

§ 620o. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

The terms “Colorado River Basin”, “Colorado River Compact”, “Colorado River System”, “Lee Ferry”, “States of the Upper Division”, “Upper Basin”, and “domestic use” shall have the meaning ascribed to them in article II of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact;

The term “States of the Upper Colorado River Basin” shall mean the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming;

The term “Upper Colorado River Basin” shall have the same meaning as the term “Upper Basin”;

The term “Upper Colorado River Basin Compact” shall mean that certain compact executed on October 11, 1948 by commissioners representing the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and consented to by the Congress of the United States of America by Act of April 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 31);

The term “Rio Grande Compact” shall mean that certain compact executed on March 18, 1938, by commissioners representing the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas and consented to by the Congress of the United States of America by Act of May 31, 1939 (53 Stat. 785);

The term “Treaty with the United Mexican States” shall mean that certain treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed at Washington, District of Columbia, February 3, 1944, relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado River and other rivers, as amended and supplemented by the protocol dated November 14, 1944, and the understandings recited in the Senate resolution of April 18, 1945, advising and consenting to ratification thereof.

(Apr. 11, 1956, ch. 203, §17, formerly §16, 70 Stat. 111; temporarily renumbered §17, Pub. L. 111–11, title X, §10401(b)(1), Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1371.)

RENUMBERING OF SECTION

For termination of renumbering of this section by section 10701(e)(2) of Pub. L. 111–11, see Termination Date of 2009 Amendment note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of April 6, 1949, referred to in text, is act Apr. 6, 1949, ch. 48, 63 Stat. 31, which is not classified to the Code.

Act of May 31, 1939, referred to in text, is act May 31, 1939, ch. 155, 53 Stat. 785, which is not classified to the Code.

TERMINATION DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–11 to be null and void on issuance of a court order terminating a certain Agreement and Contract between New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, and the United States, see section 10701(e)(2) of Pub. L. 111–11, set out as an Agreement note under section 620 of this title.

CHAPTER 13—FEDERAL LANDS INCLUDED IN STATE IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

- Sec. 621. Subjection of lands in State irrigation district to State laws generally.
- 622. Cost of construction and maintenance of irrigation project as charge on land.
- 623. Map of district and plan of irrigation project; approval by Secretary.

- Sec. 624. Entry of approval on land records.
- 625. Release of unentered land from lien on non-completion of irrigation project.
- 626. Enforcement of lien against entered but unpatented land.
- 627. Sale of unpatented and unentered land prohibited; suspension of entry.
- 628. Patents to entered but unpatented land.
- 629. Delivery of notices required by State law; right to hearing, appeal, etc.
- 630. Disposition by Government of proceeds of land sold.

§ 621. Subjection of lands in State irrigation district to State laws generally

When in any State of the United States under the irrigation district laws of said State there has, prior to August 11, 1916, been organized and created or shall thereafter be organized and created any irrigation district for the purpose of irrigating the lands situated within said irrigation district, and in which irrigation district so created or to be created there shall be included any of the public lands of the United States, such public lands so situated in said irrigation district, when subject to entry, and entered lands within said irrigation district, for which no final certificates have been issued, which may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior in the approval by him of the map and plat of an irrigation district as provided in section 623 of this title, are made and declared to be subject to all the provisions of the laws of the State in which such lands shall be situated relating to the organization, government, and regulation of irrigation districts for the reclamation and irrigation of arid lands for agricultural purposes, to the same extent and in the same manner in which the lands of a like character held under private ownership are or may be subject to said laws: *Provided*, That the United States and all persons legally holding unpatented lands under entry made under the public land laws of the United States are accorded all the rights, privileges, benefits, and exemptions given by said State laws to persons holding lands of a like character under private ownership except as in this chapter otherwise provided: *Provided further*, That this chapter shall not apply to any irrigation district comprising a majority acreage of unentered land.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 319, §1, 39 Stat. 506.)

§ 622. Cost of construction and maintenance of irrigation project as charge on land

The cost of constructing, acquiring, purchasing, or maintaining the canals, ditches, reservoirs, reservoir sites, water, water right, rights-of-way, or other property incurred in connection with any irrigation project under said irrigation district laws shall be equitably apportioned among lands held under private ownership, lands legally covered by unpatented entries, and unentered public lands included in said irrigation district. Officially certified lists of the amounts of charges assessed against the smallest legal subdivision of said lands shall be furnished to the officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior of the land district within which the lands affected are located as soon as

such charges are assessed; but nothing in this chapter shall be construed as creating any obligation against the United States to pay any of said charges, assessments, or debts incurred.

