

1 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**

Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

- Sec. 8001. National priorities for private forest conservation.
- Sec. 8002. Long-term, State-wide assessments and strategies for forest resources.
- Sec. 8003. Assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.
- Sec. 8004. Changes to Forest Resource Coordinating Committee.
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- Sec. 8201. Hispanic-serving institution agricultural land national resources leadership program.

2 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry**
3 **Assistance Act of 1978**

4 **SEC. 8001. NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PRIVATE FOREST**
5 **CONSERVATION.**

6 Section 2 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act
7 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
9 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
11 lowing new subsections:

1 “(c) PRIORITIES.—In allocating funds appropriated
2 or otherwise made available under this Act, the Secretary
3 shall focus on the following national private forest con-
4 servation priorities, notwithstanding other priorities speci-
5 fied elsewhere in this Act:

6 “(1) Conserving and managing working forest
7 landscapes for multiple values and uses.

8 “(2) Protecting forests from threats, including
9 wildfire, hurricane, tornado, windstorm, snow or ice
10 storm, flooding, drought, invasive species, or insect
11 or disease outbreak, and restoring appropriate forest
12 types in response to such threats.

13 “(3) Enhancing public benefits from private
14 forests, including air and water quality, soil con-
15 servation, biological diversity, carbon storage, forest
16 products, forestry-related jobs, production of renew-
17 able energy, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and recre-
18 ation.

19 “(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
20 September 30, 2011, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
21 gress a report describing how funding was used under this
22 Act and through other programs administered by the Sec-
23 retary to address the national priorities specified in sub-
24 section (c) and the outcomes achieved in meeting the na-
25 tional priorities.”.

1 **SEC. 8002. LONG-TERM, STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENTS AND**
2 **STRATEGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

3 The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 is
4 amended by inserting after section 2 (16 U.S.C. 2101)
5 the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 2A. STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR**
7 **FOREST RESOURCES.**

8 “(a) ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR FOREST
9 RESOURCES.—For a State to be eligible to receive funds
10 under the authorities of this Act, the State forester of the
11 State or equivalent State official shall develop and submit
12 to the Secretary, not later than two years after the date
13 of the enactment of **【the 2007 Farm Bill】**, the following:

14 “(1) A State-wide assessment of forest resource
15 conditions, including—

16 “(A) the conditions and trends of forest re-
17 sources in that State;

18 “(B) the threats to forest lands and re-
19 sources in that State consistent with the na-
20 tional priorities specified in section 2(c);

21 “(C) any areas or regions of that State
22 that are of priority; and

23 “(D) any areas, known as multi-State
24 areas, that are of priority to more than just
25 that State.

1 “(2) A State-wide forest resource strategy, in-
2 cluding—

3 “(A) strategies for addressing threats to
4 forest resources in the State outlined in the as-
5 sessment required by paragraph (1); and

6 “(B) a description of the resources avail-
7 able to the State forester or equivalent State of-
8 ficial from all sources to address the State-wide
9 strategy required by subparagraph (A).

10 “(b) UPDATING.—The State forester or equivalent
11 State official shall submit the State-wide strategy required
12 by subsection (a)(2) on an annual basis. The State-wide
13 assessment of forest resource conditions required by sub-
14 section (a)(1) shall be updated as the Secretary or State
15 Forester or equivalent State official determines to be nec-
16 essary.

17 “(c) COORDINATION.—In developing the State-wide
18 assessment and annual strategy under subsection (a), the
19 State forester or equivalent State official shall coordinate
20 with—

21 “(1) the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating
22 Committee established for the State under section
23 19(b);

1 “(2) the State wildlife agency to incorporate
2 any overlapping priorities included in State wildlife
3 action plans; and

4 “(3) the State Technical Committee.

5 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds available under this
6 Act for a fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more than
7 \$10,000,000 to implement this section for that fiscal year.
8 Use of funds for implementing this section shall be con-
9 sistent with the original authorities for such funds.”.

10 **SEC. 8003. ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERATED STATES OF MI-**
11 **CRONESIA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE MAR-**
12 **SHALL ISLANDS, AND THE REPUBLIC OF**
13 **PALAU.**

14 Section 13(d)(1) of the Cooperative Forestry Act of
15 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109(d)(1)) is amended by striking “the
16 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,” and inserting “the
17 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Mar-
18 shall Islands, the Republic of Palau,”.

