

PART 5510—FREE USE OF TIMBER

Subpart 5510—Free Use of Timber; General

§ 5510.0-3 Authority.

(a) *Nonsale disposals Act of June 3, 1878.*

(1) Authority for free use of timber on mineral and nonmineral public lands. Section 5511 is issued under authority of the Act of June 3, 1878 (20 Stat. 88; 16 U.S.C. 604 through 606) and March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1093; 16 U.S.C. 607), as supplemented by the Act of January 11, 1921 (41 Stat. 1088; 16 U.S.C. 604, 612), settlers upon public lands, citizens and *bona fide* residents of the State, and corporations doing business in the State may obtain free use permit for timber.

(2) Authority for the issuance of regulations governing the free use of timber for fuel in drilling operations by oil and gas lessees is contained in section 32 of the Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 405; 30 U.S.C. 189).

Cross Reference: For additional free use privileges, see § 5511.3.

(b) *Nonsale disposals Act of July 23, 1955.* The Act of July 23, 1955, *supra*, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior in his discretion to permit free use of timber or other vegetative resources or mineral materials by any Federal or State governmental agency, unit or subdivision, including municipalities, or any association or corporation not organized for profit for use other than for commercial or industrial purposes or resale. The Act of July 23, 1955, *supra*, also provides in part, under certain circumstances, for a mining claimant to obtain free-use of timber from other Bureau administered land in lieu of timber disposed of by the Bureau from lands covered by his mining locations. See § 5511.3-8.

(c) *Nonsale disposals Act of May 14, 1898.* Section 5511.2 is issued under the authority of section 11, 30 Stat. 414, as amended; 48 U.S.C. 423. Section 5511.2 appears at 19 FR 8880, Dec. 23, 1954.

(1) Section 11 of the Act of May 14, 1898 (30 Stat. 414; 48 U.S.C. 423), empowers the Secretary of the Interior to permit the use of timber found upon the public lands in Alaska by actual settlers residents, individual miners, and prospectors for minerals for firewood, fencing, buildings, mining, prospecting, and for domestic purposes as may actually be needed by such persons for such purposes. This section was amended by the Act of June 15, 1938 (52 Stat. 699), so as to permit the use of such timber by churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions for firewood, fencing, buildings, and for other domestic purposes.

Subpart 5511—Free Use Regulations

§ 5511.1 Act of 1878.

§ 5511.1-1 Free use of timber on mineral and nonmineral public lands.

(a) *Lands on which timber may be cut.* Free-use permits to cut timber may be issued covering public lands as follows:

(1) Mineral lands, unoccupied and unreserved and not subject to entry under existing laws of the United States, except for mineral entry, in the States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana,

Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. (Act of June 3, 1878, 20 Stat. 88; 16 U.S.C. 604 through 606);

(2) Nonmineral, unoccupied, and unreserved public lands in the States mentioned and also in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington.

(b) *Kind of timber which may be cut.* The proper protection of the timber and undergrowth necessarily varies with the nature of the topography, soil, and forest. No timber not matured may be cut, and each tree taken must be utilized for some beneficial domestic purpose. Persons taking timber for specific purposes will be required to take only such matured trees as will work up to such purpose without unreasonable waste. Stumps will be cut so as to cause the least possible waste and all trees will be utilized to as low a diameter in the tops as possible. All brush, tops, logs, and other forest debris made in felling and removing timber under this section shall be disposed of as best adapted to the protection of the remaining growth and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the authorized officer, and failure on the part of the applicant, or an agent cutting for an applicant, to comply with this requirement will render him liable for all expenses incurred by the authorized officer in putting this regulation into effect.

(c) *Area of land to be cut over.* The permits shall limit the area of cutting to embrace only so much land as is necessary to produce the quantity of timber applied for.

(d) *Use which may be made of timber.* Timber may be cut under approved permit when actually needed for firewood, fencing, building, or other agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and domestic purposes.

