

(4) the person from whom the land is being acquired; and

(5) any adjustment made by the Secretary of relative value pursuant to section 1716(f)(2)(B)(ii) of title 43.

(Pub. L. 94-588, §17(b), Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2962; Pub. L. 100-409, §6, Aug. 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 1090; Pub. L. 103-437, §6(r), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4587.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Forest Reservation Commission, referred to in text, was abolished and the functions thereof were transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture by section 17(a)(1) of Pub. L. 94-588, Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2961.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-437 in introductory provisions substituted “Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate” for “Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate”.
1988—Pub. L. 100-409 substituted “\$150,000” for “\$25,000” in introductory provisions and added par. (5).

§ 521c. Definitions

For purposes of sections 521c to 521i of this title—

(1) the term “person” includes any State or any political subdivision or entity thereof;

(2) the term “interchange” means a land transfer in which the Secretary and another person exchange titles to lands or interests in lands of approximately equal value where the Secretary finds that such a value determination can be made without a formal appraisal and under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §1, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2535.)

§ 521d. Sale, exchange, or interchange of National Forest System land

The Secretary is authorized, when the Secretary determines it to be in the public interest—

(1) to sell, exchange, or interchange by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest, including the mineral estate, of the United States in and to National Forest System lands described in section 521e of this title; and

(2) to accept as consideration for the lands sold, exchanged, or interchanged other lands, interests in lands, or cash payment, or any combination of such forms of consideration, which, in the case of conveyance by sale or exchange, is at least equal in value, including the mineral estate, or, in the case of conveyance by interchange, is of approximately equal value, including the mineral estate, to the lands being conveyed by the Secretary. The Secretary shall insert in any such quitclaim deed such terms, covenants,¹ conditions, and reservations as the Secretary deems necessary to ensure protection of the public interest, including protection of the scenic, wildlife, and recreation values of the National Forest System and provision for appropriate public access to and use of lands within the System.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “covenants.”

The preceding sentence shall not be applicable to deeds issued by the Secretary to lands outside the boundary of units of the National Forest System.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §2, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2535.)

§ 521e. Small parcels and road rights-of-way

The National Forest System lands which may be sold, exchanged, or interchanged under sections 521c to 521i of this title are those the sale or exchange of which is not practicable under any other authority of the Secretary, which have a value as determined by the Secretary of not more than \$150,000, and which are—

(1) parcels of forty acres or less which are interspersed with or adjacent to lands which have been transferred out of Federal ownership under the mining laws and which are determined by the Secretary, because of location or size, not to be subject to efficient administration;

(2) parcels of ten acres or less which are encroached upon by improvements occupied or used under claim or color of title by persons to whom no advance notice was given that the improvements encroached or would encroach upon such parcels, and who in good faith relied upon an erroneous survey, title search, or other land description indicating that there was not such encroachment; or

(3) road rights-of-way, reserved or acquired, which are substantially surrounded by lands not owned by the United States and which are no longer needed by the United States, subject to the first right of abutting landowners to acquire such rights-of-way.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §3, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2535.)

§ 521f. Costs of conveyance and value of improvements

Any person to whom lands are conveyed under sections 521c to 521i of this title shall bear all reasonable costs of administration, survey, and appraisal incidental to such conveyance, as determined by the Secretary. In determining the value of any lands or interest in lands to be conveyed under sections 521c to 521i of this title, the Secretary may, in those cases in which the Secretary determines it would be in the public interest, exclude from such determination the value of any improvements to the lands made by any person other than the Government. In the case of road rights-of-way conveyed under sections 521c to 521i of this title, the person to whom the right-of-way is conveyed shall reimburse the United States for the value of any improvements to such right-of-way which may have been made by the United States. The Secretary may, in those cases in which the Secretary determines that it would be in the public interest, waive payment by any person of costs incidental to any conveyance authorized by sections 521c to 521i of this title or reimbursement by any person for the value of improvements to rights-of-way otherwise required by this section.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §4, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2536.)

