

Each conservation district has a program that fits its local problems and is a central source of help in solving these problems. Most surface-mined land is in a soil and water conservation district.

USDA endorses the type of national mined-land conservation effort outlined in these pages. It is a use of the same principles USDA has followed for years in its cooperative work with private landowners. Accomplishments already made by soil and water conservation district cooperators, the mining industry, and Government show that such a program can do the job.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Proper treatment of surface-mined land is an integral part of the total resource conservation effort on private and public land. To this end, USDA recommends as a four-point course of action:

1. *That Federal agencies demonstrate leadership by restoring their surface-mined land.* Each agency managing public land should develop a plan for completing the job within 10 years. Each agency should establish adequate safeguards to prevent harmful effects from surface mining on its land in the future.

2. *That treatment of old mined areas be accelerated.* The Federal Government should participate with States, counties, municipalities, the mining industry, associations, conservation districts, private individuals, and others in developing long-range, comprehensive restoration programs—designed on a watershed or drainage-area basis. Federal technical and financial aid should be on a long-term contract basis.

3. *That to deal with the problem of future rehabilitation of surface-mined land, Federal agencies extend their knowledge and assistance to States and producers of the 50-odd commodities involved.* Technical information should be disseminated as it is developed. Federal agencies should study existing State statutes on mined-land restoration (table 4) and develop model statutes. The goal should be the blending of knowledge and trust between all levels of industry and government in the interest of mining with a minimum of adverse effects.

4. *That Federal research programs, studies, and field demonstrations be expanded.* Many problems of treating mine spoils have not been solved and many opportunities remain unrealized. Present research efforts are inadequate. The problems examined in this report need specific attention.

Senator METCALF. I am going to recess the hearing at this time until 2 o'clock. At 2 o'clock, out of order, the first witness will be Mr. Harry Caudill who has a problem of having to get out of town and then we will start in the regular order on the witness list with Mr. Abdnor and so forth right on down the list.

(Whereupon, at 12:43 p.m., the committee recessed to reconvene at 2 p.m., the same day.)

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator METCALF. The committee will come to order.

Our first witness this afternoon is Mr. Harry M. Caudill, chairman of the Congress for Appalachian Development.

We are glad to have you here. You are accompanied by another great friend of mine, Mr. Gordon K. Ebersole from Montana. I know from personal experience he has a great deal of knowledge about the needs for the development of these areas with which we are concerned.

Mr. Caudill, you have a prepared statement and you may go ahead in your own way.