

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

### ARIZONA LAND SURVEY

The General Services Administration has made a complete inventory of Federal real property holdings, and has rendered a report, March 25, 1955, at the request of the U. S. Senate Committee on Appropriations. From this report, as well as from the 42nd Annual Report of the Arizona State Land Commissioner, and a 1953 Report of the Director of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, the Arizona Department of Mineral Resources has compiled some tables summarizing Arizona's public land status with reference to that of the other Western States.

Of the 72.7 million acres in Arizona it was found that on Dec. 31, 1953, the Federal Government owned and controlled 49.7 million acres (including 19.4 million acres of Indian Reservations), or a total of 68.37% of the total land area of the State. The State itself, on June 30, 1954 owned slightly less than ten million acres, or 13.70% of the total land area. This leaves only 13.0 million acres, or 17.96%, in the form of potential taxable property in the State. Only two other States, Nevada and Utah, have a smaller percentage of privately owned land, the other Western States ranging from 27% for Oregon to 45% for California and 57% for Montana and Washington.

One table compiled by this Department shows the distribution of Federally owned and controlled lands, by Agencies. For example, the Department of Interior controls 19.4 million acres of Indian Reservation, and 17.6 million acres of other lands. The Department of Agriculture controls 11.4 million acres, chiefly forest reserves. The military controls over 1.2 million acres.

As of June 30, 1953, Arizona had the largest percentage (33.0%) of unsurveyed lands in the United States. Next comes Nevada, with 29.0%. Utah follows, with 19.5%, and Idaho next with 17.4%. Colorado had the least amount of land unsurveyed, with only 2.8%, or less than 2 million acres unsurveyed, compared with 24 million acres in Arizona unsurveyed.

### ARIZONA STATE LANDS

(From 42nd Annual Report of State Land Commissioner.)

"The total amount of lands granted to the State is estimated at 10,718,167.34 acres. This is an increase of 2,718.72 acres over last year, which is the result of land acquired this year by grant under the Federal Airport Act. (State-owned lands represent about 14 percent of the total area of the State.) Of this total the State has sold and patented to individuals 760,000.07 acres, leaving 9,958,167.27 acres still remaining in the State of which 88,020.40 acres are held by individuals under certificates of purchase. Of the total amount of land granted to the State 8,239,419.53 acres more or less are school lands, otherwise known as "Grant N and S Lands". Under the Enabling Act Arizona was to acquire as school lands four sections (2, 16, 32 and 36) out of each township unless these lands, or portions thereof, were or had been previously appropriated, in which case the State was entitled to other lands in equal amounts. Title to these four sections was to vest in the State upon Statehood and with the filing of the plat of survey with the District Land and Survey Office."

## ARIZONA MINERAL LANDS

Federal lands open to mineral location are subject to innumerable restrictions brought about by many Acts of Congress, and consequent changes in regulations by the many Agencies controlling Federal lands.

For a good summary of these various acts and regulations, see pages 5 to 19 of this Department's booklet "Regulations Governing Mineral Locations in Arizona", compiled by J. E. Busch. The author recommends that the official U. S. Land Office records at Phoenix be "consulted for reservations or land entries. If the land to be located is public domain it should be examined for possible adverse ownership prior to making a location."

"If the desired area is found to be State land, then inquiry must be made of the State Land Commissioner as to procedure. Such land is no longer 'unappropriated, public land'. It belongs to the State, and the general mining laws do not apply thereto. This is true also of the railroad grant lands."

"Lands within certain types of Government withdrawals, or reservations, are not subject to location under any of the mining laws."

"A mining location, to be valid, must be upon 'vacant, unoccupied, unreserved' public lands. In Arizona, there are large areas of 'public land' (i.e., it belongs to the United States) that are nevertheless not open to mining location. This is because of various withdrawals made for governmental uses and purposes. Such withdrawals are: National Parks and Monuments; Spanish Land Grants; Military Reservations, Reclamation withdrawals; Power Site; Recreational Areas; Administrative Sites; Spring and Water Holes. Lands subject to restricted locations are Indian Reservations, State Lands, Railroad Lands, etc."

There is no map showing the areas open to restricted or unrestricted mineral location. Personal inquiry at the U. S. Land Office or the Arizona State Land Office in Phoenix would have to be made to determine if any particular area is open. Even then accurate information would be difficult to obtain, owing to the fact that hundreds of mining locations are recorded only at the Recorder's Office of the County where the claim is located. No record is made at the U. S. Bureau of Land Management until the claim is patented. A visit to the Recorder's Office should therefore follow that to the Land Office.

An interesting discussion of Public Lands as they affect the mining industry may be found in a booklet entitled "Policy Declarations on Natural Resources" published in 1953 by the Natural Resources Department of the Chamber of Commerce of The United States, Washington 6, D. C.

