Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781-2000

Type of Disposition	Acres
Disposition by methods not elsewhere classified /a/	303,500,000
Granted or sold to homesteaders /b/	287,500,000
Total Unclassified and Homestead Dispositions	**591,000,000**
Granted to States for:	
Support of common schools	77,630,000
Reclamation of swampland	64,920,000
Construction of railroads	37,130,000
Support of miscellaneous institutions /c/	21,700,000
Purposes not elsewhere classified /d/	117,600,000
Canals and rivers	6,100,000
Construction of wagon roads	3,400,000
Total Granted to States	**328,480,000**
Granted to railroad corporations	94,400,000
Granted to veterans as military bounties	61,000,000
Confirmed as private land claims /e/	34,000,000
Sold under timber and stone law /f/	13,900,000
Granted or sold under timber culture law /g/	10,900,000
Sold under desert land law /h/	10,700,000
Total Miscellaneous Dispositions	**224,900,000**
Granted to State of Alaska	
State Selections /i/	90,100,000
Native Selections /j/	37,400,000
Total Granted to State of Alaska	**127,500,000**
Grand Total	**1,271,880,000**

Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781-2000 – concluded

Note: Data are estimated from available records.

/a/ Chiefly public, private, and preemption sales, but includes mineral entries, scrip locations, and sales of townsites and townlots.

/b/ The homestead laws generally provided for the granting of lands to homesteaders who settled upon and improved vacant agricultural public lands. Payment for the lands was sometimes permitted, or required, under certain conditions.

/c/ Universities, hospitals, asylums, etc.

/d/ For construction of various public improvements (individual items not specified in the granting acts), reclamation of desert lands, construction of water reservoirs, etc.

/e/ The government has confirmed title to lands claimed under valid grants made by foreign governments prior to the acquisition of the public domain by the United States.

/f/ The timber and stone laws provided for the sale of lands valuable for timber or stone and unfit for cultivation.

/g/ The timber culture laws provided for the granting of public lands to settlers if they planted and cultivated trees on the lands granted. Payments for the lands were permitted under certain conditions.

/h/ The desert land laws provided for the sale of arid agricultural public lands to settlers who irrigated them and brought them under cultivation. Some desert land patents are still being issued (refer to Table 3-1, Patents Issued).

/i/ Alaska Statehood Act of July 7, 1958 (72 Stat. 338), as amended.

/j/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 (43 U.S.C. 1601).