



Resettlement Administration

The **Resettlement Administration (RA)** was a New Deal U.S. federal agency created May 1, 1935.^[1] It relocated struggling urban and rural families to communities planned by the federal government. On September 1, 1937, it was succeeded by the Farm Security Administration.

History

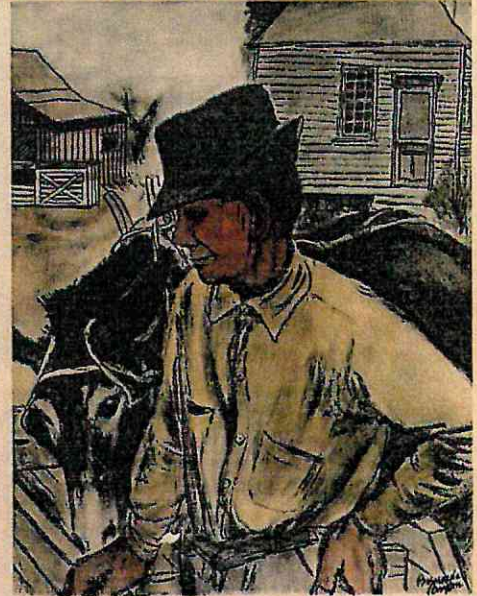
The RA was the brainchild of Rexford G. Tugwell, an economics professor at Columbia University who became an advisor to Franklin D. Roosevelt during the latter's successful campaign for the presidency in 1932 and then held positions in the United States Department of Agriculture. Roosevelt established the RA under Executive Order 7027,^[1] as one of the New Deal's "alphabet agencies", and Tugwell became its head.

The divisions of the new organization included Rural Rehabilitation, Rural Resettlement, Land Utilization, and Suburban Resettlement.^[2] Roosevelt transferred the Federal Emergency Relief Administration land program to the Resettlement Administration under Executive Order 7028 on May 1, 1935.^[3]

However, Tugwell's goal of moving 650,000 people from 100,000,000 acres (400,000 km²) of agriculturally exhausted, worn-out land was unpopular among the majority in Congress.^[4] This goal seemed socialistic to some and threatened to deprive influential farm owners of their tenant workforce.^[4] The RA was thus left with enough resources to relocate only a few

Resettlement Administration

A MULE AND A PLOW



RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION Small Loans Give Farmers a New Start

Resettlement Administration poster by Bernarda Bryson Shahn (c. 1936)

Agency overview

Formed	May 1, 1935
Preceding agency	<u>Subsistence Homesteads Division (DSH or SHD)</u> , <u>United States Department of the Interior</u>
Dissolved	September 1, 1937
Superseding agency	<u>Farm Security Administration</u>
Agency executive	<u>Rexford G. Tugwell</u> , Head



Bankhead–Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937

The **Bankhead–Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937** (P.L. 75-210) was passed on July 22, 1937,^[1] and authorized acquisition by the federal government of damaged lands to rehabilitate and use them for various purposes. Most importantly, however, the law authorized a modest credit program to assist tenant farmers to purchase land,^[1] and it was the culmination of a long effort to secure legislation for their benefit.^[1]

Management of Bankhead–Jones lands

Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management manage some Bankhead–Jones lands. Some Forest Service Bankhead-Jones lands are National Grasslands.

National park

In 1937, the federal government purchased distressed farmland for the Laura S. Walker National Park under a Federal land utilization program authorized by the Bankhead–Jones Farm Tenant Act.^{[2][3]} The park was named for Waycross, Georgia, conservationist Laura S. Walker, in recognition of her work promoting forestry and other civic activities.^[4] Work on the park was undertaken by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1941, the national park was deeded over to Georgia, becoming the State's 13th state park.

First tenant farmer loan repayment

The Bankhead–Jones Farm Tenant Act



Long title

An Act to create the Farmers' Home Corporation, to promote secure occupancy of farms and farm homes, to correct the economic instability resulting from some present forms of farm tenancy, and for other purposes.

