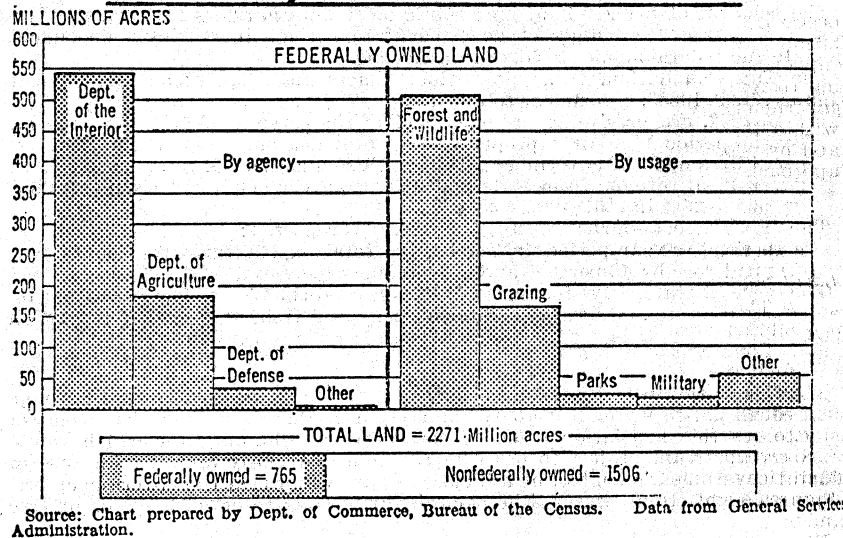


Land Owned by the Federal Government: 1966

In studying the legislation, the boundaries are established by specific maps. However, the Department of Interior in asking for an amendment, wants the boundary determining power left with the Department. This removes the decision-making from the elected representatives of the people and places it in the hands of an employee of an executive agency. We are opposed to such abdication of power. If a scenic or wild river project is all that valuable, and in the public interest, it should have to be considered individually on its own merit.

On December 22, 1964, a Select Subcommittee of the House Committee on Public Works issued a report entitled, "Study of Compensation and Assistance For Persons Affected By Real Property Acquisition in Federal and Federally Assisted Programs." This report said:

The amount of disruption caused by Federal and federally assisted programs is astoundingly large. The accelerated pace of Government activity, supported by broadened concepts of "public use", make any lessening of current activity in the foreseeable future highly unlikely.

In each of the next 8 years, Federal and federally assisted programs are expected to require the acquisition of real property from 183,000 separate ownerships, and the displacement of approximately 111,080 households, 17,860 businesses, 2,310 farm operations, and some disruption of an additional 1,350 farms.

The report went on to make many recommendations. As yet no legislation has been passed to effectively cope with this most grievous problem. One of the committee's admissions was their inability to determine what effect government programs would have on land ownership over the next few years because of expanded programs.

Delegates to our annual meeting said:

The power of eminent domain should not be used for national parks, wild-life refuges, riding and hiking trails, or other recreational projects. It should be used with restraint in other cases.