of Engineers, Civil Functions .....	5,947,702
TOTAL .....	769,903,338

Source: General Services Administration.



Table V

FEDERAL ACQUIRED LAND BY AGENCY  
Through June 30, 1963

Agency	Acres Acquired*	Percent of Total Federal Acquired Acres
		Acres
Department of Agriculture —		
Forest Service. . . . .	26,217,792	50.6
Other Bureaus. . . . .	32,133	0.1
Total Department of Agriculture. . . . .	26,249,925	50.7
Department of Commerce. . . . .	9,050	**
Department of Health, Education and Welfare. . . . .	4,769	**
Department of Interior —		
Bureau of Mines. . . . .	13,287	**
Bureau of Land Management. . . . .	2,427,183	4.7
Fish and Wildlife Service. . . . .	2,966,925	5.7
National Park Service. . . . .	4,408,423	8.5
Bureau of Indian Affairs. . . . .	509,903	1.0
Bureau of Reclamation. . . . .	1,609,913	3.1
Other Bureaus. . . . .	10,887	**
Total Department of the Interior. . . . .	11,946,520	23.0
Department of Justice. . . . .	33,243	**
Post Office Department. . . . .	1,611	**
State Department. . . . .	62,042	0.1
Treasury Department. . . . .	12,091	**
General Services Administration. . . . .	13,308	**
Veterans Administration. . . . .	23,621	**
Atomic Energy Commission. . . . .	719,938	1.4
National Aeronautical and Space Administration. . . . .	66,563	0.1
Tennessee Valley Authority. . . . .	697,632	1.3
Defense Department —		
Army. . . . .	3,850,899	7.4
Navy. . . . .	1,414,778	2.8
Air Force. . . . .	1,514,765	3.0
Corps of Engineers (civil). . . . .	5,127,459	10.0
Total Defense Department. . . . .	11,907,901	23.0
Other agencies. . . . .	39,675	0.2
TOTAL ALL AGENCIES. . . . .	51,787,889	100.0

Source: General Services Administration.

\*United States only; acquisitions in outlying areas and foreign countries excluded. Acquisition by purchase, condemnation, gift and exchange.

\*\*Each less than one tenth of 1 percent. Aggregate percentages included with that of "Other agencies."

Table VI

FEDERAL ACQUIRED LAND, AS OF JUNE 30, 1963, BY SELECTED ADMINISTERING AGENCIES,  
WITH ESTIMATES OF PERIOD OF ACQUISITION\*

		Period and Acres Acquired (thousand acres)					
		<u>1911 - 1933</u>		<u>1934 - 1945</u>		<u>1946 - 1963</u>	
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Before 1911</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>
Forest Service. . . . .	0	10,268	446.4	13,525	1,127.1	2,425	134.7
National Park Service. .	33	542	23.6	1,491	124.3	2,354	130.8
Bureau of Reclamation .	300	300	13.0	44	3.7	966	53.7
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	141	6.1	2,000	166.7	826	45.9
Defense Services**. . . .	2,043	1,086	47.2	6,782	565.2	2,095	116.4

\*Adapted from a table in THE CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, by E. Louise Pepper, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1951.

\*\*Army, Navy, Air Force and civil and military functions of the Corps of Engineers.

Table VII

LAND IN NATIONAL FORESTS, BY ORIGIN  
As of June 30, 1963

Public Domain. . . . .	159,988,440 acres*
Acquired by purchase**. . . . .	19,000,328 acres**
Acquired by exchange. . . . .	6,786,967 acres***
Acquired by donation. . . . .	430,497 acres****
TOTAL. . . . .	186,206,232*

\*Source: "Inventory Report on Real Property Owned By The United States Throughout the World, as of June 30, 1963" prepared by General Services Administration.

\*\*Source: Annual reports of the Chief of the Forest Service, starting with the report for 1955 which gave total purchased as of June 30, 1955 and brought up to date from subsequent reports.

\*\*\*Exchange of National Forest land for private or state land and National Forest stumpage for private land.

\*\*\*\*As of June 30, 1955, reported in the annual report of the Chief of the Forest Service for that year.