Acronyms (colloquial)

BJFTA

Enacted by

the 75th United States Congress

Effective

July 22, 1937

Citations

Public law

Pub. L. 75–210 (<https://uslaw.link/citation/us-law/public/75/210>)

Statutes at Large

50 Stat. 522 (<https://legislink.org/us/stat-50-522>)

Codification

Titles amended

7 U.S.C.: Agriculture

U.S.C. sections created

7 U.S.C. ch. 33 (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/7/chapter-33>) § 1000

Legislative history

- **Introduced** in the House as H.R. 7562
- **Passed the House** on June 29, 1937 (308-25 (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/vote>))

Follow the Money

A Spatial History of In-Lieu Programs for Western Federal Lands

JOSEPH E TAYLOR III, ERIK STEINER, KRISTA FRYAUFF, CELENA ALLEN, ALEX SHERMAN, ZEPHYR FRANK

Bankhead-Jones Act/National Grasslands Payments

Bankhead-Jones Act and National Grasslands lands are reclaimed farms the Forest Service and BLM now manage for extraction, recreation, and habitat. Some revenues are returned to western counties.

The 1920s are remembered as a time of economic boom, but the agricultural sector suffered from falling prices, too little or too much rainfall, insect plagues, isolation, and poverty. In 1929, Congress passed the Agricultural Marketing Act (PL 71-10) to investigate these problems. A major vexation of the era was glutted commodity markets, so one solution was to reduce "the acreage of unprofitable marginal lands." In 1933, New Deal administrators established plans to retire millions of acres of poor lands, and the Agricultural Adjustment Act (PL 73-10), National Industrial Recovery Act (PL 73-67), Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 (PR 74-11), and other bills provided authority and funds to carry out the acquisitions. The policy remained ad hoc, however, until passage of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act in July 1937 (PL 75-210).