19 **SEC. 8004. CHANGES TO FOREST RESOURCE COORDI-**
20 **NATING COMMITTEE.**

21 Section 19 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
22 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113) is amended by striking sub-
23 section (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

24 “(a) FOREST RESOURCE COORDINATING COM-
25 MITTEE.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
2 tablish a committee, to be known as the ‘Forest Re-
3 source Coordinating Committee’ (in this section re-
4 ferred to as the ‘Coordinating Committee’), to co-
5 ordinate private non-industrial forestry activities
6 within the Department of Agriculture and with the
7 private sector.

8 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-
9 mittee shall be composed of the following:

10 “(A) The Chief of the Forest Service.

11 “(B) The Chief of the Natural Resources
12 Conservation Service.

13 “(C) The Director of the Farm Service
14 Agency.

15 “(D) The Administrator of the Cooperative
16 State Research, Education, and Extension Serv-
17 ice.

18 “(E) A representative from a State Tech-
19 nical Committee established under section 1261
20 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
21 3861).

22 “(F) Non-Federal representatives ap-
23 pointed by the Secretary to 3 year terms, al-
24 though initial appointees shall have staggered
25 terms, including the following persons:

1 “(i) At least three State foresters or
2 equivalent State officials from geographi-
3 cally diverse regions of the United States.

4 “(ii) A representative of a State fish
5 and wildlife agency.

6 “(iii) A private non-industrial forest
7 landowner.

8 “(iv) A forest industry representative.

9 “(v) A conservation organization rep-
10 resentative.

11 “(vi) A land-grant university or col-
12 lege representative.

13 “(vii) A private forestry consultant.

14 “(viii) A representative of a State fish
15 and wildlife agency.

16 “(ix) Such other persons as deter-
17 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

18 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chief of the Forest
19 Service shall serve as chairperson of the Coordi-
20 nating Committee.

21 “(4) DUTIES.—The Coordinating Committee
22 shall—

23 “(A) provide direction and coordination of
24 actions within the Department of Agriculture,
25 and coordination with State agencies and the

1 private sector, to effectively address the na-
2 tional priorities specified in section 2(c), with
3 specific focus on private non-industrial forest
4 landowners;

5 “(B) clarify individual agency responsibil-
6 ities of each agency represented on the Coordi-
7 nating Committee concerning the national pri-
8 orities specified in section 2(c), with specific
9 focus on private non-industrial forested land;

10 “(C) provide advice on the allocation of
11 funds, including the competitive funds set-aside
12 by sections 8005 and 8006 of the [2007 Farm
13 Bill]; and

14 “(D) assist the Secretary in developing and
15 reviewing the report required by section 2(d).

16 “(5) MEETING.—The Coordinating Committee
17 shall meet biannually to discuss progress in address-
18 ing the national priorities specified in section 2(c)
19 and issues regarding non-industrial private forest
20 land.

21 “(6) COMPENSATION.—

22 “(A) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Members of
23 the Coordinating Committee who are full-time
24 officers or employees of the United States shall

1 receive no additional pay, allowances, or bene-
2 fits by reason of their service on the Committee.

3 “(B) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Non-fed-
4 eral members of the Coordinating Committee
5 shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed
6 for reasonable costs incurred while performing
7 their duties on behalf of the Committee.”.

8 **SEC. 8005. CHANGES TO STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP CO-**
9 **ORDINATING COMMITTEES.**

10 Section 19(b) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
11 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii)—

13 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
14 clause (VII); and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following new
16 subclause:

17 “(IX) the State Technical Com-
18 mittee.”.

19 (2) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “a Forest
20 Stewardship Plan under paragraph (3)” and insert-
21 ing “the State-wide assessment and strategy regard-
22 ing forest resource conditions under section 2A”;

23 (3) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

24 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as
25 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

1 **SEC. 8006. COMPETITION IN PROGRAMS UNDER COOPERA-**
2 **TIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978.**

3 (a) COMPETITION.—Beginning not later than three
4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture shall competitively allocate a portion,
6 to be determined by the Secretary, of the funds available
7 under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978
8 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) to State foresters or equivalent
9 State officials.

10 (b) DETERMINATION.—In determining the competi-
11 tive allocation of funds under subsection (a), the Secretary
12 shall consult with the Forest Resource Coordinating Com-
13 mittee established by section 19(a) of the Cooperative For-
14 estry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113(a)).

15 (c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for
16 funding to States for which the strategies submitted under
17 section 2A(a)(2) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
18 Act of 1978 will best promote the national priorities speci-
19 fied in section 2(c) of such Act.

