

§ 544o. Savings provisions**(a) Effect on rights of Indians, use of water, rivers and streams, interstate compacts, existing transmission facilities, hunting and fishing, forest plans, scenic areas**

Nothing in sections 544 to 544p of this title shall—

(1) affect or modify any treaty or other rights of any Indian tribe;

(2) except as provided in section 13(c),¹ authorize the appropriation or use of water by any Federal, State, or local agency, Indian tribe, or any other entity or individual;

(3) except as provided in section 13(c),¹ affect the rights or jurisdictions of the United States, the States, Indian tribes or other entities over waters of any river or stream or over any ground water resource or affect or interfere with transportation activities on any such river or stream;

(4) except as provided in section 13(c),¹ alter, establish, or affect the respective rights of the United States, the States, Indian tribes, or any person with respect to any water or water-related right;

(5) alter, amend, repeal, interpret, modify, or be in conflict with any interstate compact made by the States before November 17, 1986;

(6) affect or modify the ability of the Bonneville Power Administration to operate, maintain, and modify existing transmission facilities;

(7) affect lands held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for Indian tribes or individual members of Indian tribes or other lands acquired by the Army Corps of Engineers and administered by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of Indian tribes and individual members of Indian tribes;

(8) affect the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to hunting and fishing under existing State and Federal laws and Indian treaties;

(9) require any revision or amendment of any forest plan adopted pursuant to the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Act of October 22, 1976, Public Law 94-588, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.)); or

(10) establish protective perimeters or buffer zones around the scenic area or each special management area. The fact that activities or uses inconsistent with the management directives for the scenic area or special management areas can be seen or heard from these areas shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundaries of the scenic area or special management areas.

(b) Improvement of navigation facilities at Bonneville Dam

Except for the offsite disposal of excavation material, nothing in sections 544 to 544p of this title shall be construed to affect or modify the responsibility of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to improve navigation facilities at Bonneville Dam pursuant to Federal law.

(c) Rights and responsibilities of non-Federal timber land owners

Except for the management, utilization, or disposal of timber resources of non-Federal

lands within the special management areas, nothing in sections 544 to 544p of this title shall affect the rights and responsibilities of non-Federal timber land owners under the Oregon and Washington Forest Practices Acts or any county regulations which under applicable State law supersede such Acts.

(d) Interstate compacts

Mandatory language in sections 544 to 544p of this title respecting the powers and responsibilities of the Commission shall be interpreted as conditions precedent to congressional consent to the interstate compact described in section 544c of this title.

(e) Failure to establish Columbia River Gorge Commission; responsibility of Secretary

In the event that the States of Washington and Oregon fail to comply with the provisions of section 544c of this title, the Secretary shall not be obligated to take actions which are predicated upon the establishment of the Commission.

(f) Actions of Secretary as major Federal actions affecting the environment

(1) Actions by the Secretary pursuant to subsections (f), (g), and (h) of section 544d of this title; subsections (f), (j), (k), and (l) of section 544f of this title; section 544g of this title; and subsections (a) and (b)(2) of section 544h of this title shall neither be considered major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332) nor require the preparation of an environmental assessment in accordance with that Act [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.].

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, nothing in sections 544 to 544p of this title shall expand, restrict, or otherwise alter the duties of the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act.

(Pub. L. 99-663, §17, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4300.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 13(c), referred to in subsec. (a)(2) to (4), is section 13(c) of Pub. L. 99-663, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4294, which amended section 1274(a) of this title.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976, referred to in subsec. (a)(9), is Pub. L. 94-588, Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2949, as amended, which enacted sections 472a, 521b, 1600, and 1611 to 1614 of this title, amended sections 500, 515, 516, 518, 576b, 581h, and 1601 to 1610 of this title, repealed sections 476, 513, and 514 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 476, 513, 528, 594-2, and 1600 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1976 Amendment note set out under section 1600 of this title and Tables.

The National Environmental Policy Act, referred to in subsec. (f), probably means the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

§ 544p. Severability

(a)¹ If any provision of sections 544 to 544p of this title or the application thereof to any per-

¹ See References in Text note below.

¹ So in original. No subsec. (b) has been enacted.

son, State, Indian tribe, entity, or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder of sections 544 to 544p of this title, nor the application of any provisions herein to other persons, States, Indian tribes, entities, or circumstances, shall be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 99-663, §18, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4302.)

§ 545. Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area; purposes

The purposes of sections 545 and 545a of this title with respect to the Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area are to—

- (1) ensure appropriate protection and preservation of the scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources;
- (2) protect and manage vegetation to provide wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph (1);
- (3) provide areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and
- (4) provide a variety of recreation opportunities that are not inconsistent with the preceding purposes.

(Pub. L. 103-314, §2, Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1703; Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, §915, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1187.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-127 substituted “Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area” for “George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area” in introductory provisions.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-314, §1, Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1703, as amended by Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, §915, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1187, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 545 and 545a of this title] may be cited as the ‘Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area Act’.”

§ 545a. Establishment of Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area

(a) In general

(1) Establishment

There is hereby established in the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, the Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area (in this section referred to as the “scenic area”).

(2) Lands included in scenic area

The scenic area shall consist of certain lands in the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, which comprise approximately seven thousand five hundred and eighty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area—Proposed”, dated June 21, 1993.

(3) Maps and descriptions

As soon as practicable after August 26, 1994, the Secretary shall file a map and boundary description of the scenic area with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives. The map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in sections 545 and 545a of this title, except that the Secretary is authorized to correct clerical and typographical errors in such boundary description and map. Such map and boundary description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage and the map described in paragraph (2), the map shall control.

graphical errors in such boundary description and map. Such map and boundary description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage and the map described in paragraph (2), the map shall control.

(b) Administration

(1) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall administer the scenic area in accordance with sections 545 and 545a of this title and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System. In the event of conflict between sections 545 and 545a of this title and other laws and regulations, sections 545 and 545a of this title shall take precedence.

(2) Management plan

Within three years after August 26, 1994, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the scenic area as an amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest. Such an amendment shall conform to the provisions of sections 545 and 545a of this title. Nothing in sections 545 and 545a of this title shall require the Secretary to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest pursuant to section 1604 of this title.

(c) Roads

After August 26, 1994, no new permanent roads shall be constructed within the scenic area, except that this prohibition shall not be construed to deny access to private lands or interests therein in the scenic area.

(d) Vegetation management

No timber harvest shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vegetation manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested for personal use along perimeter roads under such conditions as the Secretary may impose.

(e) Motorized travel

(1) Authorized routes

Motorized travel in the scenic area shall be allowed on State Route 635. Subject to such conditions as the Secretary may impose, motorized travel in the scenic area shall also be allowed on Forest Development Road 51.

(2) Other areas

Other than as provided in paragraph (1), motorized travel shall not be permitted within the scenic area, except that the Secretary may authorize motorized travel within the scenic area as necessary for administrative use in furtherance of the purposes of sections 545 and 545a of this title and on temporary routes in support of wildlife management projects.

(f) Fire

Wildfires shall be suppressed in a manner consistent with the purposes of sections 545 and 545a