

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act

Sec. 2 (b) PURPOSE. —*It is the purpose of this Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ‘Secretary’), with respect to non-Federal forest lands of the United States, to assist in—*

- (1) the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative Federal, State, and local forest stewardship program for management of the non-Federal forest lands;*
- (2) the encouragement of the production of timber;*
- (3) the prevention and control of insects and diseases affecting trees and forests;*
- (4) the prevention and control of rural fires;*
- (5) the efficient utilization of wood and wood residues, including the recycling of wood fiber;*
- (6) the improvement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat;*
- (7) the planning and conduct of urban forestry programs;*
- (8) broadening existing forest management, fire protection, and insect and disease protection programs on non-Federal forest lands to meet the multiple use objectives of landowners in an environmentally sensitive manner;*
- (9) providing opportunities to private landowners to protect ecologically valuable and threatened non-Federal forest lands; and*
- (10) strengthening educational, technical, and financial assistance programs that provide assistance to owners of non-Federal forest lands in the United States and forest lands in foreign countries.*

Sec 2.- (c) Policy

It is the policy of Congress that it is in the national interest for the Secretary to work through and in cooperation with State foresters, or equivalent State officials, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in implementing Federal programs affecting non-Federal forest lands.

Sec 3.- Rural Forestry Assistance-

The Secretary may provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and State extension directors, to enable such officials to provide technical information, advice, and related assistance to private forest land owners and managers, vendors, forest resource operators, forest resource professionals, public agencies, and individuals to enable such persons to carry out activities that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, ...

Sec. 5- Forest Stewardship Program-

The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall establish a Forest Stewardship Program (hereafter referred to in this section as the ‘Program’) to encourage the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forest lands by assisting owners of such lands to more actively manage their forest and related resources by utilizing existing State, Federal, and private sector resource management expertise and assistance programs.

Sec. 8- Forest Health Protect-

The Secretary may protect trees and forests and wood products, stored wood, and wood in use directly on the National Forest System and, in cooperation with others, on other lands in the United States, from natural and man-made causes, to—

Sec. 9- Urban and Community Forestry Assistance

The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the purpose of encouraging States to provide information and technical assistance to units of local government and others that will encourage cooperative efforts to plan urban forestry programs and to plant, protect, and maintain, and utilize wood from, trees in open spaces, greenbelts, roadside screens, parks, woodlands, curb areas, and residential developments in urban areas.

Sec. 10 Fire Prevention and Control

(b) (1) cooperate with State foresters or equivalent State officials in developing systems and methods for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on rural lands and in rural communities that will protect human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources;

(2) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on non-Federal forest lands and other non-Federal lands;

(3) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in cooperative efforts to organize, train, and equip local firefighting forces, including those of Indian tribes or other native groups, to prevent, control, and suppress fires threatening human lives, crops, livestock, farmsteads or other improvements, pastures, orchards, wildlife, rangeland, woodland, and other resources in rural areas. As used herein, the term "rural areas" shall have the meaning set out in the first clause of section 306(a)(7) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act; and

(4) provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and through them to other agencies and individuals, including rural volunteer fire departments, to conduct preparedness and mobilization activities, including training, equipping, and otherwise enabling State and local firefighting agencies to respond to requests for fire suppression assistance.