

Public Law 106-330
106th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites for National Forest System lands in the State of Texas, to convey certain National Forest System land to the New Waverly Gulf Coast Trades Center, and for other purposes.

Oct. 19, 2000
[H.R. 4285]

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Texas National Forests Improvement Act of 2000”.

Texas National
Forests
Improvement Act
of 2000.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES, TEXAS NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO SELL OR EXCHANGE.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may convey, by sale or exchange, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, any and all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following parcels of National Forest System land (including improvements thereon) located in the State of Texas:

(1) Davy Crockett National Forest, Trinity Ranger Quarters #066310 (Tract K-2D), located at State Highway 94, Groveton, Texas, consisting of approximately 3.0 acres, as depicted on the map entitled “Trinity Ranger Quarters, Tract K-2D”, dated September 1, 1999.

(2) Davy Crockett National Forest quarters #066380 (Tract K-604), located at 514 Devine Street, Groveton, Texas, consisting of approximately 0.5 acre, as depicted on the map entitled “Davy Crockett National Forest Quarters, Tract K-604”, dated September 1, 1999.

(3) Sabine National Forest quarters #055250 (Tract S-1391), located at 706 Cartwright Drive, San Augustine, Texas, consisting of approximately 0.5 acre, as depicted on the map entitled “Sabine National Forest Quarters, Tract S-1391”, dated September 1, 1999.

(4) Sabine National Forest quarters #055400 (Tract S-1389), located at 507 Planter Drive, San Augustine, Texas, consisting of approximately 1.5 acres, as depicted on the map entitled “Sabine National Forest Quarters, Tract S-1389”, dated September 1, 1999.

(5) Sabine National Forest quarters #077070 (Tract S-1388), located at State Highway 87, Hemphill, Texas, consisting of approximately 1.0 acre, as depicted on the map entitled “Sabine National Forest Quarters, Tract S-1388”, dated September 1, 1999.

(6) Sabine National Forest quarters #077430 (Tract S-1390), located at FM Road 944, Hemphill, Texas, consisting of approximately 2.0 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Sabine National Forest Quarters, Tract S-1390", dated September 1, 1999.

(7) Old Yellowpine Work Center site, within the Sabine National Forest, consisting of approximately 1.0 acre, as depicted on the map entitled "Old Yellowpine Work Center", dated September 1, 1999.

(8) Yellowpine Work Center site, within the Sabine National Forest, consisting of approximately 9.0 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Yellowpine Work Center", dated September 1, 1999.

(9) Zavalla Work Center site, within the Angelina National Forest, consisting of approximately 19.0 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Zavalla Work Center", dated September 1, 1999.

(b) **AUTHORIZED CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for a conveyance of land under subsection (a), the recipient of the land, with the consent of the Secretary, may convey to the Secretary other land, existing improvements, or improvements constructed to specifications of the Secretary.

(c) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any conveyance of land under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws and regulations applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for the National Forest System.

(d) **CASH EQUALIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of any parcel of land exchanged under subsection (a).

(e) **SOLICITATION OF OFFERS.**—The Secretary may solicit offers for the conveyance of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe. The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF TEXAS NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND TO NEW WAVERLY GULF COAST TRADES CENTER.

(a) **CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.**—Subject to the terms and conditions specified in this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may convey to the New Waverly Gulf Coast Trades Center (referred to in this section as the "Center"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property (including improvements thereon) consisting of approximately 57 acres of land located within the Sam Houston National Forest, Walker County, Texas, as depicted on the map entitled "New Waverly Gulf Coast Trades Center", dated September 15, 1999. A complete legal description of the property to be conveyed shall be available for public inspection at an appropriate office of the Sam Houston National Forest and in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—

(1) **FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—As consideration for the conveyance authorized by this section, the Center shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the property, as determined by an appraisal acceptable to the Secretary and prepared in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal

Standards for Federal Land Acquisition published by the Department of Justice.

(2) APPRAISAL COST.—The Center shall pay the cost of the appraisal of the property.

(3) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The consideration determined under paragraph (1) shall be paid, at the option of the Center—

(A) in full not later than 180 days after the date of conveyance of the property; or Deadline.

(B) in 7 equal annual installments commencing on January 1 of the first year beginning after the conveyance and annually thereafter until the total amount has been paid.

(4) INTEREST.—Any payment due for the conveyance of property under this section shall accrue interest, beginning on the date of the conveyance, at an annual rate of 3 percent on the unpaid balance.

(c) RELEASE.—Subject to compliance with all Federal environmental laws prior to conveyance, the Center, upon acquisition of the property under this section, shall agree in writing to hold the United States harmless from any and all claims to the property, including all claims resulting from hazardous materials conveyed on the lands.

(d) RIGHT OF REENTRY.—At any time before full payment is made for the conveyance of the property under this section, the conveyance shall be subject to a right of reentry in the United States if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the Center has not complied with the requirements of this section or the conditions prescribed by the Secretary in the deed of conveyance; or

(2) the conveyed land is converted to a noneducational or for profit use.

(e) ALTERNATIVE PROPERTY DISPOSAL AUTHORITY.—In the event that the Center does not contract with the Secretary to acquire the property described in this section within 18 months of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may dispose of the property in the manner provided in section 2.

SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

(a) DEPOSIT IN SISK ACT FUND.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or exchange under this Act in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as the Sisk Act).

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Funds deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative facilities for units of the National Forest System in the State of Texas; or

(2) the acquisition of lands or interests in lands in the State of Texas.

Approved October 19, 2000.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4285:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-447 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 146 (2000):

July 27, considered and passed House.

Oct. 5, considered and passed Senate.