

from not more than 5 acres to not more than 80 acres, and authorized permits for facilities for public safety, for buildings, structures, and facilities for industrial or commercial purposes whenever such purposes are related to or consistent with other use of the national forests, and for facilities to be used by public or non-profit agencies for education or public use or in connection with any public activity.

ENHANCING FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION OF
RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND LAND USES

Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(3) [title III, § 331], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-196, as amended, formerly set out as a note under this section, was transferred to section 497e of this title.

§ 497a. Occupancy and use under permit of lands in Alaska for various purposes; period of permit; size of allotment; prohibitions; termination

The Secretary of Agriculture, in conformity with regulations prescribed by him, may permit the use and occupancy of national-forest lands in Alaska for purposes of residence, recreation, public convenience, education, industry, agriculture, and commerce, not incompatible with the best use and management of the national forests, for such periods as may be warranted but not exceeding thirty years and of such areas as may be necessary but not exceeding eighty acres, and after such permits have been issued and so long as they continue in full force and effect the lands therein described shall not be subject to location, entry, or appropriation, under the public land laws or mining laws, or to disposition under the mineral leasing laws: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this section shall prevent the said Secretary from canceling, revoking, or otherwise terminating a permit so issued upon proof of a breach of its terms and conditions or for other just cause.

(Mar. 30, 1948, ch. 162, 62 Stat. 100.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 341 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 497b. Ski area permits

(a) Law applicable to permits

The provisions of the Act of March 4, 1915 (16 U.S.C. 497) notwithstanding, the term and acreage of permits for the operation of ski areas and associated facilities on National Forest System lands shall on and after October 22, 1986, be governed by this section and other applicable law.

(b) Authority

The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “the Secretary”) is authorized to issue permits (hereinafter referred to as “ski area permits”) for the use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for skiing and other snow sports and recreational uses authorized by this section. A ski area permit—

(1) may be issued for a term not to exceed 40 years;

(2) shall ordinarily be issued for a term of 40 years (unless the Secretary determines that the facilities or operations are of a scale or nature as are not likely to require long-term financing or operation), or that there are public

policy reasons specific to a particular permit for a shorter term;

(3) shall encompass such acreage as the Secretary determines sufficient and appropriate to accommodate the permittee’s needs for ski operations and appropriate ancillary facilities;

(4) may be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary;

(5) may be cancelled by the Secretary in whole or in part for any violation of the permit terms or conditions, for nonpayment of permit fees, or upon the determination by the Secretary in his planning for the uses of the national forests that the permitted area is needed for higher public purposes;

(6) may be modified from time to time by the Secretary to accommodate changes in plans or operations in accordance with the provisions of applicable law;

(7) shall be subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate; and

(8) shall be subject to a permit fee based on fair market value in accordance with applicable law.

(c) Other recreational uses

(1) Authority of Secretary

Subject to the terms of a ski area permit issued pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary may authorize a ski area permittee to provide such other seasonal or year-round natural resource-based recreational activities and associated facilities (in addition to skiing and other snow-sports) on National Forest System land subject to a ski area permit as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(2) Requirements

Each activity and facility authorized by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature;

(B) to the extent practicable—

(i) harmonize with the natural environment of the National Forest System land on which the activity or facility is located; and

(ii) be located within the developed portions of the ski area;

(C) be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(D) be authorized in accordance with—

(i) the applicable land and resource management plan; and

(ii) applicable laws (including regulations).

(3) Inclusions

Activities and facilities that may, in appropriate circumstances, be authorized under paragraph (1) include—

(A) zip lines;

(B) mountain bike terrain parks and trails;

(C) frisbee golf courses; and

(D) ropes courses.

(4) Exclusions

Activities and facilities that are prohibited under paragraph (1) include—

(A) tennis courts;