INNOVATIVE FEDERAL LEGISLATION
IN THE FIELD OF CONSERVATION
1900-1969

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This list consists of federal legislation which established either new or significant departures in the management, development and administration of natural resources including forestry, soil and watershed conservation, fisheries and wildlife, river basin development, minerals and public lands, recreation, oceanography and pollution control. The compilation is based on numerous published and unpublished studies in the fields of natural resources policy and conservation history.

1900  **Lacey Act** (31 Stat. 169): The Commerce in game birds for plumage purposes and the extinction of wild animals had reached alarming rates during the last decades of the 19th century. The Lacey Act was the first congressional effort to cope with the problem, giving the Secretary of Agriculture power to adopt remedial measures to protect endangered game and wild birds. Among other things, the act prohibited interstate transportation of animals taken in violation of state laws.

1902  **Newlands Act** (32 Stat. 308): With the increase of western population, pressures were generated for public aid on behalf of reclamation improvements. The Newlands Act created the "reclamation fund" out of receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in the 17 western states. The Secretary of the Interior was authorized to construct irrigation works and provide for the homesteading of irrigated lands and their sale at a price estimated to return to the reclamation fund the cost of construction.

1903  **Act of February 14** (32 Stat. 825,827): Established the Department of Commerce and Labor, incorporating in it the Commission of Fish and Fisheries--thereafter known as the Bureau of Fisheries.

1904  **Kinkaid Homestead Act** (Stat. L, XXXII: 547 Ch. 1801): This law recognized the inadequacy of the 160-acre limitation under the Homestead Act, as it applied to semi-arid lands. It permitted the western half of Nebraska to be settled under a 640-acre limitation.
1905  Act of January 24 (33 Stat. 614): Authorized the establishment of one of the first national wildlife refuges (Wichita Forest Reserve, Oklahoma) for the protection of wildlife.

Act of February 1 (33 Stat. 628): Transferred the administration of forest reserves from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture.

1906  American Antiquities Act of June 8 (34 Stat. 225): Authorized the President to establish by proclamation national monuments for the preservation of features of historic, prehistoric, and scientific interest.

1908  National Bison Range (35 Stat. 267): In order to preserve adequate pasture for the preservation and display of bison, the Interior Secretary was authorized to establish a refuge parcel not to exceed twenty thousand acres near the confluence of the Pend d'Oreille and Jocko Rivers in Montana.

1909  Treaty of January 11 between the United States and Great Britain (36 Stat. 2448) established the International Joint Commission and provided for the utilization and development of the boundary waters between the United States and Canada.

Act of March 3 (35 Stat. 615, 618): Created the National Waterways Commission, consisting of twelve members of Congress, to conduct investigations and to make recommendations pertaining to water transportation and the improvement of waterways.

Enlarged Homestead Act (Stat. L, XXV: 639): This law enabled a person otherwise eligible under the Homestead Act to make entries not to exceed 320 acres in the states of Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico on non-irrigable, non-mineral lands, which did not contain purchasable timber. The Secretary of the Interior was to designate the lands which were to be open for 320-acre homesteading.
Withdrawal Act (36 Stat. 847): This law broadened and made firm the President's power to withdraw public lands from entry and reserve them for "water-power sites, irrigation, classification of lands, or other public purposes to be specified in the orders of withdrawal." The bill also limited the Presidential power to create additional forest reserves.

Weeks Act (36 Stat. 961): Prior to 1911 the Federal Government's forest operations were primarily limited to the western public domain. This act was the beginning of a forest program in the eastern states. It established a National Forest Reservation Commission to recommend lands for purchase. In addition, it authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the states in establishing adequate fire protection on private and public forest lands, and authorized states to enter into agreements or compacts for purposes of conserving forest and water supplies.

Convention of July 7 between the U.S., Great Britain, Japan and Russia (37 Stat. 1542): prohibited pelagic sealing in the North Pacific. Alloted the sealskins taken by the U.S. on the Pribolof Islands, Alaska, as follows: 15 percent to Canada, 15 percent to Japan.

