

**(c) Special election by small business concerns**

(1) A notice of sale referred to in subsection (b) containing specified road construction of \$50,000 or more, shall give a purchaser of national forest timber or other forest products that qualifies as a "small business concern" under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), and regulations issued thereunder, the option to elect that the Secretary of Agriculture build the roads described in the notice. The Secretary shall provide the small business concern with an estimate of the cost that would be incurred by the Secretary to construct the roads on behalf of the small business concern. The notice of sale shall also include the date on which the roads described in the notice will be completed by the Secretary if the election is made.

(2) If the election referred to in paragraph (1) is made, the purchaser of the national forest timber or other forest products shall pay to the Secretary of Agriculture, in addition to the price paid for the timber or other forest products, an amount equal to the estimated cost of the roads which otherwise would be paid by the purchaser as provided in the notice of sale. Pending receipt of such amount, the Secretary may use receipts from the sale of national forest timber or other forest products and such additional sums as may be appropriated for the construction of roads, such funds to be available until expended, to accomplish the requested road construction.

**(d) Authorization of harvesting**

In each sale of national forest timber or other forest products referred to in this section, the Secretary of Agriculture is encouraged to authorize harvest of the timber or other forest products in a unit included in the sale as soon as road work for that unit is completed and the road work is approved by the Secretary.

**(e) Construction standard**

For any forest development road that is to be constructed or paid for by a purchaser of national forest timber or other forest products, the Secretary of Agriculture may not require the purchaser to design, construct, or maintain the road (or pay for the design, construction, or maintenance of the road) to a standard higher than the standard, consistent with applicable environmental laws and regulations, that is sufficient for the harvesting and removal of the timber or other forest products, unless the Secretary bears that part of the cost necessary to meet the higher standard.

**(f) Treatment of road value**

For any forest development road that is constructed or paid for by a purchaser of national forest timber or other forest products, the estimated cost of the road construction, including subsequent design changes, shall be considered to be money received for purposes of the payments required to be made under section 500 of this title. To the extent that the appraised value of road construction determined under this subsection reflects funds contributed by the Secretary of Agriculture to build the road to a higher standard pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary shall modify the appraisal of the road construction to exclude the effect of the Federal funds.

**(g) Effective date**

(1) This section and the requirements of this section shall take effect (and apply thereafter) upon the earlier of—

(A) April 1, 1999; or

(B) the date that is the later of—

(i) the effective date of regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture to implement this section; and

(ii) the date on which new timber sale contract provisions designed to implement this section, that have been published for public comment, are approved by the Secretary.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), any sale of national forest timber or other forest products for which notice of sale is provided before the effective date of this section, and any effective purchaser road credit earned pursuant to a contract resulting from such a notice of sale or otherwise earned before that effective date shall remain in effect, and shall continue to be subject to section 535 of this title and section 472a(i) of this title, and rules issued thereunder, as in effect on the day before October 21, 1998.

(Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, § 101(e) [title III, § 329], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-292.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Small Business Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), is Pub. L. 85-536, § 2(1 et seq.), July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 384, which is classified generally to chapter 14A (§ 631 et seq.) of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 631 of Title 15 and Tables.

**§ 536. Recording of instruments; furnishing of instruments affecting public domain lands to Secretary of the Interior**

Copies of all instruments affecting permanent interests in land executed pursuant to sections 532 to 538 of this title shall be recorded in each county where the lands are located. Copies of all instruments affecting interests in lands reserved from the public domain shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Interior.

(Pub. L. 88-657, § 5, Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1089.)

