

Public Law 101-442
101st Congress

An Act

To authorize the acquisition of certain lands in the States of Louisiana and Mississippi for inclusion in the Vicksburg National Military Park, to improve the management of certain public lands in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.

Oct. 18, 1990
[S. 2437]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

**TITLE I—VICKSBURG NATIONAL
MILITARY PARK**

SEC. 101. ADDITION OF LANDS TO VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

16 USC 430h-6.

(a) **GRANT'S CANAL, LOUISIANA.**—The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this title referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to acquire by donation, exchange, or purchase with donated or appropriated funds, approximately two and five-tenths acres of land in Madison Parish, Louisiana, known generally as the Grant's Canal property.

(b) **WARREN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.**—(1) The Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation approximately two and eighty-two one-hundredths acres of land adjacent to the entrance of Vicksburg National Military Park owned by Warren County, Mississippi.

(2) The Secretary may contribute, in cash or services, to the relocation and construction of a maintenance facility to replace the facility located on the land to be donated, all in accordance with an agreement between the Secretary and the Board of Supervisors.

(3) The Secretary is authorized to restore and landscape the property acquired pursuant to this subsection.

(c) **BOUNDARY REVISION.**—Upon acquisition of the properties referred to in subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall, after the publication of notice in the Federal Register, revise the boundary of Vicksburg National Military Park (hereinafter in this title referred to as the "park") to reflect the inclusion of such properties within the park.

Federal
Register,
publication.

SEC. 102. EXCLUSION OF LANDS FROM PARK.

16 USC 430h-7.

(a) **EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS.**—The park boundary is hereby revised to exclude those lands depicted as "Proposed Deletions" on the map entitled "Vicksburg National Military Park" numbered 306-80,007 and dated May 1990, which map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Exclusive jurisdiction over the lands excluded from the park is hereby retroceded to the State of Mississippi.

(b) **TRANSFER TO ADJACENT OWNERS.**—(1) For a period ending four years after the date of enactment of this title and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), the Secretary is authorized to convey title to all or part of the lands referred to in subsection (a) to an owner of property adjacent to such lands, upon the application of such owner.

(2) No property shall be conveyed unless the application referred to in paragraph (1) is accompanied by a payment in an amount equal to—

(A) the fair market value of the land to be conveyed; and

(B) the administrative costs of such transfer incurred by the Secretary, including the costs of surveys, appraisals, and filing and recording fees.

(c) **EXCESS PROPERTY.**—Any lands not conveyed pursuant to subsection (b) shall be reported to the Administrator of General Services as excess to the needs of the Department of the Interior and shall be subject to transfer or disposition in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended.

16 USC 430h-8.

SEC. 103. PARK INTERPRETATION.

In administering Vicksburg National Military Park, the Secretary shall interpret the campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

16 USC 430h-9.

SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

TITLE II—MINNESOTA PUBLIC LANDS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Minnesota Public Lands Improvement Act of 1990”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress hereby finds and declares that—

(1) within the State of Minnesota there are a number of small scattered islands and upland tracts that are in Federal ownership and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) the public interest would be best served if these Federal islands and upland tracts continue to be managed for public recreation; preservation of open space; and for the protection of their fish, wildlife, and plants and their scientific, historic, cultural, geologic, and other resources and values;

(3) many such islands and upland tracts are not suitable for inclusion in the National Park System, National Forest System, National Wildlife Refuge System, or other Federal conservation system or for efficient management by the Bureau of Land Management;

(4) the State of Minnesota is prepared and willing to undertake to manage such islands and upland tracts for such purposes and subject to appropriate conditions, but existing mechanisms for enabling the State to undertake such management are cumbersome and inefficient as applied to such small, scattered islands and tracts;

(5) elsewhere in Minnesota there are unpatented lands which for many years have been in the possession of parties other than the United States but the title to which is clouded because of

Minnesota
Public Lands
Improvement
Act of 1990.
Claims.
Natural
resources.
Recreation and
recreation areas.
Wildlife.
Plants.