(e) *Exportation of timber.* Timber may not be exported from the State in which it is cut except:

(1) Timber from a specified area in Wyoming may be exported into Idaho (Act of July 1, 1898, 30 Stat. 618; 16 U.S.C. 607, 611);

(2) Timber from a specified area in Montana may be exported into Wyoming (Act of March 3, 1901, 31 Stat. 1439; 16 U.S.C. 607, 613);

(3) Under the Act of March 3, 1919 (40 Stat. 1321; 16 U.S.C. 608), citizens of Malheur County, Oregon, may cut timber in Idaho and remove such timber to Malheur County, Oregon;

(4) Under the Act of March 3, 1919 (40 Stat. 1322; 16 U.S.C. 609), citizens of Modoc County, California, may cut timber in Nevada and remove such timber to Modoc County, California;

(5) Timber from a specified area in Arizona may be exported into Utah (Act of February 27, 1922, 42 Stat. 398; 16 U.S.C. 610);

(6) Citizens of Bear Lake County, Idaho, may cut timber from public lands in Lincoln County, Wyoming, and remove such timber to Bear Lake County, Idaho, but no live standing timber may be taken without compensation (Act of August 21, 1935, 49 Stat. 665; 16 U.S.C. 611a).

(f) *Application and permit—*

(1) *Information to be furnished by applicant.*

(i) Applications should be filed in duplicate and should set forth the names and post-office addresses of the applicants, and any agent or agents who may be employed to procure the timber. Where a corporation is the applicant, the State in which it was incorporated should also be shown.

(ii) Blank forms for making application may be procured from the State Director for the State in which the timber to be removed is located.

(iii) Applications should show the amount of timber required by each applicant; the use to be made thereof; a description of the land from which the timber is to be cut, by subdivision, section, township, and range, if surveyed, or by natural objects sufficient to identify the same if unsurveyed; and the date it is desired to begin cutting.

(2) *Duration of permit.* All rights and privileges under a permit shall terminate at the expiration of the period of 1 year from the date of approval of the permit.

(g) *Agents—*

(1) *Cutting of timber by agents.* Where one or more persons desire timber, and are not in a position to procure the same for themselves, an agent or agents may be appointed for that purpose. Such agent shall not be paid more than a fair recompense for the time, labor, and money expended in procuring the timber and manufacturing the same into lumber, and no charge shall be made for the timber itself. The said compensation must be set forth in a written contract to be entered into by the parties, and a copy thereof must be filed with the application.

(2) *Cutting of timber by agent who is a sawmill operator.* If the amount of timber applied for exceeds \$50 in stumpage value, for any continuous period of 12 months, and the timber is to be procured by an agent who is a sawmill operator, a bond equal to three times the amount of the stumpage value of the timber applied for will be required, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements.

[35 FR 9790, June 13, 1970, as amended at 60 FR 50450, Sept. 29, 1995]

§ 5511.1-2 [Reserved]

§ 5511.1-3 Use of timber on lands covered by grazing leases, by lessees, and others.

(a) Before taking timber under a lease issued under section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended by the Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1978; 43 U.S.C. 315m), the lessee should file application for and procure a permit in accordance with the regulations issued under the Acts of June 3, 1878 (20 Stat. 88; 16 U.S.C. 604 through 606), and March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1093; 16 U.S.C. 607), §§ 5510.0-3(a) and 5511.1-1(a) to 5511.1-1(g).

(b) Where application is made by a person other than the lessee to take timber from lands embraced in a grazing lease issued under section 15 of the said Act, investigation should be made to ascertain the facts in the case and whether or not the cutting of the timber applied for would adversely affect the lands for grazing purposes. If no objection appears, the permit may issue but should contain a provision that the timber cutting thereunder must be done in such manner as will not interfere with the rights of the lessee.

(c) All applications for timber should be filed with the State Director for the State in which the timber to be cut is located and should comply with the regulations contained in § 5511.1-1.(Sec. 1, 20 Stat. 88, as amended, 26 Stat. 1003, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 604, 607) § 5511.2 Act of 1898 (Alaska).

§ 5511.2-1 Free use privilege; cutting by agent.

Free use permits will not be issued where the applicant owns or controls lands having an adequate supply of timber to meet his needs. [35 FR 9790, June 13, 1970, as amended at 60 FR 50451, Sept. 29, 1995; 62 FR 51377, Oct. 1, 1997]

§ 5511.2-2 Free use of timber for Government purposes.

Persons contracting with Government officials to furnish firewood or timber for United States Army posts or for other authorized Government purposes may procure it from the vacant and unreserved public lands in Alaska free of charge, provided the contracts do not include any charge for the value of the firewood or timber. Where it is desired to procure timber for such use, an application for permit in duplicate on a form approved by the Director must be filed, as in other cases, and a copy of the contract must be attached to the application.

§ 5511.2-3 Permits.

(a) *Application for permit.* Before timber is cut for free use, an application for permit in duplicate on a form approved by the Director must be filed in an office or with an employee of the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska.