Act of April 30 (37 Stat. 105): Opened coal lands for selection by the states and for sale as isolated tracts, with reservation to the United States of the coal in such lands.

Act of June 6 (37 Stat. 123): Reduced to three years the length of residence necessary to obtain patent under the Homestead Act and set up certain minimum cultivation requirements. Commutation was allowed after fourteen months of actual residence.

Agricultural Appropriations Act (37 Stat. 269, 287): Directed the Secretary of Agriculture to select, classify, and segregate all lands that may be opened to settlement and entry under the homestead laws applicable to national forests. Authorized and directed the Secretary to sell timber at actual cost to homestead settlers and farmers for their domestic use, and; made 10 percent of the gross receipts from national forests available for expenditure by the Secretary for the construction of roads and trails within national forests.
1912 (cont'd)

Act of August 24 (37 Stat. 497): Provided that all lands withdrawn by the President under the act of 1910 should at all times be open to exploration, discovery, occupation, and purchase under the mining laws of the U.S., so far as these applied to nonmetallic minerals. It also added California to the list of states within which national forests could not be created or enlarged except by act of Congress.

1913

Act of March 4 (37 Stat. 628): Declared all migratory game and insectivorous birds to be within the custody and protection of the Federal Government and forbade their destruction or capture contrary to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. (This provision, commonly referred to as the Weeks-McLean Act, was declared unconstitutional and was superseded in 1918 by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.)

Act of December 19 (38 Stat. 242): Gave San Francisco the right to construct a reservoir in the Hetch Hetchy Valley in the Yosemite National Park to supply the city with water.

1914

Agricultural Entry Act (38 Stat. 509): This law authorized agricultural entry and patenting under the nonmineral land laws, of lands withdrawn, classified, or valuable for phosphate, nitrate, potash, oil, gas, or asphaltic minerals, with reservation to the Federal Government of the mineral deposits. The act permitted mining entries on the lands with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

1916

Act of August 11 (39 Stat. 446, 476): Authorized the President to establish refuges for the protection of game animals, birds, or fish on any lands purchased under the Weeks Act of 1911.

Convention of August 16 (39 Stat. 1702): Between the U.S. and Great Britain provided for the protection by the U.S. and Canada of migratory birds, migratory insectivorous birds, and certain other migratory nongame birds.
1916 (cont'd)

Act of August 25 (39 Stat. 535): Created the National Park Service in the Department of Interior, defined the purposes for which national parks may be established, and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to make such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary for their proper use and management. Grazing was authorized when in the judgment of the Secretary it will not be detrimental to the primary purpose for which the park, monument, or other reservation was established.

Stockraising Homestead Act (39 Stat. 862): Despite many amendments to the Homestead Act, the provisions did not fit the requirements of the cattle and sheep raising industry. This act authorized the Interior Secretary to open for entry not more than 640 acres per person of public lands the surface of which is chiefly valuable for grazing and raising forage crops, do not contain merchantable timber, are not susceptible of irrigation, and are of such a character that 640 acres are reasonable required for the support of a family. All coal and other minerals were reserved to the U.S., and made susceptible to disposal under the coal and mineral-land laws.

Fish and Game Sanctuary Act (39 Stat. 476): Authorized the President to designate refuge areas to be set aside for the protection of game animals, birds, or fish.

1918

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755): Provided for effectuation of the convention of 1916 with Great Britain, and authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations for the protection of the migratory birds covered by the convention.

