

was repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976, insofar as applicable to the issuance of rights-of-way over, upon, under, and through the public lands and lands in the National Forest System. Such repeal not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

SUBMERGED LANDS ACT

Provisions of this section as not amended, modified or repealed by the Submerged Lands Act, see section 1303 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 53. Possessory actions for recovery of mining titles or for damages to such title

No possessory action between persons, in any court of the United States, for the recovery of any mining title, or for damages to any such title, shall be affected by the fact that the paramount title to the land in which such mines lie is in the United States; but each case shall be adjudged by the law of possession.

(R.S. § 910.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 910 derived from act Feb. 27, 1865, ch. 64, § 9, 13 Stat. 441.

Section was formerly classified to section 690 of Title 28 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, by act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, § 1, 62 Stat. 869.

§ 54. Liability for damages to stock raising and homestead entries by mining activities

Notwithstanding the provisions of any Act of Congress to the contrary, any person who on and after June 21, 1949 prospect for, mines, or removes by strip or open pit mining methods, any minerals from any land included in a stock raising or other homestead entry or patent, and who had been liable under such an existing Act only for damages caused thereby to the crops or improvements of the entryman or patentee, shall also be liable for any damage that may be caused to the value of the land for grazing by such prospecting for, mining, or removal of minerals. Nothing in this section shall be considered to impair any vested right in existence on June 21, 1949.

(June 21, 1949, ch. 232, § 5, 63 Stat. 215.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SIMILAR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in act June 17, 1949, ch. 221, § 2, 63 Stat. 201.

CHAPTER 3—LANDS CONTAINING COAL, OIL, GAS, SALTS, ASPHALTIC MATERIALS, SODIUM, SULPHUR, AND BUILDING STONE

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- 103. Patents for oil or gas lands not denied because of transfer before discovery of oil or gas; acreage limitation; nonapplication to withdraw lands.
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111 to 113. Repealed.

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- 123. Persons locating lands subsequently withdrawn or classified; patents to.
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- 125. Patents in North Platte Reclamation Project; mineral rights; subrogation.

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131. Omitted.

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141 to 152. Repealed.

Sec.

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SUBCHAPTER I—COAL LAND ENTRIES IN
GENERAL**§ 71. Entry of unappropriated or unreserved Federal coal lands; eligibility; application; acreage limitation; price per acre**

Every person above the age of twenty-one years, who is a citizen of the United States, or who has declared his intention to become such, or any association of persons severally qualified as above, shall, upon application to the register of the proper land office, have the right to enter, by legal subdivisions, any quantity of vacant coal lands of the United States not otherwise appropriated or reserved by competent authority, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to such individual person, or three hundred and twenty acres to such association, upon payment to the register of not less than \$10 per acre for such lands, where the same shall be situated more than fifteen miles from any completed railroad, and not less than \$20 per acre for such lands as shall be within fifteen miles of such road.

(R.S. § 2347; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1145.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2347 derived from act Mar. 3, 1873, ch. 279, § 1, 17 Stat. 607.

AMENDMENTS

1925—Act Mar. 3, 1925, affected words which now read “upon payment to the register of not less than.” Such words originally read “upon payment to the receiver of not less than.” Such act consolidated the offices of receiver and register.

Executive Documents

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Office of register of district land office abolished and all functions of register transferred to Secretary of the Interior, or to officers and agencies of Department of the Interior as Secretary may designate, by Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, § 403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

See also note set out under section 1 of this title.

INDIAN LANDS EXCEPTED

Commenting on this section and sections 72 to 76 of this title the Department of the Interior says:

“While there may be some Indian lands still subject to coal entry by virtue of the provisions of law opening such lands to entry, the coal land laws generally were superseded by the leasing Act of Feb. 25, 1920, 41 Stat. 437 [section 181 et seq. of this title], and it is at least questionable whether the coal land laws should be carried into the Code.”

§ 72. Preference right of coal mine entry; acreage limitation

Any person or association of persons severally qualified, as provided in section 71 of this title, who have opened and improved, or shall open and improve, any coal mine or mines upon the public lands, and shall be in actual possession of the same, shall be entitled to a preference right of entry, under section 71 of this title, of the mines so opened and improved: *Provided*, That when any association of not less than four persons, severally qualified as provided in section 71 of this title, shall have expended not less than \$5,000 in working and improving any such mine or mines, such association may enter not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, including such mining improvements.

(R.S. § 2348.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2348 derived from act Mar. 3, 1873, ch. 279, § 2, 17 Stat. 607.

Executive Documents

INDIAN LANDS EXCEPTED

See note set out under section 71 of this title.

§ 73. Presentation of claims

All claims under section 72 of this title must be presented to the register of the proper land district within sixty days after the date of actual possession and the commencement of improvements on the land, by the filing of a declaratory statement therefor; but when the township plat is not on file at the date of such improvement, filing must be made within sixty days from the receipt of such plat at the district office.

(R.S. § 2349.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2349 derived from act Mar. 3, 1873, ch. 279, § 3, 17 Stat. 607.

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See also note set out under section 1 of this title.

INDIAN LANDS EXCEPTED

See note set out under section 71 of this title.

§ 74. Number of coal land entries; other entries upon noncompliance with conditions

Sections 71 to 73 of this title shall be held to authorize only one entry by the same person or association of persons; and no association of persons any member of which shall have taken the