(b) *Issuance and cancellation of permit; removal of timber; bond.*

(1) A permit may be issued and shall incorporate the provisions, if any, governing the selection, removal, and use of the materials. One copy of the official form shall be returned to the applicant showing the approval or rejection of such application.

(2) The authorized officer may cancel a permit if the permittee fails to observe its terms and conditions, or the regulations in §§ 5511.2-1 to 5511.2-6, or if the permit has been issued erroneously. (3) No timber shall be removed until the permit is issued. If deemed necessary by the signing officer, a bond, satisfactory to him, may be required as a guarantee of faithful performance of the provisions of the permit and the regulations in §§ 5511.2-1 to 5511.2-6.

(c) *Cutting rules and restrictions.* All free-use timber shall be cut and removed in accordance with approved forestry and conservation practices so as to preserve to the maximum extent feasible all scenic, recreational, watershed, and other values of the land and resources. In the free-use disposal of timber, the cutting and removal shall be accomplished in such manner as to leave the stand in condition for continuous production. Moreover, no green timber shall be cut within 300 feet of either side of the center line of a highway or public road, or bordering streams or the shores of lakes designated for recreational use unless specifically authorized by the authorized officer, to prevent or control fungus infection or insect attacks, or for other reasons found sufficient to justify such cutting.

(d) *Amount of timber which may be cut.* During each calendar year each applicant entitled to the benefits of section 11 of the Act of May 14, 1898, may take a total of 100,000 feet board measure or 200 cords in saw logs, piling, cordwood, or other timber. This amount may be taken in whole in any one of such classes of timber or in part of one kind and in part of another kind or other kinds. Where a cord is the unit of measure, it shall be estimated in relation with saw timber in the ratio of 500 feet board measure to the cord. Permits to take timber in excess of the amount stated may be granted to churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions upon a showing of special necessity therefor, and with the approval of the authorized officer.

(e) *Notice of completion of timber cutting operations.* Upon completion of the cutting and the removal of the timber, the permittee must notify the State Director, or other forest officer, stating when the work was completed, the land from which the timber was taken, the amount and kind of timber which was cut and removed, and the use to which the timber was put

(f) *Termination of permit; extensions.* Permits shall be granted for periods not to exceed one year and shall terminate on the expiration dates shown therein unless extended by the signing officer. § 5511.2-4 Timber on withdrawn lands. Sections 5511.2-1 to 5511.2-5 are inapplicable to timber on withdrawn areas unless the order of withdrawal so permits. [35 FR 9790, June 13, 1970, as amended at 60 FR 50451, Sept. 29, 1995]

§ 5511.3 Act of 1947.

§ 5511.3-1 Free use of timber under other statutes.

Free use will be allowed under the following circumstances:

- (a) In certain States by settlers on public lands, citizens and *bona fide* residents of the State, and corporations doing business in the State (§ 5511.1), and
- (b) In Alaska by actual settlers, residents, individual miners, prospectors for minerals, churches, hospitals and charitable institutions (§ 5511.2).
- (c) Free-use of timber by Governmental units, nonprofit organizations, and certain mining claimants may be authorized under the act and these regulations only when such applicants cannot qualify under the provisions of §§ 5511.1 to 5511.1-4 and § 5511.2.

§ 5511.3-2 Permits.

(a) *Application for permit.* An application for permit in duplicate, must be made on a form approved by the Director and filed in any office or with any employee of the Bureau of Land Management authorized to issue a permit. A free-use permit may be applied for without formal application for the removal of not more than three Christmas trees upon oral or written request.

(b) *Issuance and cancellation of free-use permits; bond.*

(1) A free-use permit, on a form approved by the Director, shall incorporate the provisions, if any, governing the selection, removal, and use of timber. Free-use permits shall not be issued when the applicant owns or controls an adequate supply of the material to meet his needs. Timber applied for must be for the applicant's own use and may not be bartered or sold. No timber may be cut or removed until the permit is issued.

(2) The authorized officer may cancel a permit if the permittee fails to observe its terms and conditions or the regulations, or if the permit has been issued erroneously.

(3) A bond satisfactory to the authorized officer may be required as a guarantee of faithful performance of the provisions of the permit and applicable regulations.

(4) A free-use permit issued under this part may not be assigned.

(c) *Duration, extension, and termination of permit.*

(1) Permits shall be granted for periods not to exceed 6 months and shall terminate on the expiration dates shown therein unless extended by the authorized officer. An extension not to exceed 3 months may be granted by the authorized officer. The permittee must notify the officer-in-charge upon the completion of removal.