1920

Amended Mineral Leasing Act (41 Stat. 437): Over the years, Congress had enacted myriad laws relating to mineral development on public lands. The basic legislation in this field is the Mining Law of 1872 (17 Stat. 91) which governed lode and placer claims of metalliferous minerals, including uranium. The amended Leasing Act provided for the leasing of deposits of coal, phosphate, sodium, oil, oil shale, or gas, and authorized the Interior Secretary to reserve the right to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the surface lands embraced in such leases, if not necessary for the use of the lessee. Lessees pay both an annual rental and royalty per unit of the mineral removed. Of the amount
received, 52\% \text{ percent was allocated to the reclamation fund, 37\% percent to the states for the construction of roads or support of education, and 10 percent to the U.S. Treasury. The act applied to national forests created from the original public domain, but not to the national forests created under the Weeks Act of 1911, national parks, game refuges or military-naval reservations. (Subsequently, Congress enacted other important laws including the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 (67 Stat. 462) that allowed joint use of the same tracts of public lands for mineral and non-mineral development. In 1964, Congress established the Public Land Law Review Commission (78 Stat. 982) to study existing statutes governing the public domain. This commission will deliver its report to Congress together with recommendations for law revision in 1970).}

**Federal Power Act** (41 Stat. 1063): This law was the first major effort by Congress to provide for the orderly development of water and power resources on navigable streams of the U.S. It established a Federal Power Commission composed of the Secretaries of War, Interior, and Agriculture with authority to issue licenses for a period not exceeding fifty years "for the development and improvement of navigation, and for the development, transmission, and utilization of power across, along, from or in any part of the navigable waters of the United States, or upon any part of public lands and reservations of the U.S. (including the Territories), or for the purpose of utilizing the surplus water or water power from any Government dam..." (The Waterways Commission established in 1917 was abolished).

**Act of March 3 (41 Stat. 1353):** Reemphasized the policy of preserving national parks in their natural state by prohibiting the issuance of permits, licenses, or leases for the development of water resources therein without specific authority of Congress, and by repealing that part of the Federal Power Act of 1920 which authorized the issuance of such licenses by the Federal Power Commission.

1924 Clarke-McNary Act (43 Stat. 653): Substantially extended and broadened the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with states and other agencies in the production of timber. It permitted the Secretary to cooperate with States in forest-fire control and in the growing and distribution of planting stock to private timber owners; to purchase lands on watersheds of navigable streams for streamflow protection as well as timber production; to receive gifts of land to be added to the national forests; to report to Congress on additional unreserved timberlands that could be added to the national forests; to create military and naval reserves as national forests. This act again gave the President the authority (which had been prohibited by the Withdrawal Act of 1910) to establish national forests on public lands, excluding national parks, monuments, waterpower reservations and Indian lands.

1925 Alaska Game Law (43 Stat. 739): Created the Alaska Game Commission and authorized it to establish regulations governing the taking of game animals, land fur-bearing animals, game birds and nongame birds.

1928 Boulder Canyon Act (45 Stat. 1057): Authorized the Boulder Dam as the first major multiple-purpose project including reclamation, electric power, navigation, flood control. This project established a pattern for many of the large Federal-State river basin projects in the West which were to follow. Subject to the terms of the Colorado River Compact, the act authorized the states concerned to enter into supplemental compacts for the development of the Colorado River.

McSweeney-McNary Act (45 Stat. 699): Authorized a comprehensive 10-year program of research in all phases of forestry and range management.
1929

Migratory Bird Conservation Act (45 Stat. 1222): Established the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and authorized a continuing program for the acquisition of migratory-bird reservations, subject to the consent of the states concerned.

1930

Convention between the U.S. and Canada established an International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (50 Stat. 1355).

Act of April 10 (46 Stat. 153): Authorized an appropriation of $50,000 to enable the President to appoint a commission to study and report on the conservation and administration of the public domain. The study report submitted in 1931 recommended that all portions of the unreserved and unappropriated public domain be placed under responsible administration for the conservation of its natural resources; and that the President be authorized to consolidate the executive agencies dealing with the administration and disposition of the public domain, the administration of national reservations, and the conservation of natural resources.

