

Navajo and Hopi Settlement Act

Public Law 93-531(as amended)

640d. Mediator

(a) Appointment; duties; qualifications; termination of duties

Within thirty days after December 22, 1974, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall appoint a Mediator (hereinafter referred to as the "Mediator") who shall assist in the negotiations for the settlement and partition of the relative rights and interests, as determined by the decision in the case of [Healing v. Jones \(210 F.Supp. 125, D.Ariz., 1962, aff'd 363 U.S. 758, 1963\)](#) (hereinafter referred to as the "Healing case"), of the Hopi and Navajo Tribes (hereinafter referred to as the "tribes") to and in lands within the reservation established by the Executive order of December 16, 1882, except land management district no. 6 (such lands hereinafter referred to as the "joint use area"). The Mediator shall not have any interest, direct or indirect, in the settlement of the interests and rights set out in this subsection. The duties of the Mediator shall cease upon the entering of a full agreement into the records of the supplemental proceedings pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) of this title or the submission of a report to the District Court after a default in negotiations or a partial agreement pursuant to [section 640d-3](#) of this title.

(b) Nature of proceedings

The proceedings in which the Mediator shall be acting under the provisions of this subchapter shall be the supplemental proceedings in the Healing case now pending in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona (hereinafter referred to as "the District Court").

(c) Interagency committee

(1) The Mediator is authorized to request from any department, agency, or independent instrumentality of the Federal Government any information, personnel, service, or materials he deems necessary to carry out his responsibilities under the provisions of this subchapter. Each such department, agency, or instrumentality is authorized to cooperate with the Mediator and to comply with such requests to the extent permitted by law, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis.

(2) To facilitate the expeditious and orderly compilation and development of factual information relevant to the negotiating process, the President shall, within fifteen days of December 22, 1974, establish an interagency committee chaired by the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") to develop relevant information and to respond to the requests of the Mediator.

(d) Liaison with Secretary

The Secretary shall appoint a full-time representative as his liaison with the Mediator to facilitate the provision of information and assistance requested by the Mediator from the Department of the Interior.

(e) Staff assistants and consultants

The Mediator may retain the services of such staff assistants and consultants as he shall deem necessary, subject to the approval of the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-1

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➔ **§ 640d-1. Negotiating teams**

(a) Appointment; time; membership and certification; nature of authority

Within thirty days after December 22, 1974, the Secretary shall communicate in writing with the tribal councils of the tribes directing the appointment of a negotiating team representing each tribe. Each negotiating team shall be composed of not more than five members to be certified by appropriate resolution of the respective tribal council. Each tribal council shall promptly fill any vacancies which may occur on its negotiating team. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each negotiating team, when appointed and certified, shall have full authority to bind its tribe with respect to any other matter concerning the joint use area within the scope of this subchapter.

(b) Failure to select and certify

In the event either or both of the tribal councils fail to select and certify a negotiating team within thirty days after the Secretary communicates with the tribal council under subsection (a) of this section or to select and certify a replacement member within thirty days of the occurrence of a vacancy, the provisions of [section 640d-3\(a\)](#) of this title shall become effective.

(c) First negotiating session; time and place; chairman; suggestions for procedure, agenda, and resolution of issues in controversy

Within fifteen days after formal certification of both negotiating teams to the Mediator, the

Mediator shall schedule the first negotiating session at such time and place as he deems appropriate. The negotiating sessions, which shall be chaired by the Mediator, shall be held at such times and places as the Mediator deems appropriate. At such sessions, the Mediator may, if he deems it appropriate, put forward his own suggestions for procedure, the agenda, and the resolution of the issues in controversy.

(d) Failure to attend two consecutive sessions or bargain in good faith

In the event either negotiating team fails to attend two consecutive sessions or, in the opinion of the Mediator, either negotiating team fails to bargain in good faith or an impasse is reached, the provisions of [section 640d-3\(a\)](#) of this title shall become effective.

(e) Disagreements within team

In the event of a disagreement within a negotiating team the majority of the members of the team shall prevail and act on behalf of the team unless the resolution of the tribal council certifying the team specifically provides otherwise.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-2

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▣ **§ 640d-2. Implementation of agreements**



(a) Full agreement

If, within one hundred and eighty days after the first session scheduled by the Mediator under [section 640d-1\(c\)](#) of this title, full agreement is reached, such agreement shall be put in such form as the Mediator determines best expresses the intent of the tribes and shall then be submitted to the Secretary and the Attorney General of the United States for their comments as they relate to the interest of the United States in the proceedings. These comments are to be submitted to the Mediator and the negotiating teams within thirty days. The negotiating teams and the Mediator shall then consider the comments and, if agreement can still be reached on terms acceptable to the negotiating teams and the Mediator within sixty days of receipt by him of the comments, the agreement shall be put in final written form and shall be signed by the members of the negotiating teams and the Mediator. The Mediator shall then cause the

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agreement to be entered into the records of the supplemental proceedings in the Healing case. The provisions of the agreement shall be reviewed by the District Court, modified where necessary, and put into effect immediately thereafter.

(b) Partial agreement

If, within the one hundred and eighty day period referred to in subsection (a) of this section, a partial agreement has been reached between the tribes and they wish such partial agreement to go into effect, they shall follow the procedure set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The partial agreement shall then be considered by the Mediator in preparing his report, and the District Court in making a final adjudication, pursuant to [section 640d-3](#) of this title.

(c) Consistency with existing law

For the purpose of this section, the negotiating teams may make any provision in the agreement or partial agreement not inconsistent with existing law. No such agreement or any provision in it shall result in a taking by the United States of private property compensable under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-3

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☛ **§ 640d-3. Default or failure to reach agreement; recommendations to District Court; final adjudication**

If the negotiating teams fail to reach full agreement within the time period allowed in [section 640d-2\(a\)](#) of this title or if one or both of the tribes are in default under the provisions of [section 640d-1\(b\)](#) or [\(d\)](#) of this title, the Mediator, within ninety days thereafter, shall prepare and submit to the District Court a report containing his recommendations for the settlement of the interests and rights set out in [section 640d\(a\)](#) of this title which shall be most reasonable and equitable in light of the law and circumstances and consistent with the provisions of this subchapter. Following the District Court's review of the report and recommendations (which are not binding thereon) and any further proceedings which the District Court may schedule, the District Court is authorized to make a final adjudication, including partition of the joint use area, and enter the judgments in the supplemental proceedings in the Healing case.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-4

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➔ **§ 640d-4. Authorized recommendations for facilitation of agreement or report to District Court; discretionary nature of recommendations**

(a) For the purpose of facilitating an agreement pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) of this title or preparing a report pursuant to [section 640d-3](#) of this title, the Mediator is authorized--

(1) notwithstanding the provisions of [section 211](#) of this title, to recommend that, subject to the consent of the Secretary, there be purchased or otherwise acquired additional lands for the benefit of either tribe from the funds of either tribe or funds under any other authority of law;

(2) to recommend that, subject to the consent of the Secretary, there be undertaken a program of restoration of lands lying within the joint use area, employing for such purpose funds authorized by this subchapter, funds of either tribe, or funds under any other authority of law;

(3) to recommend that, subject to the consent of the Secretary, there be undertaken a program for relocation of members of one tribe from lands which may be partitioned to the other tribe in the joint use area;

(4) Repealed. [Pub.L. 93-531](#), § 30(a), as added [Pub.L. 96-305, § 11](#), July 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 934.