Table VIII

SUMMARY OF FOREST SERVICE ACQUISITIONS  
1958 - 1962

Year	Acres Purchased*	Acres Exchanged		Acres Sold, Granted Patented, Etc.	Net Acres Acquired
		Conveyed To Forest Service	Conveyed By Forest Service		
1958.....	14,034	21,059	13,045	6,774	15,274
1959.....	11,942	86,112	60,420	2,965	34,669
1960.....	8,102	26,660	22,143	30,737	- 18,118
1961.....	535,475**	52,349	39,920	3,347	544,557
1962.....	10,543	126,209	84,244	10,636	41,872
TOTALS	580,096	312,389	219,772	54,459	618,254

Source: Annual reports of the Chief of the Forest Service.

\* Virtually all purchased under authority of the Weeks Law.

\*\* Includes 525,585 acres purchased from the Klamath Indians.

Table IX

SOURCES OF REVENUE OF LOCAL\* TAXING UNITS  
Selected Years  
(In percentages of total revenue)

Year	From Property Taxes	From States	From Federal Government	All Other Sources**
1902.....	72.7	5.7	0.4	21.2
1922.....	77.7	7.5	0.2	14.6
1932.....	77.3	12.9	0.2	9.6
1946.....	63.9	21.9	0.6	13.6
1961.....	58.7	25.0	1.6	14.7

Table X

EXPENDITURES, REVENUE AND DEBTS OF LOCAL\* GOVERNMENTS  
Selected Years  
(millions)

Year	Revenues	Expenditures	Gross Debts
1902.....	\$ 914	\$ 965	\$ 1,877
1922.....	4,148	4,594	8,978
1932.....	6,192	6,420	16,372
1946.....	9,561	9,156	13,564
1961.....	39,855	41,978	55,422

Source: FACTS AND FIGURES ON GOVERNMENT FINANCE, Twelfth Edition, 1962-1963. Tax Foundation, Inc., 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

\* Counties, cities, townships, special districts and school districts.

\*\* Sales taxes, liquor taxes, utilities, etc.

Table XI

COMPARISON OF LAND OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY FEDERAL AND  
STATE GOVERNMENTS WITH AREA OF STATES

State	Acres Owned by Federal Govern- ment	Acres Owned by State Govern- ment	Acres Tax- Exempt Indian Land	Tax-Exempt Acres In Federal, State and Indian Ownerships*	Total Acres In State	Percent of Acres Tax-Exempt*
Alabama.....	1,085,937	285,939	0	1,371,876	33,030,000	4.2
Alaska**.....	365,497,004	0	98,734	365,481,600	365,481,600	100.0
Arizona.....	32,439,260	9,211,909	19,650,282	61,301,451	72,688,000	84.3
Arkansas.....	3,054,139	233,287	0	3,287,426	33,599,000	9.8
California.....	44,995,775	1,646,066	546,546	47,188,387	100,206,720	47.1
Colorado.....	23,978,041	3,263,913	752,114	27,994,068	66,485,760	42.1
Connecticut....	7,103	162,138	0	169,241	3,135,360	5.4
Delaware.....	32,581	22,456	0	55,037	1,265,920	4.3
Dist. of Columbia	11,291	0	0	11,291	39,040	28.9
Florida.....	3,319,445	564,389	79,014	3,962,848	34,721,280	11.4
Georgia.....	2,037,428	154,546	0	2,191,974	37,295,360	5.9
Hawaii.....	233,170	1,524,722	0	1,757,892	4,105,600	42.8
Idaho.....	33,764,565	2,758,744	790,423	37,313,732	52,933,120	70.5
Illinois.....	439,445	112,057	0	551,502	35,795,200	1.5
Indiana.....	353,334	211,327	0	564,661	23,158,400	2.4
Iowa.....	155,707	154,992	4,105	314,804	35,860,480	0.9
Kansas.....	481,545	63,576	27,587	572,708	52,510,720	1.1
Kentucky.....	1,077,928	161,579	0	1,239,507	25,512,320	4.9
Louisiana.....	1,047,940	319,725	262	1,367,927	28,867,840	4.7
Maine.....	128,329	262,115	0	390,444	19,847,680	2.0
Maryland.....	183,814	202,858	0	386,672	6,319,360	6.1
Massachusetts..	64,542	264,873	0	329,415	5,034,880	6.5
Michigan.....	3,252,052	4,306,728	17,272	7,576,052	36,492,160	20.8
Minnesota.....	3,312,753	5,121,317	735,647	9,169,717	51,205,760	17.9
Mississippi....	1,514,392	107,067	16,576	1,638,035	30,222,720	5.4
Missouri.....	1,695,322	342,396	373	2,038,091	44,248,320	4.6
Montana.....	27,658,977	5,310,227	5,244,144	38,213,348	93,271,040	41.0

