

The next columns illustrate the 1980 situation if we continue with the same ratio of man's reclamation to mining and with the same amount of disturbed acreage for mining, namely 150,000 acres of land per year.

It is expected that surface mining will increase, however. The third set of columns show the one possible increase. This is at the rate of 250,000 acres per year, instead of 150,000. With the same reclamation ratio, by 1980 the situation will be as illustrated by the green column.

If, on the other hand, by 1980 twice as much reclamation, about 62 percent, is undertaken by man, we will have the situation shown by the right hand set of columns.

(Slide 45.) This is a listing of the major provisions of S. 3132. I am sure the Secretary will get into these in more detail. That concludes the slides.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Chairman, I thought this slide presentation was very effective and I therefore felt it would be worth the time of the committee to see some of the situations. I don't say this is representative or this is a cross-section of the total national picture, but we were particularly trying to show the different kinds of situations that exist, and this was the purpose of the slide presentation.

I should like to make a few general comments before getting into my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman. You can see both from the number of people who are here in the room and from the witness list the tremendous interest there is in this subject.

I want to make it very plain at the beginning, and I can say this with all candor and honesty because of my Department's very close tie with mining and mineral activities of this Nation, that this is a very vital industry, one that has been growing, thriving, and the question posed by this legislation is whether this activity can be carried on in such a way that we achieve the benefits to the Nation that we must have. We want a flourishing mining industry and at the same time we want to minimize to the highest extent possible the damage to other resources because, as you can see from viewing these slides, anything man does has side effects.

Mining has an impact on other things. For example, one of the worst forms of water pollution is the acid mine drainage which you saw here, as well as silt. We discovered in our study of the Potomac River, for example, that the worst pollution of the Potomac, the pollution causing the most difficult problem, is that which occurs near Washington—not from mining but from land developers who go in with a bulldozer and strip the land and then the silt pours down the first time there is a heavy rain.

So this does have a tremendous impact on our management of the other resources of the Nation. We are not here today to make a case because we would like to see the land look pretty. This isn't the thrust of this legislation.

I think that all of us would like to see, wherever possible, that our land be protected, but there is a soil conservation problem, there is a problem of water quality control, there is a problem really of seeing to it that as much of these lands as possible are returned to productivity so that where there was a mine there can be a forest, or where there was a mine there can be wildlife values. This is the type of approach that we are taking with this legislation.