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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SENDS LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE TO CONGRESS

PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE, a 52-year program for conservation of the resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management, has been submitted to Congress, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

He explained that the TWENTY-TWELVE title came from the target date of completion, the year 2012, the 200th anniversary of the Bureau.

Secretary Seaton said the project is designed to conserve and improve the natural resources on public lands during a period when demands for them will become increasingly competitive.

"In developing this balanced program," said Secretary Seaton, "we have recognized the growing value and importance of the remaining unreserved public domain--its lands, forests, water, grass, wildlife and other resources. PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE is a realistic program, based upon the importance which these lands and resources have in the present and future development of our Nation."

He said that over the past seven years, BIM has developed a sound system of programming which has provided sufficient data for charting the first 20 years of the project. PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE is divided into three time periods: 1961 through 1965; 1966 through 1980; and 1981 through 2012.

Secretary Seaton said the program would give a high priority to the investigation of lands needed for recreation and that emphasis will be given to assuring public access to public lands.

He pointed out that PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE calls for enactment of H.R. 7042, which has been pending in Congress since May 11, 1959. The bill, which was drafted by the Department, would permit sale by public auction of public lands in tracts of 1,280 acres or less, when the tracts have been classified as chiefly valuable for urban, commercial or industrial purposes. Secretary Seaton has repeatedly urged

Congress to pass the bill, terming it the most important piece of land legislation since passage of the Taylor Grazing Act.

He noted that PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE also calls for appointment of a public commission to inventory public domain lands which are now reserved for specific purposes. Such a commission should include experts in the fields of conservation, resources, and land management, he said. The commissioners would be called on to determine reserved lands necessary to meet the Nation's future needs for seashores and other shoreline areas, parks and other recreational areas, and wildlife, he added. And, in their survey, these commissioners would recommend whether any lands now set aside for particular purposes should be restored to multiple-use.

Since lands will be needed by States, local government and private citizens to meet the demands of expanding western communities and the need for vital resources in the course of our economic growth, the public commission would also be instructed to make recommendations on those lands which are not needed for any Federal management program, Secretary Seaton said.

Bureau of Land Management Director Edward Woolley said that under the program BIM's present cash receipts of \$253 million are expected to double by 1980 and quadruple by 2012. The present 105 million acres under mineral leases is expected to be increased to 270 million acres by 2012, with a rise from \$96 million to \$358 million in mineral leasing receipts. All land activities, including classification and adjudication, would be conducted on a current basis with backlogs eliminated by 1965. By 1985, all necessary land tenure adjustments would be completed on a selective and priority basis. Cadastral surveys would be stepped up from the present 2 million acres a year to 8 million acres a year in 1965. A peak of nearly 10 million acres would be surveyed each year by 1980.

PROJECT TWENTY-TWELVE includes provisions for a complete public land mineral resource inventory. It also includes plans for thousands of range improvements, such as detention dams, springs and wells, 115,000 miles of range fencing, 12.3 million acres of range seeding, and 32.3 million acres of brush control.

The present public range forage production for 17 million animal unit months is expected to be increased so as to provide for 29 million AUM's by 1980 and 46 million AUM's by 2012. The volume of public domain timber to be annually harvested would reach 1.2 billion board feet by 1965. By 2012 the total allowable timber cut, on a sustained yield basis, would be 2.3 billion board feet a year. Under the program a permanent road system would be expanded to adequately facilitate the needs of land management and public access. By 2012 BIM would have some 23,000 miles of road to maintain.

Director Woolley said emphasis is being placed on an inventory of demands for recreational resources on public lands, and that the inventory will be kept current. He added that the Bureau is cooperating fully with the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission appointed by President Eisenhower. Woolley said complete cooperation will also be extended to States, counties, local governments and nonprofit organizations in making lands available for recreation purposes. Every effort will be made, he said, to help establish recreation areas and to provide public access to public lands.

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