

REPORT ON ARIZONA LANDS  
INCLUDING  
INVENTORY OF ARIZONA LANDS AS OF JUNE 30, 1971

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

William T. Blasing, Phoenix - Chairman  
(term expires January 31, 1976)

Kenneth L. Lamb, Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1977)

Robert C. Bogert, Flagstaff  
(term expires January 31, 1976)

Robert H. Hartman, Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1975)

Walter Heinrichs, Jr., Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1977)

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

John H. Jett, Director

K. A. Phillips

Mineral Building,

Fairgrounds

Phoenix,

85007

December, 1972

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

William T. Elsing, Phoenix - Chairman  
(term expires January 31, 1976)

Kenrick L. Lamb, Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1973)

Robert C. Bogart, Bagdad  
(term expires January 31, 1974)

Robert H. Heineman, Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1975)

Walter Heinrichs, Jr., Tucson  
(term expires January 31, 1977)

REPORT ON ARIZONA LANDS  
INCLUDING  
INVENTORY OF ARIZONA LANDS AS OF JUNE 30, 1971

The ownership and administration of land has always had a great effect on the ability of the minerals exploration and production industries to supply people the necessary mineral materials to acquire and sustain a reasonable standard of living. In Arizona, as in most western states, most of the land is owned or directly controlled by one or more State or Federal agencies. Due to public pressure these agencies are establishing more restrictive controls on mining operations so as to better protect the landscape. This report covers the distribution of Arizona's lands as of June 30, 1971 and revenues therefrom in fiscal 1970-71. The data and tables have, in part, been compiled from reports of the General Services Administration and the State Land Commissioner.

The total area of Arizona including that covered by water is 72,688,000 acres. This total is divided as follows:

70.96% owned or controlled by the Federal Government.

43.96% directly owned by the Federal Government.

27.00% held in trust by the Federal Government for the Indian Tribes.

13.21% trust land of the State of Arizona under State Land Department jurisdiction.

15.83% privately owned or belonging to State, County or City agencies other than the State Land Department.

Of the total 50.4 million acres of trust property (mostly Indian Tribal Lands) under Federal control in the United States, 38.9% are in Arizona. New Mexico ranks second with 13.7% of the trust properties. These data are shown in Table II.

Table I shows the percentage of federally owned or controlled land in each county. The Federal Government owns or controls over 50% of the land in all but three Arizona counties.

TABLE I \*

Gila	95.29%
Yuma	84.53%
Greenlee	79.16%
Coconino	77.52%
Navajo	75.99%
Mohave	74.67%
Graham	73.21%
Apache	72.83%
Pima	69.83%
Maricopa	61.52%
Santa Cruz	56.43%
Yavapai	49.97%
Pinal	38.85%
Cochise	22.95%

\* Source: Department of Economic Planning & Development

Table III shows the distribution of federally owned land in Arizona by predominant usage. The largest acreages are used for grazing, and for forest and wildlife with each category having nearly 13 million acres. Military areas use a little over 3.5 million acres, parks and historic sites 1.6 million acres and reclamation, irrigation, flood control and power development total about 1.5 million acres.

A considerable amount of the Federal Land is either closed to mining or open to mining only under tight regulation. Of the nearly 13 million acres of forest and wildlife lands, almost 700 thousand acres are classified as Wilderness or Primitive Areas and another 700 thousand acres could be considered acceptable for possible wilderness areas. Tightly controlled prospecting and mining will be allowed in Primitive and Wilderness areas until 1983 at which time the areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry. As of 1983, possible mineral values to mankind will be sacrificed for wilderness values in areas included under the Wilderness Preservation System. The 3.5 million acres of military lands are mostly bombing and gunnery ranges and are withdrawn from all types of entry including mining for reasons of public safety. All National Park Service lands (approximately 2.9 million acres) which include most of the 1.6 million acres shown in Table III as Park and Historic Sites are closed to mining except the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument where mineral entry is allowed under tightly controlled conditions. The nearly 1.5 million acres used for reclamation, irrigation, flood control and power development have been withdrawn from mineral entry in most areas. Each parcel of land that is withdrawn from mineral entry further limits the amount of land open to the search for new mineral resources. Considering the shortage in mineral materials forecast by both government and industry leaders, land management agencies should carefully analyze any proposed mineral withdrawal and its effect on the mineral resources of our nation prior to actual withdrawal.