(5) to make any other recommendations as are in conformity with this subchapter and the Healing case to facilitate a settlement.

(b) The authorization contained in subsection (a) of this section shall be discretionary and shall not be construed to represent any directive of the Congress.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-5

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➔ **§ 640d-5. Considerations and guidelines for preparation of report by Mediator and final adjudication by District Court**

The Mediator in preparing his report, and the District Court in making the final adjudication, pursuant to [section 640d-3](#) of this title, shall consider and be guided by the decision of the Healing case, under which the tribes have joint, undivided, and equal interests in and to all of the joint use area; by any partial agreement reached by the parties under [section 640d-2\(b\)](#) of this title; by the last best offer for a complete settlement as a part of the negotiating process by each of the tribes; and by the following:

(a) The rights and interests, as defined in the Healing case, of the Hopi Tribe in and to that portion of the reservation established by the Executive order of December 16, 1882, which is known as land management district no. 6 (hereinafter referred to as the "Hopi Reservation") shall not be reduced or limited in any manner.

(b) The boundary lines resulting from any partitioning of lands in the joint use area shall be established so as to include the higher density population areas of each tribe within the portion of the lands partitioned to such tribe to minimize and avoid undue social, economic, and cultural disruption insofar as practicable.

(c) In any division of the surface rights to the joint use area, reasonable provision shall be made for the use of and right of access to identified religious shrines for the members of each tribe on the reservation of the other tribe where such use and access are for religious purposes.

(d) In any partition of the surface rights to the joint use area, the lands shall, insofar as is practicable, be equal in acreage and quality: *Provided*, That if such partition results in a lesser amount of acreage, or value, or both to one tribe such differential shall be fully and finally compensable to such tribe by the other tribe. The value of the land for the purposes of this subsection shall be based on not less than its value with improvements and its grazing capacity fully restored: *Provided further*, That, in the determination of compensation for any such differential, the Federal Government shall pay any difference between the value of the particular land involved in its existing state and the value of such land in a fully restored state which results from damage to the land which the District Court finds attributable to a failure of the Federal Government to provide protection where such protection is or was required by law or by the demands of the trust relationship.

(e) Any lands partitioned to each tribe in the joint use area shall, where feasible and consistent with the other provisions of this section, be contiguous to the reservation of each such tribe.

(f) Any boundary line between lands partitioned to the two tribes in the joint use area shall, insofar as is practicable, follow terrain which will facilitate fencing or avoid the need for fencing.

(g) Any claim the Hopi Tribe may have against the Navajo Tribe for an accounting of all sums collected by the Navajo Tribe since September 17, 1957, as trader license fees or commissions, lease rental or proceeds, or other similar charges for doing business or for damages in the use of lands within the joint use area, shall be for a one-half share in such sums.

(h) Any claim the Hopi Tribe may have against the Navajo Tribe for the determination and

recovery of the fair value of the grazing and agricultural use of the lands within the joint use area by the Navajo Tribe and its individual members, since September 28, 1962, shall be for one-half of such value.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-6

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➔ **§ 640d-6. Joint ownership and management of coal, oil, gas and other minerals within or underlying partitioned lands; division of proceeds**

Partition of the surface of the lands of the joint use area shall not affect the joint ownership status of the coal, oil, gas, and all other minerals within or underlying such lands. All such coal, oil, gas, and other minerals within or underlying such lands shall be managed jointly by the two tribes, subject to supervision and approval by the Secretary as otherwise required by law, and the proceeds therefrom shall be divided between the tribes, share and share alike.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-7

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➔ **§ 640d-7. Determination of tribal rights and interests in land**

(a) Authorization to commence and defend actions in District Court

Either tribe, acting through the chairman of its tribal council for and on behalf of the tribe, is each hereby authorized to commence or defend in the District Court an action against the other tribe and any other tribe of Indians claiming any interest in or to the area described in the Act of June 14, 1934, except the reservation established by the Executive Order of December 16, 1882, for the purpose of determining the rights and interests of the tribes in and to such lands and quieting title thereto in the tribes.

(b) Allocation of land to respective reservations upon determination of interests

Lands, if any, in which the Navajo Tribe or Navajo individuals are determined by the District Court to have the exclusive interest shall continue to be a part of the Navajo Reservation. Lands, if any, in which the Hopi Tribe, including any Hopi village or clan thereof, or Hopi individuals are determined by the District Court to have the exclusive interest shall thereafter be a reservation for the Hopi Tribe. Any lands in which the Navajo and Hopi Tribes or Navajo or

Hopi individuals are determined to have a joint or undivided interest shall be partitioned by the District Court on the basis of fairness and equity and the area so partitioned shall be retained in the Navajo Reservation or added to the Hopi Reservation, respectively.

(c) Actions for accounting, fair value of grazing, and claims for damages to land; determination of recovery; defenses

(1) Either as a part of or in a proceeding supplementary to the action authorized in subsection (a) of this section, either tribe, through the chairman of its tribal council for and on behalf of the tribe, including all villages, clans, and individual members thereof, may prosecute or defend an action for the types of relief, including interest, specified in [section 640d-17](#) of this title, including all subsections thereof, against the other tribe, through its tribal chairman in a like representative capacity, and against the United States as to the types of recovery specified in [subsection \(a\)\(3\) of section 640d-17](#) of this title and subject to the same provisions as contained in said subsection, such action to apply to the lands in issue in the reservation established by the Act of June 14, 1934 (48 Stat. 960).

(2) In the event the Hopi Tribe or Navajo Tribe is determined to have any interest in the lands in issue, the right of either tribe to recover hereunder shall be based upon that percentage of the total sums collected, use made, waste committed, and other amounts of recovery, which is equal to the percentage of lands in issue in which either tribe is determined to have such interest.

(3) Neither laches nor the statute of limitations shall constitute a defense to such proceedings if they are either prosecuted as a part of the action authorized by this section or in a proceeding supplemental thereto, if instituted not later than twenty-four months following a final order of partition and exhaustion of appeals in an action filed pursuant to this section.

(d) Denial of Congressional interest in merits of conflicting claims; liability of United States

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to be a Congressional determination of the merits of the conflicting claims to the lands that are subject to adjudication pursuant to this section, or to affect the liability of the United States, if any, under litigation now pending before the Indian Claims Commission.

(e) Payment of legal fees, court costs and other expenses

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to pay any or all appropriate legal fees, court costs, and other related expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the commencing of, or defending against, any action brought by the Navajo, San Juan Southern Paiute or Hopi Tribe under this section.

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(f) Provision of attorney fees for San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

(1) Any funds made available for the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe to pay for attorney's fees shall be paid directly to the tribe's attorneys of record until such tribe is acknowledged as an Indian tribe by the United States: *Provided*, That the tribe's eligibility for such payments shall cease once a decision by the Secretary of the Interior declining to acknowledge such tribe becomes final and no longer appealable.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as a congressional acknowledgement of the San Juan Southern Paiute as an Indian tribe or as affecting in any way the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe's Petition for Recognition currently pending with the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$250,000 to pay for the legal expenses incurred by the Southern Paiute Tribe on legal action arising under this section prior to November 16, 1988.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-8

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→ § 640d-8. Allotments in severalty to Paiute Indians now located on lands; issue of patents declaring United States as trustee

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the Secretary is authorized to allot in severalty to individual Paiute Indians, not now members of the Navajo Tribe, who are located within the area described in the Act of June 14, 1934 (48 Stat. 960), and who were located within such area, or are direct descendants of Paiute Indians who were located within such area, on the date of such Act, land in quantities as specified in [section 331](#) of this title, and patents shall be issued to them for such lands having the legal effect and declaring that the United States holds such land in trust for the sole use and benefit of each allottee and, following his death, of his heirs according to the laws of the State of Arizona.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-9

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➔ **§ 640d-9. Partitioned or other designated lands**

(a) Lands to be held in trust for Navajo Tribe; exception

Subject to the provisions of [sections 640d-8](#) and [640d-16\(a\)](#) of this title, any lands partitioned to the Navajo Tribe pursuant to [sections 640d-2](#) and [640d-3](#) of this title and the lands described in the Act of June 14, 1934 (48 Stat. 960), except the lands as described in [section 640d-7](#) of this title, shall be held in trust by the United States exclusively for the Navajo Tribe and as a part of the Navajo Reservation.

(b) Lands to be held in trust for Hopi Tribe

Subject to the provisions of [sections 640d-8](#) and [640d-16\(a\)](#) of this title, any lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe pursuant to [sections 640d-2](#) and [640d-3](#) of this title and the lands as described in [section 640d-7](#) of this title shall be held in trust by the United States exclusively for the Hopi Tribe and as a part of the Hopi Reservation.

(c) Protection of rights and property of individuals subject to relocation

The Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary in order to assure the protection, until relocation, of the rights and property of individuals subject to relocation pursuant to this subchapter, or any judgment of partition pursuant thereto, including any individual authorized to reside on land covered by a life estate conferred pursuant to [section 640d-28](#) of this title.

(d) Protection of benefits and services of individuals subject to relocation

With respect to any individual subject to relocation, the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to assure that such individuals are not deprived of benefits or services by reason of their status as an individual subject to relocation.

(e) Tribal jurisdiction over partitioned lands

(1) [FN1] Lands partitioned pursuant to this subchapter, whether or not the partition order is subject to appeal, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the tribe to whom partitioned and the laws of such tribe shall apply to such partitioned lands under the following schedule:

(A) Effective ninety days after July 8, 1980, all conservation practices, including grazing control and range restoration activities, shall be coordinated and executed with the concurrence of the tribe to whom the particular lands in question have been partitioned, and all such grazing and range restoration matters on the Navajo Reservation lands shall be administered by the Bureau of

Indian Affairs Navajo Area Office and on the Hopi Reservation lands by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Phoenix Area Office, under applicable laws and regulations.

(B) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each tribe shall have such jurisdiction and authority over any lands partitioned to it and all persons located thereon, not in conflict with the laws and regulations referred to in paragraph (A) above, to the same extent as is applicable to those other portions of its reservation. Such jurisdiction and authority over partitioned lands shall become effective April 18, 1981.

The provisions of this subsection shall be subject to the responsibility of the Secretary to protect the rights and property of life tenants and persons awaiting relocation as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

(f) Development of lands in litigation; exception

(1) Any development of lands in litigation pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title and further defined as "that portion of the Navajo Reservation lying west of the Executive Order Reservation of 1882 and bounded on the north and south by westerly extensions, to the reservation line, of the northern and southern boundaries of said Executive Order Reservation," shall be carried out only upon the written consent of each tribe except for the limited areas around the village of Moenkopi and around Tuba City. Each such area has been heretofore designated by the Secretary. "Development" as used herein shall mean any new construction or improvement to the property and further includes public work projects, power and water lines, public agency improvements, and associated rights-of-way.

(2) Each Indian tribe which receives a written request for the consent of the Indian tribe to a particular improvement, construction, or other development on the lands to which paragraph (1) applies shall respond in writing to such request by no later than the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Indian tribe receives the request. If the Indian tribe refuse to consent to the improvement, construction, or other development, the response shall include the reasons why consent is being refused.

(3)(A) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any improvement, construction, or other development if--

(i) such improvement, construction, or development does not involve new housing construction, and

(ii) after the Navajo Tribe or Hopi Tribe has refused to consent to such improvement, construction, or development (or after the close of the 30-day period described in paragraph (2), if the Indian tribe does not respond within such period in writing to a written request for such consent), the Secretary of the Interior determines that such improvement, construction, or development is necessary for the health or safety of the Navajo Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, or any individual who is a member of either tribe.

(B) If a written request for a determination described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is submitted to the

Secretary of the Interior after the Navajo Tribe or Hopi Tribe has refused to consent to any improvement, construction, or development (or after the close of the 30-day period described in paragraph (2), if the Indian tribe does not respond within such period in writing to a written request for such consent), the Secretary shall, by no later than the date that is 45 days after the date on which such request is submitted to the Secretary, determine whether such improvement, construction, or development is necessary for the health or safety of the Navajo Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, or any individual who is a member of either Tribe.

(C) Any development that is undertaken pursuant to this section shall be without prejudice to the rights of the parties in the civil action pending before the United States District Court for the District of Arizona commenced pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title, as amended.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-10

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▪ **§ 640d-10. Resettlement lands for Navajo Tribe**

(a) Transfer of lands under jurisdiction of Bureau of Land Management; State and private land exchanges; valuation; acquired private lands; lands to be held in trust

The Secretary is authorized and directed to--

(1) transfer not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand acres of lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the State [\[FN1\]](#) of Arizona and New Mexico to the Navajo Tribe: *Provided*, That, in order to facilitate such transfer, the Secretary is authorized to exchange such lands for State or private lands of equal value or, if they are not equal, the values shall be equalized by the payment of money to the grantor or to the Secretary as the circumstances require so long as payment does not exceed 25 per centum of the total value of the lands transferred out of Federal ownership. The Secretary shall try to reduce the payment to as small an amount as possible.

(2) on behalf of the United States, accept title to not to exceed one hundred and fifty thousand acres of private lands acquired by the Navajo Tribe. Title thereto shall be taken in the name of the United States in trust for the benefit of the Navajo Tribe as a part of the Navajo Reservation.

Subject to the provisions of the following sentences of this subsection, all rights, title and interests of the United States in the lands described in paragraph (1), including such interests the United States as lessor has in such lands under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [\[30 U.S.C.A. § 181 et seq.\]](#), will, subject to existing leasehold interests, be transferred without cost to the Navajo Tribe and title thereto shall be taken by the United States in trust for the benefit of the Navajo Tribe as a part of the Navajo Reservation. So long as selected lands coincide with pending noncompetitive coal lease applications under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as

amended [\[30 U.S.C.A. § 181 et seq.\]](#), the Secretary may not transfer any United States interests in such lands until the noncompetitive coal lease applications have been fully adjudicated. If such adjudication results in issuance of Federal coal leases to the applicants, such transfer shall be subject to such leases. The leaseholders rights and interests in such coal leases will in no way be diminished by the transfer of the rights, title and interests of the United States in such lands to the Navajo Tribe. If any selected lands are subject to valid claims located under the Mining Law of 1872 the transfer of the selected lands may be made subject to those claims.

