

### § 866. Exchange of cut over land in Montana

Tracts of timbered lands prior to February 14, 1923, granted to the State of Montana for educational purposes, from which the timber has been cut or removed pursuant to State laws, may, under such rules and regulations as the legislature of said State shall prescribe, be exchanged for other lands of like character and approximately of equal value, in private ownership, which exchanged land shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations to the end that the State may acquire holdings in reasonably compact form and reforestation be undertaken in an economic manner, anything in the enabling act of said State to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Feb. 14, 1923, ch. 74, 42 Stat. 1245.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The enabling act of Montana, referred to in text, is act Feb. 22, 1889, ch. 180, 25 Stat. 676. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

### § 867. Omitted

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

Section, R.S. §2377; act June 20, 1874, ch. 330, 18 Stat. 111, related to extension of obsolete section 829 of this title to reissue of agricultural land scrip, canceled, or destroyed without the fault of the owner thereof.

### § 868. Representation of Indian claimants in suits to determine right to school lands

In any suit instituted in the Supreme Court of the United States to determine the right of a State to what are commonly known as school lands within any Indian Reservation or any Indian cession where an Indian tribe claims any right to or interest in the lands in controversy, or in the disposition thereof by the United States, the right of such State may be fully tested and determined without making the Indian tribe, or any portion thereof, a party to the suit if the Secretary of the Interior is made a party thereto; and the duty of representing and defending the right or interest of the Indian tribe, or any portion thereof, in the matter shall devolve upon the Attorney General upon the request of such Secretary.

(Mar. 2, 1901, ch. 808, 31 Stat. 950.)

### § 869. Disposal of lands for public or recreational purposes

#### (a) Application; conditions; classification; restoration if not applied for

The Secretary of the Interior upon application filed by a duly qualified applicant under section 869-1 of this title may, in the manner prescribed by sections 869 to 869-4 of this title, dispose of any public lands to a State, federally recognized Indian Tribe, Territory, county, municipality, or other State, Tribal, Territorial, or Federal instrumentality or political subdivision for any public purposes, or to a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association for any recreational or any public purpose consistent with its articles

of incorporation or other creating authority. Before the land may be disposed of under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title it must be shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the land is to be used for an established or definitely proposed project, that the land involved is not of national significance nor more than is reasonably necessary for the proposed use, and that for proposals of over 640 acres comprehensive land use plans and zoning regulations applicable to the area in which the public lands to be disposed of are located have been adopted by the appropriate State, Tribal, or local authority. The Secretary shall provide an opportunity for participation by affected citizens in disposals under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title, including public hearings or meetings where he deems it appropriate to provide public comments, and shall hold at least one public meeting on any proposed disposal of more than six hundred forty acres under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title. The Secretary may classify public lands in Alaska for disposition under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title. Lands so classified may not be appropriated under any other public land law unless the Secretary revises such classification or authorizes the disposition of an interest in the lands under other applicable law. If, within eighteen months following such classification, no application has been filed for the purpose for which the lands have been so classified, then the Secretary shall restore such lands to appropriation under the applicable public land laws.

#### (b) Acreage limitations

Conveyances made in any one calendar year shall be limited as follows:

##### (1) For recreational purposes:

(A) To any State or the State park agency or any other agency having jurisdiction over the State park system of such State designated by the Governor of that State as its sole representative for acceptance of lands under this provision, hereinafter referred to as the State, or to any political subdivision of such State, six thousand four hundred acres, and such additional acreage as may be needed for small roadside parks and rest sites of not more than ten acres each.

(B) To any nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association, six hundred and forty acres.

(C) No more than twenty-five thousand six hundred acres may be conveyed for recreational purposes under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title in any one State per calendar year. Should any State or political subdivision, however, fail to secure, in any one year, six thousand four hundred acres, not counting lands for small roadside parks and rest sites, conveyances may be made thereafter if pursuant to an application on file with the Secretary of the Interior on or before the last day of said year and to the extent that the conveyance would not have exceeded the limitations of said year.

(D) To any federally recognized Indian Tribe, 6,400 acres.

(2) For public purposes other than recreation:

(A) To any State or agency or instrumentality thereof, for any one program, six hundred and forty acres.

(B) To any political subdivision of a State, six hundred and forty acres.

(C) To any nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association, six hundred and forty acres.

(D) To any federally recognized Indian Tribe, 640 acres.

