CODIFICATION

Section comprises part of section 3 of act Aug. 9, 1912. Remainder of section 3 is set out as section 544 of this title.

§ 544. Limitation as to holdings prior to final payment of charges; forfeiture of excess holding

No person shall at any one time or in any manner, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, acquire, own, or hold irrigable land for which entry or water-right application shall have been made under the said reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 and Acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof, before final payment in full of all installments of building and betterment charges shall have been made on account of such land in excess of one farm unit as fixed by the Secretary of the Interior as the limit of area per entry of public land or per single ownership of private land for which a water right may be purchased respectively, nor in any case in excess of one hundred and sixty acres, nor shall water be furnished under said Acts nor a water right sold or recognized for such excess; but any such excess land acquired by foreclosure or other process of law, by conveyance in satisfaction of mortgages, by inheritance, or by devise, may be held for five years and no longer after its acquisition, and water may be temporarily furnished during that time; and every excess holding prohibited as aforesaid shall be forfeited to the United States by proceedings instituted by the Attorney General for that purpose in any court of competent jurisdiction. The above provision shall be recited in every patent and water-right certificate issued by the United States under the provisions of this subchapter.

(Aug. 9, 1912, ch. 278, § 3, 37 Stat. 266; July 11, 1956, ch. 563, § 2, 70 Stat. 524.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, referred to in text, is identified in section 541 of this title as act June 17, 1902, ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section comprises part of section 3 of act Aug. 9, 1912. Remainder of section 3 is set out as section 543 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1956—Act July 11, 1956, increased period during which land could be held from two years to five years, and to authorize delivery of water for that period.

AMENDMENT OF EXISTING CONTRACTS

For provisions authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to amend existing contracts under the Federal reclamation laws to conform to the provisions of this section, see section 3 of act July 11, 1956, set out as a note under section 423e of this title.

§ 545. Appointment of agents to receive payments; record of payments and amounts owing

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to designate such bonded fiscal agents or officers of the Reclamation Service as he may deem advisable on each reclamation project, to whom shall be paid all sums due on reclamation entries or water rights, and the officials so designated shall keep a record for the information of the public of the sums paid and the amount due at any time on account of any entry made or water right purchased under the reclamation Act; and the Secretary of the Interior shall make provision for furnishing copies of duly authenticated records of entries upon payment of reasonable fees which copies shall be admissible in evidence, as are copies authenticated under section eight hundred and eighty-eight[1] of the Revised Statutes.

(Aug. 9, 1912, ch. 278, § 4, 37 Stat. 267.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The reclamation Act, referred to in text, is identified in section 541 of this section as act June 17, 1902, ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388, popularly known as the Reclamation Act, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 371 of this title and Tables.

Section eight hundred and eighty-eight of the Revised Statutes, referred to in text, was repealed by section 21 of act June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 862, the first section of which enacted Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure. Prior to repeal, R.S. § 888 was classified to section 669 of former Title 28, Judicial Code and Judiciary. For provisions relating to admissibility in evidence of authenticated copies, see section 1733 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

CHANGE OF NAME

The Reclamation Service, established in July 1902, changed to the Bureau of Reclamation on June 20, 1923, then to the Water and Power Resources Service on Nov. 6, 1979, and then to the Bureau of Reclamation on May 18, 1981. See 155 Dep't of the Interior, Departmental Manual 1.1 (2008 repl.); Sec'y Hubert Work, Dep't of the Interior, Order (June 20, 1923); Sec'y Cecil D. Andrus, Dep't of the Interior, Secretarial Order 3042, §§ 1, 4 (Nov. 6, 1979); Sec'y James G. Watt, Dep't of the Interior, Secretarial Order 3064, §§ 3, 5 (May 18, 1981).

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 under section 1451 of this title.

§ 546. Jurisdiction of district court for enforcement of this subchapter

Jurisdiction of suits by the United States for the enforcement of the provisions of this subchapter is conferred on the United States district courts of the districts in which the lands are situated.

(Aug. 9, 1912, ch. 278, § 5, 37 Stat. 267.)

§ 547. Patent to desert-land entryman

Any desert-land entryman whose desert-land entry has been embraced within the exterior limits of any land withdrawal or irrigation project under the Act of June 17, 1902, known as the reclamation Act, and who may have obtained a water supply for the land embraced in any such desert-land entry from the reclamation project by the purchase of a water-right certifi-

[1] See References in Text note below.