

tions of the continuing conservation land use and management program shall be credited to a special fund in the Treasury to be known as the "Mined Lands Reclamation Revolving Fund". Such moneys shall be available, without fiscal year limitation, for carrying out the provisions of this Act, including purchase and reclamation of land.

SEC. 603. If any provision of this Act, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

[S. 217, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate within the Department of the Interior an officer to establish, coordinate, and administer programs authorized by this Act, and the reclamation, acquisition, and conservation of lands and water adversely affected by coal mining operations, and for other purposes

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "Mined Lands Conservation Act."

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds and declares that there are coal mining operations in the Nation which continue to cause erosion, landslides, the accumulation of stagnant water, river and stream pollution, the increased likelihood of floods, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, damage to natural beauty, and the destruction of the value of land for commercial, industrial, agricultural, and forestry purposes; that such despoliation of the land counteracts efforts for the conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources, destroys or impairs the property rights of citizens, adversely affects economic development, and in general creates hazards dangerous to life and property so as to constitute an imminent peril to public health and safety; that these results are detrimental to the economy of the Nation and should be remedied; that because of the diversity of terrain, climate, biologic, chemical, and other physical conditions in coal mining areas, uniform reclamation and conservation requirements are difficult to establish; and that the Federal programs now authorized to provide financial assistance for the reclamation and conservation of such mined lands are not sufficiently broad in scope to provide remedies for these conditions and need to be supplemented.

(b) It is therefore the purpose of this Act to provide for participation by the Federal Government with State and local governments, private individuals, and other interested parties in a long-range, comprehensive program to reclaim lands and waters damaged by coal mining, to promote an effective continuing land-use program, and to prevent further detriment to the Nation from such mining operations through—

- (a) The reclamation and conservation of State-owned coal mined areas;
- (b) financial assistance to provide for research, and technical advisory activities;
- (c) the reclamation and conservation of privately owned coal mined areas;
- (d) the reclamation and conservation of federally owned coal mined areas;
- (e) the acquisition, reclamation, and conservation of coal mined lands;
- (f) the establishment of standards for the reclamation, protection, and management of surface and strip coal mined areas;
- (g) the construction by the Federal Government, when appropriate, of demonstration projects in cooperation with other interested parties in furtherance of a program of research and development; and
- (h) the promotion of water pollution control, public recreation, industrial and commercial development, forestry, agriculture, restoration, and preservation of natural beauty, enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource values, and public health and safety.

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall designate within the Department of the Interior one officer with primary responsibility to administer the provisions of this Act.

(b) In administering this Act the Secretary shall cooperate to the fullest extent practicable with other departments, agencies, and independent establishments of the Federal Government, with State governments and agencies, interstate agencies and compacts, and all other interested agencies, governmental and