

these. The largest areas of patented mines are up in here in the El Dorado area.

The preexisting rights would be honored in the establishment of the parks. Things such as valid claims and mine patents.

Mr. TAYLOR. Do you intend to gradually extinguish these mining patents?

Mr. HARTZOG. Yes, Mr. Chairman, and if I may amplify on what Dr. Crafts has said, I would like to call your attention to the fact that all of the privately owned lands are in this area that is proposed as a national recreation area in the Senate bill. There is no privately owned land within these two units of the national park under the Senate-passed bill. They are all in the recreation area or in the lower recreation area. You could continue private compatible uses.

Mr. TAYLOR. I didn't get an answer to the question of whether you had a plan to terminate the mining patents.

Mr. HARTZOG. Yes, we do. All private rights within the national park are to be terminated.

Mr. TAYLOR. How?

Mr. HARTZOG. Mr. Chairman, there are 1,880 acres involved in mineral patents within the Senate-passed 1321. There are 1,880 acres in the bill introduced by Mr. Meeds, which the committee is considering.

The first step we follow in this after Congress takes action on this is to ask the Bureau of Land Management to validate the mineral claims. Many of them we believe on their face are not valid. In other words, the required work has not been done, but this is a process, an administrative process that is carried out pursuant to the public land law of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. ASPINALL. Do you expect to take as long to validate these claims as it has taken to handle some of the oil shale claims in the Green River oil shale area?

Mr. HARTZOG. Mr. Chairman, I am not familiar with that. I don't believe any of those are in the national parks.

Mr. ASPINALL. I thought you knew about everything that bothers me.

Mr. HARTZOG. No, sir; I left the Bureau of Land Management 21 years ago.

Mr. KYL. They were in process then.

Mr. HARTZOG. Then those that are determined to be valid, we would purchase. In other words, much of the privately owned lands within some of the older national parks the Congress has established really came into private ownership through valid patents for minerals. These would be purchased as would any other private lands within a national park, or within a national recreation area. As long as the use is compatible, we wouldn't try to eliminate it until the owner wanted to sell.

Mr. ASPINALL. Dr. Crafts, I believe, wanted to make a correction.

Dr. CRAFTS. Mr. Hartzog made it for me. I said approximately 9,000 acres of mining patents and counsel pointed out to me the estimate is 1,880 acres.

Mr. TAYLOR. Congressman Meeds recommended, as I understood it, some hunting in this national park. This is normally not permitted. What is your reaction to that?