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(2) The Act provides that all such conveyances under the Act must be in the public interest and will serve objectives which outweigh all public objectives and values served by retaining such lands in Federal ownership.

(3) Section 208 of the Act (43 U.S.C. 1718) further provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall issue patents subject to such terms, covenants, conditions, and reservations as deemed necessary to insure proper land use and protection of the public interest.

(4) Section 209 of the Act (43 U.S.C. 1719) provides that all patents issued under the Act shall reserve to the United States all minerals in the lands, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the minerals under applicable law and such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, except as provided by section 209(b) of the Act.

[35 FR 9591, June 13, 1970, as amended at 44 FR 41793, July 18, 1979]

§ 2540.0-5 Definition.

(a) *The act*, when used in this section means the Act of December 22, 1928 (45 Stat. 1069; 43 U.S.C. 1068, 1068a), as amended by the Act of July 28, 1953 (67 Stat. 227, 43 U.S.C. 1068a).

(b) The claims recognized by the Act will be referred to in this part as claims of class 1, and claim of class 2. A claim of class 1 is one which has been held in good faith and in peaceful adverse possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color of title for more than 20 years, on which valuable improvements have been placed, or on which some part of the land has been reduced to cultivation. A claim of class 2 is one which has been held in good faith and in peaceful, adverse possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color of title for the period commencing not later than January 1, 1901, to the date of application, during which time they have paid taxes levied on the land by State and local governmental units. A claim is not held in good faith where held with knowledge that the land is owned by the United States. A claim is not held in peaceful, adverse possession where it

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was initiated while the land was withdrawn or reserved for Federal purposes.

[35 FR 9592, June 13, 1970]

Subpart 2541—Color-of-Title Act

SOURCE: 35 FR 9592, June 13, 1970, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2541.1 Who may apply.

Any individual, group, or corporation authorized to hold title to land in the State and who believes he has a valid claim under color of title may make application.

§ 2541.2 Procedures.

(a) *Application.* (1) An application for a claim of class 1 or of class 2 must be filed in duplicate on a form approved by the Director. It must be filed in accordance with the provisions of § 1821.2 of this chapter.

(2) Every application must be accompanied by a filing fee of \$10, which will be nonreturnable.

(3) The application must be in type-written form, or in legible handwriting, and it must be completely executed and signed by the applicant.

(4) Every applicant must furnish information required in the application form concerning improvements, cultivation, conveyances of title, taxes, and related matters.

(b) *Description of lands applied for.* Application under the act may be made for surveyed or unsurveyed lands. If unsurveyed, the description must be sufficiently complete to identify the location, boundary, and area of the land and, if possible, the approximate description or location of the land by section, township, and range. If unsurveyed land is claimed, final action will be suspended until the plat of survey has been officially filed.

(c) *Presentation and verification of factual statements.* (1) Information relating to all record and nonrecord conveyances, or to nonrecord claims of title, affecting the land shall be itemized on a form approved by the Director. The statements of record conveyances must be certified by the proper county official or by an abstractor. The applicant may be called upon to submit documentary or other evidence relating to

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conveyances or claims. Abstracts of title or other documents which are so requested will be returned to the applicant.

(2) Applicants for claims of class 2 must itemize all information relating to tax levies and payments on the land on a form approved by the Director which must be certified by the proper county official or by an abstractor.

§ 2541.3 Patents.

(a) Any applicant who satisfied all requirements for a claim of class 1 or class 2 commencing not later than January 1, 1901, to the date of application and who so requests in the application will receive a patent conveying title to all other minerals except:

(1) Any minerals which, at the time of approval of the application, are embraced by an outstanding mineral lease or

(2) Any minerals for which the lands have been placed in a mineral withdrawal.

All other patents will reserve all minerals to the United States.

(b) All mineral reservations will include the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same in accordance with applicable law.

(c) The maximum area for which patent may be issued for any claim under the act is 160 acres. Where an area held under a claim or color of title is in excess of 160 acres, the Secretary has authority under the act to determine what particular subdivisions not exceeding 160 acres, may be patented.

§ 2541.4 Price of land; payment.

(a) *Price of land.* The land applied for will be appraised on the basis of its fair market value at the time of appraisal. However, in determination of the price payable by the applicant, value resulting from improvements or development by the applicant or his predecessors in interest will be deducted from the appraised price, and consideration will be given to the equities of the applicant. In no case will the land be sold for less than \$1.25 per acre.

(b) *Payment.* Applicant will be required to make payment of the sale price of the land within the time stated in the request for payment.

§ 2541.5 Publication; protests.

(a) The applicant will be required to publish once a week for four consecutive weeks in accordance with § 1824.3 of this chapter, at his expense, in a designated newspaper and in a designated form, a notice allowing all persons claiming the land adversely to file in the office specified in § 2541.1-2(a) their objections to the issuance of patent under the application. A protestant must serve on the applicant a copy of the objections and furnish evidence of such service.

(b) The applicant must file a statement of the publisher, accompanied by a copy of the notice published, showing that publication has been had for the required time.

Subpart 2542—Color-of-Title Claims: New Mexico, Contiguous to Spanish or Mexican Grants

SOURCE: 35 FR 9593, June 13, 1970 unless otherwise noted.

§ 2542.1 Application.

(a) *Where filed; purchase price required.* Applications under the Act of February 23, 1932 must be filed with the authorizing officer of the proper office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, and should be accompanied by payment of the purchase price of the land applied for at the rate of \$1.25 per acre.

(b) *Form.* No special form of application is provided. The application should be in typewritten form or in legible handwriting and must be corroborated by at least two disinterested persons having actual knowledge of the facts alleged therein.

(c) *Contents of application.* Applicants desiring to take advantage of the benefits of the Act of February 23, 1932, must show the following matters in their applications:

(1) Full name and post-office address of the applicant and whether married or single.

(2) Description of the land for which patent is desired. If surveyed, the land should be described by legal subdivision, section, township, and range. If unsurveyed, the land should be described by metes and bounds.