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## Foreward

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## FOREWORD

The paramount need for more effective use and development of our nation's public land resources becomes more apparent as each year passes. Recognizing this need, Congress in 1964 enacted the statute creating the Public Land Law Review Commission. The Commission received a charge from Congress to investigate, analyze the past and recommend the future status of the public lands within the United States. The Congressional mandate required an analysis of the present status of the public lands and their possible future status. The culmination of the Commission's work was the publication of its report aptly entitled *One Third of the Nation's Land*, as the public lands within the United States constitute one-third of the total land acreage of the United States. Its *Report* sets forth specific recommendations concerning the use and development of the public lands. Therefore, a need for an analysis of this *Report* arose.

Numerous and sundry organizations felt and shared our belief in the need for an investigation and analysis of the Commission's Report. Our investigations have been made possible by a series of grants made by American National Cattleman's Association, American Petroleum Institute, Conservation Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America, Rocky Mountain Center of Environment, Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, and United States Steel Corporation.

In our investigation of the public land problems, reflected by the Commission's Report, the decision was made to attack this difficult, unsettled, confusing subject by enlisting numerous men, as principal contributors and participants, and then to provide an appropriate occasion for a relaxed yet extensive exchange of views between them. Our goal was not just to gain perspective but to stimulate further new ideas and research. The liveliness and real freedom of the meetings provide encouragement that the goal will be reached. The success of the venture reflected the devotion, hard work and enthusiasm of those who came to contribute.

The most crucial parts in the project were contributed by Frank J. Trelease, Dean of the College of Law at the University of Wyoming and Calvin E. Ragsdale, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Wyoming. Dean Trelease laid out the ways in which a vast field might be penetrated by the participants and who, as well, contributed an analysis of the water law involved on the public lands. Professor Ragsdale performed the task of overseeing the formulation and administration of the conference. Further recognition of those making crucial contributions, particularly in the editing and preparation of these proceedings for publication, must be given to Brent R. Kunz and Paul S. Galeotos.

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