

Public Law 88-606

September 19, 1964
[H. R. 8070]

AN ACT

For the establishment of a Public Land Law Review Commission to study existing laws and procedures relating to the administration of the public lands of the United States, and for other purposes.

Public Land
Law Review Com-
mission.
Establishment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

DECLARATION OF POLICY

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that the public lands of the United States shall be (a) retained and managed or (b) disposed of, all in a manner to provide the maximum benefit for the general public.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 2. Because the public land laws of the United States have developed over a long period of years through a series of Acts of Congress which are not fully correlated with each other and because those laws, or some of them, may be inadequate to meet the current and future needs of the American people and because administration of the public lands and the laws relating thereto has been divided among several agencies of the Federal Government, it is necessary to have a comprehensive review of those laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder and to determine whether and to what extent revisions thereof are necessary.

COMMISSION ON PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW

Composition.

SEC. 3. (a) For the purpose of carrying out the policy and purpose set forth in sections 1 and 2 of this Act, there is hereby established a commission to be known as the Public Land Law Review Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission."

(b) The Commission shall be composed of nineteen members, as follows:

(i) Three majority and three minority members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

(ii) Three majority and three minority members of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iii) Six persons to be appointed by the President of the United States from among persons who at the time appointment is to be made hereunder are not, and within a period of one year immediately preceding that time have not been, officers or employees of the United States; but, the foregoing or any other provision of law notwithstanding, there may be appointed, under this paragraph, any person who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed by any instrumentality of the executive branch of the Government or by any independent agency of the United States to perform, with or without compensation, temporary duties on either a full-time or intermittent basis for not to exceed one hundred and thirty days during any period of three hundred and sixty-five consecutive days; and

(iv) One person, elected by majority vote of the other eighteen, who shall be the Chairman of the Commission.

Chairman.

(c) Any vacancy which may occur on the Commission shall not affect its powers or functions but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Vacancies.

(d) The organization meeting of the Commission shall be held at such time and place as may be specified in a call issued jointly by the senior member appointed by the President of the Senate and the senior member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(e) Ten members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number, as determined by the Commission, may conduct hearings.

(f) Members of Congress who are members of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as Members of Congress; but they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.

(g) The members appointed by the President shall each receive \$50 per diem when engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Commission, plus reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 4. (a) The Commission shall (i) study existing statutes and regulations governing the retention, management, and disposition of the public lands; (ii) review the policies and practices of the Federal agencies charged with administrative jurisdiction over such lands insofar as such policies and practices relate to the retention, management, and disposition of those lands; (iii) compile data necessary to understand and determine the various demands on the public lands which now exist and which are likely to exist within the foreseeable future; and (iv) recommend such modifications in existing laws, regulations, policies, and practices as will, in the judgment of the Commission, best serve to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this Act.

(b) The Commission shall, not later than December 31, 1968, submit to the President and the Congress its final report. It shall cease to exist six months after submission of said report or on June 30, 1969, whichever is earlier. All records and papers of the Commission shall thereupon be delivered to the Administrator of General Services for deposit in the Archives of the United States.

Report to President and Congress.

DEPARTMENTAL LIAISON OFFICERS

SEC. 5. The Chairman of the Commission shall request the head of each Federal department or independent agency which has an interest in or responsibility with respect to the retention, management, or disposition of the public lands to appoint, and the head of such department or agency shall appoint, a liaison officer who shall work closely with the Commission and its staff in matters pertaining to this Act.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEC. 6. (a) There is hereby established an Advisory Council, which shall consist of the liaison officers appointed under section 5 of this Act, together with 25 additional members appointed by the Commission who shall be representative of the various major citizens' groups interested in problems relating to the retention, management, and disposition of the public lands, including the following: Organizations representative of State and local government, private organizations working in the field of public land management and outdoor recreation resources and opportunities, landowners, forestry interests, livestock

interests, mining interests, oil and gas interests, commercial and sport fishing interests, commercial outdoor recreation interests, industry, education, labor, and public utilities. Any vacancy occurring on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) The Advisory Council shall advise and counsel the Commission concerning matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(c) Members of the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Council called or approved by the Chairman of the Commission or in carrying out duties assigned by the Chairman.

(d) The Chairman of the Commission shall call an organization meeting of the Advisory Council as soon as practicable, a meeting of such council each six months thereafter, and a final meeting prior to approval of the final report by the Commission.

GOVERNORS' REPRESENTATIVES

SEC. 7. The Chairman of the Commission shall invite the Governor of each State to designate a representative to work closely with the Commission and its staff and with the advisory council in matters pertaining to this Act.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 8. (a) The Commission or, on authorization of the Commission, any committee of two or more members, at least one of whom shall be of each major political party, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places as the Commission or such authorized committee may deem advisable. Subpenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of written or other matter may be issued only on the authority of the Commission and shall be served by anyone designated by the Chairman of the Commission.

The Commission shall not issue any subpoena for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or for the production of written or other matters which would require the presence of the parties subpoenaed at a hearing to be held outside of the State wherein the witness is found or resides or transacts business.

A witness may submit material on a confidential basis for the use of the Commission and, if so submitted, the Commission shall not make the material public. The provisions of sections 102-104, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 192-194) shall apply in case of any failure of any witness to comply with any subpoena or testimony when summoned under this section.

(b) The Commission is authorized to secure from any department, agency, or individual instrumentality of the executive branch of the Government any information it deems necessary to carry out its functions under this Act and each such department, agency, and instrumentality is authorized and directed to furnish such information to the Commission upon request made by the Chairman or the Vice Chairman when acting as Chairman.

(c) If the Commission requires of any witness or of any governmental agency production of any materials which have theretofore been submitted to a government agency on a confidential basis, and the confidentiality of those materials is protected by statute, the material so produced shall be held confidential by the Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENSES, AND PERSONNEL

SEC. 9. (a) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more than \$4,000,000, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and such moneys as may be appropriated shall be available to the Commission until expended.

(b) The Commission is authorized, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations and without regard to the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, to fix the compensation of its Chairman and appoint and fix the compensation of its staff director, and such additional personnel as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions except that any Federal employees subject to the civil service laws and regulations who may be employed by the Commission shall retain civil service status without interruption or loss of status or privilege.

(c) The Commission is authorized to enter into contracts or agreements for studies and surveys with public and private organizations and, if necessary, to transfer funds to Federal agencies from sums appropriated pursuant to this Act to carry out such aspects of the review as the Commission determines can best be carried out in that manner.

(d) Service of an individual as a member of the Advisory Council, as the representative of a Governor, or employment by the Commission of an attorney or expert in any job or professional field on a part-time or full-time basis with or without compensation shall not be considered as service or employment bringing such individuals within the provisions of the Act of October 23, 1962 (76 Stat. 1119).

5 USC 1071
note.
Ante, p. 400.

18 USC 201 et
seq.

DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC LANDS"

SEC. 10. As used in this Act, the term "public lands" includes (a) the public domain of the United States, (b) reservations, other than Indian reservations, created from the public domain, (c) lands permanently or temporarily withdrawn, reserved, or withheld from private appropriation and disposal under the public land laws, including the mining laws, (d) outstanding interests of the United States in lands patented, conveyed in fee or otherwise, under the public land laws, (e) national forests, (f) wildlife refuges and ranges, and (g) the surface and subsurface resources of all such lands, including the disposition or restriction on disposition of the mineral resources in lands defined by appropriate statute, treaty, or judicial determination as being under the control of the United States in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Approved September 19, 1964.