

duplication is in the water resources involved: Interior; Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); Health, Education, and Welfare; and Agriculture. Each Department uses different methods of computing expected costs and benefits from projects; each Department stresses different aspects of water development; each Department views the others' activities with a suspicion that borders on the paranoid.

This list of conflicts could be extended indefinitely. The Soil Conservation Service (Agriculture) is promoting the draining of wetlands in the northern midwest while the Fish and Wildlife Service (Interior) is trying to maintain wetlands for waterfowl. The Corps of Engineers is advocating the development of the Potomac River in conflict with the plans of the Park Service for a national park in the area. Undoubtedly the reader can add many more examples to this dreary account of intramural feuds.

The good will and devotion of the agencies concerned is not to be questioned. There are no heroes or villains in this story. The major troubles with present resource policies stem from the administrative organization of federal activities.

The form in which resource conservation and development planning takes place affects the substance of the programs. Irrevocable decisions are made on major natural resource matters within the framework of laws which restrict the developing agency to certain purposes, on the basis of agency traditions, and on the basis of artificially generated political support. Rarely, if ever are these decisions based on informed judgment about over-all national needs and goals. The result is that present public policy towards resources is indefensible if evaluated by economic, political, or social criteria.

The present situation can be summarized in ten propositions. They are:

1. In nature, the resources of soil, water, forests, wildlife, and minerals are a closely interrelated whole. Conservation practices designed for their production and production may take place on the same land area, e.g., water and interrelated parts of the forest management. Many of these may take place simultaneously on the same land area. Each of them is related to the programs of some other agency in a different Department. Despite administrative divisions, resource management cannot be separated.

2. Natural resource programs of the Federal Government are dispersed and scattered among separate Departments and agencies, although primarily concentrated in Interior. Consider the following list:

Interior

Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Geological Survey
Bureau of Mines
Bureau of Reclamation
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Bonneville Power Administration
Southwestern Power Administration
Southeastern Power Administration

Agriculture

Forest Service
Soil Conservation Service

Agricultural Conservation Program
Rural Electrification Administration