Tax income

The removal of private land into public ownership narrows the property tax base and causes local units of government to become increasingly dependent on state and federal monies for operating income.

The Tax Foundation, Inc., publication, "Facts and Figures on Government Finance, 1962–1963", reported as follows:

> In 1902, property taxes provided 73% of the revenue of local government. By the period 1956–1962, property taxes provided only 46% of the total expenditures of local government. During this same period, the share of local government revenue from state and federal governments had risen from 6% in 1902 to 25% in 1957–1962.

The "Wall Street Journal" of February 18, 1964 reported:

> In the five-year period 1957–1962, the total expenditures for county government rose by 46 percent and indebtedness increased by 470%.

The debts of states have increased 448% since World War I. The per capita indebtedness of state and local governments increased from $120 in 1946 to $467 in 1963.

Water rights

This legislation permits the Secretary of Interior to, in fact, control development of an entire watershed above the section of the river which has been set aside. Does this legislation delegate power to the administrator which would cause an upstream project to have its function materially altered? Because of federal government's control of the entire upper watershed the government preempts all rights to all water, whether they arise from reserved lands or private lands.

We see representatives of many groups here requesting assistance that the water supply of their area might be expanded. This is evidence of its extreme importance to local development.

GOVERNMENT LAND OWNERSHIP

Farmers and ranchers, members of Farm Bureau, subscribe to the land ownership policy established by our founding fathers. This policy was new and was one that called for broad based private ownership of our land resources. As time passed, and new states were added to the Union, not all of the land within a new state's boundary was ceded to the state.

Today, thirty nine percent of the total land area in the nation is state or federally owned and without taking into account the 18 million acres estimated to be owned by counties and other local units of government.

The total acreage acquired by the federal agencies from 1912 to 1963 is reported by the General Services Administration to be 51,787,889 acres. This is equal in size to the area of the New England States, plus New Jersey and Maryland. This is a rate of acquisition over the period 1912 to 1963 of more than 900,000 acres per year. Just this past month the Secretary of Interior reported, that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1967 purchased for permanent public use some 1,715,000 acres of land and accompanying water resources.

In the eleven Western States, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming the federal government owns approximately 359,384,510 acres. This represents 89% of the federal government's lands outside Alaska, and this is 54% of the total land area of the eleven contiguous states.

According to our best information, H.R. 8416 proposal would require the taking of private lands in states that have substantial percentages of public lands within their boundaries.

	Approximate ownership		Percent of State in public ownership
	Percent public	Percent private	
Salmon	95	5	Idaho, 67.
Clearwater	95	5	
Rogue	95	5	Oregon, 53.
Rio Grande	65	35	New Mexico, 44.