(Continued on page 24)



Table XI (Continued)

State	Acres Owned by Federal Govern- ment	Acres Owned by State Govern- ment	Acres Tax- Exempt Indian Land	Tax-Exempt Acres In Federal, State and Indian Ownerships*	Total Acres In State	Percent of Acres Tax-Exempt*
Nebraska . . . . .	709,704	1,686,718	30,239	2,426,661	49,031,680	4.9
Nevada . . . . .	60,098,096	53,920	1,141,664	61,293,680	70,264,320	87.2
New Hampshire . . . . .	704,205	84,336	0	788,541	5,768,960	13.7
New Jersey . . . . .	103,453	288,859	0	392,312	4,813,440	8.2
New Mexico . . . . .	26,863,808	10,945,418	6,566,830	44,376,056	77,766,400	57.1
New York . . . . .	223,585	3,226,595	0	3,450,180	30,680,960	11.2
North Carolina . . . . .	1,899,929	258,251	56,457	2,214,637	31,402,880	7.1
North Dakota . . . . .	2,053,734	959,616	848,990	3,862,340	44,452,480	8.7
Ohio . . . . .	211,913	331,796	0	543,709	26,222,080	2.1
Oklahoma . . . . .	1,277,073	1,025,289	1,313,982	3,616,344	44,087,680	8.2
Oregon . . . . .	32,089,445	1,621,605	690,348	34,401,398	61,598,720	55.8
Pennsylvania . . . . .	563,958	3,041,994	0	3,605,952	28,804,480	12.5
Rhode Island . . . . .	7,721	37,714	0	45,435	677,120	6.7
South Carolina . . . . .	1,129,243	217,264	0	1,346,507	19,374,080	7.0
South Dakota . . . . .	3,180,088	1,681,477	4,805,230	9,666,795	48,881,920	19.8
Tennessee . . . . .	1,554,000	391,867	0	1,945,867	26,727,680	7.3
Texas . . . . .	2,790,026	3,351,153	11	6,141,190	168,217,600	3.7
Utah . . . . .	34,876,975	3,378,344	2,116,400	40,371,719	52,696,960	76.6
Vermont . . . . .	255,096	146,662	0	401,758	5,936,640	6.8
Virginia . . . . .	2,133,209	211,644	0	2,344,853	25,496,320	9.2
Washington . . . . .	12,529,487	3,375,908	2,527,236	18,432,631	42,693,760	43.2
West Virginia . . . . .	955,337	220,329	0	1,175,666	15,410,560	7.6
Wisconsin . . . . .	1,781,355	830,799	144,610	2,756,764	35,011,200	7.9
Wyoming . . . . .	30,090,081	3,863,941	1,887,372	35,841,394	62,343,040	57.5
TOTAL						
ALL STATES	769,903,338	78,000,445	50,092,448	897,996,231	2,271,694,460	39.5

\* Does not include land owned by counties and local governments, and land exempt from taxation for special reasons.

\*\* Because much of Alaska is unsurveyed, particularly in the interior, owning agencies can report only estimates of the acreages they administer. Hence, estimated acreages exceed the accepted total area of the State.

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## State Tables

NOTE: In the tables for some states there appear to be discrepancies between the table of acres owned by federal agencies and the table of government-owned recreation areas, the latter figure for some agencies being larger than the former. In other words, it appears in some cases that some agencies have more acres in recreation areas than is shown in the table of federally owned land. This is accounted for by the fact that the acres in the government-owned recreation areas include water as well as land.

Unless otherwise noted, the base dates of the figures in the state tables are as follows:

Land areas of states — June 30, 1963

Federally owned land by predominant usage and cost — June 30, 1963

State-owned land — 1962

Indian land — June 30, 1964

Federally owned land by agencies — June 30, 1962

Government-owned recreation areas — 1960

(Acreage figures have been rounded off to the nearest acre)

