

this Act except in accordance with the law of the relevant State in which lands described in section 2902 are located. This section shall not be construed to affect water rights acquired by the United States before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.

All hunting, fishing, and trapping on the lands withdrawn by this title shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 2671 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 12. MINING AND MINERAL LEASING.

(a) DETERMINATION OF LANDS SUITABLE FOR OPENING.—(1) As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and at least every five years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall determine, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the military department concerned, which public and acquired lands (except as provided in this subsection) described in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 2902 the Secretary of the Interior considers suitable for opening to the operation of the Mining Law of 1872, the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, or any one or more of such Acts.

(2) The Secretary of the Interior shall publish a notice in the Federal Register listing the lands determined suitable for opening pursuant to this section and specifying the opening date.

(b) OPENING LANDS.—On the day specified by the Secretary of the Interior in a notice published in the Federal Register pursuant to subsection (a), the land identified under subsection (a) as suitable for opening to the operation of one or more of the laws specified in subsection (a) shall automatically be open to the operation of such laws without the necessity for further action by the Secretary or Congress.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR COMMON VARIETIES.—No deposit of minerals or materials of the types identified by section 3 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (69 Stat. 367), whether or not included in the term "common varieties" in that Act, shall be subject to location under the Mining Law of 1872 on lands described in section 2902.

(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of the Interior, with the advice and concurrence of the Secretary of the military department concerned, shall prescribe such regulations to implement this section as may be necessary to assure safe, uninterrupted, and unimpeded use of the lands described in section 2902 for military purposes.

(2) Such regulations shall contain guidelines to assist mining claimants in determining how much, if any, of the surface of any lands opened pursuant to this section may be used for purposes incident to mining.

(e) CLOSURE OF MINING LANDS.—In the event of a national emergency or for purposes of national defense or security, the Secretary of the Interior, at the request of the Secretary of the military department concerned, shall close any lands that have been opened to mining or to mineral or geothermal leasing pursuant to this section.

(f) LAWS GOVERNING MINING ON WITHDRAWN LANDS.—(1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, mining claims located pursuant to this title shall be subject to the provisions of the mining laws. In the event of a conflict between those laws and this title, this title shall prevail.

(2) All mining claims located under the terms of this title shall be subject to the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(g) PATENTS.—(1) Patents issued pursuant to this title for locatable minerals shall con-

vey title to locatable minerals only, together with the right to use so much of the surface as may be necessary for purposes incident to mining under the guidelines for such use established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation.

(2) All such patents shall contain a reservation to the United States of the surface of all lands patented and of all nonlocatable minerals on those lands.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, all minerals subject to location under the Mining Law of 1872 shall be treated as locatable minerals.

SEC. 13. IMMUNITY OF UNITED STATES.

The United States and all departments or agencies thereof shall be held harmless and shall not be liable for any injuries or damages to persons or property suffered in the course of any mining or mineral or geothermal leasing activity conducted on lands described in section 2902.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing entitled "Home Health Care: Will the New Payment System & Regulatory Overkill Hurt Our Seniors?" This Subcommittee hearing will focus on how the new Medicare Interim Payment System and new regulatory requirements from the Health Care Financing Administration may limit the access of beneficiaries most in need of home health services.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, June 10, 1999, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Lee Blalack of the Subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that a full committee oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Thursday, June 24, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the implications of the proposed acquisition of the Atlantic Richfield Company by BP Amoco, PLC. Specifically the Committee will examine the following issues related to the acquisition:

U.S. national and energy security;
Impact on crude oil prices and supply on the U.S. West Coast;
Marine transportation;
Pipeline transportation; and
Exploration and production in Alaska and the lower 48.

Those who wish to testify or to submit written testimony should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington,

D.C. 20510. Presentation of oral testimony is by Committee invitation only. For further information, please contact Jo Meuse or Brian Malnak at (202) 224-6730.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, June 29, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on fire preparedness on Federal lands. Specifically, what actions the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are taking to prepare for the fire season; whether the agencies are informing the public about these plans; and ongoing research related to wildfire and fire suppression activities.

Those who wish to submit written testimony should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please contact Mike Menge (202) 224-6170.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a full committee hearing on S. 1049, the "Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act of 1999," scheduled for June 17, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date to be announced by the committee.

For further information, please contact Dan Kish, of the committee professional staff, at (202) 224-8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 8, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in open session, to consider the nominations of General Eric K. Shinseki, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Army; and Lieutenant General James L. Jones, Jr., USMC, to be general and for appointment as Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized