§ 475. Purposes for which national forests may be established and administered

All public lands designated and reserved prior to June 4, 1897, by the President of the United States under the provisions of section 711 of this title, the orders for which shall be and remain in full force and effect, unsuspected and unrevoked, and all public lands that may hereafter be set aside and reserved as national forests under said section, shall be as far as practicable controlled and administered in accordance with the following provisions. No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States; but it is not the purpose or intent of these provisions, or of said section, to authorize the inclusion therein of lands more valuable for the mineral therein, or for agricultural purposes, than for forest purposes.

(June 4, 1897, ch. 2, § 1, 30 Stat. 34.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 471 of this title, referred to in text, was repealed by Pub. L. 94–579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 31 Stat. 1100, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OR SUCH OFFICIAL AS HE MAY DESIGNATE

"Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate" substituted in text for "Commissioner of the General Land Office" on authority of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

"General Land Office" substituted in text for "General Office for Surveying under the Service of the Survey of the United States" and "Office of the Surveyor-General" by act Mar. 3, 1925. Subsequent to the date of enactment of this section (Oct. 22, 1976), the official having the functions and authority vested in the General Land Office may be designated by the President of the United States.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

"Secretary of the Interior or such officer as he may designate" substituted in text for "Commissioner of the General Land Office" on authority of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

THE "GENERAL LAND OFFICE"

The "General Land Office" was abolished by Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946 with its functions consolidated with that of the Grazing Service to form a new agency in the Department of the Interior to be known as the Bureau of Land Management.

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out in the Appendix to Title 5.


VALIDATION OF TIMBER SALES CONTRACTS

Section 15 of Pub. L. 94–588 provided that:

(a) Timber sales made pursuant to the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 35, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 476), prior to the date of enactment of this section (Oct. 22, 1976) shall not be invalid if the timber was sold in accord with Forest Service silvicultural practices and sales procedures in effect at the time of the sale, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is directed, in developing five-year operating plans under the provisions of existing five-year timber sales contracts in Alaska, to revise such contracts to make them consistent with the guidelines and standards provided for in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.), and to reflect such revisions in the contract price of timber. Any such action shall not be inconsistent with valid contract rights approved by the final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

§ 477. Use of timber and stone by settlers

The Secretary of Agriculture may permit, under regulations to be prescribed by him, the use of timber and stone found upon national forests, free of charge, by bona fide settlers, miners, residents, and prospectors for minerals, for firewood, fencing, buildings, mining, prospecting, and other domestic purposes, as may be needed by such persons for such purposes; such timber to be used within the State or Territory, respectively, where such national forests may be located.

(June 4, 1897, ch. 2, § 1, 30 Stat. 35; Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, § 1, 33 Stat. 628.)

CODIFICATION

"National forests" substituted in text for "reservations" on authority of act Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, 34 Stat. 1269, which provided that forest reserves shall hereafter be known as national forests.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture, insofar as they involve lands and programs under jurisdiction of that Department, related to compliance with provisions of sections 473, 474 to 482, and 551 of this title with respect to preconstruction, construction, and initial operation of transportation system for Canadian and Alaskan natural gas transferred to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, until first anniversary of date of initial operation of Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1979, §§102(f), 203(a), 44 F.R. 33663, 33666, 93 Stat. 1373, 1376, effective July 1, 1979, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. Office of Federal Inspector for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System abolished and functions and authority vested in Inspector transferred to Secretary of Energy by section 3012(b) of Pub. L. 102–486, set out as an Abolition of Office of Federal Inspector to Secretary of Energy subsequently transferred to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects by section 720d(2) of Title 15.

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