1933

Tennessee Valley Authority Act (48 Stat. 56): Created the Tennessee Valley Authority including many conservation phases in its activities. While the Boulder Dam Act of 1928 established the planning precedent for Federal multiple-purpose development of river basins, the TVA act carried the concept further by introducing a new administrative structure and by placing much stronger emphasis on the relationship between public works development and the economic and social growth of an entire region. During World War I, the Federal Government had established facilities at Muscle Shoals for the production of nitrates. This act gave the administration of these facilities to the newly established TVA corporate body. (Earlier proposed legislation to create a Muscle Shoals Corporation had been vetoed by Coolidge in 1928 and by Hoover in 1931).

Act of March 31 (48 Stat. 32): Appropriated funds for the dual purpose of relieving unemployment and promoting conservation of natural resources. Executive Order of April 5 established the Office of Emergency Conservation Work as an independent agency, popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. (The Act of June 28 (50 Stat. 319) formally desegregated the CCC and provided for its administration. Subsequent acts extended its life through June 30, 1944.)
National Industrial Recovery Act (48 Stat. 195): Attempted to promote economic recovery by a wide variety of measures including extensive public works and resource development programs. The Soil Erosion Service was established in the Dept. of the Interior under authority of this act. The history of the act including its invalidation by the Supreme Court in 1935 is intimately tied to overall conservation efforts initiated in the early 1930's, including the work of the National Planning Board, National Resources Committee and National Resources Board. (See 1939)

Taylor Grazing Act (48 Stat. 1269): Prior to enactment of this legislation, no satisfactory system had been developed to regulate stock raising on unappropriated public lands. This act authorized the Interior Secretary to establish not more than 80 million acres of grazing districts (exclusive of Alasks) and to make rules and regulations for their occupancy and use. The Secretary was authorized to issue grazing permits and to receive revenues. Receipts were allocated as follows: 25 percent for the construction, purchase or maintenance or range improvements; 50 percent to the countries in which the districts are located; and 25 percent to the U.S. Treasury.

Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401): Authorized federal, state and other agencies to cooperate in developing a nationwide program of wildlife conservation and rehabilitation.

Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (48 Stat. 451): Required takers of migratory waterfowl to buy a $1 Federal hunting stamp, and made the proceeds available for the acquisition and management of migratory refuges and for the conduct of research.

Soil Conservation Act (49 Stat. 163): The menace of soil erosion was recognized by Congress in 1928 by a small appropriation to the Agriculture Department. Section II of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 authorized an emergency soil erosion control program, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established by Executive Order in 1933 undertook minor improvement projects. This act declared it to be the policy of Congress to provide permanently for the control and prevention of soil erosion, delegated all activities relating to this field to the Secretary of Agriculture and established the Soil Conservation Service succeeding the Soil Erosion Service in the Interior Dept.
1935 (cont'd)

Interstate Oil and Gas Conservation Compact (49 Stat. 939): Formation of this Compact grew out of chaotic and wasteful conditions in domestic oil and gas production in the early 1930's. Petroleum was literally being pumped onto the surface of the ground, and with prices of 10 to 25 cents a barrel often was allowed to sit there and waste away. Gas was being burned at the wellhead. Six of the States immediately concerned agreed on the necessity for coordination of state laws and in 1935 the 74th Congress approved the compact.


Connally Hot Oil Act (49 Stat. 30): Prohibited the interstate transportation of petroleum produced, transported, or withdrawn from storage in excess of the amounts permitted in the state of origin.

1936

Flood Control Act (49 Stat. 1570): Prior to enactment of this legislation, flood control projects either were authorized under specific acts or handled by the Corps of Engineers, the Civilian Conservation Corps and other agencies under authority granted in general public works legislation. This act recognized flood control on navigable waters or their tributaries as a proper activity of the Federal government, in cooperation with states and local communities. It established an overall policy and provided the basis for further Federal involvement in multipurpose river basin projects. It directed that the Department of War should assume responsibility for investigation and improvements on waterways, and the Department of Agriculture should assume responsibility for water retardation measures on watersheds. The Bureau of Reclamation powers in western states were not affected. (The Flood Control Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 886,889) substantially modified and broadened the 1936 act, establishing a basis of cooperation between the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Agriculture and the states to permit coordinated planning and development for the Missouri River Basin. The Missouri approach was viewed as an alternate method to the corporate authority established under the Tennessee Valley Act of 1933, and provided for later innovations including basin-wide compacts for the Columbia, Delaware and other major rivers.)
1936 (cont'd)


**Act of June 23** (49 Stat. 1894): Authorized the National Park Service to make a comprehensive survey of lands suitable for park purposes.

