

of such classifications in the Federal Register. It is the intention of Congress that acquisition of the non-Federal lands shall be completed no later than three years after October 19, 1980.

(2) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to permit the Secretary to affect or diminish any water right which is vested under either State or Federal law on October 19, 1980, nor the rights of the owner of such water right to the customary and usual access, including necessary motorized use over and along existing roads and trails to any facilities used in connection therewith, and the right to operate and maintain such facilities.

**(e) Exchange of land owned by Montana Power Company for bidding rights**

The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall consummate the exchange of the lands owned by the Montana Power Company within the boundaries of the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Rattlesnake Wilderness by issuing bidding rights to the Montana Power Company which shall equal the negotiated cash equivalent of the fair market value of such Montana Power Company lands, as provided in the agreement of April 4, 1983, signed by the authorized representatives of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior and the Montana Power Company, except that adjustments in the "Cash Equivalency Rate" referred to in said agreement shall not exceed a rate determined by the Secretary of the Interior taking into consideration the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the remaining period during which the bidding rights may be used.

(Pub. L. 96-476, §4, Oct. 19, 1980, 94 Stat. 2272; Pub. L. 98-140, §7, Oct. 31, 1983, 97 Stat. 907.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2 of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), probably means section 2(a) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, act Feb. 25, 1920, ch. 85, §2(a), 41 Stat. 438, which enacted section 201(a) of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining. Section 2(b) to (d) of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 enacted sections 201(b), 202, and 202(a) of Title 30, respectively.

The Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), (5), is act Feb. 25, 1920, ch. 85, 41 Stat. 437, as amended, known as the Mineral Leasing Act, which is classified generally to chapter 3A (§181 et seq.) of Title 30. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 181 of Title 30 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b)(3), "October 31, 1983" substituted for "the date of enactment of this Act", meaning the date of enactment of Pub. L. 98-140, section 7(a) of which amended generally subsec. (b)(3), as the probable intent of Congress.

AMENDMENTS

1983—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 98-140, §7(a), amended par. (3) generally, substituting "two years from October 31, 1983, the bidding rights may be used as a monetary credit, which shall be considered 'money' within the meaning of section 35 of the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 191), against that portion of bonus payments, rental or royalty payments paid into the

Treasury of the United States and retained by the Federal Government on any Federal coal lease won or otherwise held by the applicant, its successors or assigns" for "three years from October 19, 1980, the holder of the bidding rights may, at its election, use the outstanding bidding rights as a credit against any royalty, rental, or advance royalty payments owed to the United States on any Federal coal lease(s) it may then hold" and inserting provisions that the holder of the bidding rights shall pay the balance due on such bonus payments, rental or royalty payments in cash for transmittal to the States in the same manner and in the same amounts as though the entire payment were made in cash under the provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended, and that the bidding rights may be transferred or sold at any time by the owner to any other party with all the rights of the owner to the credit, and after such transfer, the owner shall notify the Secretary.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 98-140, §7(b), added subsec. (e).

**§ 460II-4. Filing of maps and descriptions**

As soon as practicable after October 19, 1980, a map and legal description of the Rattlesnake National Recreational Area and a map and legal description of the Rattlesnake Wilderness shall be filed with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, and such maps and legal descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subchapter: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

(Pub. L. 96-476, §5, Oct. 19, 1980, 94 Stat. 2273.)

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives on Jan. 5, 1993, by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Third Congress.

**§ 460II-5. Authorization of appropriations**

Effective October 1, 1981, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 96-476, §6, Oct. 19, 1980, 94 Stat. 2274.)

[SUBCHAPTER XCVII—RESERVED]

SUBCHAPTER XCVIII—STEESE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA AND WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**§ 460mm. Establishment of conservation area**

**(a) In general**

In order to provide for the immediate and future protection of the lands in Federal ownership within the framework of a program of multiple use and sustained yield and for the maintenance of environmental quality, the Steese National Conservation Area is hereby established.

**(b) Boundaries; special values**

The Steese National Conservation Area shall include approximately one million two hundred twenty thousand acres of public lands, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Steese National Conservation Area—proposed", and dated

October 1978. Special values to be considered in planning and management of the area are: caribou range and Birch Creek.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title IV, §401, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2396.)

#### § 460mm-1. Administration of conservation area

##### (a) Management and use of land; land use plan

Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary, through the Bureau of Land Management, shall administer the Steese National Conservation Area established in section 460mm of this title pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 [43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.] dealing with the management and use of land in Federal ownership, and shall, within five years of Dec. 2, 1980, develop a land use plan for each such area, and for the area established in section 460mm-2 of this title.

##### (b) Transfer of lands; mineral exploration and development

No public lands within the national conservation area shall be transferred out of Federal ownership except by exchange pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act [43 U.S.C. 1716]. Where consistent with the land use plans for the area, mineral development may be permitted pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181-287) or the Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 601-603). Subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in Federal lands within national conservation areas are hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 22-54). Where consistent with the land use plan for the area, the Secretary may classify lands within national conservation areas as suitable for locatable mineral exploration and development and open such lands to entry, location, and patent under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 22-54).