(2) [\[FN2\]](#) Those interests in lands acquired in the State of New Mexico by the Navajo Tribe pursuant to subsection 2 [\[FN3\]](#) of this section shall be subject to the right of the State of New Mexico to receive the same value from any sales, bonuses, rentals, royalties and interest charges from the conveyance, sale, lease, development, and production of coal as would have been received had the subsurface interest in such lands remained with the United States and been leased pursuant to the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [\[30 U.S.C.A. § 181 et seq.\]](#), or any successor Act; or otherwise developed. The State's interest shall be accounted for in the same manner as it would have been if a lease had issued pursuant to the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, as amended [\[30 U.S.C.A. § 181 et seq.\]](#).

(b) Proximity of lands to be transferred or acquired to Navajo Reservation; lands to be used for exchanges

A border of any parcel of land so transferred or acquired shall be within eighteen miles of the present boundary of the Navajo Reservation: *Provided*, That, except as limited by subsection (g) of this section, Bureau of Land Management lands anywhere within the States of Arizona and New Mexico may be used for the purpose of exchanging for lands within eighteen miles of the present boundary of the reservation.

(c) Selection of lands to be transferred or acquired; time period; consultation; restriction of New Mexico lands

Lands to be so transferred or acquired shall, for a period of three years after July 8, 1980, be selected by the Navajo Tribe after consultation with the Commissioner: *Provided*, That, at the end of such period, the Commissioner shall have the authority to select such lands after consultation with the Navajo Tribe: *Provided further*, That not to exceed thirty-five thousand acres of lands so transferred or acquired shall be selected within the State of New Mexico.

(d) Progress and status of land transfer program; reports to congressional committees

The Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary, shall within sixty days following the first year of enactment of this subsection report to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, on the progress of the land transfer program authorized in subsection (a) of this section. Sixty days following the second year of enactment of this subsection the Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit a report to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs giving the status of the land transfer program authorized in subsection (a) of

this section, making any recommendations that the Commissioner deems necessary to complete the land transfer program.

(e) Entitlement lands payments

Payments being made to any State or local government pursuant to the provisions of chapter 69 of Title 31, on any lands transferred pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section shall continue to be paid as if such transfer had not occurred.

(f) Acquisition of title to surface and subsurface interest; time period; public notice; report to congressional committees; rights of subsurface owner

(1) For a period of three years after July 8, 1980, the Secretary shall not accept title to lands acquired pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section unless fee title to both surface and subsurface has been acquired or the owner of the subsurface interest consents to the acceptance of the surface interest in trust by the Secretary.

(2) If, ninety days prior to the expiration of such three year period, the full entitlement of private lands has not been acquired by the Navajo Tribe and accepted by the Secretary in trust for the Navajo Tribe under the restrictions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commissioner, after public notice, shall, within thirty days, make a report thereon to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

(3) In any case where the Secretary accepts, in trust, title to the surface of lands acquired pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section where the subsurface interest is owned by third parties, the trust status of such surface ownership and the inclusion of the land within the Navajo Reservation shall not impair any existing right of the subsurface owner to develop the subsurface interest and to have access to the surface for the purpose of such development.

(g) Lands not available for transfer

No public lands lying north and west of the Colorado River in the State of Arizona shall be available for transfer under this section.

(h) Administration of lands transferred or acquired

The lands transferred or acquired pursuant to this section shall be administered by the Commissioner until relocation under the Commission's [\[FN4\]](#) plan is complete and such lands shall be used solely for the benefit of Navajo families residing on Hopi-partitioned lands as of

December 22, 1974: *Provided*, That the sole authority for final planning decisions regarding the development of lands acquired pursuant to this subchapter shall rest with the Commissioner until such time as the Commissioner has discharged his statutory responsibility under this subchapter.

(i) Negotiations regarding land exchanges or leases

The Commissioner shall have authority to enter into negotiations with the Navajo and Hopi Tribes with a view to arranging and carrying out land exchanges or leases, or both, between such tribes; and lands which may be acquired or transferred pursuant to this section may, with the approval of the Commissioner, be included in any land exchange between the tribes authorized under [section 640d-22](#) of this title.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-11

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➔ **§ 640d-11. Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation**

(a) Establishment; Commissioner

There is hereby established as an independent entity in the executive branch the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation which shall be under the direction of the Commissioner on Navajo and Hopi Relocation (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the "Commissioner").

(b) Appointment; term of office; compensation

(1) The Commissioner shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) The term of office of the Commissioner shall be 2 years. An individual may be appointed Commissioner for more than one term. The Commissioner serving at the end of a term shall continue to serve until his or her successor has been confirmed in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Commissioner shall be a full-time employee of the United States, and shall be compensated at the rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(c) Transfer of powers, duties, and funds to Commissioner

(1)(A) Except as otherwise provided by the Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Amendments of 1988, the Commissioner shall have all the powers and be responsible for all the duties that the Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission had before November 16, 1988.

(B) All funds appropriated to the Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission before the date on which the first Commissioner on Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation is confirmed by the Senate that have not been expended on such date shall become available to the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation on such date and shall remain available without fiscal year limitation.

(2) There are hereby transferred to the Commissioner, on January 31, 1989--

(A) all powers and duties of the Bureau of Indian Affairs derived from [Public Law 99-190](#) (99 Stat. at 1236) that relate to the relocation of members of the Navajo Tribe from lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe, and

(B) all funds appropriated for activities relating to such relocation pursuant to [Public Law 99-190](#) (99 Stat. at 1236): *Provided*, That such funds shall be used by the Commissioner for the purpose for which such funds were appropriated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B) [\[FN1\]](#): *Provided further*, That for administrative purposes such funds shall be maintained in a separate account.

(d) Powers of Commissioner

(1) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, the Commissioner shall have the power to--

(A) appoint and fix the compensation of such staff and personnel as the Commissioner deems necessary in accordance with the provisions of Title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, but at rates not in excess of a position classified above a GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5108 of such title; and

(B) procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by [section 3109 of Title 5](#), but at rates not to exceed \$200 a day for individuals.

(2) The authority of the Commissioner to enter into contracts for the provision of legal services for the Commissioner or for the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation shall be subject to the availability of funds provided for such purpose by appropriations Acts.

(3) There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year \$100,000 to fund contracts described in paragraph (2).

(e) Administrative, fiscal and housekeeping services; implementation of relocation plan; reasonable assistance by Federal departments or agencies; report to Congress

(1) The Commissioner is authorized to provide for the administrative, fiscal, and housekeeping services of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation and is authorized to call upon any department or agency of the United States to assist him in implementing the relocation plan, except that the control over and responsibility for completing relocation shall remain in the Commissioner. In any case in which the Office calls upon any such department or agency for assistance under this section, such department or agency shall provide reasonable assistance so requested.

(2) On failure of any agency to provide reasonable assistance as required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commissioner shall report such failure to the Congress.

