

**§ 605. Unlawful cutting on mineral lands; notice to Secretary**

It shall be the duty of such officer as the Secretary of the Interior may designate in whose district any mineral land may be situated to ascertain from time to time whether any timber is being cut or used upon any such lands, except for the purposes authorized by section 604 of this title, within such land district; and, if so, he shall immediately notify the Secretary of the Interior of that fact; and all necessary expenses incurred in making such proper examinations shall be paid for and allowed such officer in making up his next quarterly account.

(June 3, 1878, ch. 150, §2, 20 Stat. 88; 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 in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

“Such officer as the Secretary of the Interior may designate” substituted in text for “the register and the receiver of any local land office”, “Secretary of the Interior” for “Commissioner of the General Land Office”, and “such officer” for “such register and receiver” on authority of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

**§ 606. Offense for unlawful cutting on mineral lands; punishment**

Any person or persons who shall violate the provisions of sections 604 and 605 of this title, or any rules and regulations in pursuance thereof made by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding \$500, and to which may be added imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months.

(June 3, 1878, ch. 150, §3, 20 Stat. 89.)

**§ 607. Cutting and removal of timber on certain public lands for certain purposes**

In the States of Alaska, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona, and the gold and silver regions of Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, and Utah in any criminal prosecution or civil action by the United States for a trespass on such public timber lands or to recover timber or lumber cut thereon it shall be a defense if the defendant shall show that the said timber was so cut or removed from the timber lands for use in such State by a resident thereof for agricultural, mining, manufacturing, or domestic purposes under rules and regulations made and prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior and has not been transported out of the same, but nothing herein contained shall operate to enlarge the rights of any railway company to cut timber on the public domain. The Secretary of the Interior may make suitable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section, and he may designate the sections or tracts of land where timber may be cut,

and it shall not be lawful to cut or remove any timber except as may be prescribed by such rules and regulations, but this section shall not operate to repeal sections 604 to 606 of this title.

(Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 559, 26 Stat. 1093; Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561, §8, 26 Stat. 1099; Feb. 13, 1893, ch. 103, 27 Stat. 444; July 1, 1898, ch. 546, §1, 30 Stat. 618; Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 855, 31 Stat. 1436; Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 862, 31 Stat. 1439; Mar. 3, 1919, ch. 111, 40 Stat. 1321; Mar. 3, 1919, ch. 115, 40 Stat. 1322; Feb. 27, 1922, ch. 82, 42 Stat. 398; Aug. 21, 1935, ch. 591, 49 Stat. 665; Pub. L. 86-70, §41, June 25, 1959, 73 Stat. 151.)

CODIFICATION

Section was derived from section 8 of act Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561. The portion of that section set forth here, as originally enacted was as follows: “And in the States of Colorado, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, and South Dakota, Wyoming, and in the District of Alaska and the gold and silver regions of Nevada, and the Territory of Utah, in any criminal prosecution or civil action by the United States for a trespass on such public timber lands or to recover timber or lumber cut thereon, it shall be a defense if the defendant shall show that the said timber was so cut or removed from the timber lands for use in such State or Territory by a resident thereof for agricultural, mining, manufacturing, or domestic purposes, and has not been transported out of the same; but nothing herein contained shall apply to operate to enlarge the rights of any railway company to cut timber on the public domain: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior may make suitable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section”. It was amended to read as set forth here by act Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 559, except that after the word “Wyoming,” the words “New Mexico and Arizona,” were inserted by act Feb. 13, 1893, and after the word “Nevada,” the words “California, Oregon, and Washington” were inserted by act Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 855.

In the section as originally enacted the words “Territory of Alaska” read “District of Alaska,” and the words “the Territory of,” preceded the word “Utah”.

Act July 1, 1898, amended section in the manner set out in section 611 of this title.

Act Mar. 3, 1919, ch. 111, amended section in the manner set out in section 608 of this title.

Act Mar. 3, 1919, ch. 115, amended section in the manner set out in section 609 of this title.

Act Feb. 27, 1922, amended section in the manner set out in section 610 of this title.

Act Aug. 21, 1935, amended section in the manner set out in section 611a of this title.

The portion of the section omitted here prescribed the time within which suits by the United States to annul patents should be brought, and is classified to section 2506 of Title 43, Public Lands.

AMENDMENTS

1959—Pub. L. 86-70 included Alaska within the enumeration of States and struck out provisions which related to Territory of Alaska.

**§ 607a. Cutting and use of timber in Alaska by settlers, residents, miners, etc.**

The Secretary of the Interior may permit under regulations to be prescribed by him the use of timber found upon the public land in Alaska by actual settlers, residents, individual miners, and prospectors for minerals, for firewood, fencing, buildings, mining, prospecting, and for domestic purposes, as may actually be needed by such persons for such purposes and may permit such use by churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions in Alaska for firewood, fencing, buildings, and for domestic purposes.