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§ 2301. Findings

Congress finds that—

(1) the Bureau of Land Management has authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to sell land identified for disposal under its land use planning;

(2) the Bureau of Land Management has authority under that Act to exchange Federal land for non-Federal land if the exchange would be in the public interest;

(3) through land use planning under that Act, the Bureau of Land Management has identified certain tracts of public land for disposal;

(4) the Federal land management agencies of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have authority under existing law to acquire land consistent with the mission of each agency;

(5) the sale or exchange of land identified for disposal and the acquisition of certain non-Federal land from willing landowners would—

(A) allow for the reconfiguration of land ownership patterns to better facilitate resource management;

(B) contribute to administrative efficiency within Federal land management units; and

(C) allow for increased effectiveness of the allocation of fiscal and human resources within the Federal land management agencies;

(6) a more expeditious process for disposal and acquisition of land, established to facilitate a more effective configuration of land ownership patterns, would benefit the public interest;

(7) many private individuals own land within the boundaries of Federal land management units and desire to sell the land to the Federal Government;

(8) such land lies within national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other areas designated for special management;

(9) Federal land management agencies are facing increased workloads from rapidly growing public demand for the use of public land, making it difficult for Federal managers to address problems created by the existence of inholdings in many areas;

(10) in many cases, inholders and the Federal Government would mutually benefit from Federal acquisition of the land on a priority basis;

(11) proceeds generated from the disposal of public land may be properly dedicated to the acquisition of inholdings and other land that will improve the resource management ability of the Federal land management agencies and adjoining landowners;

(12) using proceeds generated from the disposal of public land to purchase inholdings and other such land from willing sellers would enhance the ability of the Federal land management agencies to—

(A) work cooperatively with private landowners and State and local governments; and

(B) promote consolidation of the ownership of public and private land in a manner that would allow for better overall resource management;

(13) in certain locations, the sale of public land that has been identified for disposal is the best way for the public to receive fair market value for the land; and

(14) to allow for the least disruption of existing land and resource management programs, the Bureau of Land Management may use non-Federal entities to prepare appraisal documents for agency review and approval consistent with applicable provisions of the Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisition.

(Pub. L. 106-248, title II, §202, July 25, 2000, 114 Stat. 613.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, referred to in pars. (1) to (3), is Pub. L. 94-579, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2743, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of this title and Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-141, div. O, title III, §301, Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1074, provided that: “This title [amending sections 2302 and 2304 to 2306 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2018’.”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 106-248, title II, §201, July 25, 2000, 114 Stat. 613, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act’.”

§ 2302. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Exceptional resource

The term “exceptional resource” means a resource of scientific, natural, historic, cultural, recreational access and use, or other recreational value that has been documented by a Federal, State, or local governmental authority, and for which there is a compelling need for conservation and protection under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency in order to maintain the resource for the benefit of the public.

(2) Federally designated area

The term “federally designated area” means land in Alaska and the eleven contiguous Western States (as defined in section 1702(o) of this title) that is within the boundary of—

(A) a national monument, area of critical environmental concern, national conservation area, national riparian conservation area, national recreation area, national scenic area, research natural area, national

outstanding natural area, priority species and habitats designated in a land use plan in accordance with subpart E (entitled “Fish and Wildlife”) of part I of Appendix C of Bureau of Land Management Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 (Rel 1-1693), a special recreation management area, or a national natural landmark managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) a unit of the National Park System;

(C) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(D) a National Forest or National Grassland in the National Forest System; or

(E) an area within which the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture is otherwise authorized by law to acquire lands or interests therein that is designated as—

(i) wilderness under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(ii) a wilderness study area;

(iii) a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.); or

(iv) a component of the National Trails System under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.).

(3) Inaccessible lands that are open to public hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or other recreational purposes

The term “inaccessible lands that are open to public hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or other recreational purposes” means public lands in Alaska and the eleven contiguous Western States (as defined in section 1702 of this title) consisting of at least 640 contiguous acres on which the public is allowed under Federal or State law to hunt, fish, target shoot or use the land for other recreational purposes but—

(A) to which there is no public access or egress; or

(B) to which public access or egress to the land is significantly restricted, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) Inholding

The term “inholding” means any right, title, or interest, held by a non-Federal entity, in or to a tract of land that lies within the boundary of a federally designated area.

(5) Public land

The term “public land” means public lands (as defined in section 1702 of this title).

(6) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(Pub. L. 106–248, title II, §203, July 25, 2000, 114 Stat. 614; Pub. L. 115–141, div. O, title III, §302(1)–(3), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1074, 1075.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Wilderness Act, referred to in par. (2)(E)(i), is Pub. L. 88–577, Sept. 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 890, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 23 (§1131 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1131 of Title 16 and Tables.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, referred to in par. (2)(E)(iii), is Pub. L. 90–542, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 906, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 28 (§1271 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1271 of Title 16 and Tables.

The National Trails System Act, referred to in par. (2)(E)(iv), is Pub. L. 90–543, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 919, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 27 (§1241 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1241 of Title 16 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Par. (1). Pub. L. 115–141, §302(1), substituted “cultural, recreational access and use, or other” for “cultural, or”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 115–141, §302(2)(A), substituted “is within” for “on July 25, 2000, was within” in introductory provisions.

Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 115–141, §302(2)(B), amended subpar. (A) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (A) read as follows: “a national monument, area of critical environmental concern, national conservation area, national riparian conservation area, national recreation area, national scenic area, research natural area, national outstanding natural area, or a national natural landmark managed by the Bureau of Land Management;”.

Par. (2)(D). Pub. L. 115–141, §302(2)(C), amended subpar. (D) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (D) read as follows: “an area of the National Forest System designated for special management by an Act of Congress; or”.

Pars. (3) to (6). Pub. L. 115–141, §302(3), added par. (3) and redesignated former pars. (3) to (5) as (4) to (6), respectively.

§ 2303. Identification of inholdings

(a) In general

The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a procedure to—

(1) identify, by State, inholdings for which the landowner has indicated a desire to sell the land or interest therein to the United States; and

(2) prioritize the acquisition of inholdings in accordance with section 2305(c)(3) of this title.

(b) Public notice

As soon as practicable after July 25, 2000, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide public notice of the procedures referred to in subsection (a), including any information necessary for the consideration of an inholding under section 2305 of this title. Such notice shall include publication in the Federal Register and by such other means as the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture determine to be appropriate.

(c) Identification

An inholding—

(1) shall be considered for identification under this section only if the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture receive notification of a desire to sell from the landowner in response to public notice given under subsection (b); and

(2) shall be deemed to have been established as of the later of—

(A) the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the land was withdrawn from the public domain; or

(ii) the date on which the land was established or designated for special management; or