(f) Termination

The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation shall cease to exist when the President determines that its functions have been fully discharged.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-12

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▣ **§ 640d-12. Report concerning relocation of households and members of each tribe**

(a) By no later than the date that is 6 months after the date on which the first Commissioner is confirmed by the Senate, the Commissioner shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report concerning the relocation of households and members thereof of each tribe and their personal property, including livestock, from lands partitioned to the other tribe pursuant to this subchapter.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall contain, among other matters, the following:

(1) the names of all members of the Navajo Tribe who reside within the areas partitioned to the Hopi Tribe and the names of all members of the Hopi Tribe who reside within the areas partitioned to the Navajo Tribe;

(2) the names of all other members of the Navajo Tribe, and other members of the Hopi Tribe, who are eligible for benefits provided under this subchapter and who have not received all the benefits for which such members are eligible under this subchapter; and

(3) the fair market value of the habitations and improvements owned by the heads of households identified by the Commissioner is [\[FN1\]](#) being among the persons named in clause (1) of this subsection.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-13

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➡ **§ 640d-13. Relocation of households and members**

(a) Authorization; time of completion; prohibition of further settlement of nonmembers without written approval; limit on grazing of livestock

Consistent with [section 640d-7](#) of this title and the order of the District Court issued pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title, the Commissioner is authorized and directed to relocate pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title and such order all households and members thereof and their personal property, including livestock, from any lands partitioned to the tribe of which they are not members. The relocation shall take place in accordance with the relocation plan and shall be completed by the end of five years from the date on which the relocation plan takes effect. No further settlement of Navajo individuals on the lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe pursuant to this subchapter or on the Hopi Reservation shall be permitted unless advance written approval of the Hopi Tribe is obtained. No further settlement of Hopi individuals on the lands partitioned to the Navajo Tribe pursuant to this subchapter or on the Navajo Reservation shall be permitted unless advance written approval of the Navajo Tribe is obtained. No individual shall hereafter be allowed to increase the number of livestock he grazes on any area partitioned pursuant to this subchapter to the tribe of which he is not a member, nor shall be retain any grazing rights in any such area subsequent to his relocation therefrom.

(b) Additional payments to heads of household; time

In addition to the payments made pursuant to [section 640d-14](#) of this title, the Commissioner shall make payments to heads of households identified in the report prepared pursuant to [section 640d-12](#) of this title upon the date of relocation of such households, as determined by the Commissioner, in accordance with the following schedule:

(1) the sum of \$5,000 to each head of a household who, prior to the expiration of one year after the effective date of the relocation plan, contracts with the Commissioner to relocate;

(2) the sum of \$4,000 to each head of a household who is not eligible for the payment provided for in clause (1) of this subsection but who, prior to the expiration of two years after the effective date of the relocation plan, contracts with the Commissioner to relocate;

(3) the sum of \$3,000 to each head of a household who is not eligible for the payments provided for in clause (1) or (2) of this subsection but who, prior to the expiration of three years after the effective date of the relocation plan, contracts with the Commissioner to relocate; and

(4) the sum of \$2,000 to each head of a household who is not eligible for the payments provided for in clause (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection but who, prior to the expiration of four years after the effective date of the relocation plan, contracts with the Commissioner to relocate.

(c) Payments to or for any person moving into partitioned area after May 29, 1974

No payment shall be made pursuant to this section to or for any person who, after May 29, 1974, moved into an area partitioned pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title or [section 640d-2](#) or [640d3](#) of this title to a tribe of which he is not a member.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-14

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➔ **§ 640d-14. Relocation housing**

(a) Purchase of habitation and improvements from head of household; fair market value

The Commission shall purchase from the head of each household whose household is required to relocate under the terms of this subchapter the habitation and other improvements owned by him on the area from which he is required to move. The purchase price shall be the fair market value of such habitation and improvements as determined under [section 640d-12\(b\)\(2\)](#) of this title.

(b) Reimbursement for moving expenses; payment for replacement dwelling; limitations

In addition to the payments made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner shall:

(1) reimburse each head of a household whose household is required to relocate pursuant to this subchapter for the actual reasonable moving expenses of the household as if the household members were displaced persons under section 202 of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1894) [[42 U.S.C.A. § 4622](#)];

(2) pay to each head of a household whose household is required to relocate pursuant to this subchapter an amount which, when added to the fair market value of the habitation and improvements purchased under subsection (a) of this section, equals the reasonable cost of a decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwelling adequate to accommodate such household:

Provided, That the additional payment authorized by this paragraph (2) shall not exceed \$17,000 for a household of three or less and not more than \$25,000 for a household of four or more, except that the Commissioner may, after consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, annually increase or decrease such limitations to reflect changes in housing development and construction costs, other than costs of land, during the preceding year: *Provided further*, That the additional payment authorized by this subsection shall be made only to a head of a household required to relocate pursuant to this subchapter who purchases and occupies such replacement dwelling not later than the end of the two-year period beginning on the date on which he receives from the Commissioner final payment for the habitation and improvements purchased under subsection (a) of this section, or on the date on which such household moves from such habitation, whichever is the later date. The payments made pursuant to this paragraph (2) shall be used only for the purpose of obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwellings adequate to accommodate the households relocated pursuant to this subchapter.

(c) Establishment of standards consistent with other laws; payments to or for any person moving into partitioned area after specified time

In implementing subsection (b) of this section, the Commissioner shall establish standards consistent with those established in the implementation of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1894) [\[42 U.S.C.A. § 4601 et seq.\]](#). No payment shall be made pursuant to this section to or for any person who, later than one year prior to December 22, 1974, moved into an area partitioned pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title or [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title to a tribe of which he is not a member.

(d) Methods of payment

The Commissioner shall be responsible for the provision of housing for each household eligible for payments under this section in one of the following manners:

(1) Should any head of household apply for and become a participant or homebuyer in a mutual help housing or other homeownership opportunity project undertaken under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 888) as amended [\[42 U.S.C.A. § 1437 et seq.\]](#), or in any other federally assisted housing program now or hereafter established, the amounts payable with respect to such household under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this section and under subsection (a) of this section shall be paid to the local housing agency or sponsor involved as a voluntary equity payment and shall be credited against the outstanding indebtedness or purchase price of the household's home in the project in a manner which will accelerate to the maximum extent possible the achievement by that household of debt free homeownership.

(2) Should any head of household wish to purchase or have constructed a dwelling which the Commissioner determines is decent, safe, sanitary, and adequate to accommodate the household, the amounts payable with respect to such household under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this section and under subsection (a) of this section shall be paid to such head of household in connection with such purchase or construction in a manner which the Commissioner determines will assure the use of the funds for such purpose.

(3) Should any head of household not make timely arrangements for relocation housing, or should any head of household elect and enter into an agreement to have the Commissioner construct or acquire a home for the household, the Commissioner may use the amounts payable with respect to such household under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this section and under subsection (a) of this section for the construction or acquisition (including enlargement or rehabilitation if necessary) of a home and related facilities for such household: *Provided*, That, the Commissioner may combine the funds for any number of such households into one or more accounts from which the costs of such construction or acquisition may be paid on a project basis and the funds in such account or accounts shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the title to each home constructed or acquired by the Commissioner pursuant to this paragraph shall be vested in the head of the household for which it was constructed or acquired upon occupancy by such household, but this shall not preclude such home being located on land held in trust by the United States.