**(c) Lands withdrawn in aid of functions of a department, agency, State, etc.; lands excepted from disposal**

Where the lands have been withdrawn in aid of a function of a Federal department or agency other than the Department of the Interior, or of a State, Territory, county, municipality, water district, or other local governmental subdivision or agency, the Secretary of the Interior may make disposals under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title only with the consent of such Federal department or agency, or of such State, Territory, or local governmental unit. Nothing in sections 869 to 869-4 of this title shall be construed to apply to lands in any national forest, national park, or national monument, or national wildlife refuge, or to any Indian lands or lands set aside or held for the use or benefit of Indians, including lands over which jurisdiction has been transferred to the Department of the Interior by Executive order for the use of Indians, or, except insofar as sections 869 to 869-4 of this title apply to leases of land to States, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and counties and to State, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal instrumentalities and political subdivisions and to municipal corporations, to the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands and the reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands in the State of Oregon. Nor shall any disposition be made under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title for any use authorized under any other law.

(June 14, 1926, ch. 578, §1, 44 Stat. 741; June 4, 1954, ch. 263, 68 Stat. 173; Pub. L. 86-66, §2, June 23, 1959, 73 Stat. 110; Pub. L. 86-292, §1, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 571; Pub. L. 86-755, Sept. 13, 1960, 74 Stat. 899; Pub. L. 94-579, title II, §212(a), (b), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2759; Pub. L. 117-328, div. DD, title I, §104(a), Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5580.)

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2022—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-328, §104(a)(1), inserted “federally recognized Indian Tribe,” before “Territory,” and “Tribal,” before “Territorial,” in first sentence and “, Tribal,” before “or local authority” in second sentence.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 117-328, §104(a)(2), redesignated cls. (i) and (ii) as pars. (1) and (2), respectively, and added subpar. (D) to pars. (1) and (2).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117-328, §104(a)(3), substituted “States, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and counties and to State, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal” for “States and counties and to State and Federal” and struck out “, except for a use authorized under sections 682a to 682e of this title” before period at end.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-579, §212(a), inserted provisions requiring lands proposed to be disposed not to be of national significance nor more than reasonably necessary for the proposed use, provisions relating to proposals of over 640 acres, and provisions relating to participation by affected individuals.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 94-579, §212(b), in cl. (A) inserted reference to State political subdivision and struck out limitation of three sites, limitation of six sites for calendar years 1960, 1961, and 1962, and proviso for additional sites where conveyances in one year did not meet the authorized number, in cl. (B) substituted “nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association” for “political subdivision of a State”, and in cl. (C) substituted provisions relating to authorization for a calendar year, for provisions authorizing six hundred and forty acres to any nonprofit corporation or association.

1960—Subsec. (b)(i)(A). Pub. L. 86-755 inserted “or the State park agency or any other agency having jurisdiction over the State park system of said State designated by the Governor of that State as its sole representative for acceptance of lands under this provision,” after “State” and inserted proviso.

1959—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-292 substituted acreage limitations making special allowances to States for recreational areas for provision which limited conveyance to 640 acres to any one grantee in any one calendar year.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 86-66 substituted provisions making sections 869 to 869-4 of this title inapplicable, except insofar as those sections apply to leases of land to States and counties and to State and Federal instrumentalities and political subdivisions and to municipal corporations, to revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands in the State of Oregon, for provisions which made those sections inapplicable to the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands.

1954—Act June 4, 1954, divided provisions of act June 14, 1926, on which this section is based, into separate sections (now set out as this section and sections 869-1 to 869-4 of this title), and changed provisions generally to broaden authority of Secretary of the Interior to dispose of public lands for public purposes (1) by including provisions for disposal thereof to Territories (including Alaska), other political subdivisions, and nonprofit corporations and associations rather than to States, counties, and municipalities only, (2) by permitting the disposal thereof for “public” purposes, rather than merely for “recreational” purposes as theretofore, (3) by striking out “nonmineral” in describing the lands which may be so disposed of, (4) by inserting limitation provisions set out in subsecs. (b) and (c) of this section, (5) by amending and transferring to section 2 of that act (section 869-1 of this title) provisions governing methods of, and conditions with respect to the, disposing of the lands for those purposes (see Prior Provisions note set out under section 869-1 of this title), including provision for the reservation of mineral deposits, (6) by amending and transferring to section 3 of that act (section 869-2 of this title) provisions with respect to reversion of the lands to the United States in certain cases (see Prior Provisions note set out under section 869-2 of this title), (7) by enacting, as section 4 of that act, provisions set out as section 869-3 of this title, and (8) by inserting provision in this section that disposals should be made “upon application by a duly qualified applicant” under section 869-1 of this title.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1960 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 86-755, Sept. 13, 1960, 74 Stat. 899, provided that the amendment made by Pub. L. 86-755 is effective Sept. 21, 1959.

**SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 100-648, §1, Nov. 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 3813, provided that: “This Act [amending section 869-2 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 869-2 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Recreation and Public Purposes Amendment Act of 1988.’”