## WASHINGTON

Land area of the State..... 42,693,760 acres

Land in government ownership and control --

Federal..... 12,529,487 acres

State..... 3,375,908 acres

Tax-exempt Indian land ..... 2,527,236 acres

Total..... 18,432,631 acres

Percent of land in government ownership and control ..... 43.2%

### FEDERAL LAND BY ORIGIN

Public domain ..... 11,060,847 acres

Acquired..... 1,468,640 acres

Total..... 12,529,487 acres

### FEDERALLY OWNED LAND BY PREDOMINANT USAGE AND COST\*

Predominant Usage	Acres	Cost
Agriculture.....	221	\$ 38,000
Forest and wildlife.....	10,048,698	1,674,000
Parks and historic sites ..	1,137,249	4,188,000
Office building locations ..	123	3,640,000
Military (excl. airfields) ..	359,795	11,566,000
Airfields.....	26,570	5,319,000
Harbor & port facilities..	209	328,000
Power development and distribution .....	67,574	25,646,000
Reclamation & irrigation..	513,406	32,117,000
Flood control & navigation ..	8,573	49,493,000
Institutional.....	4,933	1,198,000
Housing .....	150	16,000
Storage.....	13,652	7,584,000
Industrial.....	347,643	12,900,000
Research & development ..	168	2,000
Vacant.....	432	487,000
Other land.....	100	137,000
Totals.....	12,529,487	\$156,333,000

Source: General Services Administration.

\* Original cost, not present valuation.

### FEDERALLY OWNED LAND BY AGENCIES As of June 30, 1962\*

Agency	Public Domain (acres)	Acquired Land (acres)	Total Acres
Agricultural Research Service .....	160	8	168
Forest Service.....	9,447,324	241,125	9,688,449
Soil Conservation Service .....		221	221
Weather Bureau.....		6	6
Bureau of Public Roads.....		5	5
Maritime Administration.....		51	51
Office of Secretary.....		7	7
Public Health Service .....		10	10
Geological Survey.....		6	6
Bureau of Land Management.....	287,504		287,504
Fish and Wildlife Service.....	37,796	69,344	107,139
National Park Service.....	1,082,644	54,605	1,137,249
Bureau of Indian Affairs .....		83	83
Bureau of Reclamation .....	162,184	384,424	546,607
Bonneville Power Administration .....		6,839	6,839
Immigration and Naturalization Service .....	3		3
Bureau of Prisons .....		4,409	4,409
Bureau of Facilities .....		24	24
Coast Guard .....	2,455	434	2,890
General Services Administration.....		399	399
Office of the Administrator .....		1	1
Public Housing Authority.....		160	160
Veterans' Administration.....	181	181	362
Atomic Energy Commission.....	45,249	302,757	348,006
Federal Aviation Agency.....		13	13
Federal Communications Commission .....		39	39
Army.....	27,695	324,031	351,726
Air Force.....	1,148	20,282	21,430
Navy .....		28,814	28,814
Corps of Civil Engineers.....	4,752	47,679	52,431
Totals .....	11,099,094	1,485,956	12,585,051

Source: PUBLIC LAND STATISTICS, 1963. U. S. Department of the Interior.

\* Latest year for which this tabulation is available.



# WASHINGTON (Continued)

## STATE-OWNED LAND BY MAJOR USES 1962

Farming and grazing.....	1,407,310 acres
Forest land not grazed.....	1,663,304 acres
Special public services*.....	305,294 acres
Total.....	3,375,908 acres

Source: Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

\* Areas used primarily for parks, wildlife reserves, institutional sites and miscellaneous other special uses. Includes an undetermined acreage of forest and woodland some of which has commercial value.

## GOVERNMENT-OWNED RECREATION AREAS, 1960

Owner	Number of Areas	Total Acres*
National Park Service.....	5	1,237,654
U. S. Forest Service.....	9	9,704,181
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....	22	105,600
Corps of Engineers.....	6	58,148
Bureau of Reclamation.....	12	60,265
State Parks and Recreation Commission.....	470	85,253
State Department of Natural Resources.....	22	2,067,494
State Departments of Game and Fisheries.....	92	421,615
State Highway Commission.....	337	608
Counties.....	81	3,117
Other.....	19	56,218
Totals.....	1,075	13,800,153

Source: "List of Public Outdoor Recreation Areas, 1960," Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Study Report No. 2.

\* Land and water.

NOTE: Since the above list was compiled, the Congress passed Public Law 88-607, which provides that certain lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior shall be managed under principles of multiple use and to produce "... a sustained yield of products and services, and for other purposes." Outdoor recreation is specified as one of the uses for which these lands are to be managed.

