

the public land laws, as opposed to the usual procedure where the practices of each department and agency are reviewed without regard to another's.

Having reviewed differing administrative practices and procedures, the Commission must then evaluate them to determine whether maintenance of divided administrative authority is structured to accomplish the policy declaration of the act that the public lands of the United States shall be either retained and managed or disposed of in a manner to provide maximum benefit for the general public.

4. Determine, on the basis of all the studies, whether and to what extent revisions are necessary in the public land laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

B. CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS

1. The foregoing requirements of the Act must be fulfilled in a manner to assure a complete understanding at all times among the members of the Commission and the members of the staff as to how the Commission's objective will be attained. We must further assure:

- (a) Total coverage of all essential factors; and
- (b) That all factors are approached and considered with objectivity.

2. The theme that runs through each of the individual requirements leading to the final report of the Commission relates to the policy declaration that the public lands must service the maximum benefit for the general public. It is, accordingly, essential to establish a framework within which—

- (a) Required and other necessary actions and studies leading to the final report can be taken; and
- (b) Results of these actions and studies can be measured to determine what does and what does not contribute to the maximum benefit for the general public.

3. Our studies, among other things, should, therefore, be aimed at examining these aspects of the public lands concerning which the Commission must make recommendations:

- (a) The purposes that the public lands serve in contributing to "the maximum benefit for the general public," to permit ultimately an evaluation of whether these purposes should be reaffirmed or redefined.
- (b) The existing policies and practices in the broadest sense, including statute law and judicial and administrative interpretations applicable to the public lands, to determine whether they are so designed as to give reasonable assurance that "the maximum benefit for the general public" is being or can and will be attained.

C. REQUIRED ACTIONS

1. To make a comprehensive review of the public land laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder applicable to the lands concerning which the Commission must make its recommendations.

Comment.—(1) The Declaration of Purpose of the Act ⁶ states that such review is necessary. The act further elaborates on

⁶ Sec. 2.