(2) Permits issued for the benefit of a mining claimant under authority of the act shall terminate upon transfer of the ownership of the claim by any means. Reapplication must be made by the new claimants.

§ 5511.3-3 Conservation practices.

All free-use timber disposed of under the act shall be severed, or removed in accordance with sound forestry and conservation practices so as to preserve to the maximum extent feasible all scenic, recreational, watershed and other values of the land and resources. In the free-use disposal of timber, cutting and removal shall be accomplished in such a manner as to leave the stand in condition for continuous production.

§ 5511.3-4 Removal by agent

A free-use permittee may procure the timber by agent. Such agent shall not, however, be paid more than fair compensation for the time, labor and money expended in procuring timber and processing it, and no charge shall be made by such agent for the timber itself. No part of the timber may be used in payment for services in obtaining it or processing it.

§ 5511.3-5 Removal of improvements.

Upon expiration of the permit period the permittee will be given 90 days to remove equipment, personal property and any improvements he has placed on the land, except roads, culverts and bridges are to be left in place, in good condition and will become the property of the United States upon expiration of the 90-day removal period.

§ 5511.3-6 Permits to governmental units.

A free-use permit may be issued to a Federal or State agency, unit, or subdivision, including a municipality, only if the applicant makes a satisfactory showing to the authorized officer that such timber will be used for a public project. The right to remove timber under the permit is not revoked or terminated by

(a) any subsequent claim or entry of the lands,

(b) by any mining claim located prior to the issuance of the permit if such location was subsequent to July 23, 1955, nor

(c) by any other mining claim as to which the Government's right to manage the surface resources has been established in accordance with Group 3800 of this chapter, or other proceedings.

§ 5511.3-7 Permits to nonprofit organizations.

A free-use permit issued to a nonprofit association or corporation may not provide for the disposition of more than \$100 worth of timber to the permittee during any one calendar year. Such permittee is granted a right to remove timber as against a subsequent applicant who may wish to obtain the same timber by purchase. The timber may not be removed by the permittee after the land has been included in a valid claim by reason of settlement, entry, or similar rights obtained under the public land laws.

§ 5511.3-8 Permits to mining claimants.

(a) Free-use timber shall be granted under § 5510.0-3(b) to the record owner of a valid mining claim if such claim was located subsequent to July 23, 1955, or if the Government's right to manage the surface resources has been established in accordance with Group 3400 of this chapter, and he requires more timber than is available to him for prospecting, mining, or processing operations on his claim or claims after disposition of timber from his claim by the United States. The claimant shall be entitled to the free use of timber for such requirements from the nearest timber administered by the Bureau which is substantially equal in kind and quantity to the timber estimated by the authorized officer at the time of application to have been disposed of by the Bureau from the claim. Upon issuance of a patent to the mining claims, the free-use privilege will automatically terminate.

(b) The application required to be filed for free-use timber under this section must contain a statement that the timber applied for will be used for *bona fide* prospecting, mining, or prospecting operations on the claim or group of claims designated in the application. The applicant must also include a statement that he is the record owner of a valid mining claim or claims from which the timber was originally removed by the Government.

§ 5511.4 Prohibited acts.

(a) In addition to the prohibited acts listed in § 5462.2, the acts or omissions listed in paragraph (b) will render the person(s) responsible liable to the United States in a civil action for trespass and such persons may be prosecuted criminally.

(b) The following acts are prohibited:

(1) Obtaining any free use permit or taking any timber, trees, or other vegetative resources through falsifying, concealing, or covering up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or making any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations, or making or using any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, including altering of any free use permit or using a reproduction of any official load tags.

(2) [Reserved]

(3) Violating any of the terms and conditions of a free use permit.

(4) Exporting timber cut under a free use permit from the State in which it was cut, except as provided in § 5511.1-1(e).

(5) The cutting of timber under a free use permit for sale, barter, speculation, or use by others than the permittee. [60 FR 50451, Sept. 29, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 51377, Oct. 1, 1997]

§ 5511.5 Penalties.

Under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), any individual who knowingly and willfully commits the prohibited acts under § 5511.4(b) is subject to arrest and trial by the United States Magistrate and, if convicted, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000, or not more than \$250,000 if commission of the prohibited acts results in death, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 *et. seq.*), or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months, or both, for each offense, and any organization that commits these prohibited acts is subject to arrest and trial by the United States Magistrate and, if convicted, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$200,000, or not more than \$500,000 if commission of the prohibited acts results in death. [60 FR 50451, Sept. 29, 1995]