

“(v) fire suppression costs; and

“(vi) employment of eligible workers; and

“(D) State regulations relating to the prevention of wildfires and contractors removing vegetation.

“(4) TREATMENT OF SLASH.—In carrying out a vegetation management project under the pilot program, a participant shall treat any activity fuels in a manner that—

“(A) is satisfactory to the Forest Service;

“(B) does not result in a fire hazard; and

“(C) reduces the risk of an insect or disease outbreak.

“(e) PROJECT COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and subsection (f)(2), a participant in the pilot program shall be responsible for all costs, as determined by the Secretary, incurred in participating in the pilot program.

“(2) FEDERAL FUNDING.—The Secretary may contribute funds for a vegetation management project conducted under the pilot program if the Secretary determines that the contribution is in the public interest.

“(f) LIABILITY.—

“(1) ACTIVITIES WITHIN RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Participation in the pilot program shall not affect any legal obligations or liability standards that arise under the right-of-way for activities in the right-of-way.

“(2) WILDFIRES.—

“(A) OPERATIONS FIRES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to fire suppression costs for a wildfire caused by the operations of a participant in the pilot program (other than an operation or activity of a participant described in subparagraph (B) or (C)), the participant shall reimburse the Forest Service for those costs, subject to a maximum dollar amount to which the Forest Service and the participant shall agree prior to the commencement of the project.

“(ii) CREDIT FOR ACTIONS BY PARTICIPANTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—If a participant in the pilot program provides actions, supplies, or equipment for use to suppress a wildfire described in clause (i) or at the request of the Forest Service, the cost of those actions, supplies, or equipment shall be credited toward the maximum dollar amount described in that clause.

“(II) REIMBURSEMENT.—If the actual cost of a participant described in subclause (I) exceeds the maximum dollar amount described in clause (i), the Forest Service shall reimburse the participant for the excess.

“(B) NEGLIGENT FIRES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), if a wildfire is caused by the negligence of a participant in the pilot program, or an agent of the participant, including a wildfire caused by smoking by persons engaged in the operations of the participant, the participant shall bear the cost of damages to Forest Service resources and the fire suppression costs resulting from the wildfire.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the costs borne by a participant under clause (i) shall not exceed \$500,000.

“(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If the start or spread of a wildfire described in clause (i) is caused by the failure of the participant to comply with specific safety requirements expressly imposed by the Forest Service as a condition of conducting a vegetation management project under the pilot program or by this section, the participant shall bear the cost of damages to Forest Service resources and the fire suppression costs resulting from the wildfire.

“(C) EXCEPTIONS.—This paragraph shall not apply in the case of a wildfire caused by the felling of a tree by a participant in the pilot program, or an agent of the participant, onto an electric transmission line.

“(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection relieves a participant in the pilot program of any liabilities to which the participant is subject—

“(A) under State laws; or

“(B) with regard to damages to property other than Forest Service property.

“(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall use the authority of the Secretary under other laws (including regulations) to carry out the pilot program.

“(2) COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), a vegetation management project under the pilot program shall be—

“(A) consistent with the applicable land management plan for the area in which the project is located; and

“(B) carried out in accordance with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(3) MODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS.—In order to implement the pilot program in an efficient and expeditious manner, the Secretary may waive or modify specific provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including waivers or modifications to allow for the formation of contracts or agreements on a non-competitive basis.

“(h) TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may—

“(1) retain any funds provided to the Forest Service by a participant in the pilot program; and

“(2) use funds retained under paragraph (1), in such amounts as may be appropriated, to carry out the pilot program.

“(i) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2020, and 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the status of the pilot program and vegetation management projects conducted under the pilot program to—

“(1) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(j) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot program, including any vegetation management project conducted under the pilot program, expires on October 1, 2023.”

## SUBCHAPTER VI—DESIGNATED MANAGEMENT AREAS

### § 1781. California Desert Conservation Area

#### (a) Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the California desert contains historical, scenic, archeological, environmental, biological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic resources that are uniquely located adjacent to an area of large population;

(2) the California desert environment is a total ecosystem that is extremely fragile, easily scarred, and slowly healed;

(3) the California desert environment and its resources, including certain rare and endangered species of wildlife, plants, and fishes, and numerous archeological and historic sites, are seriously threatened by air pollution, inadequate Federal management authority, and pressures of increased use, particularly recreational use, which are certain to intensify because of the rapidly growing population of southern California;

(4) the use of all California desert resources can and should be provided for in a multiple use and sustained yield management plan<sup>1</sup> to

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “plan”.

conserve these resources for future generations, and to provide present and future use and enjoyment, particularly outdoor recreation uses, including the use, where appropriate, of off-road recreational vehicles;

(5) the Secretary has initiated a comprehensive planning process and established an interim management program for the public lands in the California desert; and

(6) to insure further study of the relationship of man and the California desert environment, preserve the unique and irreplaceable resources, including archeological values, and conserve the use of the economic resources of the California desert, the public must be provided more opportunity to participate in such planning and management, and additional management authority must be provided to the Secretary to facilitate effective implementation of such planning and management.

**(b) Statement of purpose**

It is the purpose of this section to provide for the immediate and future protection and administration of the public lands in the California desert within the framework of a program of multiple use and sustained yield, and the maintenance of environmental quality.

**(c) Description of Area**

(1) For the purpose of this section, the term "California desert" means the area generally depicted on a map entitled "California Desert Conservation Area—Proposed" dated April 1974, and described as provided in subsection (c)(2).