claims arising under public land laws or otherwise involving possible Federal residual interests;

(6) existing authorities for Federal resolution of such conflicts, and for removal of such clouds on title, are often not well suited for efficient, expeditious action that appropriately protects the interests of all parties, including the United States; and

(7) legislation to facilitate appropriate management by the State of Minnesota of such islands and upland tracts and to facilitate resolution of such claims and removal of such clouds would be in the public interest.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—This title is intended to provide for better management of public lands located in the State of Minnesota by—

(1) transferring certain specified unclaimed islands and uplands and certain other public lands to such State for purposes of public recreation, protection of fish, wildlife, and plants, and the protection of resources and values; and

(2) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to resolve claims to certain other public lands in Minnesota and to transfer such lands to claimants thereof on terms that recognize the equities of such claimants in such lands.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title—

(a) the term “listed uplands and islands” means those public lands located in the State of Minnesota which are specified in the list containing the legal description of such lands and entitled “Minnesota Uplands and Islands Appropriate for State Management” dated July 16, 1990, on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, except for any lands to which Indian title has not been extinguished;

(b) the term “public lands” means federally owned lands or interests therein managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(c) the term “claim” means a good faith assertion by a party other than the United States that—

(1) such party has title to a parcel or tract of land, or

(2) a parcel or tract of land is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual member of an Indian tribe;

(d) the term “Recreation and Public Purposes Act” means the Act of June 14, 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.);

(e) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior; and

(f) the term “State” means the State of Minnesota.

SEC. 204. GRANT TO STATE.

(a) **UNCLAIMED AREAS.**—Effective one year after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to its terms and conditions, the right, title and interest of the United States in and to all listed uplands and islands, surveyed and unsurveyed, in Lake Superior, inland lakes and rivers, and other bodies of water within the State which as of one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act were not subject to any claim identified on the records of, or filed with the Bureau of Land Management, are hereby granted to the State.

(b) **CLAIMED AREAS.**—Any listed uplands and islands which were subject to a claim identified on the records of, or filed with the Bureau of Land Management as of one hundred and eighty days

after the date of enactment of this Act, may be sold by the Secretary to the claimant or claimants thereof under section 205 of this Act. No later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify such claimant or claimants concerning the Secretary's authority for such sales. The right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any such listed uplands and islands not purchased by such claimant or claimants within ten years after the date of enactment of this Act shall be transferred by the Secretary to the State under and subject to this Act at the end of such ten years, and any claim to any such listed uplands and islands by any party other than the State shall not thereafter be enforceable in any court of the United States, subject to the following exceptions:

(1) The ten-year period shall be tolled during pendency of any administrative appellate review of a decision by the Bureau of Land Management or of any judicial review of a final decision by the Secretary; and

(2) The Secretary may transfer lands to the State earlier than ten years after the date of enactment if a claim for said lands has been rejected or disallowed for any reason, or forfeited by the claimant.

(c) **PRIOR TRANSFERS.**—

(1) Title to the surface estate in all public land which on the date of enactment of this Act was subject to leases issued under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to the State, its departments, agencies, and bureaus, shall be deemed to have been granted to and vested in the State under this title on such date and shall thereafter be exempt from the requirements of the regulations of the Department of the Interior governing leases under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, but shall be subject to the provisions of this title.

(2) Upon reversion and acceptance of public land in Minnesota which prior to the date of enactment of this Act was leased or patented under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to entities other than the State, its departments, agencies and bureaus, and upon request of the State, the surface estate in such lands shall be transferred by the Secretary to the State pursuant to and subject to the provisions of this title.

(3) If, in order to bring lands under the provisions of this title, the State notifies the Secretary that the State desires to relinquish to the United States the right, title, and interest of the State in and to any lands which prior to the date of enactment of this Act were patented to the State (or to any department, agency, or bureau of the State) under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the Secretary shall accept such relinquishment and shall transfer such relinquished lands to the State under and subject to the provisions of this title. Such transfer shall be effective at the same time that the State's relinquishment is effective.

