

Subpart E—Hells Canyon National Recreation Area—Private Lands

AUTHORITY: 89 Stat. 1117; 16 U.S.C. 460gg-460gg-13.

SOURCE: 59 FR 30497, June 13, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 292.20 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose.* The Act establishing the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (hereafter referred to as HCNRA) (16 U.S.C. 460gg-460gg-13) encourages the retention of traditional and valid uses of private land within the HCNRA, such as ranching, grazing, farming, timber harvesting, and the occupation of homes and lands associated therewith, as they existed at the time the HCNRA was established on December 31, 1975. To this end, the Act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations establishing standards for the use and development of private land within the HCNRA and grants the Secretary limited condemnation authority to address situations where the standards are not met. The purpose of this subpart is to establish standards that would guide the Secretary's consideration of the use of the limited condemnation authority granted by the Act.

(b) *Scope.* The regulations in this subpart establish standards applicable to all private property within the boundaries of the HCNRA, including that within the boundaries of the Rapid, Snake, and Imnaha Wild and Scenic Rivers and the Hells Canyon Wilderness. The regulations in this subpart do not operate to restrict the use and development of private property; rather, they serve to inform the landowner of those uses that are compatible with purposes for which the HCNRA was established. Uses not compatible with these standards could result in the Secretary acquiring land or interests therein without a landowner's consent.

The regulations in this subpart, in and of themselves, do not effect a taking of private property, including valid, existing water rights, nor do the standards established in this subpart limit or restrict a private landowner's property use that is compatible with the purposes of the Act. The Responsible

Official may use the regulations in this subpart solely to determine whether private land uses or developments are compatible with the purposes and direction of the Act and, if not, to determine whether the Secretary should consider initiating condemnation proceedings to acquire land or scenic easements.

§ 292.21 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following terms are defined:

Act refers to the act of December 31, 1975, which established the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (89 Stat. 1117; 16 U.S.C. 460gg-460gg-13).

Archaeological sites are those sites containing relics, artifacts, and other evidence of past human cultures including historic properties as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act.

Commercial land is land within the HCNRA developed for commercial purposes as of June 13, 1994 and which is assigned to the commercial land category (§ 292.22).

Condemnation is the acquisition of lands or interests therein by the Secretary without the consent of the owner. In the case of the Act, condemnation is a limited authority that may be exercised by the Secretary only in the event that a standard or standards set forth herein are violated for all private land categories except mining lands. Where mining lands are involved, the Secretary may exercise his or her condemnation authority notwithstanding the fact that the mining land owner has complied with the relevant standards of this section.

Conservation easement or *Scenic easement* as defined in Section 9(d) of the Act "means the right to control the use of land in order to protect aesthetic values for the purposes of this Act, but shall not be acquired without the consent of the owner to preclude the continuation of any farming or pastoral use exercised by the owner as of the date of enactment of this Act."

Dude ranching is a business oriented primarily towards furnishing small groups with an outdoor recreational and educational experience associated with ranching activities and perpetuates the purposes for which the