

Laws Passed Since Last Publication of Forest Service “Selected Laws” in 2003

P.L. 109-54, Fiscal Year 2006 Interior-Environment Appropriations, Title V – Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005, Authorized Secretary to convey administrative sites on National Forest System Lands and retain receipts for construction, maintenance and renovation of facilities for administrative purposes.

P.L. 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended. Directed the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior to provide better access for the purpose of leasing oil and natural gas on Federal lands and to streamline the permitting process for oil and natural gas development. The Act provided for categorical exclusions for oil and gas drilling related to exploration and development on Federal lands pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Amended the Geothermal Steam Act to make it a priority for the Secretary of the Interior and for the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to National Forest System lands, to ensure timely completion of administrative actions, including amendments to applicable forest plans and resource management plans necessary to process applications for geothermal leasing pending on the date of enactment of this Act. It required all future forest and resource management plans for areas with high geothermal resource potential to consider geothermal leasing and development.

P.L. 108-447, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, (Div J, Title VIII – Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act), December 8, 2004, Beginning in FY 2005, and thereafter, the Secretary may establish, modify, charge and collect recreation fees at Federal recreation lands and waters as provided for in the Act. Authority terminates 10 years after the date of enactment.

P.L. 105-277 Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999, (Stewardship Contracting) Title III – Sec. 347 Authorized the Forest Service to enter into no more than 28 contracts with private persons and entities to perform services to achieve land management goals for the National Forests that meet local and rural community needs. **P.L. 108-7 February 20, 2003, Joint Resolution Making Consolidated Appropriations for 2003.** Title III, Sec. 323 Amended P.L. 105-277 Sec 323 to extend authority for stewardship contracting until September 30, 2013.