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The nomination of Harrison Loesch, a Montrose, Colo., lawyer specializing in land and water law, to the post of Assistant Secretary for Public Land management in the Department of the Interior was announced today.

The announcement, on behalf of President Nixon, was made by Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel.

Loesch, 53, has lived in Western Colorado most of his life. As a practicing attorney, he has had extensive experience with Interior Department agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U. S. Geological Survey. He is also intimately familiar with the regulations and procedures of the Taylor Grazing Act.

The new assistant secretary-nominee holds a bachelor of arts degree from Colorado College, and a law degree from Yale University. He has also studied at Denver University Law School.

He was discharged from the U. S. Army as a major in 1945 after serving in the European Theater.

Since 1961 he has worked with the Montrose law firm of Loesch, Kreidler and Durham, and he is a past president of the Colorado Bar Association.

Loesch and his wife, the former Louise Mills, have one son, Jeffrey, 22, in the Peace Corps.