(e) Disposal of acquired dwellings and improvements

The Commission is authorized to dispose of dwellings and other improvements acquired or constructed pursuant to this subchapter in such manner, including resale of such dwellings and improvements to members of the tribe exercising jurisdiction over the area at prices no higher than the acquisition or construction costs, as best effects [section 640d-7](#) of this title and the order of the District Court pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title.

(f) Preferential treatment for heads of households of Navajo Tribe evicted from Hopi Reservation by judicial decision; restriction

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner shall on a preferential basis provide relocation assistance and relocation housing under subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section to the head of each household of members of the Navajo Tribe who were evicted from the Hopi Indian Reservation as a consequence of the decision in the case of [United States v. Kabinto \(456 F.2d 1087 \(1972\)\)](#): *Provided*, That such heads of households have not already received equivalent assistance from Federal agencies.

(g) Appeals of eligibility determinations

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, appeals from any eligibility determination of the Relocation Commission, irrespective of the amount in controversy, shall be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-15

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[§ 640d-15](#)

➔ **§ 640d-15. Payment of fair rental value for use of lands subsequent to date of**

(a) Payment by Navajo Tribe

The Navajo Tribe shall pay to the Hopi Tribe the fair rental value as determined by the Secretary for all use by Navajo individuals of any lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe pursuant to [sections 640d-7](#) and [640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title subsequent to the date of the partition thereof.

(b) Payment by Hopi Tribe

The Hopi Tribe shall pay to the Navajo Tribe the fair rental value as determined by the Secretary for all use by Hopi individuals of any lands partitioned to the Navajo Tribe pursuant to [sections 640d-7](#) and [640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title subsequent to the date of the partition thereof.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-16

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➔ **§ 640d-16. Title, possession and enjoyment of lands**

(a) Covered lands; jurisdiction of respective tribes over nonmembers

Nothing in this subchapter shall affect the title, possession, and enjoyment of lands heretofore allotted to Hopi and Navajo individuals for which patents have been issued. Such Hopi individuals living on the Navajo Reservation shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Navajo Tribe and such Navajo individuals living on the Hopi Reservation shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Hopi Tribe.

(b) Relocation of Federal employees

Nothing in this subchapter shall require the relocation from any area partitioned pursuant to this subchapter of the household of any Navajo or Hopi individual who is employed by the Federal Government within such area or to prevent such employees or their households from residing in such areas in the future: *Provided*, That any such Federal employee who would, except for the provisions of this subsection, be relocated under the terms of this subchapter may elect to be so relocated.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-17

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➡ **§ 640d-17. Actions for accounting, fair value of grazing, and claims for damages to land**

(a) Authorization to commence and defend actions in District Court

Either tribe, acting through the chairman of its tribal council, for and on behalf of the tribe, including all villages, clans, and individual members thereof, is hereby authorized to commence or defend in the District Court an action or actions against the other tribe for the following purposes if such action or actions are not settled pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title:

(1) for an accounting of all sums collected by either tribe since the 17th day of September 1957 as trader license fees or commissions, lease proceeds, or other similar charges for the doing of business or the use of lands within the joint use area, and judgment for one-half of all sums so collected, and not paid to the other tribe, together with interest at the rate of 6 per centum per annum compounded annually;

(2) for the determination and recovery of the fair value of the grazing and agricultural use by either tribe and its individual members since the 28th day of September 1962 of the undivided one-half interest of the other tribe in the lands within the joint use area, together with interest at the rate of 6 per centum per annum compounded annually, notwithstanding the fact that the tribes are tenants in common of such lands; and

(3) for the adjudication of any claims that either tribe may have against the other for damages to the lands to which title was quieted as aforesaid by the United States District Court for the District of Arizona in such tribes, share and share alike, subject to the trust title of the United States, without interest, notwithstanding the fact that such tribes are tenants in common of such lands: *Provided*, That the United States may be joined as a party to such an action and, in such case, the provisions of [sections 1346\(a\)\(2\)](#) and [1505 of Title 28](#) shall not be applicable to such action.

(b) Defenses

Neither laches nor the statute of limitations shall constitute a defense to any action authorized by this subchapter for existing claims if commenced within two years from December 22, 1974, or one hundred and eighty days from the date of issuance of an order of the District Court pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title, whichever is later.

(c) Further original, ancillary or supplementary actions to insure quiet enjoyment

Either tribe may institute such further original, ancillary, or supplementary actions against the other tribe as may be necessary or desirable to insure the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of the

reservation lands of the tribes by the tribes and the members thereof, and to fully accomplish all objects and purposes of this subchapter. Such actions may be commenced in the District Court by either tribe against the other, acting through the chairman of its tribal council, for and on behalf of the tribe, including all villages, clans, and individual members thereof.

(d) United States as party; judgments as claims against the United States

Except as provided in clause (3) of subsection (a) of this section, the United States shall not be an indispensable party to any action or actions commenced pursuant to this section. Any judgment or judgments by the District Court in such action or actions shall not be regarded as a claim or claims against the United States.

(e) Remedies

All applicable provisional and final remedies and special proceedings provided for by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all other remedies and processes available for the enforcement and collection of judgments in the district courts of the United States may be used in the enforcement and collection of judgments obtained pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-18

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➡ **§ 640d-18. Reduction of livestock within joint use area**

(a) Institution of conservation practices

Notwithstanding any provision of this subchapter, or any order of the District Court pursuant to [section 640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title, the Secretary is authorized and directed to immediately commence reduction of the numbers of all the livestock now being grazed upon the lands within the joint use area and complete such reductions to carrying capacity of such lands, as determined by the usual range capacity standards as established by the Secretary after December 22, 1974. The Secretary is directed to institute such conservation practices and methods within such area as are necessary to restore the grazing potential of such area to the maximum extent feasible.

(b) Survey location of monuments and fencing of boundaries

The Secretary, upon the date of issuance of an order of the District Court pursuant to [sections](#)

[640d-7](#) and [640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title, shall provide for the survey location of monuments, and fencing of boundaries of any lands partitioned pursuant to [sections 640d-7](#) and [640d-2](#) or [640d-3](#) of this title.

(c) Completion of surveying, monumenting, and fencing operations, and livestock reduction program

(1) Surveying, monumenting, and fencing as required by subsection (b) of this section shall be completed within twelve months after July 8, 1980, with respect to lands partitioned pursuant to [section 640d-3](#) of this title and within twelve months after a final order of partition with respect to any lands partitioned pursuant to [section 640d-7](#) of this title.