FEDERALLY OWNED LAND IN THE WESTERN STATES BY PREDOMINANT USAGE

TOTAL IN OTHER STATES, AND GRAND TOTAL IN ALL UNITED STATES

Source: General Services Administration Inventory Report of Federal Real Property, as of Dec. 31, 1953

Area in Acres

	<u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Airfields</u>	<u>Grazing</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Flood Control &amp; Navigation</u>	<u>Forest and Wildlife</u>	<u>Housing</u>
Arizona	94.9	9,502.0	12,919,400.0	2,503.3	-	12,947,089.3	95.3
California	630.0	756,892.3	17,474,853.0	55,257.7	65,339.5	19,944,658.9	5,950.4
Colorado	71.0	5,557.4	8,834,873.0	7,230.2	25,904.5	13,710,304.6	121.3
Idaho	32,477.4	2,162.3	12,882,087.0	439,680.0	4,136.8	20,274,828.0	2.6
Montana	76,274.2	-	8,704,974.7	7.3	-	17,059,902.1	11.9
Nevada	-	338,624.4	47,729,250.0	439,136.5	-	8,000,772.0	32.4
New Mexico	11,168.0	15,961.2	15,536,124.0	74,251.7	26,092.9	8,966,621.2	25.0
Oregon	480.0	-	125,030.0	65.4	32,579.3	31,247,796.4	218.3
Utah	55,002.5	638.3	24,832,708.2	286.0	-	7,860,545.2	1,191.8
Washington	248.9	22,989.7	-	429,299.1	6,982.0	10,416,009.7	2,265.2
Wyoming	16,843.4	52.0	17,651,485.0	3.3	-	8,607,016.5	22.2
All Western States	193,290.3	1,152,379.6	166,690,784.9	1,447,720.5	161,035.0	159,035,543.9	9,936.4
All Other States	117,963.5	816,719.7	2,876,901.6	357,051.7	3,057,317.8	27,260,385.3	23,227.5
All States	311,253.8	1,969,099.3	169,567,686.5	1,804,772.2	3,218,352.8	186,295,929.2	33,163.9

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FEDERALLY OWNED LAND (Continued)

	<u>Harbor and Port Terminals</u>	<u>Insti- tutional</u>	<u>Military Exc. Airfields</u>	<u>Office Bldg. Locations</u>	<u>Parks and Historic Sites</u>	<u>Power Development</u>	<u>Reclamation &amp; Irrigation</u>	<u>Storage</u>
Arizona	-	9,481.3	1,214,274.7	97.1	1,449,775.1	10.0	1,747,049.6	.9
California	-	4,104.2	2,648,088.7	139.6	4,074,222.0	-	1,311,466.7	16,031.9
Colorado	-	3,450.4	197,863.7	839.7	518,770.2	-	576,669.8	-
Idaho	-	110.0	5,643.3	15.3	76,886.9	4,023.7	852,771.0	22.5
Montana	-	125,130.9	7,967.3	142.0	1,185,205.7	589,774.0	285,128.2	8.0
Nevada	-	9,169.4	3,616,153.8	6.2	115,880.7	20.0	1,223,900.0	4.5
New Mexico	-	34,482.0	173,874.0	23.9	240,010.3	-	205,091.1	82.7
Oregon	-	1,217.2	26,470.4	19.9	160,770.8	1,261.8	348,595.5	5.5
Utah	-	792.8	428,476.0	23.0	286,727.7	-	458,999.0	4,489.4
Washington	158.6	9,273.1	305,663.2	81.9	1,136,663.6	27,259.7	596,932.9	2,175.8
Wyoming	-	2,124.2	87,882.2	12.8	2,321,374.4	-	1,058,954.6	7.0
All Western States	158.6	199,335.5	8,712,357.3	1,401.4	11,566,287.4	622,349.2	8,665,558.4	22,828.2
All Other States	881.6	225,296.3	6,442,488.6	3,009.8	3,419,620.5	917,758.9	163,164.4	136,238.6
All States	1,040.2	424,631.8	15,154,845.9	4,411.2	14,985,907.9	1,540,108.1	8,828,722.8	159,066.8

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FEDERALLY OWNED LAND (Continued)

