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# STATE-OWNED <br> RURAL LAND 1962 <br>  

USS. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
MAY 291967

STATE-OWNED RURAL LAND, 1962: Acreage, Distribution, Use by H. Thoman Frey, Geographer Resource Developaent Economics Division

Econoric Research Service
The Economic Research Service periodically inventories the major uses of all land in the United States. Information on the acreage and use of the State-owned portion is needed an antegral part of these comprehensive inventoriea. To obtain this information for 1962, a mall survey of State land-administering agencies was undertaken. This report sumarizes the information obtained in the survey; it also contains some data from reports and records of Federal agencies.

It is believed that the statistics presented herein are largely complete within the scope of the survey. All known State agencies wich might be expected to administer significant acreages of land, and many institutions and other agencies likely to administer small acreages, were accounted for. It could not be determined with finality, however, whether all agencies responsible for administering significent acreages of State land were contacted, or whether respondents fuliy reported all acreages under their administration.

Certain State-owned areas were excluded from this report. In this category are highway and roud rights-of-way, lakes, streambeds, tidelands, and land in urban places. Also excluded were special-use areas managed buí not owned by the States, and, of particular importance in Alaska, land due the States from Federal grante or other sources but not yet in effective Stace ownership. It was not always possible to separate data on these areas, however, and limited acreages, particularly of water and leased special-use areas, may have been included.

The uses to which the States put their land have been classified in the report into a system which recognizes the following primary uses: (1) parks and related recreational areas, (2) forestry, (3) wildife areas, (4) insti. tutiona 1 sites, (5) miscellaneous special uses, (6) farming, and (7) grazing. An additional category is provided for idle land, westeland, and land on which no use was reported. Primary use designations do not necessarily preclude multiple use of these areas. It was evident from informatiou aupplied by administering agencies that multiple use is practiced on nuch State land, particularly on land held for recreation, wildife, and forestry purposes. In some cases, where multiple use was the stated obje位ive, adataistering agencies regerded their primary use classification as somewht sdministrative in nature rather than as an actual use classification.

The data are presented in four tables by States and farm production regions. Tables $1-3$ are arranged to indicate the importance of two broad purposes of State land ownership, as well as the distribution and use of the land itself. One purpose-of-ownership category includes land in specifically designated public uses. The other category includes land without specific use deaignation heid primarily for reverue purposes. Uses may, of course, be apecified for land in the latter category in accoxdance with good management practices.

The distinction between major purposes of omership is emphasized because of the close relationahip existing between purpoaes of ownership and the amount and actual use of State-owned land. The separation also reflects to some extent the different means by which the States have acquired their land. Huch of the land in special uses was acquired through tax-reversion and purchase, while most but not all of the acreage held without use designation was acquired through grants from the Federal government.

Table 4 stmmarizes the agricultural and forestry uses of State-owned land without regard to purpose of ownership.

Table 1.,-mpistribution of stete-omed rural land, 1962 //


Continued-

Table 1.--Distribution of Stete-onnad rural lard, 1962 1/n-Continued

| Seate and region |  | Tota 1 | ```: Percentage of:Percentage of :cotal State- : total land : omned land carea of State f in U.S. : or region``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | : Acres Acres | - Acres | Percent percent |
| Missiasippi | : 107,067 -- | 107,067 | .1 . 4 |
| Arkanana | : 233,287 | 233,287 | .3 . 7 |
| Louiaiana | : 301,990 17,735 | 319,725 | .4 1.1 |
| Delta Statee | : 642,344 17,735 | 660,079 | .8 .7 |
| Oklahom | : 226,028 799,261 | 1,025,289 | 1.22 .3 |
| Texts | $: 344,355 \quad 3,006,798$ | 3,351,153 | 4.0 2.0 |
| Southern Plains | : 570,383 3,806,059 | 4,376,442 | 5.2 2.1 |
| Montama | : 625,427 4,684,800 | 5,310,227 | 6.3 5.7 |
| Idaho | : 109,156 2,649,588 | 2,758,744 | 3.3 5.2 |
| Wyoning | : 212,537 3,651,404 | 3,863,941 | 4.6 |
| Colorado | : 242,599 3,021,314 | 3,263,913 | 3.8 4.9 |
| New Mexico | : 98,203 10,847,215 | 10,945,418 | 12.9 14.1 |
| Arizona | : 35,018 9,176,891 | 9,211,909 | 10.9 12.7 |
| Utah | : 183,345 3,194,999 | 3,378,344 | $4.0 \quad 6.4$ |
| Neveda | : 51,142 2,778 | 53,920 | .1 . 1 |
| Mountain | : $1,557,427 \quad 37,228,989$ | 38,786,416 | $45.7 \quad 7.1$ |
| Weshington | : 929,178 2,446,730 | 3,375,908 | $\begin{array}{ll}4.0 & 7.9 \\ 1.9\end{array}$ |
| Oregon | : 930,389 691,216 | 1,621,605 | $1.9 \quad 2.6$ |
| Celifornia | : 969,892 678,074 | 1,647,966 | 1.9 1.6 |
| Pacific | $: 2,829,459 \quad 3,816,020$ | 6,645,479 | 7.8 3.2 |
| 48 Contiguous States | 25,429,224 51,050,925 | $76,480,149$ | 90.2 4.0 |
| Alaskn | : 4,426 6,804,812 | 6,809,238 | $8.0 \quad 1.9$ |
| Haveil | $: 1,119,369 \quad 405,353$ | 1,524,722 | 1.8 37.1 |
| United Stater | 26,553,019 58,261, 090 | 84,814,109 | $100.0 \quad 3.7$ |

1/ Excludes rond rights-of-way and water areas.
$\overline{2} /$ Area in parks and related recreational areas, organized foreste, wildife reserves, institutional aiten, and miscellaneous special uses.

