

§ 316a. Definitions

As used in this subchapter—

(1) The term “person” means individual, partnership, corporation, or association.

(2) The term “district” means any grazing district established under the provisions of section 316b of this title.

(3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) The term “lessee” means the holder of any lease.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 2, 44 Stat. 1452.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471a of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316b. Grazing districts

(a) The Secretary may establish grazing districts upon any public lands outside of the Aleutian Islands Reservation, national forests, and other reservations administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and outside of national parks and monuments which, in his opinion, are valuable for the grazing of livestock. Such districts may include such areas of surveyed and unsurveyed lands as he determines may be conveniently administered as a unit, even if such areas are neither contiguous nor adjacent.

(b) The Secretary, after the establishment of a district, is authorized to lease the grazing privileges therein in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.¹

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 3, 44 Stat. 1452.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this title” and has been translated as if the reference was to “this Act” to reflect the probable intent of Congress inasmuch as the act of Mar. 4, 1927, was not divided into titles.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471b of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316c. Alteration of grazing districts

After any district is established the area embraced therein may be altered in any of the following ways:

(1) The Secretary may add to such districts any public lands which, in his opinion, should be made a part of the district.

(2) The Secretary, subject to existing rights of any lessee, may exclude from such district any lands which he determines are no longer valuable for grazing purposes or are more valuable for other purposes.

(3) The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreement with any person, in respect of the administration, as a part of a district, of lands owned by such person which are contiguous or adjacent to such district or any part thereof.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 4, 44 Stat. 1452.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471c of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

¹ See References in Text note below.

§ 316d. Notice of establishment and alteration of grazing district; hearings

Before establishing or altering a district the Secretary shall publish once a week for a period of six consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in each judicial division in which the district proposed to be established or altered is located, a notice describing the boundaries of the proposed district or the proposed alteration, announcing the date on which he proposes to establish such district or make such alteration and the location and date of hearings required under this section. No such alteration shall be made until after public hearings are held with respect to such alteration in each such judicial division after the publishing of such notice.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 5, 44 Stat. 1453; Pub. L. 90-403, § 1, July 18, 1968, 82 Stat. 358.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471d of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

AMENDMENTS

1968—Pub. L. 90-403 required publication of notice of alteration of a grazing district in each judicial division in which the district proposed to be altered is located, the notice to describe the boundaries of the proposed alteration and location and date of requisite hearings, and also public hearings with respect to the alteration to be held in each such judicial division prior to making the alteration.

§ 316e. Preferences

In considering applications to lease grazing privileges the Secretary shall, as far as is consistent with the efficient administration of the grazing district, prefer (1) natives, (2) other occupants of the range, and (3) settlers over all other applicants.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 6, 44 Stat. 1453.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471e of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316f. Terms and conditions of lease**(a) Period of lease**

A lease may be made for such term as the Secretary deems reasonable, but not to exceed fifty-five years, taking into consideration all factors that are relevant to the exercise of the grazing privileges conferred.

(b) Size of leasehold

Leases shall be made for grazing on a definite area except where local conditions or the administration of grazing privileges makes more practicable a lease based on the number of stock to be grazed.

(c) Terms for surrender of lease

Each lease shall provide that the lessee may surrender his lease, and, if he has complied with the terms and conditions of the lease to the time of surrender, may avoid further liability for fees thereunder by giving written notice to the Secretary of such surrender. The lease shall specify the length of time of notice, which shall not exceed one year.

(d) Terms for renewal of lease

Each lease shall provide that the lessee may negotiate for renewal of such lease, subject to the provisions of this subchapter, at any time during the final five years of the term of such lease.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 7, 44 Stat. 1453; Pub. L. 90-403, § 2, July 18, 1968, 82 Stat. 358.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471f of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

AMENDMENTS

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-403, § 2(a), substituted provisions for reasonable term of leases, limited to fifty-five years, and based on all factors relevant to exercise of grazing privileges for prior provisions for twenty year leases, except where land may be required for other than grazing purposes within a ten year period, and for shorter term leases as desired by applicant.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 90-403, § 2(b), added subsec. (d).

§ 316g. Grazing fees

(a) The Secretary shall determine for each lease the grazing fee to be paid. Such fee shall—

(1) Be fixed on the basis of the area leased or on the basis of the number and kind of stock permitted to be grazed;

(2) Be fixed, for the period of the lease, as a seasonal or annual fee, payable annually or semi-annually on the date specified in the lease;

(3) Be fixed with due regard to the general economic value of the grazing privileges, and in no case shall exceed such value; and

(4) Be moderate.

(b) If the Secretary determines such action to be for the public interest by reason of (1) depletion or destruction of the range by any cause beyond the control of the lessee, or (2) calamity or disease causing wholesale destruction of or injury to livestock, he may grant an extension of time for making payment of any grazing fee undue any lease, reduce the amount of any such payment, or release or discharge the lessee from making such payment.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 8, 44 Stat. 1453.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471g of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316h. Dispositions of receipts

All moneys received during any fiscal year on account of such fees in excess of the actual cost of administration of this subchapter shall be paid at the end thereof by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Territory of Alaska, to be expended in such manner as the Legislature of the Territory may direct for the benefit of public education and roads.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 9, 44 Stat. 1453.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471h of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

ADMISSION OF ALASKA AS STATE

Admission of Alaska into the Union was accomplished Jan. 3, 1959, on issuance of Proc. No. 3269, Jan.

3, 1959, 24 F.R. 81, 73 Stat. c16, as required by sections 1 and 8(c) of Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, set out as notes preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316i. Assignment of leases

The lessee may, with the approval of the Secretary, assign in whole or in part any lease, and to the extent of such assignment be relieved from any liability in respect of such lease, accruing subsequent to the effective date of such assignment.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 10, 44 Stat. 1453.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471i of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316j. Improvements to leasehold**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary may authorize a lessee to construct and/or maintain and utilize upon any area included within the provisions of his lease any fence, building, corral, reservoir, well or other improvements needed for the exercise of the grazing privileges of the lessee within such area; but any such fence shall be constructed as to permit the ingress and egress of miners, prospectors for minerals, and other persons entitled to enter such area for lawful purposes.

(b) Removal of improvement upon termination of lease

The lessee shall be given ninety days from the date of termination of his lease for any cause to remove from the area included within the provisions of his lease any fence, building, corral, or other removable range improvement owned or controlled by him.

(c) Payment for improvement upon termination of lease

If such lessee notifies the Secretary on or before the termination of his lease of his determination to leave on the land any improvements the construction or maintenance of which has been authorized by the Secretary, no other person shall use or occupy under any grazing lease, or entry under any public land law, the land on which any such improvements are located until there has been paid to the person entitled thereto the value of such improvements as determined by the Secretary.

(Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 513, § 11, 44 Stat. 1454.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 471j of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 316k. Penalties

Within one year from the date of the establishment of any district the Secretary shall give notice by publication in one or more newspapers of general circulation in each judicial division in which such district or any part thereof is located that after the date specified in such notice it shall be unlawful for any person to graze any class of livestock on lands in such district except under authority of a lease made or permission granted by the Secretary; and any person