Although at first glance, large areas in Arizona appear to comprise vacant unappropriated and unreserved public lands open to unrestricted prospecting and the location of mining claims, many areas are not open and the actual status of a particular area may be quite complex. It is suggested



that one obtain a copy of this department's booklet "Laws and Regulations Governing Mineral Rights in Arizona" as a guide to proper procedures in locating claims or acquiring leases or other mineral rights.

The booklet also explains the rights of a mineral locator, under the mining law, especially since the enactment of The Multiple Surface Use Act of 1955 which prohibited any use of subsequently located unpatented mining claims other than for the purposes of prospecting, mining or processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto. The necessity of a mineral discovery before a claim can become valid is also fully discussed.

As of June 30, 1971 Arizona had 11.35 million acres of public land unsurveyed, the third highest percentage (15.6) of unsurveyed lands in any of the conterminous United States. Only 7 percent of the public lands outside of Alaska are unsurveyed, all of it being in the eleven western states.

#### STATE TRUST LANDS

The total of lands granted by the federal government to the state or acquired otherwise by the state in the past, is 10,849,900 acres (See Table V). Of this total, 8,334,950 acres were grant lands for the support of common schools; university, college and other institutional grants amounted to 2,451,295 acres; and 63,655 acres were acquired by the state through special grants, purchases, exchanges and accretions.

Up to June 30, 1971 the state has deeded to private parties 899,779 acres of its trust lands and has placed 145,838 acres under sales contracts; indemnity base lands amounting to 185,495 acres in and 7,615 acres outside of the National Forest, either have not been selected or have been selected and not approved; and 5,776 acres are of uncertain ownership. Deduction of these lands leaves 9,605,289 acres of trust lands held available for lease by the

State Land Department as of June 30, 1971. The surface of all except 55,107 acres of the available lands was leased, and sub-surface leases in 1971 aggregated 1,892,922 acres - 6 percent lower than in 1970.

Table IX shows acreages of State Land Department leases and receipts therefrom. The largest surface acreage was covered by grazing leases - over 9 million acres in 1971. Agriculture occupied only 200,000 acres but paid almost 59% more rental than grazing leases. 1.7 million acres, or 89% of the acreage of subsurface leases were oil and gas leases. Mineral leases, with only 55,000 acres, paid slightly over a tenth as much rental in 1971 as oil and gas leases but its total of rentals plus royalties was about ten times greater than that of the oil and gas leases. The oil and gas leased acreage was 7 percent lower than in 1970.

Table X shows the sub-surface acreage of prospecting permits, mineral, and oil and gas leases in each county. Pinal County had the biggest acreage of prospecting permits and mineral leases, as it did in 1970. Pima again was next in both categories, but its acreage of mineral leases dropped 1 percent while Pinal's increased 10 percent and its acreage of prospecting permits increased 6 percent while Pinal's decreased 30 percent. Acreages covered by prospecting permits were in all counties except Apache and Coconino, although Navajo had only 20 acres. There were state oil and gas leases in all counties except Gila and Greenlee, with Cochise having the largest acreage, as in 1970; while Pima and Pinal remained in second and third place. Decreases in oil and gas lease acreage occurred in all counties except Yavapai.

Tables VI, VII, and VIII give summaries of the areas of: surface and sub-surface leases, Land Department receipts from all sources, and lease royalties received in 1970 and 1971. Although a drop in total receipts in 1971

over 1970 is shown, the drop is not realistic due to the large royalties collected in 1970 when accounts were brought up to date. The income from royalties is favorably compared to 1969 when royalties were 1.4 million.

