

Public Law 95-307
95th Congress

An Act

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out forest and rangeland renewable resources research, and for other purposes.

June 30, 1978

[H.R. 11778]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978".

Forest and
Rangeland
Renewable
Resources
Research Act of
1978.

16 USC 1600
note.

16 USC 1641.

PURPOSE

SEC. 2. (a) Congress finds that scientific discoveries and technological advances must be made and applied to support the protection, management, and utilization of the Nation's renewable resources. It is the purpose of this Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") to implement a comprehensive program of forest and rangeland renewable resources research and dissemination of the findings of such research.

(b) This Act shall be deemed to complement the policies and direction set forth in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

16 USC 1600
note.

RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary is authorized to conduct, support, and cooperate in investigations, experiments, tests, and other activities the Secretary deems necessary to obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing forest and rangeland renewable resources in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The activities conducted, supported, or cooperated in by the Secretary under this Act shall include, but not be limited to, the five major areas of renewable resource research identified in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subsection.

16 USC 1642.

(1) Renewable resource management research shall include, as appropriate, research activities related to managing, reproducing, planting, and growing vegetation on forests and rangelands for timber, forage, water, fish and wildlife, esthetics, recreation, wilderness, and other purposes; determining the role of forest and rangeland management in the productive use of forests and rangelands, in diversified agriculture, and in mining, transportation, and other industries; and developing alternatives for the management of forests and rangelands that will make possible the most effective use of their multiple products and services.

(2) Renewable resource environmental research shall include, as appropriate, research activities related to understanding and managing surface and subsurface water flow, preventing and controlling erosion, and restoring damaged or disturbed soils on forest and rangeland watersheds; maintaining and improving wildlife and fish habitats; managing vegetation to reduce air and water pollution, provide amenities, and for other purposes; and understanding, predicting, and modifying weather, climatic, and other environmental conditions that affect the protection and management of forests and rangelands.

(3) Renewable resource protection research shall include, as appropriate, research activities related to protecting vegetation and other forest and rangeland resources, including threatened and endangered flora and fauna, as well as wood and wood products in storage or use, from fires, insects, diseases, noxious plants, animals, air pollutants, and other agents through biological, chemical, and mechanical control methods and systems; and protecting people, natural resources, and property from fires in rural areas.

(4) Renewable resource utilization research shall include, as appropriate, research activities related to harvesting, transporting, processing, marketing, distributing, and utilizing wood and other materials derived from forest and rangeland renewable resources; recycling and fully utilizing wood fiber; and testing forest products, including necessary fieldwork associated therewith.

(5) Renewable resource assessment research shall include, as appropriate, research activities related to developing and applying scientific knowledge and technology in support of the survey and analysis of forest and rangeland renewable resources described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) To ensure the availability of adequate data and scientific information for development of the periodic Renewable Resource Assessment provided for in section 3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make and keep current a comprehensive survey and analysis of the present and prospective conditions of and requirements for renewable resources of the forests and rangelands of the United States and of the supplies of such renewable resources, including a determination of the present and potential productivity of the land, and of such other facts as may be necessary and useful in the determination of ways and means needed to balance the demand for and supply of these renewable resources, benefits, and uses in meeting the needs of the people of the United States. The Secretary shall conduct the survey and analysis under such plans as the Secretary may determine to be fair and equitable, and cooperate with appropriate officials of each State and, either through them or directly, with private or other entities.

RESEARCH FACILITIES AND COOPERATION

16 USC 1643.

SEC. 4. (a) In implementing this Act, the Secretary is authorized to establish and maintain a system of experiment stations, research laboratories, experimental areas, and other forest and rangeland research facilities. The Secretary is authorized, with donated or appropriated funds, to acquire by lease, donation, purchase, exchange, or otherwise, land or interests in land within the United States needed to implement this Act, to make necessary expenditures to examine, appraise, and survey such property, and to do all things incident to perfecting title thereto in the United States.

Land acquisition.

Funds,
availability.

(b) In implementing this Act, the Secretary is authorized to accept, hold, and administer gifts, donations, and bequests of money, real property, or personal property from any source not otherwise prohibited by law and to use such gifts, donations, and bequests to (1) establish or operate any forest and rangeland research facility within the United States, or (2) perform any forest and rangeland renewable resource research activity authorized by this Act. Such gifts, donations, and bequests, or the proceeds thereof, and money appro-

priated for these purposes shall be deposited in the Treasury in a special fund. At the request of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury may invest or reinvest any money in the fund that in the opinion of the Secretary is not needed for current operations. Such investments shall be in public debt securities with maturities suitable for the needs of the fund and bearing interest at prevailing market rates. There are hereby authorized to be expended from such fund such amounts as may be specified in annual appropriation Acts, which shall remain available until expended.

