

Public Law 103-365
103d Congress

An Act

To resolve the status of certain lands in Arizona that are subject to a claim as a grant of public lands for railroad purposes, and for other purposes.

Oct. 14, 1994
[S. 1233]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Arizona
Wilderness Land
Title Resolution
Act of 1994.
16 USC 1132
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Arizona Wilderness Land Title Resolution Act of 1994”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

16 USC 1132
note.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Act entitled “An Act granting Lands to aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the States of Missouri and Arkansas to the Pacific Coast”, approved July 27, 1866 (14 Stat. 292), granted a right-of-way in Arizona to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, together with certain alternate sections of public lands on both sides of the right-of-way;

(2) patents were not issued to some of the lands in the grant described in paragraph (1);

(3) as successors in interest to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad, and Perrin Properties, Inc., a California corporation—

(A) claim rights to approximately 14,632.72 acres of the lands described in paragraph (1); and

(B) applied to the Secretary of the Interior for a patent to the lands;

(4) the Secretary of the Interior denied the application for the patent, which was filed in the name of the Santa Fe Railroad Company for the benefit of Perrin Properties, Inc., on the ground that the claim had been extinguished by failure to record the claim in accordance with the Act entitled “An Act to require the recordation of scrip, lieu selection, and similar rights”, approved August 5, 1955 (69 Stat. 534; 43 U.S.C. 274 note) (commonly known as the “Recordation Act”);

(5) on appeal, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled in *Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company, et al. v. Secretary of the Interior*, 830 F.2d 1168 (D.C. Cir. 1987), that such Act was not applicable and did not bar the issuance of a patent;

(6) ultimate resolution of the question of the title to the 14,632.72 acres may require years of additional litigation;

(7) the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-406) designated certain lands in the Prescott National Forest in Arizona as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System established by the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), including the Apache Creek Wilderness and the Juniper Mesa Wilderness;

(8) the 14,632.72 acres are in the Prescott National Forest and comprise large portions of the Apache Creek and Juniper Mesa Wilderness areas; and

(9) if the 14,632.72 acres are patented to private owners, the creation of a checkerboard ownership pattern over the wilderness areas will effectively preclude management of the areas as wilderness.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve the status of the title to the approximately 14,632.72 acres in the Prescott National Forest described in section 3(c);

(2) to ensure that the lands are permanently retained in Federal ownership; and

(3) to preserve the integrity of the Apache Creek and Juniper Mesa Wilderness areas consistent with the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-406).

SEC. 3. RESOLUTION OF STATUS OF LANDS.

(a) PAYMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

(1) PAYMENT.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to Perrin Properties, Inc., the sum of \$3,854,000 from the permanent judgment appropriation established pursuant to section 1304 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) INTEREST.—No funds shall be made available for the payment of interest on the amounts payable under paragraph (1).

(b) CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make the payment described in subsection (a) if the Attorney General of the United States notifies the Secretary of the Treasury that the appellants in Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company, et al. v. Secretary of the Interior, 830 F.2d 1168 (1987), and Perrin Properties, Inc., have executed in forms satisfactory to the Attorney General all documents necessary—

(1) to dismiss with prejudice all litigation involving the title to the lands described in subsection (c); and

(2) to release and quitclaim to the United States all right, title, and interest of the appellants and of Perrin Properties, Inc., arising out of the Act entitled "An Act granting Lands to aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the States of Missouri and Arkansas to the Pacific Coast", approved July 27, 1866 (14 Stat. 292), in and to lands in the Prescott National Forest.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LANDS.—The lands described in this subsection are the approximately 14,632.72 acres of land in the Prescott National Forest in Arizona described in the decision by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co., No. 82-449, 72 IBLA 197 (April 19, 1983).

(d) MANAGEMENT OF LANDS.—Upon the execution of documents and dismissal of the litigation as described in subsection (b), the lands described in subsection (c) shall be managed in accordance

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note.

Perrin
Properties, Inc.

Santa Fe Pacific
Railroad
Company, et al.

Missouri.
Arkansas.

with the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. Lands described in subsection (c) that lie within the boundaries of a wilderness area, as designated on or before the date of enactment of this Act, shall also be managed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

Approved October 14, 1994.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1233:

HOUSE REPORTS: Nos. 103-773, Pt. 1 (Comm. on the Judiciary) and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Natural Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 103-274 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 140 (1994):

June 24, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 3, considered and passed House.