**1937**

**Act of August 28** (50 Stat. 874): Provided for reclassification of the lands of the revested Oregon and California Railroad and the reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grants and for sustained-yield management by the Interior Secretary of those classified as timberlands. Lands chiefly valuable for agriculture could be opened to homestead entry or sale under the terms of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934.

**Wildlife Restoration Act—Pittman-Robertson Act** (50 Stat. 917): Authorized the setting apart of the tax on firearms, shells and cartridges in a wildlife-restoration fund to be used for cooperation with the states in approved wildlife conservation and research.

**1938**

**Concurrent Resolution of June 14** (52 Stat. 1452): Created a Joint Congressional Committee on Forestry to study the present and prospective situation with respect to the forest land of the U.S. The report was issued on March 24, 1941.

**Natural Gas Act** (52 Stat. 621-633): Declared that the business of transporting and selling natural gas for ultimate distribution to the public is affected with a public interest, and that Federal regulation in matters of interstate and foreign commerce is necessary.

**1939**

Functions of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the conservation of wildlife, game and migratory birds were transferred to the Secretary of the Interior by 1939 Reorg. Plan No. II, set out in note under section 133t of Title 5, Executive Departments and Government Officers and Employees, U.S. Code.

**Reorganization Plan No. I of April 25** (53 Stat. 1423) approved by Congress on June 7 to take effect July 1 (53 Stat. 813): Established the National Resources Planning Board in the Executive Office of the President by transfer and consolidation of the National Resources
Committee and the Federal Employment Stabilization Office in the Department of Commerce. The NPB, subsequently abolished in 1943, has been viewed as a major experiment in national planning.

Act of July 14 (53 Stat. 1002): Provided for the establishment within each grazing district of an advisory board of five to twelve local stockmen elected by the users of the range, but appointed by the Interior Secretary. Each advisory board shall offer advice on application for grazing permits and on all other matters affecting the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Bituminous Coal Act of August 30, 1935: One of the first legislative attempts to relate the development of a specific natural resource to the industrial well-being of the country. It was declared unconstitutional in 1936. To carry out the act's declared policy, a Bituminous Coal Commission appointed by the President was to be established in the Interior Department and charged with the responsibility of establishing a broad code for the entire bituminous coal industry. Under jurisdiction of the Commission, district boards were to be empowered to establish marketing arrangements for their respective areas including maximum and minimum tonnage prices.

Strategic Materials Act (P.L. 117): It was apparent to thoughtful persons after the First World War that as a defense measure steps had to be taken to accumulate a reserve supply of strategic or critical materials to be available in time of emergency. The first positive step toward the inauguration of a stockpiling program was taken in 1937, when the Naval Appropriation Act for 1938 authorized $3,500,000 for the purchase of strategic and critical materials. Similar acts for 1939 and 1940 appropriated $500,000, with which the Navy laid in reserve stocks of tin, manganese, tungsten, chrome, optical glass, and Manila fiber.

Public Law 117 was enacted in 1939 as an expanded stockpiling program for which the sum of $100 million was appropriated. This Act encouraged the conservation and development of American sources of these strategic and control materials.
1940

Reorganization Plan No. III of April 2 (52 Stat. 1231, 1232): Consolidated the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Biological Survey into the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Convention of October 12 between the U.S. and other American republics (56 Stat. 1354): Committed the signatory powers to take appropriate steps for the protection of nature and the preservation of wildlife in their respective counties.