(2) As soon as practicable after October 21, 1976, the Secretary shall file a revised map and a legal description of the California Desert Conservation Area with the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act. Correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and a map may be made by the Secretary. To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall make such legal description and map available to the public promptly upon request.

**(d) Preparation and implementation of comprehensive long-range plan for management, use, etc.**

The Secretary, in accordance with section 1712 of this title, shall prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area. Such plan shall take into account the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in providing for resource use and development, including, but not limited to, maintenance of environmental quality, rights-of-way, and mineral development. Such plan shall be completed and implementation thereof initiated on or before September 30, 1980.

**(e) Interim program for management, use, etc.**

During the period beginning on October 21, 1976, and ending on the effective date of implementation of the comprehensive, long-range plan, the Secretary shall execute an interim program to manage, use, and protect the public

lands, and their resources now in danger of destruction, in the California Desert Conservation Area, to provide for the public use of such lands in an orderly and reasonable manner such as through the development of campgrounds and visitor centers, and to provide for a uniformed desert ranger force.

**(f) Applicability of mining laws**

Subject to valid existing rights, nothing in this Act shall affect the applicability of the United States mining laws on the public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area, except that all mining claims located on public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to effectuate the purposes of this section. Any patent issued on any such mining claim shall recite this limitation and continue to be subject to such regulations. Such regulations shall provide for such measures as may be reasonable to protect the scenic, scientific, and environmental values of the public lands of the California Desert Conservation Area against undue impairment, and to assure against pollution of the streams and waters within the California Desert Conservation Area.

**(g) Advisory Committee; establishment; functions**

(1) The Secretary, within sixty days after October 21, 1976, shall establish a California Desert Conservation Area Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as "advisory committee") in accordance with the provisions of section 1739 of this title.

(2) It shall be the function of the advisory committee to advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the comprehensive, long-range plan required under subsection (d) of this section.

**(h) Management of lands under jurisdiction of Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Defense**

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Defense shall manage lands within their respective jurisdictions located in or adjacent to the California Desert Conservation Area, in accordance with the laws relating to such lands and wherever practicable, in a manner consonant with the purpose of this section. The Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Defense are authorized and directed to consult among themselves and take cooperative actions to carry out the provisions of this subsection, including a program of law enforcement in accordance with applicable authorities to protect the archeological and other values of the California Desert Conservation Area and adjacent lands.

**(i) Omitted**

**(j) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 1977 through 1981 not to exceed \$40,000,000 for the purpose of this section, such amount to remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 94-579, title VI, § 601, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2782.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2) and (f), is Pub. L. 94-579, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2743, known as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

## CODIFICATION

Subsec. (i) of this section, which required the Secretary to report annually to Congress on the progress in, and any problems concerning, the implementation of this section, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, the last item on page 107 of House Document No. 103-7.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), abolished and replaced by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, effective Feb. 11, 1977. See Rule XXV of Standing Rules of the Senate, as amended by Senate Resolution No. 4 (popularly cited as the "Committee System Reorganization Amendments of 1977"), approved Feb. 4, 1977.

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on Jan. 5, 1993, by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Third Congress.

## DESERT LILY SANCTUARY

Pub. L. 103-433, title I, §107, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4483, provided that:

"(a) DESIGNATION.—There is hereby established the Desert Lily Sanctuary within the California Desert Conservation Area, California, of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately two thousand forty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Desert Lily Sanctuary', dated February 1986. The Secretary [of the Interior] shall administer the area to provide maximum protection to the desert lily.

"(b) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the Desert Lily Sanctuary are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral materials, and all amendments thereto."

## DINOSAUR TRACKWAY AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Pub. L. 103-433, title I, §108, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4483, provided that:

"(a) DESIGNATION.—There is hereby established the Dinosaur Trackway Area of Critical Environmental Concern within the California Desert Conservation Area, of the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately five hundred and ninety acres as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Dinosaur Trackway Area of Critical Environmental Concern', dated July 1993. The Secretary [of the Interior] shall administer the area to preserve the paleontological resources within the area.

"(b) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands within and adjacent to the Dinosaur Trackway Area of Critical Environmental Concern, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Dinosaur Trackway Mineral Withdrawal Area', dated July 1993, are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws; and from disposition under all laws per-

taining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and mineral materials, and all amendments thereto."

**§ 1781a. Acceptance of donation of certain existing permits or leases**

(1) During fiscal year 2012 and thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall accept the donation of any valid existing permits or leases authorizing grazing on public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area. With respect to each permit or lease donated under this paragraph, the Secretary shall terminate the grazing permit or lease, ensure a permanent end (except as provided in paragraph (2)), to grazing on the land covered by the permit or lease, and make the land available for mitigation by allocating the forage to wildlife use consistent with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan, section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, or section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(2) If the land covered by a permit or lease donated under paragraph (1) is also covered by another valid existing permit or lease that is not donated under such paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall reduce the authorized grazing level on the land covered by the permit or lease to reflect the donation of the permit or lease under paragraph (1). To ensure that there is a permanent reduction in the level of grazing on the land covered by a permit or lease donated under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not allow grazing use to exceed the authorized level under the remaining valid existing permit or lease that is not donated.

(Pub. L. 112-74, div. E, title I, §122(b), Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 1013.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in par. (1), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (\$1531 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. Sections 10(a)(1)(B) and 7 of the Act are classified to sections 1539(a)(1)(B) and 1536, respectively, of Title 16. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of Title 16 and Tables.

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, and also as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012, and not as part of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 1782. Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study****(a) Lands subject to review and designation as wilderness**

Within fifteen years after October 21, 1976, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by section 1711(a) of this title as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and shall from time to time report to the President his recommenda-