Table XI gives annual sub-surface lease receipts by type of lease for the period 1960 through 1970. The enormous growth in mineral royalties in the period, started with development of ores on state lands following the earlier discovery and development of copper ores on adjacent lands in the Pima Mining District south of Tucson.



TABLE II  
DISTRIBUTION OF ARIZONA LANDS

As of June 30, 1971

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Federally Owned Lands (1)	31,954,586	43.96
Trust Properties in Custody of the Federal Government, almost entirely Indian tribal lands (1)	19,625,429	27.00
State of Arizona (Trust Lands) (2)	9,605,287	13.21
Other Lands (3)	<u>11,502,698</u>	<u>15.83</u>
Total Land Area (1)	72,688,000	100.00

- (1) Source: Inventory Report on Real Property Owned by the United States Throughout the World as of June 30, 1971; prepared by General Services Administration.
- (2) Source: 59th Annual Report of the State Land Department for July 1, 1970 through June 30, 1971. Figure does not include 185,495 acres within and 7,616 acres outside of the National Forests for which indemnity lands have not been received.
- (3) Patented and owned by individuals and corporations, or deeded to state and local government agencies other than the State Land Department. Determined by difference.

TABLE III

FEDERAL LAND WITHIN ARIZONA, BY PREDOMINANT USAGE

	ACRES* <u>June 30, 1970</u>	ACRES* <u>June 30, 1971</u>	1971 % of <u>Total</u>
Agricultural	75.9	75.9	.00
Grazing	12,601,702.8	12,571,096.8	39.34
Forest & Wildlife	12,970,578.2	12,961,621.8	40.56
Parks & Historic Sites	1,597,769.2	1,599,352.2	5.01
Office Building Locations	55.5	39.6	.00
Military (except airfields)	3,504,003.9	3,504,839.9	10.97
Airfields	16,524.6	16,603.6	.05
Power Development & Distribution	609,422.6	268,468.3	.84
Reclamation & Irrigation	931.463.3	927,502.7	2.90
Flood Control & Navigation	43,133.7	43,133.7	.13
Vacant	394.3	394.3	.00
Institutional	1,569.5	1,569.5	.01
Housing	54.6	55.0	.00
Storage	28,401.4	28,403.4	.09
Industrial	2,185.0	2,185.0	.01
Research & Development	28,229.2	28,229.2	.09
Other Land	1,013.3	1,014.7	.00
TOTAL	32,336,577.0	31,954,585.6	100.00

\* Source: Inventory Report on Real Property Owned by the United States Throughout the World as of June 30, 1971; prepared by General Services Administration.

TABLE IV

AREA OF SURVEYED AND UNSURVEYED LANDS IN ARIZONA, 1786-1971

<u>SURVEYED</u>	<u>UNSURVEYED</u>	<u>% UNSURVEYED</u>
61,329,385	11,350,935	15.62

Source: U. S. Department of the Interior, Public Land Statistics - 1971

TABLE V

ARIZONA TRUST LANDS GRANTED AND/OR ACQUIRED

As of June 30, 1971

Source: 59th Annual Report of the State Land Commissioner

		Acres
School Grants <u>1/</u>		8,334,950
Univ., College and Other Institutional Grants <u>2/</u>		2,451,295
Farm Loan Lands <u>3/</u>		22,238
Special Grants: Airfields <u>4/</u>	7,310	
Other	<u>3,746</u>	11,056
Net gain from exchanges and accretions		30,361
Total Trust Lands Granted and/or Acquired		<u>10,849,900</u>
LESS:		
Lands Patented, Deeded, or Committed	899,779	
Lands under sale contracts	145,838	
Indemnity Base Lands not received		
In National Forests	185,495	
Outside National Forests	7,615	
Lands of undetermined ownership	5,776	
Other adjustments	<u>108</u>	<u>1,244,611</u>
Total State of Arizona Trust Lands 6-30-71		<u>9,605,289</u>

1/ Grants for the Support of Common Schools. The Enabling Act of June 20, 1910, granted to the State of Arizona specific lands for the support of the "Common Schools", namely sections 2, 16, 32 and 36 in every township, upon being surveyed, provided the lands were not otherwise entered upon, sold, reserved, or otherwise appropriated at the date of this Act, and excepting all or any part thereof classified mineral in character. This restraint from taking title to lands mineral in character, remained in force until changed by the Act of January 25, 1927. Where the lands in sections granted to the State have been preempted, sold, or otherwise disposed of, the State has been given the right of lieu selection from open lands of the public domain. Deficiencies of school lands in fractional townships have been adjusted in accordance with provisions of the Enabling Act.

