

The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), is Pub. L. 103-77, Aug. 13, 1993, 107 Stat. 756. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 539i of this title and Tables.

§ 410hhh-6. Acquisition of property and boundary adjustments

(a) Acquisition authority

(1) Within the area depicted on the map as the “Acquisition Area” or the national monument, the Secretary may acquire lands and interests therein by purchase, donation, transfer from another Federal agency, or exchange: *Provided*, That lands or interests therein may only be acquired with the consent of the owner thereof.

(2) Lands or interests therein owned by the State of Colorado, or a political subdivision thereof, may only be acquired by donation or exchange.

(b) Boundary adjustment

As soon as practicable after the acquisition of any land or interest under this section, the Secretary shall modify the boundary of the unit to which the land is transferred pursuant to subsection (b)¹ of this section to include any land or interest acquired.

(c) Administration of acquired lands

(1) General authority

Upon acquisition of lands under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall, as appropriate—

(A) transfer administrative jurisdiction of the lands to the National Park Service—

(i) for addition to and management as part of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, or

(ii) for addition to and management as part of the Great Sand Dunes National Park (after designation of the Park) or the Great Sand Dunes National Preserve; or

(B) transfer administrative jurisdiction of the lands to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for addition to and administration as part of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Forest service administration

(A) Any lands acquired within the area depicted on the map as being located within Zone B shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture and shall be added to and managed as part of the Rio Grande National Forest.

(B) For the purposes of section 4607-9 of this title, the boundaries of the Rio Grande National Forest, as revised by the transfer of land under paragraph (A), shall be considered to be the boundaries of the national forest.

(Pub. L. 106-530, § 8, Nov. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 2532.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection (c)”.

§ 410hhh-7. Water rights

(a) Omitted

(b) Effect on water rights

(1) In general

Subject to the amendment made by subsection (a) of this section,¹ nothing in this subchapter affects—

(A) the use, allocation, ownership, or control, in existence on November 22, 2000, of any water, water right, or any other valid existing right;

(B) any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on November 22, 2000, including any water right held by the United States;

(C) any interstate water compact in existence on November 22, 2000; or

(D) subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), State jurisdiction over any water law.

(2) Water rights for national park and national preserve

In carrying out this subchapter, the Secretary shall obtain and exercise any water rights required to fulfill the purposes of the national park and the national preserve in accordance with the following provisions:

(A) Such water rights shall be appropriated, adjudicated, changed, and administered pursuant to the procedural requirements and priority system of the laws of the State of Colorado.

(B) The purposes and other substantive characteristics of such water rights shall be established pursuant to State law, except that the Secretary is specifically authorized to appropriate water under this subchapter exclusively for the purpose of maintaining ground water levels, surface water levels, and stream flows on, across, and under the national park and national preserve, in order to accomplish the purposes of the national park and the national preserve and to protect park resources and park uses.

(C) Such water rights shall be established and used without interfering with—

(i) any exercise of a water right in existence on November 22, 2000, for a non-Federal purpose in the San Luis Valley, Colorado; and

(ii) the Closed Basin Division, San Luis Valley Project.

(D) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no Federal reservation of water may be claimed or established for the national park or the national preserve.

(c) National Forest water rights

To the extent that a water right is established or acquired by the United States for the Rio Grande National Forest, the water right shall—

(1) be considered to be of equal use and value for the national preserve; and

(2) retain its priority and purpose when included in the national preserve.

(d) National Monument water rights

To the extent that a water right has been established or acquired by the United States for

¹ See Codification note below.