

land acquisition program contemplated by sections 698 to 698e of this title within six years after October 11, 1974.

(Pub. L. 93-439, §2, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1256.)

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the Senate 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.

**§ 698b. Right of use and occupancy of improved property on Big Thicket Preserve**

**(a) Election of right of use and occupancy; payment of fair market value; termination of right**

The owner of an improved property on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary may, as a condition of such acquisition, retain for himself and his heirs and assigns a right of use and occupancy of the improved property for non-commercial residential purposes for a definite term of not more than twenty-five years or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the death of his spouse, whichever is later. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. Unless this property is wholly or partially donated to the United States, the Secretary shall pay the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of acquisition less the fair market value, on that date, of the right retained by the owner. A right retained pursuant to this section shall be subject to termination by the Secretary upon his determination that it is being exercised in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of sections 698 to 698e of this title, and it shall terminate by operation of law upon the Secretary's notifying the holder of the right of such determination and tendering to him an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired.

**(b) "Improved property" defined**

As used in sections 698 to 698e of this title, the term "improved property" means a detached year-round one-family dwelling which serves as the owner's permanent place of abode at the time of acquisition, and construction of which was begun before July 1, 1973, which is used for noncommercial residential purposes, together with not to exceed three acres of land on which the dwelling is situated and together with such additional lands or interests therein as the Secretary deems to be reasonably necessary for access thereto, such lands being in the same ownership as the dwelling, together with any structures accessory to the dwelling which are situated on such land.

**(c) Waiver of right to relocation assistance by election of right of use and occupancy**

Whenever an owner of property elects to retain a right of use and occupancy as provided in

this section, such owner shall be deemed to have waived any benefits or rights accruing under sections 4623, 4624, 4625, and 4626 of title 42, and for the purposes of such sections such owner shall not be considered a displaced person as defined in section 4601(6) of title 42.

(Pub. L. 93-439, §3, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1256; Pub. L. 94-578, title III, §322, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2742.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-578 substituted "detached year-round one-family dwelling which serves as the owner's permanent place of abode at the time of acquisition, and" for "detached, one-family dwelling,".

**§ 698c. Administration of Big Thicket Preserve**

**(a) Natural and ecological integrity**

The area within the boundaries depicted on the map referred to in section 698 of this title shall be known as the Big Thicket National Preserve. Such lands shall be administered by the Secretary as a unit of the National Park System in a manner which will assure their natural and ecological integrity in perpetuity in accordance with the provisions of sections 698 to 698e of this title and with the provisions of sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this title, as amended and supplemented.

**(b) Limitation on construction of roads, campgrounds, etc.; rules and regulations for use of Federal lands and waters**

In the interest of maintaining the ecological integrity of the preserve, the Secretary shall limit the construction of roads, vehicular campgrounds, employee housing, and other public use and administrative facilities and he shall promulgate and publish such rules and regulations in the Federal Register as he deems necessary and appropriate to limit and control the use of, and activities on, Federal lands and waters with respect to:

- (1) motorized land and water vehicles;
- (2) exploration for, and extraction of, oil, gas, and other minerals;
- (3) new construction of any kind;
- (4) grazing and agriculture; and
- (5) such other uses as the Secretary determines must be limited or controlled in order to carry out the purposes of sections 698 to 698e of this title.

**(c) Hunting, fishing, and trapping authorized in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws; consultation with appropriate State agency prior to implementation of regulations restricting activities**

The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the preserve in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States and the State of Texas, except that he may designate zones where and periods when, no hunting, fishing, trapping, or entry may be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection and management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be put into effect only after consulta-

tion with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over hunting, fishing and trapping activities.

(Pub. L. 93-439, §4, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1257.)

**§ 698d. Review of Big Thicket Preserve area by Secretary; report to President**

Within five years from October 11, 1974, the Secretary shall review the area within the preserve and shall report to the President, in accordance with section 1132(c) and (d) of this title, his recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the preserve for preservation as wilderness, and any designation of any such areas as a wilderness shall be accomplished in accordance with section 1132(c) and (d) of this title.

