

# Who Owns American's

(Continued From Page 42)

land and public lands account for another 27 percent. But small, private owners account for the greatest bulk of the Nation's commercial forest land. They hold 60 percent of it.

In the two most productive regions, the South and the Pacific, the forest industry owns about 18 percent of the land. Private owners with small tracts—usually under 60 acres—hold more than 70 percent of the forest land in the South and 20 percent in the Pacific region.

In the East as a whole, small owners hold more than 70 percent of the commercial forest land.

Insofar as the potential problems of forest land use can be identified with ownership, it appears that increased wood production in the East will depend heavily on the management decisions of small tract owners.

In the western regions, management decisions will be dominated by the public owners together with industrial owners in the Pacific States.

ERS notes that from 1950 to 1970, small, nonoperating owners—and to a lesser extent, the forest industry—have expanded their acreage. During the same period, the acreage of

forest land on farms declined.

Federal landholdings. Of all the public landholders, the Federal Government is by far the biggest.

It owns 1 in 3 acres in the U.S. for a total of 762 million acres.

The land is diverse—from the tropical soils and vegetation of Hawaii and Florida to the tundra of Alaska.

All told, some 37 Federal agencies administer these lands. Two agencies—the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service—administer 87 percent of Federal lands. Other Federal agencies that administer large acreages of public land include the Department of Defense, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Most of the Federal lands are in 11 Western States. And in those States where the Federal Government is a principal landowner, the management and use of the land significantly affect State and local economies.

Federal lands produce a wide range of products, including timber, forage, and minerals, and they have an abundance of resources, such as water, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation sites.

Nearly 100 million acres of Federal land are classified as commercial forest and are managed to maintain a sustained yield of wood products. This area represents about 20 percent of the Nation's commercial forest land. Nearly 40 percent of of the Nation's supply of marketable timber and more than 60 percent of its softwood sawtimber are on land owned by the Federal Government.

Big bite. Livestock grazing is the most widespread use of Federal lands, with well over 1 in 3 acres used for this purpose. Although Federal lands account for only about 3 percent of the total forage consumed by livestock in the U.S., they provide at least seasonal grazing for

more than 4 million cattle and 9 million sheep.

In some States and local areas, Federal lands are especially important. In Nevada, Federal lands provide about 45 percent of the total feed requirements for beef cattle and sheep, and in Utah, 30 percent.

Minerals on Federal lands also constitute a resource of great national importance. In 1968, 6 percent of the Nation's oil production came from Federal lands. Some 64 million acres were under lease for oil and gas. More than 8,200 producing mineral leases generated royalties to the Federal Government of more than \$92 million.

Much of the national production of copper, nickel, silver, lead, molybdenum, potash, and mercury comes from Federal land.

The Federal Government may also be considered the Nation's principal supplier of outdoor recreation facilities.

It owns more than 33 million acres that are truly unique in terms of scenic or natural attributes, including national parks, monuments, scenic and wild rivers, wilderness areas, and seashores.

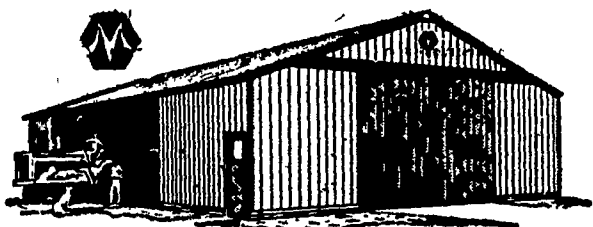
Federal lands provide not only habitat for much of the fish and wildlife in the country, but also access to fishing and hunting. Some 17 million acres are set aside for resident game species, and 9 million acres are set aside as migratory bird refuges. Of particular importance is the dependence of big game for habitat on Federal lands.

Federal lands are the principal

source of water for many of the arid areas of the West. They provide about 61 percent of the natural runoff in the 11 contiguous Western States, with the bulk of the runoff coming from land administered by the Forest Service.

Altogether, much of Federal land is used for several purposes. Thus, acreages given here for specific uses don't necessarily add up to the total acreage for land controlled by the Federal Government.

The American Academy of Pediatricians suggests that mothers not substitute imitation milk (coffeewhitners included) for whole milk in babies diets. Imitation milk is inferior to whole milk in protein, vitamin and mineral content.



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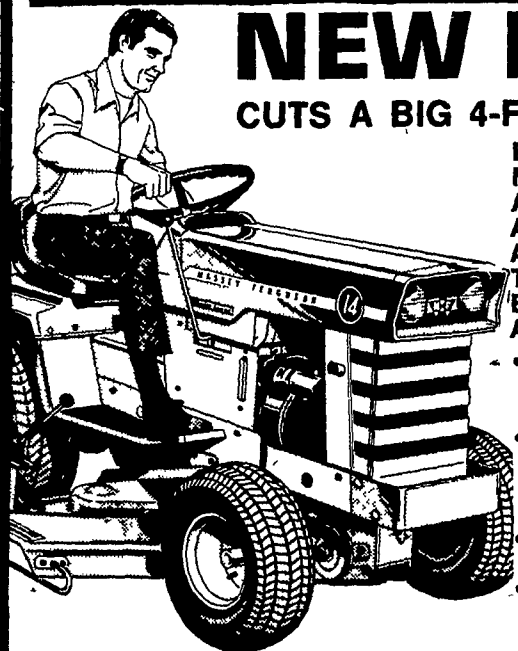
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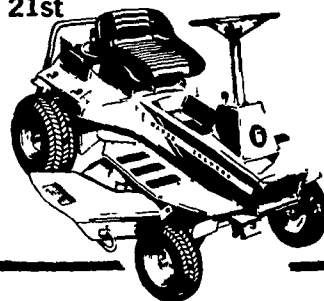
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