SEC. 205. RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) **SALES.**—In accordance with the provisions of this section, the Secretary is authorized to sell and issue a patent to a tract of public land located in Minnesota to an applicant for such sale where the Secretary determines that—

(1) such tract does not exceed one thousand five hundred acres and, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not

suitable for management by another Federal department or agency, and

(2) such sale would not be inconsistent with land use plans, if any, developed in accordance with section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(b) **PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, following adjudication of any claims the Secretary may, at the Secretary's discretion, convey land pursuant to this section at fair market value, less equities presented by an applicant for such conveyance and less the value of any improvements that the applicant or the applicant's predecessors in interest have placed on the land. Such equities may include (but are not limited to)—

(1) the amount paid for the land by the applicant;

(2) longevity of applicant's claim;

(3) taxes paid on the land; and

(4) other equities as the Secretary may determine relevant.

(c) **DESCRIPTIONS.**—Any tract of public land conveyed pursuant to this section shall be described in accordance with the Public Land Survey System as reflected on the approved Federal plat of survey. Where a tract does not conform to an existing survey plat, the Secretary may either—

(1) convey title to a trustee, qualified under the laws of the State to act as a trustee and acceptable to the Secretary, acting on behalf of more than one applicant to whom such trustee shall be required to transfer such tract, in order to conform the legal description to such plat; or

(2) require an applicant to reimburse the United States for the cost of preparing a plat of survey. No cost incurred by a trustee in implementing this subsection shall be borne by the United States.

(d) **APPLICABILITY AND PROCEDURE.**—

(1) This section shall apply only to tracts specified in subsection 204(b) of this Act, and only if the Secretary has determined such claims to be sufficiently meritorious as to be appropriate for exercise of the Secretary's discretionary authority under this section.

(2) No sale under this section shall take place before thirty days after the Secretary has published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where a tract proposed for sale is located a notice of the Secretary's determination that such tract is eligible for sale under this section and that the Secretary intends to offer such tract for sale. Such notice shall indicate the size and general location of the tract and the name or names of the claimant or claimants to whom the Secretary intends to sell such tract.

SEC. 206. RESERVATIONS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) **MINERAL RESERVATION.**—All lands granted by, and any patent or document of conveyance or other transfer issued pursuant to, this title shall be subject to the reservation to the United States of all minerals in the lands granted, conveyed, or otherwise transferred, together with the right to prospect for, mine and remove the minerals under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, except that in the case of sales under section 205 of this title the Secretary may convey the minerals together with the surface in accordance with section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1719).

(b) OTHER CONDITIONS.—

(1) The lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title shall not be conveyed or otherwise transferred by the State to any person or entity other than the United States or a political subdivision of the State.

(2) The lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title shall be used only for purposes of—

(A) public recreation;

(B) protection of fish and wildlife (including habitat) and plants; or

(C) the protection of the scenic, scientific, historic, cultural, geologic, and other resources and values of such lands.

(3)(A) If the State attempts to convey or otherwise transfer title to any part of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title to any person or entity other than the United States or a political subdivision of the State, all right, title, and interest in and to all such lands so granted or otherwise transferred to the State, together with all improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States.

(B) If any political subdivision of the State attempts to convey or otherwise transfer title to any part of any lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title (and conveyed or otherwise transferred to such subdivision by the State) to any person or entity other than the State, all right, title, and interest in and to all such lands so conveyed or otherwise transferred to such subdivision, together with all improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States.

(4)(A) If any part of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title (and not further conveyed or otherwise transferred by the State to a political subdivision thereof) are used for any purpose incompatible with the purposes specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to all such lands in the ownership of the State, together with all improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States.

(B) If any of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title are conveyed or otherwise transferred by the State to a political subdivision of the State, use of part of any such lands for any purpose incompatible with the purposes specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall cause all right, title, and interest in and to all such lands so conveyed or otherwise transferred to such political subdivision, together with all improvements thereon, to revert to the United States.