(Pub. L. 93-439, §5, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1257.)

**§ 698e. Authorization of appropriations for Big Thicket Preserve**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 698 to 698e of this title, but not to exceed \$63,812,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands and not to exceed \$7,000,000 for development. Effective October 1, 1984, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the acquisition of the visitor contact and administrative site referred to in subsection (c) of section 698 of this title. Effective upon July 1, 1993, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of subsections (c) and (d) of section 698 of this title.

(Pub. L. 93-439, §6, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1257; Pub. L. 98-489, §1(b), Oct. 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 2267; Pub. L. 103-46, §2(d), July 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 231.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-46 inserted at end “Effective upon July 1, 1993, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of subsections (c) and (d) of section 698 of this title.”

1984—Pub. L. 98-489 authorized appropriations for acquisition of a visitor contact and administrative site.

**§ 698f. Big Cypress National Preserve; Big Cypress National Preserve Addition**

**(a) Establishment**

In order to assure the preservation, conservation, and protection of the natural, scenic, hydrologic, floral and faunal, and recreational values of the Big Cypress Watershed in the State of Florida and to provide for the enhancement and public enjoyment thereof, the Big Cypress National Preserve is hereby established.

**(b) Location; boundaries; publication in Federal Register; area**

The Big Cypress National Preserve (hereafter referred to as the “preserve”) shall comprise the area generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Cypress National Preserve”, dated November 1971 and numbered BC-91,001, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, District of Columbia, and shall be filed with appropriate of-

fices of Collier, Monroe, and Dade Counties in the State of Florida. The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall, as soon as practicable, publish a detailed description of the boundaries of the preserve in the Federal Register which shall include not more than five hundred and seventy thousand acres of land and water.

**(c) Methods of acquisition of land; prerequisites to Federal appropriations; improved property; oil and gas rights; appraisal of property; transfer of Federal property to Secretary**

The Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, transfer from any other Federal agency, or exchange, any lands, waters, or interests therein which are located within the boundaries of the preserve or the Addition: *Provided*, That any lands owned or acquired by the State of Florida, or any of its subdivisions, in the preserve may be acquired by donation only and, any land acquired by the State of Florida, or any of its subdivisions, in the Addition shall be acquired in accordance with subsection (d) of this section: *Provided further*, That no Federal funds shall be appropriated until the Governor of Florida executes an agreement on behalf of the State which (i) provides for the transfer to the United States of all lands within the preserve previously owned or acquired by the State and (ii) provides for the donation to the United States of all lands acquired by the State within the preserve pursuant to the provision of “the Big Cypress Conservation Act of 1973” (Chapter 73-131 of the Florida Statutes) or provides for the donation to the United States of any remaining moneys appropriated pursuant to such Act for the purchase of lands within the preserve. No improved property, as defined by sections 698f to 698m-4 of this title, nor oil and gas rights, shall be acquired without the consent of the owner unless the Secretary, in his judgment, determines that such property is subject to, or threatened with, uses which are, or would be, detrimental to the purposes of the preserve. The Secretary may, if he determines that the acquisition of any other subsurface estate is not needed for the purposes of the preserve and the Addition, exclude such interest in acquiring any lands within the preserve and the Addition. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4651 of title 42 the Secretary (i) may evaluate any offer to sell land within the preserve or the Addition by any landowner and may, in his discretion, accept any offer not in excess of \$10,000 without an appraisal and (ii) may direct an appraisal to be made of any unimproved property within the preserve or the Addition without notice to the owner or owners, thereof. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any federally owned lands within the preserve shall, with the concurrence of the head of the administering agency, be transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of sections 698f to 698m-4 of this title, without transfer of funds. Nothing in sections 698f to 698m-4 of this title shall be construed to interfere with the right of the State of Florida to acquire such property rights as may be necessary for Interstate 75.