## AREAS IN WASHINGTON NATIONAL FORESTS INCLUDED IN WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM BY PUBLIC LAW 88-577, THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

Name of Area	Gross Acres
Glacier Peak.....	458,505
Goat Rocks.....	82,680
Mount Adams.....	42,411
Total.....	583,596

## LAND ACQUISITIONS PROPOSED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT As of July 1, 1964

Federal	State
• The Fish and Wildlife Service has been granted approval to acquire 12,379 acres in Yakima County for establishment of a Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge.	• Plans are under consideration for a State appropriation of \$10 million to buy recreation sites which "are available now but which may not be available later."

# WASHINGTON'S FORESTS AND FOREST INDUSTRIES

Total land area of the State.....	42,694,000 acres
Rank in total land area.....	20th state
Forest land area of the State.....	23,050,000 acres
Rank in forest land area.....	6th state
Commercial forest land area in State.....	19,510,000 acres
Rank in commercial forest land area.....	6th state
Population (1960 census).....	2,853,000
Rank in population.....	23rd state

## OWNERSHIP OF COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND\*

Ownership	Acres	Percent of Total
Government —		
Federal.....	8,159,000	41.8
State.....	2,001,000	10.3
County and municipal.....	199,000	1.0
Total government.....	10,359,000	53.1
Private —		
Farmers.....	2,567,000	13.2
Forest products industries.....	4,401,000	22.6
Other.....	2,183,000	11.1
Total private.....	9,151,000	46.9
TOTAL ALL OWNERS.....	19,510,000	100.0

\* Forest land that is capable of growing timber crops of commercial value and that is available for that purpose.

## WASHINGTON'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Number of full-time employees.....	59,000
Annual payroll.....	\$ 285,000,000
Value of products manufactured.....	\$1,044,000,000
Value added by manufacture.....	\$ 450,000,000



## LEGISLATION GIVING CONSENT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE LAND

*The Weeks Law of 1911 requires the consent of the State for purchase of land by the U.S. government for national forests. Not all states have such enabling legislation for that specific purpose. However, all states have legislation giving authority for acquisition of real estate by the Federal government. Below are the pertinent sections from the State statutes under which the Federal government acquires land for national forests or for other purposes.*

RCW 37.08.220

"The Legislature of the State of Washington hereby consents to the acquisition by the United States by purchase or gift of such lands in the State of Washington as in the opinion of the Government of the United States may be needed for the establishment, consolidation and extension of national forests in this State under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 1, 1911, and entitled: 'An act to enable any state to cooperate with any other state or states or with the United States for the protection of the watersheds of navigable streams and to appoint a commission for the acquisition of lands for the purpose of conserving the navigability of navigable rivers,' as amended: Provided, The State of Washington shall retain a concurrent jurisdiction with the United States in and over lands so acquired so far that civil processes in all cases, and such criminal processes as may issue under the authority of the State of Washington against any person charged with the commission of any crime without or within said jurisdiction, may be executed thereon in like manner as if this consent had not been granted: Provided further, That before any acquirement of lands be made under the provisions of this section, such acquisition shall be approved by the State Forest Board: And further provided, That the State of Washington shall retain concurrent jurisdiction to tax persons and corporations and their property and transaction on such lands so acquired."

## What You Can Do About Government Land Acquisition

Some land buying at all levels of government is inevitable and desirable for proper maintenance of the nation's health, welfare and safety. Such acquisitions can be kept within reasonable bounds, however, only if people are informed and alert.

Here are some things people can do, acting as individuals and in concert, to assure that all land acquisitions by federal, state and local governments are necessary and in the national interest.

1. Urge state and local governments to prepare, as soon as possible, a comprehensive and sound state outdoor recreation plan.
2. Urge that the plan provide that all government-owned recreation areas in the State be developed to the allowable maximum and that existing recreation areas and facilities be properly maintained and operated before more land is bought for recreation and related uses.
3. Urge that the state recreation plan give full recognition to and provide for full utilization of existing and potential privately owned recreation areas and facilities.
4. Urge that the recreation planners give serious consideration to the government leasing from private owners the land or facilities that are clearly needed in the public interest.
5. Take an active interest in proposals for government projects that contemplate land acquisition in your community and, where desired, insist on having the opportunity to voice your opinions at hearings on those proposals.
6. Urge others to inform themselves about the facts and issues of government land ownership and acquisition, and to take an active interest in those issues.
7. Inform yourself and others of the effects of government land ownership and acquisitions on local tax bases and on tax rates on property remaining in private ownership.



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## What You Can Do About Government Land Acquisition



Keep America Green

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