§ 521g. Road rights-of-way subject to State or local law

Conveyance of any road rights-of-way under sections 521c to 521i of this title shall not be construed as permitting any designation, maintenance, or use of such rights-of-way for road or other purposes except to the extent permitted by State or local law and under conditions imposed by such law.

(Pub. L. 97-465, § 5, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2536.)

§ 521h. Regulations; contents

The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out the provisions of sections 521c to 521i of this title, including specification of—

- (1) criteria which shall be used in making the determination as to what constitutes the public interest;
- (2) the definition of and the procedure for determining “approximately equal value”; and
- (3) factors relating to location or size which shall be considered in connection with determining the lands to be sold, exchanged, or interchanged under clause (1) of section 521e of this title.

(Pub. L. 97-465, § 6, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2536.)

§ 521i. Unaffected lands

Nothing in sections 521c to 521i of this title shall authorize conveyance of Federal lands within the National Wilderness Preservation System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, or National Monuments. Nothing in sections 521c to 521i of this title shall authorize sale of Federal lands, within National Recreation Areas.

(Pub. L. 97-465, § 7, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2536.)

§ 522. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Section, acts Feb. 15, 1901, ch. 372, 31 Stat. 790; Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, § 1, 33 Stat. 628, insofar as it relates to rights-of-way through public lands, forests, and reservations, and the Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant National Parks is set out as section 79 of this title and section 959 of Title 43, Public Lands, and insofar as it related to rights-of-way through national forests was set out as this section. Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976, repealed this section 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.

§ 523. Rights-of-way through national forests for power and communications facilities

The head of the department having jurisdiction over the lands is authorized and empowered, under general regulations to be fixed by him, to grant an easement for rights-of-way, for a period not exceeding fifty years from the date of the issuance of such grant, over, across, and upon the national forests of the United States for electrical poles and lines for the transmission and distribution of electrical power, and for poles and lines for communication purposes, and for radio, television, and other forms of communication transmitting, relay, and receiving structures and facilities, to the extent of

two hundred feet on each side of the center line of such lines and poles and not to exceed four hundred feet by four hundred feet for radio, television, and other forms of communication transmitting, relay, and receiving structures and facilities, to any citizen, association, or corporation of the United States, where it is intended by such to exercise the right-of-way herein granted for any one or more of the purposes herein named: *Provided*, That such right-of-way shall be allowed within or through any national forest only upon the approval of the chief officer of the department under whose supervision or control such national forest falls, and upon a finding by him that the same is not incompatible with the public interest: *Provided further*, That all or any part of such right-of-way may be forfeited and annulled by declaration of the head of the department having jurisdiction over the lands for nonuse for a period of two years or for abandonment.

Any citizen, association, or corporation of the United States to whom there has been issued a permit prior to March 4, 1911, for any of the purposes specified herein under any law existing at that date, may obtain the benefit of this section upon the same terms and conditions as shall be required of citizens, associations, or corporations making application under the provisions of this section subsequent to said date.

(Mar. 4, 1911, ch. 238, 36 Stat. 1253; May 27, 1952, ch. 338, 66 Stat. 95.)

REPEALS

Section 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.

CODIFICATION

Section, insofar as it relates to rights-of-way in national parks, military, and other reservations, is set out as sections 5 and 420 of this title, and insofar as it relates to rights-of-way on public lands generally, and Indian reservations, is set out as section 961 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

1952—Act May 27, 1952, inserted reference to rights-of-way for radio, television, and other forms of communication, and increased from 40 feet to 400 feet the maximum width of rights-of-way for lines and poles.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Repeal by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, insofar as applicable to the issuance of rights-of-way, not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see note set out under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 524. Rights-of-way for dams, reservoirs, or water plants for municipal, mining, and mill- ing purposes

Rights-of-way for the construction and maintenance of dams, reservoirs, water plants, ditches, flumes, pipes, tunnels, and canals, within and across the national forests of the United States, are granted to citizens and corporations of the United States for municipal or mining