**§ 537. Maintenance and reconstruction by road users; funds for maintenance and reconstruction; availability of deposits until expended, transfer of funds, and refunds**

The Secretary may require the user or users of a road under the control of the Forest Service, including purchasers of Government timber and other products, to maintain such roads in a satisfactory condition commensurate with the particular use requirements of each. Such maintenance to be borne by each user shall be proportionate to total use. The Secretary may also require the user or users of such a road to reconstruct the same when such reconstruction is determined to be necessary to accommodate such use. If such maintenance or reconstruction cannot be so provided or if the Secretary determines that maintenance or reconstruction by a user would not be practical, then the Secretary may require that sufficient funds be deposited by the user to provide his portion of such total maintenance or reconstruction. Deposits made

to cover the maintenance or reconstruction of roads are hereby made available until expended to cover the cost to the United States of accomplishing the purpose for which deposited: *Provided*, That deposits received for work on adjacent and overlapping areas may be combined when it is the most practicable and efficient manner of performing the work, and cost thereof may be determined by estimates: *And provided further*, That unexpended balances upon accomplishment of the purpose for which deposited shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts or refunded.

(Pub. L. 88-657, § 6, Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1090.)

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture under sections 532 to 538 of this title to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, and subsequent transfer to Secretary of Energy, then to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, see Transfer of Functions note set out under section 533 of this title.

#### § 538. User fees fund for delayed payments to grantors

Whenever the agreement under which the United States has obtained for the use of, or in connection with, the national forests and other lands administered by the Forest Service a right-of-way or easement for a road or an existing road or the right to use an existing road provides for delayed payments to the Government's grantor, any fees or other collections received by the Secretary for the use of the road may be placed in a fund to be available for making payments to the grantor.

(Pub. L. 88-657, § 7, Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1090.)

#### § 539. Additions to existing national forests; administration

(a) The following units of the National Forest System are hereby expanded:

(1) Chugach National Forest by the addition of four areas, Nellie Juan, College Fjord, Copper/Rude River, and Controller Bay, containing approximately one million nine hundred thousand acres of public land, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Chugach National Forest additions—proposed", and dated October 1978; and

(2) Tongass National Forest by the addition of three areas, Kates Needle, Juneau Icefield, and Brabazon Range, containing approximately one million four hundred and fifty thousand acres of public lands, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Tongass National Forest additions—proposed", and dated October 1978.

(b) Subject to valid existing rights, lands added to the Tongass and Chugach National Forests by this section shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Act and the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the national forest system: *Provided*, That the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat shall be the primary purpose for the management of the Copper/Rude

River addition and the Copper River-Bering River portion of the existing Chugach National Forest, as generally depicted on the map appropriately referenced and dated October 1978: *Provided*, That the taking of fish and wildlife shall be permitted within zones established by this subsection pursuant to the provisions of this Act and other applicable State and Federal law. Multiple use activities shall be permitted in a manner consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat as set forth in special regulations which shall be promulgated by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title V, § 501, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2398.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2371, as amended, known as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of this title and Tables.

#### CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY CHANGE

Pub. L. 102-415, § 6, Oct. 14, 1992, 106 Stat. 2113, as amended by Pub. L. 113-287, § 5(d)(12), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3265, provided that:

"(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Chugach National Forest, Alaska, is modified to include the approximately 9,300 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Official Map, Boundary Modification, Chugach National Forest' and dated September 1988. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands brought within the boundary of the Chugach National Forest by subsection (a) are added to and shall be administered as part of the Chugach National Forest.

"(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—(1) Nothing in this Act [see Short Title of 1992 Amendment note set out under section 1601 of Title 43, Public Lands] shall be construed to affect the validity of, or the terms and conditions of, any right-of-way, easement, lease, license, or permit on lands transferred by this section that is in existence on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 14, 1992].

"(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall delegate, as necessary, to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to renew or reissue the authorizations described in paragraph (1). The change of administrative jurisdiction over these lands resulting from subsection (a) shall not constitute a ground for the denial of renewal or reissuance of the authorizations described in paragraph (1).

"(d) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT.—For purposes of section 100506 of title 54, United States Code, the boundary of the Chugach National Forest, as modified by this section, shall be treated as if it were the boundary of the Chugach National Forest as of January 1, 1965."

#### § 539a. Mining and mineral leasing on certain national forest lands

Subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in public lands within the Copper River addition to the Chugach National Forest, are hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws. With respect to such areas, the Secretary, under such reasonable regulations as he deems appropriate, may permit the removal of nonleasable minerals from the lands in the manner prescribed by Re-