##### (c) Regulation of mining activities

Subject to valid existing rights, all mining claims located within any such unit shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to assure that mining will, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with protection of the scenic, scientific, cultural, and other resources of the area and any patent issued after December 2, 1980, shall convey title only to the minerals together with the right to use the surface of lands for mining purposes subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe as aforesaid.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title IV, §402, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2396.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 94-579, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2743, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1701 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of Title 43 and Tables.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and supplemented, referred to in subsec. (b), is act Feb. 25,

1920, ch. 85, 41 Stat. 437, as amended, known as the Mineral Leasing Act, which is classified generally to chapter 3A (§181 et seq.) of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 181 of Title 30 and Tables.

The Materials Act of 1947, as amended, referred to in subsec. (b), is act July 31, 1947, ch. 406, 61 Stat. 681, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§601 et seq.) of chapter 15 of Title 30. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 601 of Title 30 and Tables.

#### § 460mm-2. Establishment of recreation area

There is hereby established the White Mountains National Recreation Area containing approximately one million acres of public lands, as generally depicted on the map entitled "White Mountains National Recreation Area—proposed", and dated October 1978. Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the area in accordance with the provisions of section 460mm-4 of this title and other applicable provisions of this Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 [43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.], and other applicable law. In planning for the recreational use and management of this area, the Secretary shall work closely with the State of Alaska.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title IV, §403, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2397.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, 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.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 94-579, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2743, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1701 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of Title 43 and Tables.

#### § 460mm-3. Rights of holders of unperfected mining claims

##### (a) "Unperfected mining claim" defined

The term "unperfected mining claim" as used in this section, means a mining claim which is located on lands within the boundaries of the White Mountains National Recreation Area or Steese National Conservation Area established pursuant to this subchapter with respect to which a valid mineral discovery within the meaning of the mining laws of the United States, was not made as of the date of the withdrawal of such area from further appropriation under the mining laws of the United States.

##### (b) Moratorium on contest proceedings

Any holder of an unperfected mining claim seeking to protect such claim pursuant to this section must have maintained and must continue to maintain such claim in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws, and where applicable, must have obtained and complied with any mining access permit requirements imposed by the Department of the Interior during the 1979 mining season. Prior to September 30, 1982, no unperfected mining claim

which has been maintained in accordance with this subsection shall be contested by the United States for failure to have made a valid mineral discovery within the meaning of the mining laws of the United States: *Provided*, That such claim shall be diligently prosecuted during this moratorium on contest proceedings as a condition for the moratorium. Any mining operation undertaken pursuant to this subsection, including but not limited to exploration, development, and extraction, shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to assure that such operations will, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with protection of the scenic, scientific, cultural, and other resources of the Steese National Conservation Area or the White Mountains National Recreation Area or any affected conservation system units established or expanded by this Act.

**(c) Valid mineral discovery**

If the holder of an unperfected mining claim notifies the Secretary by filing an application for a patent that, as a result of mining operations in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, he has made a valid mineral discovery of such claim within the meaning of the mining laws of the United States, and if the Secretary determines that such claim contains a valid mineral discovery, the holder of such claim shall be entitled to the issuance of a patent only to the minerals in such claim pursuant to the mining laws of the United States. The holder of such a patent shall also be entitled to the use of so much of the surface estate of the lands comprising the claim as may be necessary for mining purposes: *Provided*, That all mining operations conducted upon a claim after such a valid mineral discovery has been made, shall be in accordance with such reasonable regulations as may be issued by the Secretary pursuant to the authority granted in subsection (b) of this section.

**(d) Validity determination**

If an application for a patent is filed by the holder of an unperfected mining claim pursuant to subsection (c) of this section or if a contest proceeding is initiated by the United States after September 30, 1982, the validity of each claim shall be determined as of the date of the patent application or September 30, 1982, whichever is earlier. The holder of an unperfected mining claim not subject to a patent application filed prior to September 30, 1982, shall submit to the Secretary within one hundred and eighty days after such date all mineral data compiled during the contest proceeding moratorium which would support a valid mineral discovery within the meaning of the mining laws of the United States. Failure to submit such data within the one-hundred-and-eighty-day period shall preclude its consideration in a subsequent determination of the validity of each affected claim. Except as specifically provided for in this section, nothing shall alter the criteria applied under the general mining laws of the United States to adjudicate the validity of unperfected mining claims.

**(e) Access to claims**

Pursuant to the provisions of this section and section 3170 of this title, reasonable access shall be granted to an unperfected mining claim for purposes of making a valid discovery of mineral until September 30, 1982.

