

**§ 459a-2. Preservation of natural features; acquisition of additional property; reversion of property on failure of conditions**

Except for certain portions of the area, deemed to be especially adaptable for recreational uses, particularly swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and other recreational activities of similar nature, which shall be developed for such uses as needed, the said area shall be permanently reserved as a primitive wilderness and no development of the project or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing in this area: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, accept for administration, protection, and development by the National Park Service a minimum of ten thousand acres within the area described in section 459 of this title, including the existing Cape Hatteras State Park, and, in addition, any other portions of the area described in section 459 of this title if the State of North Carolina shall agree that if all the lands described in section 459 of this title shall not have been conveyed to the United States within fifteen years from August 17, 1937, the establishment of the aforesaid national seashore recreational area may, in the discretion of the said Secretary, be abandoned, and that, in the event of such abandonment, the said State will accept a reconveyance of title to all lands conveyed by it to the United States for said national seashore recreational area. The lands donated to the United States for the purposes of sections 459 to 459a-3 of this title by parties other than said State shall revert in the event of the aforesaid abandonment to the donors, or their heirs, or other persons entitled thereto by law.

In the event of said abandonment, the Secretary of the Interior shall execute any suitable quitclaim deeds, or other writings entitled to record in the proper counties of North Carolina stating the fact of abandonment, whereupon title shall revert to those entitled thereto by law and no further conveyance or proof of reversion of title shall be required.

(Aug. 17, 1937, ch. 687, § 4, 50 Stat. 670; June 29, 1940, ch. 459, § 1, 54 Stat. 702; Mar. 6, 1946, ch. 50, 60 Stat. 32.)

AMENDMENTS

1946—Act Mar. 6, 1946, substituted “fifteen years” for “ten years” before “from August 17, 1937”.

CHANGE OF NAME

Words “national seashore recreational area” substituted in text for “national seashore” pursuant to act June 29, 1940.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

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, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 459a-3. Migratory bird refuges not to be affected**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of sections 459 to 459a-3 of this title, lands and waters on or after August 17, 1937, included in any migratory bird refuge under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, within the boundaries of the national seashore recreational area as designated by the Secretary of the Interior under section 459 of this title, shall continue as such refuge under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of migratory birds, but such lands and waters shall be a part of the aforesaid national seashore recreational area and shall be administered by the National Park Service for recreational uses not inconsistent with the purposes of such refuge under such rules and regulations as the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture may jointly approve. The proviso to section 459 of this title shall not limit the power of the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire lands for any migratory bird refuge by purchase with any funds made available therefor by applicable law. (Aug. 17, 1937, ch. 687, § 5, 50 Stat. 670; June 29, 1940, ch. 459, § 1, 54 Stat. 702.)

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**§ 459a-4. Omitted**

CODIFICATION

Section, acts June 3, 1948, ch. 393, 62 Stat. 301; June 30, 1949, ch. 288, title I, § 105(a), 63 Stat. 381, which transferred lands in Dare County, North Carolina, to the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior to be administered as a part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area project, is omitted in view of Pub. L. 87-313, set out as a note under this section.

DISPOSAL OF LANDS

Pub. L. 87-313, Sept. 26, 1961, 75 Stat. 675, provided: “That the tract of Federal property comprising eight and one-tenth acres of land situated in Dare County, North Carolina, approximately two miles north of Kitty Hawk, which was transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior by the Act of June 3, 1948 (62 Stat. 301; 16 U.S.C. 459a [this section]), to be administered as a part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, may be disposed of by the Administrator of General Services in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended [see chapters 1 to 11 of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works, and division C (except sections 3302, 3307(e), 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of Title 41, Public Contracts].”

**§ 459a-5. Addition of lands; Naval Amphibious Training Station**

There is transferred to the Secretary of the Interior without reimbursement or transfer of