## SHORT TITLE

Act June 14, 1926, ch. 578, 44 Stat. 741, which enacted sections 869 to 869-4 of this title, is popularly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act".

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-579 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 this title.

**§ 869-1. Sale or lease to State or nonprofit organization; reservation of mineral deposits; termination of lease for nonuse**

The Secretary of the Interior may after due consideration as to the power value of the land, whether or not withdrawn therefor, (a) sell such land to the State, federally recognized Indian Tribe, Territory, county, or other State, Tribal, Territorial, or Federal instrumentality or political subdivision in which the lands are situated, or to a nearby federally recognized Indian Tribe or municipal corporation in the same State or Territory, for the purpose for which the land has been classified, and conveyances of such land for historic-monument purposes or recreational purposes under this section shall be made without monetary consideration, while conveyances for any other purpose under this section shall be made at a price to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior through appraisal or otherwise, after taking into consideration the purpose for which the lands are to be used, (b) lease such land to the State, federally recognized Indian Tribe, Territory, county, or other State, Tribal, Territorial, or Federal instrumentality or political subdivision in which the lands are situated, or to a nearby federally recognized Indian Tribe or municipal corporation in the same State or Territory, for the purpose for which the land has been classified, at a reasonable annual rental, except that leases of such lands for recreational purposes shall be made without monetary consideration, for a period up to twenty-five years, and, at the discretion of the Secretary, with a privilege of renewal for a like period, (c) sell such land to a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association, for the purpose for which the land has been classified, at a price to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior through appraisal, after taking into consideration the purpose for which the lands are to be used, or (d) lease such land to a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit association at a reasonable annual rental, for a period up to twenty years, and, at the discretion of the Secretary, with a privilege of renewal for a like period. Each patent or lease so issued shall contain a reservation to the United States of all mineral deposits in the lands conveyed or leased and of the right to mine and remove the same, under applicable laws and regulations to be established by the Secretary. Each lease shall contain a provision for its termination upon a finding by the Secretary that the land has not been used by the lessee for the purpose specified in the lease for such period, not over five years, as may be specified in the lease, or that such land or any part thereof is being devoted to another use.

(June 14, 1926, ch. 578, §2, as added June 4, 1954, ch. 263, 68 Stat. 174; amended Pub. L. 89-457, §1,

June 20, 1966, 80 Stat. 210; Pub. L. 94-579, title II, §212(c), (d), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2760; Pub. L. 117-328, div. DD, title I, §104(b), Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5581.)

## Editorial Notes

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were formerly contained in section 869 of this title. See 1954 Amendment note set out under that section. Those prior provisions did not require, as in this section, the Secretary of the Interior to take into account the possible power value of the lands, whether withdrawn therefor, or not, before authorizing any disposal of them under section 869 of this title; did not provide, as in this section, for the sale or lease of those lands to Federal instrumentalities, to Territories and to political subdivisions other than States, counties, and municipalities, and to nonprofit corporations and associations; and did not provide, as in this section, that conveyances of that land for historic-monument purposes should be made without monetary consideration. See section 869 of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117-328 inserted “, federally recognized Indian Tribe” before “, Territory” in two places, “Tribal,” before “Territorial,” in two places, and “federally recognized Indian Tribe or” before “municipal corporation” in two places.

1976—Pub. L. 94-579 in cl. (a) inserted reference to recreational purposes and in cl. (b) inserted reference to leases for recreational purposes.

1966—Pub. L. 89-457 authorized an increase in the period of a lease under cl. (b) from twenty to twenty-five years.

## Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

## SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-579 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 this title.

## PERIOD OF LEASES

Pub. L. 89-457, §2, June 20, 1966, 80 Stat. 210, provided that: “Upon application by a lessee holding a lease under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act [sections 869 to 869-4 of this title] the Secretary of the Interior may enter into a new lease for a term not to exceed twenty-five years from the date of the new lease.”

**§ 869-2. Conditions of transfer by grantee; solid waste disposal**

**(a) Conditions of transfer by grantee**

Title to lands conveyed by the Government under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title may not be transferred by the grantee or its successor except, with the consent of the Secretary of the Interior, to a transferee which would be a qualified grantee under section 869-1(a) or 869-1(c) of this title and subject to the acreage limitation contained in section 869(b) of this title. A grantee or its successor may not change the use specified in the conveyance to another or additional use except, with the consent of the Secretary, to a use for which such grantee or its successor could obtain a conveyance under sections 869 to 869-4 of this title. If at any time after the lands are conveyed by the Government, the grantee or its successor attempts to transfer title to or control over these lands to another or the lands