

## **FORESTRY TITLE VIII SECTION-BY-SECTION**

### **SEC.8001.NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR PRIVATE FOREST CONSERVATION.**

Amends Section 2 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) by requiring the Secretary to focus on a set of three national private forest conservation priorities when allocating appropriated CFAA funds. The national priorities are:

- Conserving and managing working forest landscapes;
- Protecting forests from threats to forest health and restoring forests in response to threats to forest health; and
- Enhancing public benefits from private forests, including air and water quality, forest products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

### **SEC.8002.STATE-WIDE ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

Amends Section 2 of the CFAA by creating a new section that requires, for a State to be eligible to receive funds under the CFFA, the State forester or equivalent State official, develop and submit a plan that includes: a state-wide assessment of forest resource conditions; and a state-wide forest resource strategy.

- Requires the State forester – or equivalent State official – to submit the state-wide forest resource strategy on an annual basis.
- Allows for the state-wide assessment of forest resource conditions to be updated as the Secretary or State forester – or equivalent State official – determines to be necessary.
- Requires the State forester –or equivalent State official – in developing the state wide assessment and annual strategy, to coordinate with the State Forest Stewardship Committee established for the State.

Authorizes the Secretary, for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, to use not more than \$10 million in CFAA funds to assist State foresters to develop the plan; for fiscal years 2010 through 2012, the Secretary is authorized to use not more than \$3 million in CFAA funding. Requires the Secretary, not later than September 30, 2011, to submit to a report to Congress that describes how the allocated funds were used to address three national priorities.

### **SEC.8003.CHANGES TO FOREST RESOURCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

Amends Section 16 of the CFAA by changing the name of the “State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee” to the “Forest Resource Coordinating Committee”; changes the Chairperson of the committee from the State Forester, or equivalent State official, to the Chief of the Forest Service; requires the Coordinating Committee to be composed of the following:

- The Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; The Administrator of the Farm Service Agency; the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; the following non-Federal representatives—State foresters, a private non-industrial forest land owner, a forestry industry representative, a conservation organization representative, a land-grant university or college representative, a private forestry consultant, and such other persons that the Secretary determines are appropriate.

Requires the Coordinating Committee to provide direction to USDA, Federal and State agencies, and the private sector to address the national priorities; clarifies individual agency responsibilities for each agency represented on the Coordinating Committee regarding the national priorities; and provides advice on the allocation of funds. Limits funding for staffing and expenses of the Committee to \$1 million annually.

**SEC.8004.CHANGES TO STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COORDINATING COMMITTEES.**

Amends Section 19 of the CFAA by making, as one of the duties of the State Coordinating Committee, that it make recommendations to the State forester – or equivalent State official – concerning the development of plan that includes a state-wide assessment of forest resource conditions and a state-wide forest resource strategy.

**SEC.8005.COMPETITION IN PROGRAMS UNDER COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978.**

Authorizes the Secretary to competitively allocate a portion of CFAA funds to State foresters or equivalent State officials; requires the Secretary to consult with the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee when determining the allocation of funds; requires the Secretary to give priority for funding to States in which the strategies listed in the State-wide assessments best promote the national priorities.

**SEC.8006.INNOVATIVE EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECTS.**

Authorizes the Secretary to competitively allocate not more than five percent of CFAA funds to support innovative national, regional, or local education, outreach, or technology projects that the Secretary determines would increase the ability of USDA to address the national priorities. Allows any State or local government, Indian tribe, land-grant college or university, or private entity to compete for the funds. Requires that the Secretary not cover more than 50 percent of the total cost of a project.

**SEC.8011.HEALTHY FOREST RESERVE PROGRAM.**

Amends Sec. 508(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act by extending the Healthy Reserves Program to 2012. The purpose of the program is to: promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species; improve biodiversity; and enhance carbon sequestration.

**SEC.8012.EMERGENCY FORESTRY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

Amends Title VI of the Agricultural Credit Act to authorize the Secretary provide financial and technical assistance to owners of non-industrial private forest lands to assist with the development and implementation of plan that:

- Provides for restoration and rehabilitation for non-industrial private forest land;
- Restores the land and related natural resources;
- Uses best management practices on the forest land; and
- Incorporates good stewardship and conservation practices on the land.

**SEC.8013.OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY.**

Amends Section 2450(d) of the Global Climate Change Prevention Act by reauthorizing the Office of International Forestry within the U.S. Forest Services through 2012.

**SEC.8014.RURAL REVILTILIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

Reauthorizes Section 2371(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act, which authorizes Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in consultation with the state and private Forestry Technology Marketing Unit at the Forest Products Laboratory, and in collaboration with eligible institutions, to carry out a program that provides funds to address the use biomass and small diameter materials.

**SEC. 8031. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION AGRICULTURAL LAND NATIONAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.**

Authorizes the Secretary to establish a competitive grant program to assist Hispanic-serving institutions to assist in the retention, recruitment, and training of Hispanics and other under-represented groups in forestry and related fields. Authorizes an appropriation of “such sums as necessary” for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out the grant program.