1942

Act of May (56 Stat. 267): Approved the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact.

1944

Treaty of February 3 (59 Stat. 1219) between the U.S. and Mexico established the International Boundary and Water Commission and provided for the allocation of the flow of the Rio Grande River and the Colorado River.

Synthetic Liquid Fuels Act of April 5, 1944: Under the pressure of war this act authorized the Interior Secretary to construct and operate demonstration plants to produce synthetic liquid fuels from coal, oil shale and other substances. There were to be pilot plants to furnish industry the necessary cost and engineering data for the development of a synthetic liquid-fuel industry.

1945

Presidential Proclamation of September 28 (59 Stat. 884): Declared that the U.S. regards the natural resources in the continental shelf as subject to its jurisdiction and control without thereby affecting the free and unimpeded navigation of the high seas above the continental shelf.

Presidential Proclamation of September 28 (59 Stat. 885): Declared that the U.S. regards it as proper, without affecting the freedom of navigation, to establish conservation zones in parts of the high seas contiguous to its coasts, in which fishing activities shall be subject to the regulation and control of the U.S. either alone or in cooperation with other nations.

1946

Atomic Energy Act of August 1, 1946: This act established an Atomic Energy Commission composed of 5 members to carry forward the development and utilization of atomic energy. The Commission was given complete jurisdiction over all phases of atomic research and the production of fissionable materials, as well as sole authority to distribute fissionable material and to purchase or acquire any rights or
facilities within or outside of the U.S. which may be necessary. The act specifically reserved all uranium, thorium and any other source material taken from the public domain which the Commission determines to be capable of releasing a substantial quantity of energy through nuclear chain reaction. It abolished private rights of patent involving atomic energy for military weapons, and placed all discoveries or inventions involving non-military utilization affecting the public interest under the jurisdiction of the Commission, subject to reasonable royalty fees. The Commission is given full power to operate as an independent corporation and to establish regulations to effectuate the national policy declared under the act. A Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy was established to work with the Commission.

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of May 16 (60 Stat. 1097, 1099): Consolidated the General Land Office and the Grazing Service to form the Bureau of Land Management in the Interior Department.


1947

Act of July 7 (61 Stat. 246): Established the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (Hoover Commission) to make recommendations to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the executive branch of the government.


National Defense Act of July 26, 1947: Established a National Security Resources Board with functions to advise the President concerning the coordination of military, industrial and civilian mobilization. Many of the surveys and investigations of the Board were to involve natural resources.

1948

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 80-845): Prior to 1948, the Federal Government had assumed only a minor role in the field of water pollution control. After several unsuccessful efforts in 1936, 1938 and 1940, the Congress in 1948 passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which was intended to be a 5-year experimental program.
It was subsequently extended for 3 years by P.L. 82-579 and then replaced by a permanent act (P.L. 84-660), which today remains the basic authority for the comprehensive Federal program of prevention, control and abatement of water pollution. In 1961, Congress amended P.L. 84-660 by broadening the enforcement activity (P.L. 87-66). Strengthening amendments were also made in 1965 by the Water Quality Act (P.L. 89-234) which created the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in the Interior Department and established a concept of water quality standards for interstate waters. The Clean Waters Restoration Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-753) expanded Federal activity in the water pollution field.


Convention of February 8 between the U.S. and ten other countries (T.I.A.S. 2999): Established the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Joint Resolution of May 19 (63 Stat. 70): Approved the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact.

Act of May 10 (64 Stat. 149): Established the National Science Foundation which became a major funding body for natural resource-oriented research.

Fish Restoration and Management Act - Dingle-Johnson Act (64 Stat. 430): Authorized annual funding of cooperative fish restoration and management following the pattern set by the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.

Defense Production Act (64 Stat. 798): Required the development of preparedness programs and maintenance of productive capacity, including the availability of resource supplies, in the interest of national defense.