**(f) Preference rights**

The holder of any unperfected mining claim which was, prior to November 16, 1978, located, recorded, and maintained in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws on lands located within the boundaries of the Steese National Conservation Area, or the White Mountains National Recreation Area established by this subchapter, shall be entitled during a two-year period after the date that the Secretary exercises his authority under section 460mm-1 or 460mm-4 of this title to open an area containing such claim to mining, (1) to a preference right to re-record his claim under applicable law and to develop such claim under section 460mm-1 of this title or (2) to obtain a lease to remove nonleasable minerals from the claim under section 460mm-4 of this title.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title IV, §404, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2397.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The mining laws of the United States, referred to in subsecs. (a) to (d), are classified generally to Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining.

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.

**§ 460mm-4. Administration of recreation area**

**(a) Recreation, conservation, and resource development**

The White Mountains National Recreation area established by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in order to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment and for the conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such area. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary shall administer the recreation area in a manner which in his judgment will best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources and the continuation of such existing uses and developments as will promote, or are compatible with, or do not significantly impair public recreation and conservation of the scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife, or other values contributing to public enjoyment. In administering the recreation area, the Secretary may utilize such statutory authorities available to him for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate for recreation and preservation purposes and for resource development compatible therewith.

**(b) Withdrawal of lands from selection and mining; exceptions**

The lands within the recreation area, subject to valid existing rights, are hereby withdrawn from State selection under the Alaska Statehood Act or other law, and from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws. The Secretary under such reasonable regulations as he deems appropriate, may permit the removal of the nonleasable minerals from lands or interests in lands within the recreation area in the manner described by section 387 of title 43, and he may permit the removal of leasable minerals from lands or interests in lands within the recreation areas in accordance with the mineral leasing laws, if he finds that such disposition would not have significant adverse effects on the administration of the recreation areas.

**(c) Disposal of receipts**

All receipts derived from permits and leases issued on lands or interest in lands within the recreation area under the mineral leasing laws shall be disposed of as provided in such laws; and receipts from the disposition of nonleasable minerals within the recreation area shall be disposed of in the same manner as moneys received from the sale of public lands.

(Pub. L. 96-487, title XIII, §1312, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2483.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 96-487, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2371, 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.

The Alaska Statehood Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, which is set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of title IV of Pub. L. 96-487, which comprises this subchapter.

**SUBCHAPTER XCIX—ROBERT T. STAFFORD WHITE ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

**§ 460nn. Findings and purpose**

(a) Congress finds that—

(1) Vermont is a beautiful but small and rural State, situated near four large cities with combined metropolitan populations of over fifteen million;

(2) geographic and topographic characteristics of Vermont provide opportunities for large numbers of people to experience the beauty of primitive areas, but also place unusual pressure to provide options to maximize the availability of such lands for a variety of forms of recreation;

(3) certain lands designated as the Big Branch and Peru Peak Wilderness Areas by title I of this Act are suitable for inclusion as part of the national recreation area; and

(4) certain other lands in the Green Mountain National Forest not designated as wilderness by this Act are of a predominantly roadless nature and possess outstanding wild val-

ues that are important for primitive and semi-primitive recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, ecological study, education, and historic and archeological resources, and are deemed suitable for preservation and protection as part of a national recreation area.

(b) The purpose of this subchapter is to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Vermont as the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area in order to preserve and protect their existing wilderness and wild values and to promote wild forest and aquatic habitat for wildlife, watershed protection, opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation, and scenic, ecological, and scientific values.

(Pub. L. 98-322, title II, §201, June 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 256; Pub. L. 110-1, §1(b), Jan. 17, 2007, 121 Stat. 3.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), (4), is Pub. L. 98-322, June 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 253. Lands in the Green Mountain National Forest were designated as wilderness areas by title I of this Act, and are listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

CHANGE OF NAME

“Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area” substituted in subsec. (b) for “White Rocks National Recreation Area” pursuant to section 1(b) of Pub. L. 110-1, set out as a note under section 460nn-1 of this title.

**§ 460nn-1. Establishment**

In furtherance of the findings and purposes of this subchapter, certain lands in the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont, which comprise approximately thirty-six thousand four hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “White Rocks National Recreation Area—Proposed”, dated September 1983, are hereby designated as the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area.

(Pub. L. 98-322, title II, §202, June 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 257; Pub. L. 110-1, §1(b), Jan. 17, 2007, 121 Stat. 3.)

CHANGE OF NAME

“Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area” substituted in text for “White Rocks National Recreation Area” pursuant to section 1(b) of Pub. L. 110-1, set out below.

Pub. L. 110-1, §1, Jan. 17, 2007, 121 Stat. 3, provided that:

“(a) REDESIGNATION.—The White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont, as established by section 202 of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 460nn-1), is redesignated as the ‘Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area’.

“(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the recreation area referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area.”

**§ 460nn-2. Map and description**

As soon as practicable after June 19, 1984, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and legal description of the national recreation area