

tion of mined-out areas for the purpose of reclamation. Many of these scarred lands have been converted into useful public recreational locations.

Thank you for the opportunity of making these observations.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. KIMBALL,
Executive Director.

[Attachment]

RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, 29th ANNUAL CONVENTION, WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 5-7, 1965

STRIP MINING

Whereas, strip mining, the practice whereby mineral deposits are reached by removal of the land surface, causes serious problems of soil erosion and pollution of streams by acids and silt; and,

Whereas, newly-developed equipment now in use affects vast acreages of lands and magnifies these difficulties; and,

Whereas, unless conservation and restoration methods are employed, the scarred and denuded lands remain unsightly and unproductive for years; and,

Whereas, demonstrations by cooperative mining operators and governmental officials prove that commendable reclamation and restoration of mined-over lands can result in the creation of desirable fish and wildlife habitat; now,

Therefore be it resolved that the National Wildlife Federation, in annual convention assembled March 7, 1965, in Washington, D.C., urges the initiation of studies by the Department of the Interior of the methods used in strip mining operations and their extent in the U.S. with a view toward recommending remedical programs leading to reclamation and restoration of the land surface and elimination of stream pollution from these sources.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE,
Washington, D.C., May 10, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Institute regrets that it was unable to have a representative appear before the committee during the public hearing on S. 217, S. 3126, and S. 3132. We note that the hearing record was left open for the receipt of statements, and we would appreciate having this letter made a part of that record.

The Institute strongly supports appropriate federal legislation to protect the public values in lands that have been and are susceptible to various kinds of contour and open strip mining. It is believed that the legislation should not diminish in any way the several good state laws already in effect. Rather, it should uphold and sustain those state laws while, at the same time, provide guidance and leadership to states lacking effective laws and programs.

Federal legislation, in our opinion, should respond to at least three oversights that have been responsible for destructive strip mining practices in many localities. It should call for the pre-planning of rehabilitation of the lands to be stripped or open mined, require that rehabilitation takes place in conjunction with and at the time of the mining operation, and contain authority for prohibiting such mining where land rehabilitation is impossible or where slope, environmental values, or other factors render it inadvisable.

It is hoped that the federal responsibility can be vested jointly in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. As now organized, neither agency currently has all of the expertise to provide the technical and other services that are required to effectuate an adequate program. We believe, too, that the committee's bill should make provision for restoring the nearly 1 million acres that have been disrupted by contour strip coal mining operations in the past. Failure to restore these lands will perpetuate currently undesirable conditions.

In addition, the Institute wishes to associate itself with the remarks of Mr. Grover C. Little, Jr., executive director of the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, in his appearance before the committee. We believe that the 16 "strong points" recommended by Mr. Little for inclusion in applicable state and federal laws warrant the committee's most favorable attention.