(2) The livestock reduction program required under subsection (a) of this section shall be completed within eighteen months after July 8, 1980.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-19

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§ 640d-19. Perpetual use of Cliff Spring as shrine for religious ceremonial purposes; boundary; piping of water for use by residents

The members of the Hopi Tribe shall have perpetual use of Cliff Spring as shown on USGS 7 1/2 minute Quad named Toh Ne Zhonnie Spring, Arizona, Navajo County, dated 1968; and located 1,250 feet west and 200 feet south of the intersection of 36 degrees, 17 minutes, 30 seconds north latitude and 110 degrees, 9 minutes west longitude, as a shrine for religious ceremonial purposes, together with the right to gather branches of fir trees growing within a 2-mile radius of said spring for use in such religious ceremonies, and the further right of ingress, egress, and regress between the Hopi Reservation and said spring. The Hopi Tribe is hereby authorized to fence said spring upon the boundary line as follows:

Beginning at a point on the 36 degrees, 17 minutes, 30 seconds north latitude 500 feet west of its intersection with 110 degrees, 9 minutes west longitude, the point of beginning;

thence north 46 degrees west, 500 feet to a point on the rim top at elevation 6,900 feet;

thence southwesterly 1,200 feet (in a straight line) following the 6,900 feet contour;

thence south 46 degrees east, 600 feet;

thence north 38 degrees east, 1,300 feet to the point of beginning, 23.8 acres more or less:

Provided, That, if and when such spring is fenced, the Hopi Tribe shall pipe the water therefrom to the edge of the boundary as hereinabove described for the use of residents of the area. The natural stand of fir trees within such 2-mile radius shall be conserved for such religious purposes.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-20

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➔ **§ 640d-20. Use and right of access to religious shrines on reservation of other tribe**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this subchapter to the contrary, the Secretary shall make reasonable provision for the use of and right of access to identified religious shrines for the members of each tribe on the reservation of the other tribe where such use and access are for religious purposes.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-21

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➔ **§ 640d-21. Payments not to be considered as income for eligibility under any other Federal or federally assisted program or for assistance under Social Security Act or for revenue purposes**

The availability of financial assistance or funds paid pursuant to this subchapter may not be considered as income or resources or otherwise utilized as the basis (1) for denying a household or member thereof participation in any federally assisted housing program or (2) for denying or reducing the financial assistance or other benefits to which such household or member would otherwise be entitled to under the Social Security Act [[42 U.S.C.A. § 301 et seq.](#)] or any other Federal or federally assisted program. None of the funds provided under this subchapter shall be subject to Federal or State income taxes.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-22

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➔ **§ 640d-22. Authorization for exchange of reservation lands; availability of additional relocation benefits; restrictions**

The Navajo and Hopi Tribes are hereby authorized to exchange lands which are part of their respective reservations. In the event that the tribes should negotiate and agree on an exchange of lands pursuant to authority granted herein the Commissioner shall make available 125 per

centum of the relocation benefits provided in [sections 640d-13](#) and [640d-14](#) of this title to members of either tribe living on land to be exchanged to other than his or her own tribe, except that such benefits shall be available only if, within one hundred and eighty days of the agreement, a majority of the adult members of the tribe who would be eligible to relocate from exchanged lands sign a contract with the Commissioner to relocate within twelve months of the agreement or such later time as determined by the Commissioner and such additional benefits shall only be paid to those who actually relocate within such period.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-23

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➔ **§ 640d-23. Separability**

If any provision of this subchapter, or the application of any provision to any person, entity or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this subchapter shall not be affected thereby.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-24

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➔ **§ 640d-24. Authorization of appropriations**

(a) Purposes; amounts

(1) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of [section 640d-14](#) of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$31,500,000.

(2) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of [section 640d-18\(a\)](#) of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$10,000,000.

(3) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of [section 640d-18\(b\)](#) of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$500,000.

(4) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of [section 640d-13\(b\)](#) of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$13,000,000.

(5) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually not to exceed \$4,000,000 for the expenses of the Commissioner.

(6) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$500,000 for the services and expenses of the Mediator and the assistants and consultants retained by him: *Provided*, That, any contrary provision of law notwithstanding, until such time as funds are appropriated and made available pursuant to this authorization, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is authorized to provide for the services and expenses of the Mediator from any other appropriated funds available to him and to reimburse such appropriations when funds are appropriated pursuant to this authorization, such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof.

(7) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of [subsection \(i\) of section 640d-28](#) of this title, there is authorized to be appropriated, effective in fiscal year 1981, not to exceed \$1,000,000 annually.

(8) For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of [section 640d-14](#) of this title, there is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2008.

(b) Availability of sums

The funds appropriated pursuant to the authorizations provided in this subchapter shall remain available until expended.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-25

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➔ **§ 640d-25. Discretionary fund to expedite relocation efforts**

(a) Authorization of appropriations

To facilitate and expedite the relocation efforts of the Commissioner, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually, effective in fiscal year 1981, not to exceed \$6,000,000 as a discretionary fund.

(b) Authorized uses

Funds appropriated under the authority of subsection (a) of this section may be used by the Commissioner for grants, contracts, or expenditures which significantly assist the Commissioner or assist the Navajo Tribe or Hopi Tribe in meeting the burdens imposed by this subchapter.

(c) Funding and construction of Hopi high school and medical center

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate, shall assign the highest priority, in the next fiscal year after July 8, 1980, to the funding and construction of the Hopi high school and Hopi medical center consistent with any plans already completed and approved by appropriate agencies of the respective departments.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-26

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➔ **§ 640d-26. Implementation requirements**

(a) Environmental impact provisions

No action taken pursuant to, in furtherance of, or as authorized by this subchapter, shall be deemed a major Federal action for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended [\[42 U.S.C.A. § 4321 et seq.\]](#).

(b) Transfer of public lands

Any transfer of public lands pursuant to this subchapter shall be made notwithstanding the provisions of [sections 1782](#) and [1752\(g\) of Title 43](#).

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-27

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➔ § 640d-27. Attorney fees, costs and expenses for litigation or court action

(a) Payment by Secretary; authorization of appropriations

In any litigation or court action between or among the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Tribe and the United States or any of its officials, departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this subchapter, as amended, the Secretary shall pay, subject to the availability of appropriations, attorney's fees, costs and expenses as determined by the Secretary to be reasonable. For each tribe, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$120,000 in fiscal year 1981, \$130,000 in fiscal year 1982, \$140,000 in fiscal year 1983, \$150,000 in fiscal year 1984, and \$160,000 in fiscal year 1985, and each succeeding year thereafter until such litigation or court action is finally completed.

(b) Award by court; reimbursement to Secretary

Upon the entry of a final judgment in any such litigation or court action, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses to the party, other than the United States or its officials, departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, which prevails or substantially prevails, where it finds that any opposing party has unreasonably initiated or contested such litigation. Any party to whom such an award has been made shall reimburse the United States out of such award to the extent that it has received payments pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Excess difference between award of court and award of Secretary treated as final judgment of Court of Claims

To the extent that any award made to a party against the United States pursuant to subsection (b) of this section exceeds the amount paid to such party by the United States pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, such difference shall be treated as if it were a final judgment of the Court of Claims under [section 2517 of Title 28](#).

(d) Litigation or court actions applicable

This section shall apply to any litigation or court action pending upon July 8, 1980, in which a final order, decree, judgment has not been entered, but shall not apply to any action authorized by [section 640d-7](#) or [640d-17\(a\)](#) of this title.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-28

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➔ § 640d-28. Life estates

(a) Omitted

(b) Application for lease; contents; filing date; extension

Any Navajo head of household who desires to do so may submit an application for a life estate lease to the Commissioner. Such application shall contain such information as the Commissioner may prescribe by regulation, such regulation to be promulgated by the Commissioner within ninety days of July 8, 1980. To be considered, such application must be filed with the Commissioner on or before April 1, 1981: *Provided*, That the Commissioner may, for good cause, grant an extension of one hundred and eighty days.