(5)(A) If any land, or portion thereof, granted or otherwise conveyed to the State or political subdivision of the State shall become contaminated with hazardous substances (as defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601)), or if such land, or portion thereof, has been used for purposes that the Secretary finds may result in the disposal, placement or release of any hazardous substance, such land shall not, under any circumstances, revert to the United States.

(B) In the event lands granted or conveyed to the State or political subdivision of the State shall be used for purposes that the Secretary finds: (1) inconsistent with the purposes of this Act, and (2) which may result in the disposal, placement or

release of any hazardous substance, the State or political subdivision of the State shall be liable to pay to the Secretary, on behalf of the United States, the fair market value of the land, including the value of any improvements thereon, as of the date of conversion of the land to the nonconforming purpose. All amounts received by the Secretary pursuant to this subparagraph shall be retained by the Secretary and used, subject to appropriations, for the management of public lands and shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 207. NOTICE AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) PUBLIC NOTICE.—

(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate officials of the State, shall take steps to notify residents of the State as to the nature and location of the listed uplands and islands to be granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title.

(2)(A) The State, or a political subdivision thereof, shall provide notice in writing to the Secretary with regard to any conveyance or other transfer by the State to a political subdivision thereof of any of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title. In the event that such notice is not received within one year after any such conveyance or transfer, such conveyance or transfer by the State shall be void ab initio and all right, title, and interest in and to the land covered by such attempted conveyance or transfer shall revert to the United States.

(B) No later than five years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every five years thereafter, the State shall submit to the Secretary a report as to the present ownership, management, and use of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State pursuant to this title.

Reports.

(3) The Secretary shall maintain in the appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management a current listing of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title, including a record of which, if any, of such lands have been conveyed or otherwise transferred by the State to a political subdivision thereof.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) Any person may submit to the Secretary a complaint alleging that the State or a political subdivision thereof has failed to comply with the requirements of this title or that actions have occurred which have had the effect of causing the reversion to the United States of some or all of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title.

(2) In the event that the Secretary determines that a complaint received under this subsection is supported by evidence sufficient to warrant further investigation, the Secretary shall investigate the matter.

Investigations.

(3) If, as a result of an investigation under paragraph (2) or for any other reason, the Secretary determines that title to some or all of the lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title has reverted to the United States pursuant to this title, the Secretary shall take all necessary steps to enforce such reversion and to stop use of any part of such lands for any purpose incompatible with the purposes specified in section 206(b)(2) of this title.

(4) Any lands which may revert to the United States under this title shall be retained and managed by the Secretary for the purposes specified in section 206(b)(2) of this title.

SEC. 208. HUNTING AND FISHING.

Nothing in this title shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Minnesota with respect to fish and wildlife (including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping) in any lands granted or otherwise transferred to the State under this title, or as increasing or diminishing any rights with respect to hunting, gathering, or fishing on such lands arising under any Treaty or other agreement between the United States and any Indian Tribe or individual.

SEC. 209. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

102 Stat. 2713.

(a) Subsection 3(d) of the Michigan Public Lands Improvement Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-537) is hereby amended by striking the period at the end of paragraph (1) of such subsection and by inserting in lieu thereof, “, and only if the Secretary has determined such claims to be sufficiently meritorious as to be appropriate for exercise of the Secretary’s discretionary authority under this section.”.

102 Stat. 2714.

(b) Subsection 4(b) of the Michigan Public Lands Improvement Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-537) is amended—

(1) by inserting “the United States or” after “any person or entity other than” in paragraph (1); and

(2) by inserting “the United States or” after “any person or entity other than” in subparagraph (3)(A).

TITLE III—FLORENCE BROWN RELIEF ACT

SEC. 301. LAND TRANSFER.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer, without consideration, to Florence F. Brown of Goleta, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land located in the Los Padres National Forest which is comprised of approximately

40 acres and more particularly described as T. 5 N., R. 30 W., S.B.M.,
section 18, NE¼ SW¼.

Approved October 18, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2437:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 101-744 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 101-309 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):

June 14, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 27, considered and passed House, amended.

Oct. 3, Senate concurred in House amendments.