(c) In implementing this Act, the Secretary may cooperate with Federal, State, and other governmental agencies, with public or private agencies, institutions, universities, and organizations, and with businesses and individuals in the United States and in other countries. The Secretary may receive money and other contributions from cooperators under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe. Any money contributions received under this subsection shall be credited to the applicable appropriation or fund to be used for the same purposes and shall remain available until expended as the Secretary may direct for use in conducting research activities authorized by this Act and in making refunds to contributors.

(d) The paragraph headed "Forest research:" under the center heading "FOREST SERVICE" and the center subheading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" of title I of the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act, 1952 (65 Stat. 233; 16 U.S.C. 581a-1), is amended by inserting a period immediately after the figure "\$5,108,603" and by striking all that follows in that paragraph.

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

SEC. 5. In addition to any grants made under other laws, the Secretary is authorized to make competitive grants that will further research activities authorized by this Act to Federal, State, and other governmental agencies, public or private agencies, institutions, universities, and organizations, and businesses and individuals in the United States. In making these grants, the Secretary shall emphasize basic and applied research activities that are important to achieving the purposes of this Act, and shall obtain, through review by qualified scientists and other methods, participation in research activities by scientists throughout the United States who have expertise in matters related to forest and rangeland renewable resources. Grants under this section shall be made at the discretion of the Secretary under whatever conditions the Secretary may prescribe, after publicly soliciting research proposals, allowing sufficient time for submission of the proposals, and considering qualitative, quantitative, financial, administrative, and other factors that the Secretary deems important in judging, comparing, and accepting the proposals. The Secretary may reject any or all proposals received under this section if the Secretary determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

16 USC 1644.

GENERAL RESEARCH PROVISIONS

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators and grantees under this Act without regard to the provisions of section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529), which prohibits advances of public money.

16 USC 1645.

(b) To avoid duplication, the Secretary shall coordinate cooperative aid and grants under this Act with cooperative aid and grants the Secretary makes under any other authority.

(c) The Secretary shall use the authorities and means available to the Secretary to disseminate the knowledge and technology developed from research activities conducted under or supported by this Act. In meeting this responsibility, the Secretary shall cooperate, as the Secretary deems appropriate, with the entities identified in subsection (d) (3) of this section and with others.

(d) In implementing this Act, the Secretary, as the Secretary deems appropriate and practical, shall—

(1) use, and encourage cooperators and grantees to use, the best available scientific skills from a variety of disciplines within and outside the fields of agriculture and forestry;

(2) seek, and encourage cooperators and grantees to seek, a proper mixture of short-term and long-term research and a proper mixture of basic and applied research;

(3) avoid unnecessary duplication and coordinate activities under this section among agencies of the Department of Agriculture and with other affected Federal departments and agencies, State agricultural experiment stations, State extension services, State foresters or equivalent State officials, forestry schools, and private research organizations; and

(4) encourage the development, employment, retention, and exchange of qualified scientists and other specialists through postgraduate, postdoctoral, and other training, national and international exchange of scientists, and other incentives and programs to improve the quality of forest and rangeland renewable resources research.

(e) This Act shall be construed as supplementing all other laws relating to the Department of Agriculture and shall not be construed as limiting or repealing any existing law or authority of the Secretary except as specifically cited in this Act.

Definitions.

(f) For the purposes of this Act, the terms "United States" and "State" shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

RESEARCH APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION

16 USC 1646.

SEC. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this Act. Funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

REPEAL OF MCSWEENEY-MC NARY ACT; REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION; APPROPRIATIONS

16 USC 1647.

SEC. 8. (a) The Act of May 22, 1928, known as the McSweeney-McNary Act (45 Stat. 699-702, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 581, 581a, 581b-581i), is hereby repealed.

(b) Contracts and cooperative and other agreements under the McSweeney-McNary Act shall remain in effect until revoked or amended by their own terms or under other provisions of law.

(c) The Secretary is authorized to issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary deems necessary to implement the provisions of this Act and to coordinate this Act with title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.

Rules and regulations.

(d) Funds appropriated under the authority of the McSweeney-McNary Act shall be available for expenditure for the programs authorized under this Act.

7 USC 3101 note.

16 USC 581,
581a,
581b-581i.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 9. The provisions of this Act shall become effective October 1, 1978.

16 USC 1641
note.

Approved June 30, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1179 (Comm. on Agriculture).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-880 accompanying S. 3034 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

May 22, considered and passed House.

June 7, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 3034.

June 16, House concurred in Senate amendments.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 27:

July 1, Presidential statement.