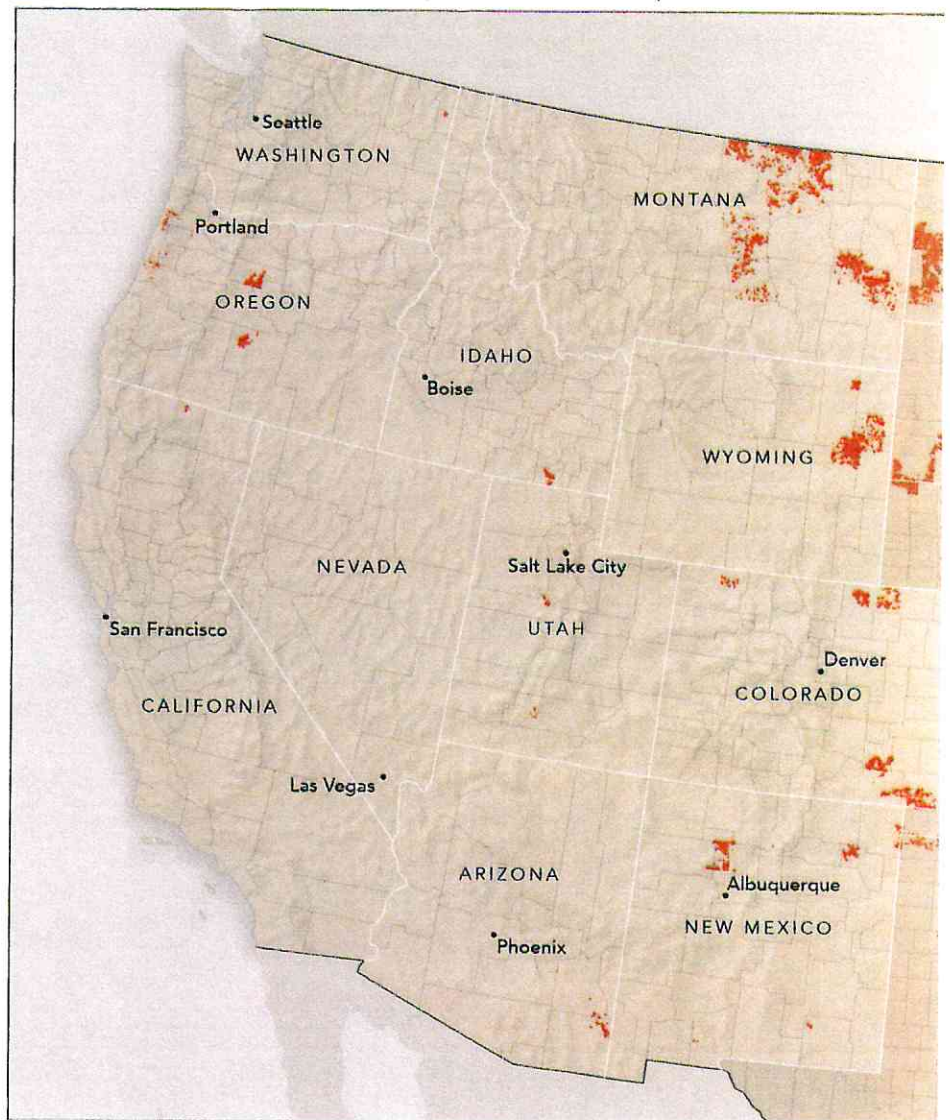
The BJA formally combined a series of policies addressing the ongoing farm crisis. Titles I & II were loan programs. Title I enabled poor farmers, especially tenants and sharecroppers in the South, to purchase land on terms not available from private lenders. Title II helped these same farmers to modernize their farming equipment and to rehabilitate lands. Both programs had remarkable successes among some of the poorest farmers in the South. Title III had a very different aim. It gave the Secretary of Agriculture broad mandate to acquire "submarginal" lands by purchase or donation "to correct maladjustments in land use, and thus assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, mitigating floods, preventing impairment of dams and reservoirs, conserving surface and subsurface moisture, protecting the watersheds of navigable streams, and protecting the public lands, health, safety, and welfare." Section 33 stipulated that the Secretary should return 25 percent of net revenues from grazing, forestry, mining, and —much later (PL 97-98)—energy development to the counties. Although the law never states explicitly that these are in-lieu payments, the BJA's revenue-sharing formula mirrors the approach of other federal compensation programs on this website.

In all the program acquired 11.3 million acres, deemed Land Utilization Projects, and put them under the authority of the Soil Conservation Service to be managed as agricultural projects. The SCS had little interest in non-arable soils, however, and it lacked expertise in forestry. As a result, the Secretary of Agriculture sold or transferred 5.8

THE BANKHEAD-JONES ACT WAS A NEW DEAL EFFORT TO RETIRE FAILED AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Federal Lands Subject to Bankhead-Jones Program

■ Bankhead-Jones Lands (BLM Land Utilization Projects, FS National Grasslands)



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million acres, most of it to the Department of Interior for management by the Grazing Bureau, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. When the Grazing Bureau and General Land Office were combined in 1946, the new Bureau of Land Management inherited much of this acreage and managed it for grazing purposes. In 1954, the Department of Agriculture transferred the remaining 5.5 million acres to the Forest Service, which incorporated 1.5 million acres into existing national forests in the eastern United States and, in 1960, designated 3.8 million acres as national grasslands on the Great Plains.

During its first quarter century, the BJA lands were managed to stabilize soils and increase their productivity. By the 1960s, however, the lands were drawn into the broader shift toward multiple-use management. Congress added fish and wildlife protection in 1962 (PL 87-703), and in 1966 it made (PL 89-796) recreation an equal consideration in BJA lands management. Passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205), Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (PL 93-378), and National Forest Management Act (PL 94-588) also subjected BJA lands to greater environmental regulation, mandating environmental impact studies and greater attention to species at risk on these lands. As with other federal lands in the West, one consequence of altering management to accommodate multiple uses and environmental concerns is that counties have seen revenues decline from these untaxable federal lands.

