

Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781–2007

Type	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
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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
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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
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Granted to State of Alaska and ANCSA:	
State Conveyances /i/	6,800,000
Native Conveyances /j/	1,500,000
Total Granted to State of Alaska	8,300,000
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Grand Total	1,152,680,000

**Table 1-2. DISPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, 1781–2007
–concluded**

Note: Data are estimated from available records. The acreage data consist of cumulative totals from the year 1781 to the current fiscal year.

Public land states consist of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

- /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. The homestead laws were repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended (Public Law 94-579; 90 Stat. 2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701).
- /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. Acreage figures fluctuate annually based on survey of previously conveyed acres, new conveyance, corrective documents, title recovery, and regular audits of automated data. The figures were compiled in 2007 using annual reports from Fiscal Year 1993 through Fiscal Year 2007.
- /j/ Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of December 18, 1971 (43 U.S.C. 1601). Acreage figures fluctuate annually based on survey of previously conveyed acres, new conveyance, corrective documents, title recovery, and regular audits of automated data. The figures were compiled in 2007 using annual reports from Fiscal Year 1993 through Fiscal Year 2007.