20 **SEC. 8007. COOPERATIVE FOREST INNOVATION PARTNER-**
21 **SHIP PROJECTS.**

22 (a) COOPERATIVE FOREST INNOVATION PARTNER-
23 SHIP PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may com-
24 petitively allocate not more than 5 percent of funding
25 available under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act
26 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) to support innovative

1 national, regional, or local education, outreach, or tech-
2 nology transfer projects that the Secretary determines
3 would substantially increase the ability of the Department
4 of Agriculture to address the national priorities specified
5 in section 2(c) of such Act.

6 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding the eligibility
7 limitations contained within the Cooperative Forestry As-
8 sistance Act of 1978, any State or local government, In-
9 dian tribe, land-grant college or university, or private enti-
10 ty shall be eligible for funds under subsection (a).

11 (c) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out
12 subsection (a), the Secretary shall not cover more than
13 50 percent of the total cost of a project under such sub-
14 section. In calculating the total cost of a project and con-
15 tributions made with regard to the project, the Secretary
16 shall include in-kind contributions.

17 **Subtitle B—Amendments to Other** 18 **Laws**

19 **SEC. 8101. HEALTHY FOREST RESERVE PROGRAM.**

20 Section 508(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
21 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6578(2)) is amended by striking
22 “2008” and inserting “2012”.

23 **SEC. 8102. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title IV of the Agricultural
25 Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201–2205) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating sections 404, 405, and 406
2 as sections 405, 406, and 407, respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after section 403 the following
4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 404. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
7 of Agriculture is authorized to provide financial and tech-
8 nical assistance to an owner of non-industrial private for-
9 est lands to assist with developing and implementing an
10 approved plan in accordance with subsection (c)(2).

11 “(b) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(1) COST SHARE.—Payments under subsection
13 (a) may not cover more than 75 percent of the total
14 cost of measures implemented pursuant to an ap-
15 proved plan in accordance with subsection (c)(2).

16 “(2) ANNUAL LIMIT.—An owner of non-indus-
17 trial private forest lands may not receive more than
18 \$50,000 per year under this section.

19 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for assistance
20 under this section, a landowner must—

21 “(1) have suffered a loss of, or damage to, non-
22 industrial private forest land due to events, including
23 wildfires, hurricanes, drought, windstorms, insect
24 and disease, ice storms, or invasive species, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary; and

1 “(2) develop a plan, in cooperation with the
2 Secretary, and agree to implement the plan during
3 the 10-year period beginning on the date of the loss,
4 that—

5 “(A) provides for reforestation, rehabilita-
6 tion, and related measures for the non-indus-
7 trial private forest land;

8 “(B) restores the land and related natural
9 resources;

10 “(C) uses best management practices on
11 the forest land, in accordance with the best
12 management practices as determined by the
13 Secretary; and

14 “(D) incorporates good stewardship and
15 conservation practices on the land, while main-
16 taining the land in a forested state.

17 “(d) NON-INDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND DE-
18 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘non-industrial private
19 forest land’ means rural lands, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary, that—

21 “(1) have existing tree cover or had tree cover
22 within the preceding 10 years; and

23 “(2) are owned by any non-industrial private
24 individual, group, association, corporation, Indian
25 tribe, or other private legal entity so long as the in-

1 dividual, group, association, corporation, tribe, or
2 entity has definitive decision-making authority over
3 the lands.”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture shall issue regulations to carry out section 404 of
7 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, as added by sub-
8 section (a).

9 **SEC. 8103. OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY.**

10 Section 2405(d) of the Global Climate Change Pre-
11 vention Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6704(d)) is amended by
12 striking “2007” and inserting “2012”.

13 **SEC. 8104. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

14 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
15 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2))
16 is amended by striking “2004 through 2008” and insert-
17 ing “2008 through 2012”.

18 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**
19 **Provisions**

20 **SEC. 8201. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION AGRICUL-**
21 **TURAL LAND NATIONAL RESOURCES LEAD-**
22 **ERSHIP PROGRAM.**

23 (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agri-
24 culture may make grants, on a competitive basis, to His-
25 panic-serving institutions for the purpose of establishing

1 an undergraduate scholarship program to assist in the re-
2 cruitment, retention, and training of Hispanics and other
3 under-represented groups in forestry and related fields.

4 (b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grants made under this
5 section shall be used to recruit, retain, train, and develop
6 professionals to work in forestry and related fields with
7 Federal agencies, such as the Forest Service, State agen-
8 cies, and private-sector entities.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for
11 each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 such sums as may
12 be necessary to carry out this section.