

§ 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.