

velopment could only accentuate some of our severe problems in supporting government by the tax base which is left remaining.

Insofar as the Federal Government is concerned, the real need is the development of lands already owned rather than the acquisition of still more lands which are not recreationally developed. This country already possesses a tremendous physical plant for recreation purposes and spends billions of dollars each year in its use. The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission stated that "public areas designated for outdoor recreation include one-eighth of the total land of the country" and that "millions of other acres, private as well as public, are also used for recreation." Surely, in the light of these facts and in the light of the fiscal condition of the Federal Government, a curtailment of land acquisition for recreational purposes by the Federal Government would appear to be in order.

The report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission recommended that Federal high-density recreation areas which serve primarily local recreation needs should be placed under State or local government. It was also recommended by the Commission that surplus Federal lands suitable for outdoor recreation purposes should be made available to State and local governments at no cost, with appropriate reversion clauses. In regard to acquisition and development of land for recreation purposes, the emphasis was on action by the States. On page 6, the report said that "the States should play a role in making outdoor recreation opportunities available by—1. Acquisition of land . . ." On page 139, the report stated that the States should undertake a program of land acquisition and development as scheduled in the State outdoor recreation plan. It is clear that a large scale program of land acquisition by the Federal Government for recreation purposes is contrary to the report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission which recommended that the role of land acquisition be carried out by the States. The appropriate course of action at this point would be to eliminate this aspect of the program and provide an appropriate program of State assistance with the existing sources of revenue.

Therefore, it appears that the Congress is confronted with a major policy decision in terms of both fiscal management and allocation of land resources. The Congress has already authorized an exhaustive study of public land management (from the standpoint of disposal, retention, the laws, the regulations, the policies and the practices) by the Public Land Law Review Commission. It would appear that, rather than making the policy decision posed by the present proposals at this time, it would be the better part of wisdom to defer this decision until the report of the Public Land Law Review Commission has been submitted.

Recent trends have been disturbing in that, rather than emphasizing a conversion of public lands to taxpaying, job-creating uses, they have been characterized by an increasing takeover of private land for recreational purposes.

We are pleased to note that one of the objectives of Study No. 19 of the Public Land Law Review Commission, entitled "Fish and Wildlife Resources on the Public Lands" will be to "Document the degree to which private lands are open to the public for hunting and fishing, and describe efforts being made to increase this acreage in order to permit clearer review of demand on public lands." In many instances, governmentally owned acquired lands cannot offer more to the public than what was already being offered under private ownership, and sometimes can only offer less when the acquisition is for some single purpose use. Also, government does not always need to own land to achieve certain purposes. Cooperative arrangements have been worked out in many areas.

For example, one forest products company has a thirty thousand acre tree farm enrolled under a cooperative agreement with a State conservation department. This acreage is made freely available to the public for hunting and fishing. All the company's roads can be used by the public except in restricted areas when logging is taking place. The cutting affects only a very small percentage of the tree farm at any one time. The State provides professional guidance in game management; stocks the streams; and provides special game protective controls during the hunting season. A sportsman's map of the area has been prepared by the company to encourage better distribution of hunters and fishermen over the properties. Many companies are similarly engaged, and it should be kept in mind that all these acres, which offer so much in the form of public recreation, wildlife, habitat, and watershed management are tax-paying job-creating, raw material-producing lands.

Both public and private lands can and must be managed so as to provide both timber and other goods and services required. The public lands must be managed so as to make a greater contribution to the nation's wood supply in the future.