3/ State grant and other land held prinarily for revenue. Grazing, forestry, and garming are the chief actual uses of this land.

4/ Leat chan one-tenth percent.

Table 2, - State-owned rural land in special-purpose uses, $1962 \mathrm{l} /$


Table $2,-$ State-owned rural land in apecial-purpose uses, $19621 /-$-Continued


1/ Exclude road righte-of-way and water arean.
$\overline{2} /$ Excludes State park and reareational developaents on leased land.
3/ Ares in orgenized forests. Excludes the forested portions of parks, wildife referves, and miscellaneous apecial-use ereas. Also excluded are grant and taxforecloaed land not specifically traneferred to forestry management.

4/ Excludes widilfe areas mansged by State agencies on federally and privatelyowned land.

5/ Land feld by penal, correctional, educational, health, and welfare institutions and egencies. Data for some Statea are incomplete.

6/ IncIudes National Guard canph and rifle rangea, radio atations, airports, gravel pits, witer storege areas, water transportation areas, etc. These data are incomplete for moat States.

Table 3.~-Use of State-omed rurai land held without use deaignation, 1962 1/

| Stete and ragion | $:$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Faming } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Grazan } \\ : \quad 3]^{108} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { : Porentry } \\ & \text { i } / \mathrm{l} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Other } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | : | Acres | Acres | Acrea | Acrea | Acres |
|  | : |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maine | : | --- | --- | --- | 1,131 | 1,131 |
| New Hempshire | : | -..- | --- | --- | - |  |
| Vermont | : | --- | --- | --- | -.. | -.. |
| Masamehusetta | : | --- | -.- | ... | -.- | --. |
| Rhode Island | : | $\cdots$ | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Connecticut | : | --- | --" | --- | --- | $\cdots$ |
| New York | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| New Jersey | : | --- | --- | --- | --* | --* |
| Pennaylvania | : | -.- | -.- | --- | -.. | --- |
| Delamare | : | --- | --* | --- | --- |  |
| Maryland | : | --- | --- | --- | --- |  |
| District of Columbia | : | - | --- | --- | -- | ...- |
|  | : |  |  |  |  |  |
| Northemet | : | - | --- | --- | 1,131 | 1,132 |
| Michigan | : | --- | -- | 69,491 | -- | 69,491 |
| Wiaconein | : | --- | --- | 157,135 | --- | 157,135 |
| Minnesota | $:$ | 25,000 | --. | 1,734,753 | --- | 1,759,753 |
|  | : |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lake States | : | 25,000 | $\cdots$ | 1,961,379 | $\cdots$ | 1,925,379 |
| Ohic | : | --- | --. | -*- | --- | -- |
| Indiana | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | -.. |
| Illinois | : | --* | --- | --- | $\cdots$ | --- |
| lowa | : | -.. | --- | --- | --. |  |
| Miseomri | : | --- | - | 9.459 | - | 9,459 |
| Corn Belt | : | --- | -- | 9.459 | -- | 9,459 |
| North Dakota | : | 79,142 | 833,654 | -- | --- | 912,796 |
| South Dakota | : | 226 | 1,525,483 | -.. | 5,533 | 1,531,242 |
| Nebrasks | : | 303,354 | 1,323,620 | --* | 5,307 | 1,632,281 |
| Kansas | $:$ | $\cdots$ | 1,323,620. | ---- | --- | +..-- |
| Northern Plains | : | 382,722 | 3,682,757 | --- | 10,840 | 4,076,319 |
| Virginia | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Neat Virginia | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nosth Carolina | : | -.- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Kentucky | : | --- | --- | -.- | -..- | ... |
| Tennessee | : | --- | --- | -- | --- | --- |
|  | : |  |  |  |  |  |
| Appalachian | : | --- | --. | $\cdots$ | --- | - |
| South Carolins | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Georgia | : | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Florida | : | -** | --- | --- | --- | ..- |
| Alabama | : | --- | --- | --- | 108,834 | 108,834 |
| Southeast | : | --- | $\cdots$ | --- | 108,834 | 108,834 |

Continued-

Table 3.-Use of State-owned rual land held without uee deaignation, 1962 1/--Continued


1/ Consiats largely of State grant land. Also included are approximately 2 million acres acquired through tax and mortgage foreclooure.

2/ Land leased out for farming.
3/ land leased out for grazing. A laxge part of the 2.5 million acrea clasified *s ocher land in Texan raty aloo be used for this purpose.

4/ Excludes grant and tax-forfeited land in orgenized foreats and forest land used for grazing.

5/ Idie lind, wate land, and land on bhich no use mas reported. Included in the latter category are the 2.5 million acres in Texss, much of which may be used for grazing.

Table 4.--State-owned Rend used for agriculture and forestry, 1962


Table 4.--State-owned lend used for agriculture and forestry, 1962--Continued


1/ Includes land leased out and land used by institutions for the purpone indixated.

2/ Excludes forest and woodland used primarily for grazing or for parke, wildife reserves, and misceilancous opecial uses.
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