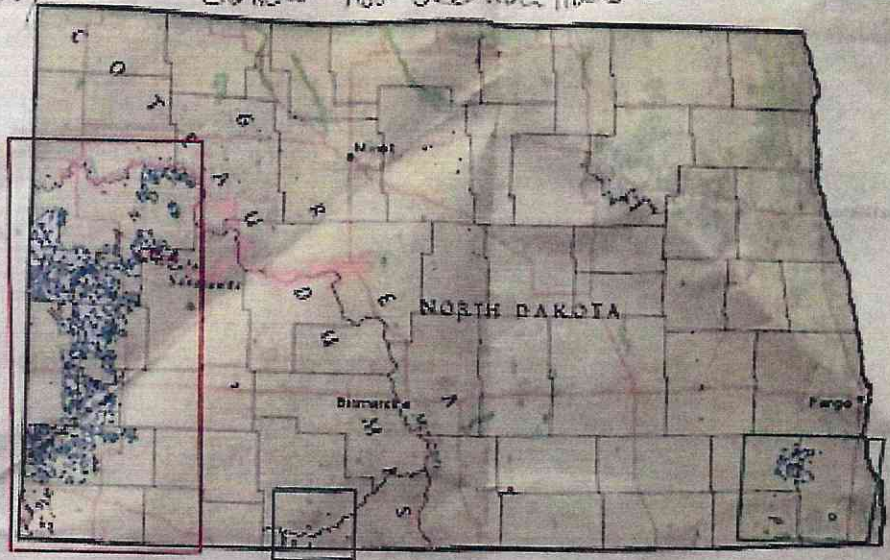
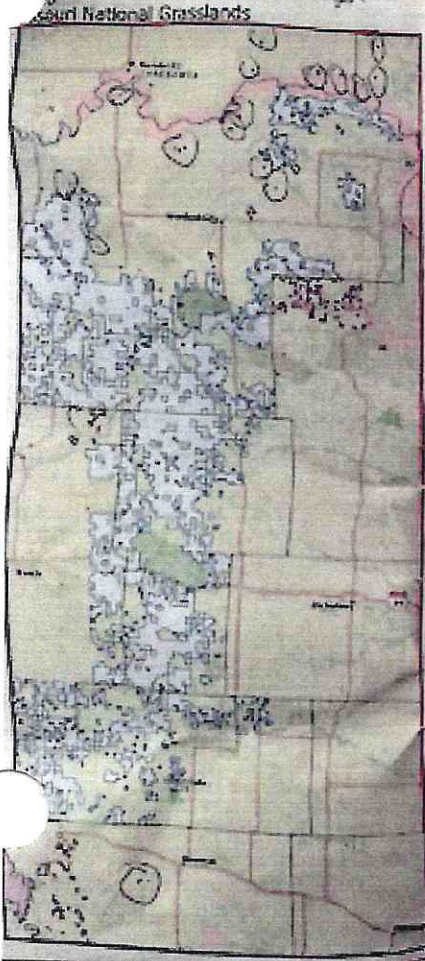
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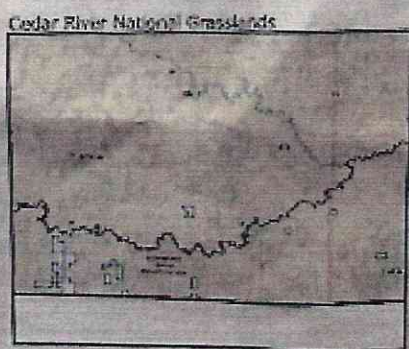
Head-Jones Act Land

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- Contour And Section Lines -



- National Grasslands
- Army Corps Lands
- County boundaries
- US Forest land
- National Wildlife Refuges



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