

TABLE 2.—CONDITION OF SURFACE-MINED LAND, BY STATE, JAN. 1, 1965

[In thousands of acres]

State	Land needing treat- ment ¹	Land not needing treat- ment ¹	Total land disturbed ²	State	Land needing treat- ment ¹	Land not needing treat- ment ¹	Total land disturbed ²
Alabama.....	83.0	50.9	133.9	Nebraska.....	16.8	12.1	28.9
Alaska.....	6.9	4.2	11.1	Nevada.....	20.4	12.5	32.9
Arizona.....	4.7	27.7	32.4	New Hampshire.....	5.1	3.2	8.3
Arkansas.....	16.6	5.8	22.4	New Jersey.....	21.0	12.8	33.8
California.....	107.9	66.1	174.0	New Mexico.....	2.0	4.5	6.5
Colorado.....	40.2	14.8	55.0	New York.....	50.2	7.5	57.7
Connecticut.....	10.1	6.2	16.3	North Carolina.....	22.8	14.0	36.8
Delaware.....	3.5	2.2	5.7	North Dakota.....	22.9	14.0	36.9
Florida.....	143.5	45.3	188.8	Ohio.....	171.6	105.1	276.7
Georgia.....	13.5	8.2	21.7	Oklahoma.....	22.2	5.2	27.4
Hawaii ³				Oregon.....	5.8	3.6	9.4
Idaho.....	30.7	10.3	41.0	Pennsylvania.....	229.5	140.7	370.2
Illinois.....	88.7	54.4	143.1	Rhode Island.....	2.2	1.4	3.6
Indiana.....	27.6	97.7	125.3	South Carolina.....	19.3	13.4	32.7
Iowa.....	35.5	8.9	44.4	South Dakota.....	25.3	8.9	34.2
Kansas.....	50.0	9.5	59.5	Tennessee.....	62.5	38.4	100.9
Kentucky.....	79.2	48.5	127.7	Texas.....	136.4	29.9	166.3
Louisiana.....	17.2	13.6	30.8	Utah.....	3.4	2.1	5.5
Maine.....	21.6	13.2	34.8	Vermont.....	4.2	2.5	6.7
Maryland.....	18.1	7.1	25.2	Virginia.....	37.7	23.1	60.8
Massachusetts.....	25.0	15.3	40.3	West Virginia.....	5.5	3.3	8.8
Michigan.....	26.6	10.3	36.9	Washington.....	111.4	84.1	195.5
Minnesota.....	71.5	43.9	115.4	West Virginia.....	27.4	8.2	35.6
Mississippi.....	23.7	5.9	29.6	Wisconsin.....	6.4	4.0	10.4
Missouri.....	43.7	15.4	59.1	Wyoming.....			
Montana.....	19.6	7.3	26.9	Total.....	4,040.6	1,147.2	3,187.8

¹ Compiled from data supplied by Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.² Compiled from data supplied by U.S. Department of the Interior; from Soil Conservation Service; and from study-group estimates.³ Less than 100 acres.⁴ Does not include 108,000 acres of national forest land needing treatment.

Distance from population centers.—Surface-mined-land conservation is a rural opportunity. More than four-fifths of the mined land surveyed is at least a mile from communities with a population of more than 200. More than half are more than 4 miles from town. And 40 percent of the mined land cannot now be seen from any U.S. highway or passenger railroad. Most areas were close enough to communities, though, for a family to reach for an afternoon recreation outing. No urban growth was evident around two-thirds of them, which suggests that these areas are likely to continue in agricultural and related uses.

Ownership.—Ownership of the land and its minerals hold the key to use and conservation of these resources. Since most surface-mined land is privately owned, opportunity for improvement lies largely in local assistance programs of mutual interest and value to landowners and their neighbors—the kind of program already being carried on by the Nation's 3,000 soil and water conservation districts and by State forestry agencies with USDA help. Increased assistance through these going programs could do the job. And since the mining industry owns more than half of the surface-mined land, it has a challenge to restore its property to a useful state and to prevent offsite damages.

A survey of 693 surface-mine sites¹ in 1966 showed that many were scattered small acreages best treated as part of the total conservation management of the farm and other areas with which they are intermingled. Nearly 80 percent of the sites were in forest, farm, or grassland or reverting to forest at the time of survey. These same uses were being made of land adjacent to 86 percent of the sites. Less than 2 percent of the acreage had been set aside solely as outdoor recreation or wildlife areas usually these are compatible with other uses of the land.

Surface-mined land—by commodities.—More than 50 minerals are produced by surface mining in the United States. About 95 percent of the acreage disturbed by 1965 was for seven commodities: Coal, about 40 percent; sand and gravel 25 percent; stone, gold, clay, phosphate, and iron 30 percent. On two-thirds of the

¹ Sites were selected at random from mined land throughout the Nation to represent the surface-mining situation. Of the total, 180 sites were mined for coal; 149 for sand and gravel; 100 stone; 49 clay; 49 iron; 48 gold; 40 phosphate; and 78 for eight other commodities.