2/ University, Colleges and Other Institutional Grants. By an Act of February 18, 1881, the Territory of Arizona was granted 72 sections of the unappropriated public lands within the said Territory, to be immediately selected, withdrawn from sale, and located under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, with the approval of the President of the United States, for the use and support of a University in said Territory when admitted as a State into the Union. In addition to the grants mentioned above, the Enabling Act also made specific acreage grants for the support of various institutions of the State.

3/ Farm Loan Lands. After a Farm Loan Program was enacted by the State Legislature, March 14, 1944, the State was able to acquire 22,238 acres of public lands.

4/ Special Grants. From the time of statehood, Arizona has acquired parcels of land by special grants and quit-claim deeds. Other than the grant of Papago Park for recreational purposes and a few lessor acquisitions, the special grant lands were airfields that had been declared surplus by the War Assets Administration, plus some lands separately granted.

TABLE VI

SUMMARY OF LEASED AREAS OF ARIZONA TRUST LANDS

	<u>As of June 30th</u>		<u>Increase (Decrease) %</u>
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	
<u>Surface Only:</u>			
Aggregate area of leases	9,565,965	9,572,664	0.07
Less areas which coincide	24,412	22,483	( 7.94)
Area covered by one or more leases	9,541,553	9,550,181	.09
Area not leased	52,036	55,107	5.90
Total Trust Lands	9,593,589	9,605,288	0.12
<u>Sub-surface Only:</u>			
Area leased	2,013,957	1,892,922	( 6.00)
Area not leased	7,029,033	7,164,495	1.92
Total available for lease	9,042,990	9,057,417	0.15

TABLE VII

SUMMARY OF STATE LAND DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES

	<u>1970 Fiscal</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) %</u>
Leasing Rentals, Penalties & Interest	\$ 3,523,131	3,285,246	( 6.75)
Leasing Royalties and Fees	4,688,869	2,527,044	( 46.10)
Land Sales Principal	2,436,553	2,984,444	22.48
Land Sales, Interest	1,430,702	1,422,103	( 0.60)
Federal Government Remittances	73,252		( 100.00)
Other	65,019	453,509 3/	597.50
Total	\$12,217,526	10,672,346	( 12.64)

TABLE VIII

LEASE ROYALTIES RECEIVED

	<u>1970 Fiscal</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease) %</u>
<u>Lease</u>			
Mineral	4,492,339	2,247,897	( 49.96)
Mineral Materials 1/	89,923	241,676	168.75
Oil & Gas	8,478	7,396	( 12.85)
Commercial water	25,738	30,076	16.85
Other			
Totals	4,616,478 2/	2,527,045	( 45.04)

1/ Mostly road material for state highways.

2/ Adjusted. Accounts brought current.

3/ Federal Government Remittances included with other in 1971.

Source: 58th and 59th Annual Reports of the State Land Commissioner.

