The Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934, with amendments, is the basic legislative authority governing the management and protection of the vacuum public lands of the United States. Because the act confers broad powers upon the Department of the Interior for multiple-use management of natural resources, it is one of the major conservation laws of the Nation. Without departing from the original primary objectives, the Congress has from time to time amended the act to keep it abreast with changing demands.

The Bureau of Land Management has responsibilities for 470 million acres, or 62 percent, of the federally owned lands. Over half, or 285 million acres, of this area is in Alaska. Before Alaska became a State in 1959, more than 99 percent of its 568,400 square miles was owned by the Federal Government. All homesteading was on Federal lands. Under provisions of the Statehood Act, Alaska was given the right to select for State use or disposition approximately 104 million acres of public land. The Congress gave the new State 25 years in which to select this acreage. By the fourth quarter of 1966, Alaska had selected over 176 million acres and had over 5 million of this acreage patented. Other areas for which Bureau of Land Management is responsible are mainly located in the 11 westernmost contiguous States. Additional landholding agencies of the Department of the Interior are the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, National Park Service, and Bureau of Reclamation.

Two other large landholding agencies of the Federal Government are the Department of Agriculture, with over 187 million acres, and the Department of Defense, with nearly 35 million acres. The Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture is responsible for managing, developing, and protecting nearly 187 million acres of land and its resources in the National Forest System. This represents nearly 25 percent of the Federal land ownership in the 50 United States including 154 national forests in 40 States and Puerto Rico that contain 183.2 million acres. 3.8 million acres of national forest acres, and 154,000 acres of land-usage projects. Under multiple-use and sustained yield practices and development of power resources, and public lands promote water- and soil-conservation practices and development of power resources, and provide excellent recreation areas. Often more than one agency will be involved in the management of these areas. Through cooperative agreements many purposes are adequately served, including preservation, protection, and enhancement of open space values, land and water resources, natural phenomena, archaeological and historic values, and recreation facilities.

In addition to the federally owned acreage, the Federal Government holds in trust more than 50 million acres of Indian tribal and allotment lands and has vested responsibility in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare administers about 426 acres of trust land in 59 installations in 15 States, and the Smithsonian Institution administers 270 trust acres in the District of Columbia.

1Public domain. Original public domain lands which have never left Federal ownership, also, lands in Federal ownership which were obtained by the government in exchange for public lands or for timber on public lands.

2Multiple-use, Balanced-resource management. Multiple use is a programming and planning concept. Lands first must be classified for their highest and best use, then that use must be interwoven into the entire land-management system. Thus, one multiple-use area may then provide grazing for livestock and wildlife, brush, watershed protection, produce oil and gas, and provide recreation facilities. The presence of forested land or multiple-use areas adds more dimensions to land uses.

3Federal lands for which a document conveying legal title is issued.
UNITED STATES TIME ZONES

United States Time Zone boundaries were once defined by order of the Interstate Commerce Commission under authority of the Standard Time Act, enacted March 19, 1918. On April 13, 1966, Congress adopted the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to be administered by the Interstate Commerce Commission. This act establishes eight standard time zones for the United States and Possessions and provides for the use of daylight saving time. In October of 1966, the Department of Transportation was established by the adoption of the Department of Transportation Act. By virtue of section 6(e)(5) of this act, the responsibility for the administration of the Uniform Time Act was transferred to the Department of Transportation. Current boundaries are defined in detail in Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 239.

THE STANDARD TIME SYSTEM

The standard time system is based on the theoretical division of the surface of the earth into 24 time zones, covering 15° of longitude. The initial zone is the one which has the Greenwich meridian as its central meridian, with meridians 7.5°E. and 7.5°W. as its eastern and western limits. It is called the zero zone because the difference between the standard time of this zone and Greenwich mean time is zero. Each of the zones in turn is designated by a number representing the number of hours by which the standard time of the zone differs from Greenwich mean time.

Zones in east longitude are numbered in sequence from 1 to 12 and labeled minus; those in west longitude are numbered 1 to 12 and labeled plus. In each zone, the zone number is applied to the standard time in accordance with its sign to obtain Greenwich mean time. The 12th zone is divided by the 180th meridian. The half in west longitude, plus 12; the half in east longitude, minus 12.

Letters, as shown at the top of the world map, are also used as suffixes to date-time groups, primarily in radio communications.

The theoretical system described above is applied, in a strict sense, only in oceanic regions. On land or on groups of islands, the system is applied with certain local deviations, made necessary by frontiers, or the convenience of an entire island group to maintain the same zone time. The time used in each country, whether it is the time of the corresponding zone or modified, is fixed by law and is known as legal or standard time.

Certain countries, for economic reasons, deviate from this theoretical system and modify their legal time for part of the year, especially in summer, by advancing it an hour or another fraction of time. Where such deviations are maintained on a year-round basis, the time is considered to be standard time, as in U.S.S.R.

INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

The 180th meridian represents, theoretically, the date line. When the 180th meridian is crossed from west longitude to east longitude, the date must be set ahead one day; when it is crossed from east longitude to west longitude, the date is set back one day.

Because of frontiers, and to ensure that all islands of a group are to the east or west of the date line, local modifications to the line are necessary; consequently, the International Date Line does not coincide with the theoretical line of the 180th meridian.