All charges legally assessed shall be a lien upon unentered lands and upon lands covered by unpatented entries included in said irrigation district.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 319, §2, 39 Stat. 507; Oct. 28, 1921, ch. 114, §1, 42 Stat. 208; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1145; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of other officers, employees, and agencies of Department of the Interior, with certain exceptions, to Secretary of the Interior, with power to delegate, see Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1950, §§1, 2, eff. May 24, 1950, 15 F.R. 3174, 64 Stat. 1262, set out under section 1451 of this title.

“Officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior” substituted for “register” on authority of section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, which abolished all registers of district land offices and transferred functions of register of district land offices to Secretary of the Interior. See section 403 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

Act Mar. 3, 1925, abolished office of surveyor general and transferred administration of all activities in charge of surveyors general to Field Surveying Service under jurisdiction of United States Supervisor of Surveys.

§ 623. Map of district and plan of irrigation project; approval by Secretary

No unentered lands and no entered lands for which no final certificates have been issued shall be subject to the lien or liens herein contemplated until there shall have been submitted by said irrigation district to the Secretary of the Interior, and approved by him, a map or plat of said district and sufficient detailed engineering data to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior the sufficiency of the water supply and the feasibility of the project, and which shall explain the plan or mode of irrigation in those irrigation districts where the irrigation works have not been constructed, and which plan shall be sufficient to thoroughly irrigate and reclaim said land and prepare it to raise ordinary agricultural crops, and which shall also show the source of water to be used for irrigation of land included in said district: *Provided*, That in those irrigation districts organized prior to August 11, 1916, and whose irrigation works had then been constructed and were then in operation as soon as a satisfactory map, plat, and plan shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, as in this chapter provided, such entered and unentered lands shall be subject to all district taxes and assessments theretofore actually levied against the lands in said district and in the same manner in which lands of a like character held under private ownership are subject to liens and assessments.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 319, §3, 39 Stat. 507.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 3 (less the first proviso) of act Aug. 11, 1916. The remainder of section 3 is classified to section 625 of this title.

§ 624. Entry of approval on land records

Upon the approval of the district map or plat as hereinbefore provided by the Secretary of the Interior the officer designated by the Secretary of the Interior will note said approval upon his records where any unentered or entered and unpatented lands are affected.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 319, §4, 39 Stat. 508; Oct. 28, 1921, ch. 114, §1, 42 Stat. 208; Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 462, 43 Stat. 1145; 1946 Reorg. Plan No. 3, §403, eff. July 16, 1946, 11 F.R. 7876, 60 Stat. 1100.)

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Act Mar. 3, 1925, abolished office of surveyor general and transferred administration of all activities in charge of surveyors general to Field Surveying Service under jurisdiction of United States Supervisor of Surveys.

§ 625. Release of unentered land from lien on noncompletion of irrigation project

The Secretary of the Interior may, upon the expiration of ten years from the date of his approval of said map and plan of any irrigation district, release from the lien authorized by this chapter any unentered land or lands upon which final certificate has not issued, for which irrigation works have not been constructed and water of such district made available for the land.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 319, §3, 39 Stat. 508.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of the first proviso in section 3 of act Aug. 11, 1916. The remainder of section 3 is classified to section 623 of this title.

§ 626. Enforcement of lien against entered but unpatented land

The lien described in section 622 of this title upon land covered by unpatented entries may be enforced upon said unpatented lands by the sale thereof in the same manner and under the same proceeding whereby said assessments are enforced against lands held under private ownership: *Provided*, That in the case of entered unpatented lands the title or interest which such irrigation district may convey by tax sale, tax deed, or as a result of any tax proceeding shall be subject to the following conditions and limitations: If such unpatented land be withdrawn under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), known as the reclamation Act, or subject to the provisions of said Act, then the interest which the district may convey by such tax proceedings or tax deed shall be subject to a prior lien reserved to the United States for all the unpaid charges authorized by the said Act, but the holder of such tax deed or tax title resulting from