

- Sec.  
964. Limit of time for completion of Colorado and Wyoming pipelines; forfeiture.  
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971a. Alaskan lands within highway, telephone, and pipeline withdrawals; disposal; amendment of land description of claim or entry on adjoining lands.  
971b. Sale of restored Alaskan lands; preference rights; consent of Federal agency.  
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971d. Effect on valid existing Alaskan rights.  
971e. Definition of restored Alaskan lands.  
975 to 975g. Repealed.

### § 931. Navigable rivers as public highways

All navigable rivers, within the territory occupied by the public lands, shall remain and be deemed public highways; and, in all cases where the opposite banks of any streams not navigable belong to different persons, the stream and the bed thereof shall become common to both.

(R.S. § 2476.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 2476 derived from acts May 18, 1796, ch. 29, § 9, 1 Stat. 468; Mar. 3, 1803, ch. 27, § 17, 2 Stat. 235.

### § 931a. Authority of Attorney General to grant easements and rights-of-way to States, etc.

The Attorney General, whenever he deems it advantageous to the Government and upon such terms and conditions as he deems advisable, is authorized on behalf of the United States to grant to any State, or any agency or political subdivision thereof, easements in and rights-of-way over lands belonging to the United States which are under his supervision and control. Such grant may include the use of such easements or rights-of-way by public utilities to the extent authorized and under the conditions imposed by the laws of such State relating to use of public highways. Such partial, concurrent, or exclusive jurisdiction over the areas covered by such easements or rights-of-way, as the Attorney General deems necessary or desirable, is ceded to such State. The Attorney General is authorized to accept or secure on behalf of the United States from the State in which is situated any land conveyed in exchange for any such easement or right-of-way, such jurisdiction as he may deem necessary or desirable over the land so acquired.

(May 9, 1941, ch. 94, 55 Stat. 183.)

### § 931b. Repealed. Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, § 53, 70A Stat. 641

Section, act July 24, 1946, ch. 596, § 7, 60 Stat. 643, authorized Secretary of War to grant easements and

rights-of-way to States, etc. See section 2668 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

### § 931c. Permits, leases, or easements; authorization to grant; payment; limitation

The head of any department or agency of the Government of the United States having jurisdiction over public lands and national forests, except national parks and monuments, of the United States is authorized to grant permits, leases, or easements, in return for the payment of a price representing the fair market value of such permit, lease, or easement, to be fixed by such head of such department or agency through appraisal, for a period not to exceed thirty years from the date of any such permit, lease, or easement to States, counties, cities, towns, townships, municipal corporations, or other public agencies for the purpose of constructing and maintaining on such lands public buildings or other public works. In the event such lands cease to be used for the purpose for which such permit, lease, or easement was granted, the same shall thereupon terminate.

(Sept. 3, 1954, ch. 1255, § 1, 68 Stat. 1146.)

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### REPEAL; SAVINGS PROVISION

Section repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976, insofar as applicable to the issuance of rights-of-way over, upon, under, and through the public lands and lands in the National Forest System. Such repeal not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

##### EXISTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Provisions of section 706(a) of Pub. L. 94-579, except as pertaining to rights-of-way, not to be construed as affecting the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture under this section, see section 706(b) of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

### § 931d. Additional authority of department or agency head

The authority conferred by section 931c of this title shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of any authority heretofore conferred upon the head of any department or agency of the Government of the United States to grant permits, leases, easements, or rights-of-way.

(Sept. 3, 1954, ch. 1255, § 2, 68 Stat. 1146.)

### § 932. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793

Section, R.S. § 2477, authorized rights of way for construction of highways over public lands not reserved for public uses.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, provided that the repeal made by section 706(a) is effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

##### SAVINGS PROVISION

Repeal by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on

Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

REGULATIONS AFFECTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(d) [title I, §108], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-181, 3009-200, provided that: "No final rule or regulation of any agency of the Federal Government pertaining to the recognition, management, or validity of a right-of-way pursuant to Revised Statute 2477 ([former] 43 U.S.C. 932) shall take effect unless expressly authorized by an Act of Congress subsequent to the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996]."

**§ 933. Repealed. Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, § 53, 70A Stat. 641**

Section, act July 5, 1884, ch. 214, § 6, 23 Stat. 104, related to powers of Secretary of War to permit extension of roads across military reservations, landing of ferries, erection of bridges, and driving of livestock. See sections 4777 and 9777 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

**§ 934. Right of way through public lands granted to railroads**

The right of way through the public lands of the United States is granted to any railroad company duly organized under the laws of any State or Territory, except the District of Columbia, or by the Congress of the United States, which shall have filed with the Secretary of the Interior a copy of its articles of incorporation, and due proofs of its organization under the same, to the extent of one hundred feet on each side of the central line of said road; also the right to take, from the public lands adjacent to the line of said road, material, earth, stone, and timber necessary for the construction of said railroad; also ground adjacent to such right of way for station buildings, depots, machine shops, side tracks, turnouts, and water stations, not to exceed in amount twenty acres for each station, to the extent of one station for each ten miles of its road.

(Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 152, § 1, 18 Stat. 482.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

REPEAL; SAVINGS PROVISION

Section repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, §706(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793, effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976, insofar as applicable to the issuance of rights-of-way over, upon, under, and through the public lands and lands in the National Forest System. Such repeal not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see section 701 of Pub. L. 94-579, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

**§ 935. Several roads through canyons**

Any railroad company whose right of way, or whose track or roadbed upon such right of way, passes through any canyon, pass, or defile, shall not prevent any other railroad company from the use and occupancy of the said canyon, pass, or defile, for the purposes of its road, in common with the road first located, on the crossing of other railroads at grade. And the location of such right of way through any canyon, pass, or defile shall not cause the disuse of any wagon or other public highway located therein on March 3, 1875, nor prevent the location through the same of any such wagon road or highway where

such road or highway may be necessary for the public accommodation; and where any change in the location of such wagon road is necessary to permit the passage of such railroad through any canyon, pass, or defile, said railroad company shall before entering upon the ground occupied by such wagon road, cause the same to be reconstructed at its own expense in the most favorable location, and in as perfect a manner as the original road: *Provided*, That such expenses shall be equitably divided between any number of railroad companies occupying and using the same canyon, pass, or defile.

(Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 152, § 2, 18 Stat. 482.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

REPEAL; SAVINGS PROVISION

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**§ 936. Condemnation of private land**

The legislature of the proper Territory may provide for the manner in which private lands and possessory claims on the public lands of the United States may be condemned; and where such provision shall not have been made, such condemnation may be made in accordance with section 3 of the act entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, and to secure to the Government the use of the same for postal, military, and other purposes, approved July 1, 1862,'" approved July 2, 1864 [43 U.S.C. 942-3].

(Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 152, § 3, 18 Stat. 482.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

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**§ 937. Filing profile of road; forfeiture of rights**

Any railroad company desiring to secure the benefits of sections 934 to 939 of this title, shall, within twelve months after the location of any section of twenty miles of its road, if the same be upon surveyed lands, and, if upon unsurveyed lands, within twelve months after the survey thereof by the United States, file with the officer, as the Secretary of the Interior may designate, of the land office for the district where such land is located a profile of its road; and upon approval thereof by the Secretary of the Interior the same shall be noted upon the plats