(c) Application groupings

Upon receipt of applications filed pursuant to this section, the Commissioner shall group them in the following order:

(A) Applicants who are determined to be at least 50 per centum disabled as certified by a physician approved by the Commissioner. Such applicants shall be ranked in the order of the severity of their disability.

(B) Applicants who are not at least 50 per centum disabled shall be ranked in order of their age with oldest listed first and the youngest listed last: *Provided*, That, if any applicant physically resides in quarter quad Nos. [78 NW](#), [77 NE](#), [77 NW](#), [55 SW](#), or [54 SE](#) as designated on the Mediator's partition map, such applicant shall be given priority over another applicant of equal age.

(C) Applicants who did not, as of December 22, 1974, and continuously thereafter, maintain a separate place of abode and actually remain domiciled on Hopi partitioned lands, and who, but for this subsection would be required to relocate, shall be rejected by the Commissioner.

(D) Applicants who were not at least forty-nine years of age on December 22, 1974, or are not at least 50 per centum disabled, shall also be rejected by the Commissioner.

(d) Number of leases; priorities

The Commission shall have authority to award life estate leases to not more than one hundred and twenty applicants with first priority being given to applicants listed pursuant to subsection (c)(A) of this section and the next priority being given to the applicants listed pursuant to subsection (c)(B) of this section, in order of such listing.

(e) Area; allowable livestock; assistance by Secretary in feeding livestock

Each life estate lease shall consist of a fenced area not exceeding ninety acres of land which shall include the life tenant's present residence and may be used by the life tenant to feed not to exceed twenty-five sheep units per year or equivalent livestock. The Secretary, under existing authority, shall make available to life estate tenants such assistance during that tenure, as may be necessary to enable such tenant to feed such livestock at an adequate nutritional level.

(f) Individuals permitted to reside; regulations

No person may reside on a life estate other than the life tenant, his or her spouse, and minor dependents, and/or such persons who are necessarily present to provide for the care of the life tenant. The Commission shall promulgate regulations to carry out the intent of this subsection.

(g) Termination

The life estate tenure shall end by voluntary relinquishment, or at the death of the life tenant or the death of his or her spouse, whichever occurs last: *Provided*, That each survivorship right shall apply only to those persons who were lawfully married to each other on or before July 8, 1980.

(h) Relocation benefits upon voluntary relinquishment; compensation upon death of life tenant or surviving spouse; relocation of dependents

Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting any such applicant who receives a life estate lease under this section from relinquishing, prior to its termination, such estate at any time and voluntarily relocating. Upon voluntary relinquishment of such estate, by such means or instrument as the Secretary shall prescribe, such applicant shall be entitled to relocation benefits from the Secretary comparable to those provided by [section 640d-14](#) of this title. For life estates terminated by the death of the life tenant or his or her surviving spouse, compensation shall be paid to the estate of the deceased life tenant or surviving spouse based on the fair market value of the habitation and improvements at the time of the expiration of such tenure and not before. Such payments shall be in lieu of any other payment pursuant to [subsection \(a\) of section 640d-14](#) of this title. Assistance provided pursuant to [section 640d-14\(b\)](#) of this title, shall be paid to any head of household lawfully residing on such life estate pursuant to subsection (f) of this section who is required to move by the termination of such life estate by the death of the life tenant and his or her surviving spouse and who does not maintain a residence elsewhere. Compensation under [section 640d-14\(a\)](#) of this title shall be paid and distributed in accordance with the last will and testament of the life tenant or surviving spouse or, in the event no valid last will and testament is left, compensation shall be paid and distributed to his or her heirs in accordance with

existing Federal law. Upon termination of a life estate by whatever means, the dependents residing with the individuals having such life estate so terminated shall have ninety days following such termination within which to relocate.

(i) Payment of fair market rental value

The Secretary shall pay, on an annual basis, the fair market rental value of such life estate leases to the tribe to whom the lands leased were partitioned.

(j) Improvements

Nothing in this subchapter or any other law shall be construed to prevent a life tenant from making reasonable improvements on the life estate which are related to the residence and agricultural purposes of the life tenancy.

(k) Additional leases for Hopi heads of household

The Commission is authorized to grant not to exceed ten additional life estate leases to Hopi heads of household residing on Navajo-partitioned lands under such terms of this section as may be appropriate.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-29

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➡ **§ 640d-29. Restrictions on lobbying; exception**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no person or entity who has entered into a contract with the Commissioner to provide services under this subchapter may engage in activities designed to influence Federal legislation on any issue relating to the relocation required under this subchapter.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the Navajo Tribe or the Hopi Tribe, except that such tribes shall not spend any funds received from the Office in any activities designed to influence Federal legislation.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-30

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§ **640d-30. Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund**

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(a) Establishment

There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the "Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund", which shall consist of the funds transferred under subsection (b) of this section and of the funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (f) of this section and any interest or investment income accrued on such funds.

(b) Deposit of income into Fund

All of the net income derived by the Navajo Tribe from the surface and mineral estates of lands located in New Mexico that are acquired for the benefit of the Navajo Tribe under [section 640d-10](#) of this title shall be deposited into the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

(c) Secretary as trustee; investment of funds

The Secretary shall be the trustee of the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund and shall be responsible for investment of the funds in such Trust Fund.

(d) Availability of funds; purposes

Funds in the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund, including any interest or investment accruing thereon, shall be available to the Navajo Tribe, with the approval of the Secretary, solely for purposes which will contribute to the continuing rehabilitation and improvement of the economic, educational, and social condition of families, and Navajo communities, that have been affected by--

- (1) the decision [\[FN1\]](#) in the Healing case, or related proceedings,
- (2) the provision [\[FN2\]](#) of this subchapter, or
- (3) the establishment by the Secretary of the Interior of grazing district number 6 as land for the exclusive use of the Hopi Tribe.

(e) Conceptual framework for expenditure of funds

By December 1, 1989, the Secretary of the Interior, with the advice of the Navajo Tribe and the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, shall submit to the Congress a conceptual framework for the expenditure of the funds authorized for the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Such framework is to be consistent with the purposes described in subsection (d) of this section.

(f) Termination of Trust Fund

The Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund shall terminate when, upon petition by the Navajo Tribe, the Secretary determines that the goals of the Trust Fund have been met and the United States has been reimbursed for funds appropriated under subsection (f) of this section. All funds in the Trust Fund on such date shall be transferred to the general trust funds of the Navajo Tribe.

(g) Authorization of appropriations; reimbursement of General Fund

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund not [\[FN3\]](#) exceed \$10,000,000 in each of fiscal years 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995. The income from the land referred to in subsection (b) of this section shall be used to reimburse the General Fund of the United States Treasury for amounts appropriated to the Fund.

25 U.S.C.A. § 640d-31

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▪ **§ 640d-31. Residence of families eligible for relocation assistance**

Nothing in this subchapter prohibits the Commissioner from providing relocation assistance to families certified as eligible, regardless of their current place of residence, with funds appropriated to implement this subchapter.