

and related costs and general housekeeping expenses other than personnel; additional personnel costs are estimated at \$1,600,000. A breakdown of additional personnel compensation is contained in a letter from the Director of the Public Land Law Review Commission supplementing the executive communication, both of which are set forth in this report.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The executive communication from the Public Land Law Review Commission, that Commission's supplemental letter, and the comments of the Departments of the Interior, Justice, Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Federal Power Commission, follow:

PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION,
Washington, D.C., August 5, 1967.

HON. JOHN W. McCORMACK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed is a draft of a proposed bill to amend the Act of September 9, 1964 (78 Stat. 983), establishing the Public Land Law Review Commission, and for other purposes.

We recommend that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and we recommend that it be enacted.

The Public Land Law Review Commission has the responsibility to (1) study existing statutes and regulations governing the retention, management, and disposition of the public lands; (2) review the policies and practices of the Federal departments and agencies having administrative jurisdiction over such lands; (3) compile data necessary to understand and determine the various demands on the public lands; and (4) recommend to the Congress and the President such modifications in existing laws, regulations, policies, and practices concerning the public lands as will, in the judgment of the Commission, best serve to provide the maximum benefit for the general public.

The lands concerning which this Commission is charged with making recommendations constitute one-third of the land area of the Nation. While most of the lands are located in the Western States and Alaska, there is some public land, within the definition of the act of September 9, 1964, in each of the 50 States. These lands and their resources constitute national assets of undetermined immeasurable value.

The resources of the lands—and the Commission is specifically required to consider the resources—include the minerals of the Outer Continental Shelf, untold mineral wealth comprised of oil shale, geothermal steam, coal, oil, and gas, and many others, as well as vast stands of timber in the national forests; and recreation areas in the forests, the national park system, and wildlife refuges and ranges, among others. Many of the policies the Commission is directed to review concern lands that are used for grazing by both the livestock industry and wildlife, for hunting and fishing, and for many other purposes. It is impossible to estimate the dollar value of the lands and resources or the potential benefits that may be obtained through a modernization of the policies and laws affecting these lands and resources.