

**CHAPTER 3—FORESTS; FOREST SERVICE;
REFORESTATION; MANAGEMENT**

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 551. Protection of national forests; rules and regulations

The Secretary of Agriculture shall make provisions for the protection against destruction by fire and depositions upon the public forests and national forests which may have been set aside or which may be hereafter set aside under the

provisions of section 471¹ of this title, and which may be continued; and he may make such rules and regulations and establish such service as will insure the objects of such reservations, namely, to regulate their occupancy and use and to preserve the forests thereon from destruction; and any violation of the provisions of this section, sections 473 to 478 and 479 to 482 of this title or such rules and regulations shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. Any person charged with the violation of such rules and regulations may be tried and sentenced by any United States magistrate judge specially designated for that purpose by the court by which he was appointed, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as provided for in section 3401(b) to (e) of title 18.

(June 4, 1897, ch. 2, § 1, 30 Stat. 35; Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, § 1, 33 Stat. 628; Pub. L. 87-869, § 6, Oct. 23, 1962, 76 Stat. 1157; Pub. L. 88-537, Aug. 31, 1964, 78 Stat. 745; Pub. L. 90-578, title IV, § 402(b)(2), Oct. 17, 1968, 82 Stat. 1118; Pub. L. 101-650, title III, § 321, Dec. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5117.)

REPEALS

Section repealed by Pub.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.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 471 of this title, referred to in text, was in the original a reference to act Mar. 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 1103, and was repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.

CODIFICATION

"National forests" substituted in text for "forest reservations" on authority of act Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, 34 Stat. 1269, which provided that forest reserves shall hereafter be known as national forests.

AMENDMENTS

1964—Pub. L. 88-537 provided that persons charged with violation of such rules and regulations may be tried and sentenced by any United States commissioner specially designated for that purpose by the court by which he was appointed, in the same manner as in section 3401(b) to (e) of title 18.

1962—Pub. L. 87-869 substituted "by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both" for "as is provided for in section 104 of title 18".

CHANGE OF NAME

"United States magistrate judge" substituted for "United States magistrate" in text pursuant to section 321 of Pub. L. 101-650, set out as a note under section 631 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure. Previously, "United States magistrate" substituted for "United States commissioner" pursuant to Pub. L. 90-578. See chapter 43 (§ 631 et seq.) of Title 28.

SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-286, § 1, May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 171, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 551b and 551c of this title, amending sections 18i and 558c of this title and section 1737 of Title 43, Public Lands, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and section

¹ See References in Text note below.