Sea-water Research: (66 Stat. 328): Launched the initial phase of a national saline water conversion program. This act authorized an appropriation, for a 5-year period, to enable the Interior Department, in cooperation with other public and private agencies to conduct research and demonstrations on the production of fresh water from sea water or other saline water.
Convention of May 9 with Canada and Japan (T.I.A.S. 2786): Established the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Submerged Lands Act (76 Stat. 29): Confirmed and established the titles of the states to lands beneath navigable waters within state boundaries and to the natural resources within such lands and waters; confirmed the jurisdiction and control of the U.S. over the natural resources of the seabed of the continental shelf seaward of state boundaries.

Act of July 10 (67 Stat. 142): Established a Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (Second Hoover Commission) which dealt with many aspects of Federal natural-resources activities.

Act of July 10 (67 Stat. 145): Established a Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (Kestenbaum Commission), one of the committees of which dealt with Federal-state relations in the field of natural resources.

Act of August 7 (67 Stat. 462): Provided for the jurisdiction of the U.S. over the submerged lands of the outer continental shelf and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to lease such lands for certain purposes.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (68 Stat. 666): Initiated a full-scale federal program of upland watershed protection to complement the flood prevention work along the main stems of rivers and their tributaries. The act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with and assist local organizations having authority under State law to construct and maintain works of improvement in watershed areas.

Air Pollution Act (P.L. 84-159): This act initiated a new Federal program of air pollution control, patterned after the water pollution legislation enacted in 1948 and subsequent years. Among other things, this act provided for a basic program of research and technical assistance to State and local governments. Later Congress enacted the Clean Air Act of 1963, emphasizing Federal grants for air pollution control and expanded Federal research activities.
Enforcement procedures also established under the 1963 act are similar to those laid out in the Water Pollution Control Act. Congress in 1965 enacted additional amendments, (P.L. 89-272) authorizing the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to establish standards applicable to the emission of any substance from any kind of motor vehicle which might cause air pollution. Amendments in 1966 (P.L. 89-675) authorized Federal grants to states and local agencies to help them in maintaining effective air pollution control programs. The Air Quality Act of 1967 provided for the establishment of Regional programs and broadened Federal research and equipment-development activities.

National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (72 Stat. 238): Authorized a comprehensive nationwide inventory and evaluation of outdoor recreation resources and opportunities. Two major innovations stemming from the Commission's recommendations were the establishment of a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the Interior Department, and enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Pesticidal Research (72 Stat. 479): Authorized the Interior Secretary to undertake comprehensive studies of the effects of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides upon wildlife resources.

Trade Agreements Extension Act (72 Stat. 678): Imports of foreign oil are an important factor in the supply and demand equation, which affects State market-demand proration. In March 1959, the President made the Department of Interior responsible for establishing import limitations under the provisions of section 6 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act. Import controls are for the purpose of assuring a domestic industry capable of performance required by national security.

Select Committee on National Water Resources (Senate Resolution 40, 1959): Created a Senate Select Committee which made studies and prepared reports on all aspects of water resources. The committee's recommendations led to the enactment of far-reaching legislation including the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 244) and the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 329).
1959 (cont'd)

The former act established the Water Resources Council, and authorized the establishment of federal-state river basin planning commissions while the latter authorized permanent water research programs in land grant colleges and other academic institutions designated by the legislatures of the various States.

1964  
Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136): Declared the policy of the Congress to initiate a National Preservation System to be composed of federally-owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas".

1965  
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897; 16 U.S.C. 4601-4061): This act provided funds for and authorized Federal assistance to the States in planning, acquisition, and development of land and water areas and facilities to assure adequate outdoor recreation resources for the entire country. Congress in 1968 expanded the Fund by authorizing the appropriation of $200 million per year for five years (P.L. 90-410).

Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 1028): Constituted the major piece of legislation stemming from recommendations put forth at the White House Conference on Natural Beauty. This act provided for the control, by the Department of Commerce, of junkyards and outdoor advertising signs, displays, and devices in areas adjacent to the Interstate System and the primary system of highways as a means of protecting the public investment in such highways and preserving natural beauty.

