

mines in Montana and Washington occupy about 800 acres each on the average. The largest non-ferrous metallic mine operating in the United States, the Bingham Canyon Mine of Kennecott Copper Corporation, occupies 19.7 square miles. Even with the land used to provide access for highways, railroads, power lines, and water mains the total land area occupied by a mine the size of the Bingham Canyon Mine would probably not exceed 50 square miles. This is not a large area when compared with the 2,700 square miles of the southeast Yellowstone contiguous wilderness area previously mentioned.

A mine of the average size found in Idaho, Montana, and Washington, occupying slightly over 1 section of land, would, even with necessary access roads and power transmission lines, make an infinitesimal scar on wilderness areas of 1,000 to 2,700 miles in extent. One would not expect any very great number of mines in any one area. Those that would occur would probably be concentrated in small areas and thus have relatively little effect on the greater portion of a large wilderness area. In the unlikely event that a great number of mines or a large mining district were discovered, then that use would accrue great benefits to the local economy.

It is clear that the areas of intensive recreational use such as Yellowstone or Teton National Park bring a great deal of income into the state and local economies. The amount of income which is brought in by the vast, virtually unused wilderness type areas in conjectural, but is probably relatively small compared to the income and benefit to state and local economies from possible mining operations.

FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP—WYOMING

The relevance of this problem to state and local economies may be better gauged by considering the land areas involved. Wyoming has been divided into three regions to illustrate this problem. The first region, described as an area of concentrated recreational use, includes Yellowstone Park, and Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Sublette, and Teton counties. This area comprises about 17,347,200 acres and includes two large national parks and all the wilderness-type areas in Wyoming except Cloud Peak. About 85.4 percent of the area is in federal or state ownership (Tables 3 and 4).

TABLE 3.—LAND-OWNERSHIP STATUS BY TYPE OF AREA IN WYOMING, 1958

[In thousands of acres]

Land-ownership status	Type of areas ¹			Wyoming Total
	Concentrated recreational use areas	Other "public land" counties	"Private land" counties	
Total area.....	17,538	26,993	18,134	62,665
Water surface.....	191	40	30	261
Dryland.....	17,347	26,953	18,104	62,404
Land ownership:				
Private.....	2,524	10,060	14,043	26,627
State and local governments.....	643	2,003	1,751	4,397
Indian tribal.....	2,050			2,050
Federal lands.....	12,130	14,890	2,310	29,330
Ownership of Federal lands:				
Bureau of Land Management.....	4,134	11,713	1,001	16,858
U.S. Forest Service.....	5,252	2,662	1,174	9,088
National Park Service.....	2,177		2	2,179
Fish and Wildlife.....	24	7	3	34
Other Federal.....	543	508	120	1,171
Recreational use areas:				
National parks and wildlife refuges.....	2,201	7	5	2,213
Wilderness.....	2,261	137		2,398
Other national forest area.....	2,991	2,525	600	6,116
BLM section ²	3,810	10,025	3	13,838
BLM section 15 ² or USFS National grasslands.....	324	1,688	1,581	3,592

¹ Concentrated recreational use areas include Yellowstone National Park, and Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Sublette and Teton Counties, which contain extensive national park and/or wilderness areas. Other "public land" counties include Big Horn, Carbon, Johnson, Lincoln, Natrona, Sheridan, Sweetwater, Uinta, and Washakie Counties. The "private land" counties include Albany, Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

² Refers to sections in the act establishing the Bureau of Land Management.