TABLE IX

ACREAGES OF STATE LAND DEPARTMENT LEASES AND RECEIPTS THEREFROM

Fiscal Year Ending June 30th	1970		1971	
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Receipts Rental</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Receipts Rental</u>
<u>Surface Leases</u>				
Agriculture	215,214	\$1,229,875	198,363	\$1,171,453
Grazing	9,089,354	642,126	9,110,118	756,814
Commercial	77,850	455,553	78,700	498,592
Homesites	188	814	150	1,124
Rights of Way	79,847	276,912	80,575	161,961
Special Use Permits	691	1,968	822	12,751
U. S. Contracts	102,821	201,174	103,935	74,144
Total Surface	9,565,965	\$2,808,422	9,572,663	\$2,676,839
<u>Sub-surface Leases</u>				
Minerals & Mineral Mat'ls	55,132	46,046	58,471	55,517
Prospecting Permits	97,323	148,716	90,925	126,182
Oil & Gas	1,815,258	456,579	1,694,161	414,366
U. S. Contracts	46,244	46,244	49,366	12,341
Total Sub-surface	2,013,957	\$ 697,585	1,892,923	\$ 608,406
Total Rental Receipts		\$3,506,007		\$3,285,245
Leasing Fees (Other)		\$ 72,391		—
Royalties		\$4,616,478		\$2,527,044
Total Rental Rcts., Fees & Royalties		\$8,194,876		\$5,812,289
Penalties and interest, not included above		\$ 17,125		

Rental Receipts per Acre  
(Leasing fees and royalties excluded)

Average, Surface and Sub -surface	\$0.3028	\$0.3005
Grazing	\$0.0501	\$0.0830
Minerals & Min's Mat'ls	\$0.8352	\$0.9683
Oil & Gas	\$0.2515	\$0.2446

Lease rental per acre per year on mineral claims is 75 cents, and on oil & gas leases is 25 cents.

Source: 58 and 59th Annual Reports of the State Land Commissioner.

TABLE X

## SUB-SURFACE ACREAGE UNDER LEASE BY COUNTY BY TYPE OF LEASE

1971

County	Prospecting Permits	Mineral Materials	Mineral	Oil & Gas	U.S. Contracts	GRAND TOTAL
Apache		215	80	178,316		178,611
Cochise	18,189	1,215	2,044	372,213		393,661
Coconino	-	356	729	14,774		15,859
Gila	640	-	620	-		1,260
Graham	7,732	40	2,924	11,056		21,752
Greenlee	1,525	129	460	-		2,114
Maricopa	2,400	1,424	3,734	236,676		244,234
Mohave	1,721	531	740	18,507		21,499
Navajo	20	403	576	72,173		73,172
Pima	19,510	1,311	12,290	282,484		315,595
Pinal	34,401	655	22,982	260,294		318,332
Santa Cruz	713	70	20	80		883
Yavapai	2,621	672	3,120	28,263		34,676
Yuma	1,454	816	313	219,322	49,366	271,271
Total 1971	90,926	7,837	50,632	1,694,158	49,366	1,892,919
Total 1970	97,323	5,929	49,204	1,815,258	46,243	2,013,957

TABLE XI

SUB-SURFACE LEASING RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF LEASE 1/

A				B		
Rental and Royalty Receipts				All Sub-surface lease Receipts		
Year	Prospecting Permits	Mineral <u>2/</u> Materials and Mineral <u>2/</u>		Rental	Royalties <u>3/</u>	Total
1960	\$ none	\$127,735		\$474,025	\$ 50,504	\$ 524,529
1961	none	100,319		448,825	59,750	508,575
1962	71,676	257,538		476,462	221,143	697,605
1963	36,626	44,882 <u>4/</u>		430,054	270,341	700,395
1964	193,681	34,608 <u>4/</u>		547,863	138,623	686,486
1965	159,035	34,696 <u>4/</u>		534,731	121,984	656,715
1966	85,265	35,256 <u>4/</u>		346,036	155,922	501,958
1967	113,483	655,843		338,737	782,064	1,120,801
1968	166,731	\$430,146	\$886,922	412,114	1,280,734	1,692,848
1969	119,952	371,025	923,492	445,059	1,339,105	1,784,164
1970	148,716	96,138	4,532,505	699,125	4,590,770	5,289,895
1971	126,182	257,611	2,287,469	608,407	2,527,044	3,135,451

1/ Includes rental receipts, penalties and interest, and royalties.2/ does not include oil and gas, helium, or U.S. Contracts.3/ Prior to 1967, water royalties are included.4/ Rental receipts, penalties and interest, only. Mineral royalty not separately reported.