1966  
Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act (P.L. 89-454): Declared a national policy to develop, encourage and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive and long-range program in marine science. The act defined the marine environment to embrace the great oceans, their living contents, and the seabed. Also included were the vital margins of continental shelf, bays, and estuaries and the Great Lakes. The Act created a National Council on Marine Resources composed of the Vice President, who serves as chairman, and the Secretaries of State, Navy, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, and Health, Education and Welfare; the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Directory
1966 (cont'd)

of the National Science Foundation. The Council, apart from its own activities, carries out policy planning functions for a sea grant program established by P.L. 69-606 and provides guidance for such government-wide projects as the International Decade of Ocean Exploration.

1968

Colorado River Basin Project (P.L. 90-537): Passage of the Colorado River bill marked the end of a dispute that had raged in the West for half a century. (The early fight over the Colorado River led to four Supreme Court cases in the 1930's, none of which conclusively settled the issues raised.) One of the most developed and controlled rivers in the country, the long legislative history of the Colorado project is an excellent source-record of the evolving role of Federal Government in western river basin management.

National Trails System (P.L. 90-543): Initiated a new national policy by designating the initial elements of a national trails system.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (P.L. 90-542): Initiated a new national policy to preserve sections of selected rivers in the free-flowing conditions in order to protect their scenic values.

Redwoods National Park (P.L. 545): The complete acquisition of several parks and national seashores authorized by earlier Congresses had been delayed because the price of land was outstripping the funds appropriated by Congress. This park bill made an important breakthrough on this critical problem of soaring land prices, by providing that title to the privately held acreage in the Redwoods park would pass to the Federal Government when the President signed the bill into law. The owners would receive a fair price—subject to an appeal to the courts if a negotiated price could not be agreed upon—plus 6 percent interest for the period from enactment of the law to the final financial settlement.

National Water Commission (P.L. 90-515): This commission's mandate is to examine major water problems and develop recommendations, guidelines and long-range plans for effective use of available national water resources. The law includes a 10-year moratorium on any interior Department studies of
water importation into the Colorado Basin, thereby thwarting
the immediate development of such major river interbasin
diversions. The Commission is authorized to study ways of
meeting future U.S. water requirements through more efficient
use of water, reduction of water pollution, and various
technological advances such as desalting and weather modi-

Estuaries Preservation (P.L. 90-454): Directed the Interior
Secretary to prepare a report, together with legislative
recommendations, on the desirability of establishing a
nationwide system of estuarine areas along the seacoast and
the waters of the Great Lakes.

Flood Insurance Title XIII of the Housing and Urban
Development Act of 1968. (P.L. 90-480): Following the
disastrous floods of 1955, Congress authorized the prepara-
tion of a study report on flood insurance. The recommen-
dations of the report were subsequently implemented as
Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.
This act gave the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
authority to set up a program of flood insurance as a joint
federal-private venture and permitted the Secretary to es-

National Environmental Policy Act: (P.L. 91-190) This act
declared that it is the policy of the U.S. Government to
create and maintain conditions under which man and nature
can exist in productive harmony. Title I recognizes that
"each person should enjoy a healthful environment and has a
responsibility to contribute to the preservation and en-
hancement of the environment." It required all Federal
agencies to take into account the environmental impact of
all actions they propose. Specific directives to prevent
adverse environmental effects of Federal agency activities
are indicated. It created in the Office of the President
a permanent Council on Environmental Quality of three mem-
bers, modelled on the Council of Economic Advisers, and
authorized an annual appropriation of $1 million to cover
the expenses of a small professional staff. The principal
functions of the council are to recommend environmental
policies to the President and to assist him in the prepa-
ration of an annual environmental report to be submitted to
the Congress beginning in July 1970. The national goals of
environmental policy are specified in Title I as follows:
(1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;

(2) assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;

(3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;

(4) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our natural heritages, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;

(5) achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and

(6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.