	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>Vacant P.O. Sites</u>	<u>Other Land</u>	<u>Total Land Federally Owned</u>	<u>Acreage In Custody of Federal Gov't. (Indian Reservations)</u>	<u>Grand Total Acres Federally Owned and In Trust</u>	<u>Total State Area Millions of Acres</u>	<u>% Federally Owned and In Trust</u>
Arizona	27.5	.5	2,537.2	30,301,938.7	19,370,182.7	49.7	72.7	68.37
California	1,444.0	31.0	4,098.0	46,363,207.9	707,054.3	47.1	100.3	46.96
Colorado	34.5	8.4	195,082.6	24,076,781.3	746,106.0	24.8	66.5	37.29
Idaho	20.2	.4	40,517.3	34,615,384.7	822,141.4	35.4	53.0	66.79
Montana	318.5	.5	2,992.0	28,037,837.3	6,146,755.3	34.2	93.4	36.62
Nevada	.8	-	4,300.0	61,477,250.7	1,148,584.7	62.6	70.3	89.05
New Mexico	-	-	121,596.9	25,405,404.9	8,446,666.4	33.8	77.8	43.45
Oregon	2,869.8	-	35,096.3	31,982,476.6	1,697,981.5	33.7	61.6	54.71
Utah	-	-	126,206.0	34,056,085.9	2,380,078.6	36.4	52.7	69.07
Washington	1,752.8	3.7	8,874.8	12,966,634.7	2,698,735.4	15.7	42.7	36.77
Wyoming	-	.6	66,207.6	29,811,985.8	1,895,660.0	31.7	62.4	50.80
All Western States	6,468.1	45.1	607,508.7	359,094,988.5	46,059,946.3	405.1	753.4	53.77
All Other States	12,017.1	99.8	163,437.5	45,993,580.2	9,972,309.8	56.0	1,150.4	4.87
All States	18,485.2	144.9	770,946.2	405,088,568.7	56,032,256.1	461.1	1,903.8	24.22

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TABLE SHOWING FEDERAL LAND GRANTS TO STATES AND PERCENT OF PRIVATELY OWNED LAND IN WESTERN STATES

AREA OF SURVEYED AND UNSURVEYED LANDS IN THE WESTERN PUBLIC-LAND STATES AS OF JUNE 30, 1953

Source: 1953 Report of Director of U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

	Federally Owned or * Controlled	Millions of Acres			% Privately Owned	Million Acres		
		Grants to *	Privately*	Total Area		Surveyed	Unsurveyed	% Unsurveyed
		States	Owned *					
Arizona	50.7	10.5	11.5	72.7	15.8	48.7	24.0	33.0
California	46.0	8.8	45.5	100.3	45.4	84.0	16.3	16.3
Colorado	25.0	4.5	37.0	66.5	55.6	64.6	1.9	2.8
Idaho	34.4	4.3	14.3	53.0	27.0	43.8	9.2	17.4
Montana	34.3	6.0	53.1	93.4	56.9	84.0	9.4	10.1
Nevada	59.0	2.7	8.6	70.3	12.2	49.9	20.4	29.0
New Mexico	34.8	12.8	30.2	77.8	38.8	67.9	9.9	12.7
Oregon	32.8	7.0	21.8	61.6	35.4	56.7	4.9	7.9
Utah	37.9	7.5	7.3	52.7	13.9	42.4	10.3	19.5
Washington	15.4	3.0	24.3	42.7	56.9	36.8	5.9	13.8
Wyoming	32.7	4.3	25.4	62.4	40.7	59.8	2.6	4.2

\* Up to June 30, 1953

\* This figure does not include lands acquired from the States out of the Federal Land Grants to the States.

\* For example, Arizona now owns less than 10.0 million acres, having sold over one-half million acres.

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<u>FEDERALLY OWNED LAND IN ARIZONA,</u> <u>BY AGENCY</u>		<u>DISTRIBUTION OF ARIZONA LANDS</u>			<u>ARIZONA STATE OWNED LAND,</u> <u>BY CLASS OF LEASE</u>	
Source: G.S.A. Inventory Report of Federal Real Property As of December 31, 1953.		Source: G.S.A. Report and 42nd Annual Report of State Land Commissioner.			Source: 42nd Annual Report of State Land Commissioner as of June 30, 1954.	
	<u>No. of Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>		<u>No. of Acres</u>
Agriculture	11,427,073.9	Fed. Owned Acreage	30,302,000	41.69	Grazing Leases	8,513,802
Commerce	3,082.7	Federal Trust Lands			Agricultural Leases	303,434
Army	76,273.0	(Indian)	19,370,000	26.65	Homesite Leases	4,461
Air Force	1,148,237.0	State Owned Lands	9,958,000	13.70	Commercial Leases	57,593
Navy	653.0	Privately Owned Land	13,058,000	17.96	Mineral Leases	19,949
Interior: Owned	17,644,563.4	Total Acres in			Oil and Gas Leases -	
In Trust (Indian Lands)	19,370,182.7	Arizona	72,688,000	100.00	Permits	845,262
Justice	1.5				Rights of Way	2,544
Post Office	4.7				Natural Products & Misc.	1,125
Treasury	24.0				Other Lands	209,997
General Services Adm.	47.9					
Housing - Home Finance Agency	127.6					9,958,167
Veterans' Administration	1,850.0					
	<u>49,672,121.4</u>					