

form of land for housing developments, for crops, for wildlife refuges, and for recreational activities.

These added benefits are all possible because of a voluntary program of reclaiming phosphate land after it has been mined.

Florida Trend magazine, one of the ranking business and professional publications in the State, directed a segment of its January 1967 issue to the phosphate industry's conservation and reclamation movement.

Referring to the industry reclamation, the publication reported this land conservation program has resulted in dramatic changes being made in the face of the earth in central Florida.

Scars of mining—and there is no practical way to get the phosphate ore out of the ground except by digging—frequently exist only briefly. In some cases, the same dragline which digs the ore smooths the mounds of overburden as it moves along, leaving attractive lakes surrounded by land which needs only bulldozing to be restored to use condition.

It takes time. Phosphate companies cannot immediately reclaim all the land they mine, even if this were economically feasible. The industry's system of conserving water requires that some of the land be used for settling areas, an important part of the water recirculation system.

I submit to this committee that these are the findings of respected publications, following in-depth studies of the phosphate industry and its operations.

We in the Florida phosphate industry firmly believe that the voluntary program of land reclamation which we have adopted and followed is exceptional in that it was fostered within the industry, is conducted within the industry and, above all, has produced outstanding results.

The success of this program demonstrates what can be accomplished when an industry tackles a problem at the grassroots level, as opposed to waiting for Government intervention.

Reclamation projects can be grouped in three basic categories: agricultural, recreational, and development. The latter designation covers development of industrial, commercial and residential projects.

Due to the location of many of our mining operations—remote from population centers—a great deal of our reclaimed land has been devoted to agricultural use.

For example, experiments have revealed that citrus is exceptionally adaptable to reclaimed phosphate land and several thousand acres are now under cultivation.

Secretary Udall's slides earlier this week showed such an orange grove in Polk County, Fla.

Improved pasture also thrives well on reclaimed land and sizable acreages have been utilized in this manner. Other areas are being utilized for truck crops, grain crops—rye and oats—legumes, and large acreages have been placed under supervised timber management programs.

Recreation enthusiasts have reaped substantial benefit from the phosphate industry's land reclamation and restoration program which provides numerous picnic and park facilities throughout the area. Several phosphate pools have been developed into public beach areas, while some tracts have been left in rough condition for the hiker and nature lover to enjoy.