An Act

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cooperative forestry assistance to States and others, and for other purposes.

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 "Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978".

POLICY AND PURPOSE

Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds and declares that—

(1) most of the Nation's productive forest land is in private, State, and local governmental ownership, and the Nation's capacity to produce renewable forest resources is significantly dependent on these non-Federal forest lands;

(2) adequate supplies of timber and other forest resources are essential to the Nation, and adequate supplies are dependent upon efficient methods for establishing, managing, and harvesting trees and processing, marketing, and using wood and wood products;

(3) managed forest lands provide habitats for fish and wildlife, as well as esthetics, outdoor recreation opportunities, and other forest resources;

(4) insects and diseases affecting trees occur and sometimes create emergency conditions on all land, whether Federal or non-Federal, and efforts to prevent and control such insects and diseases often require coordinated action by both Federal and non-Federal land managers;

(5) fires in rural areas threaten human lives, property, and forests and other resources, and Federal-State cooperation in forest fire protection has proven effective and valuable;

(6) trees and forests are of great environmental and economic value to urban areas; and

(7) managed forests contribute to improving the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields, which are of broad benefit to society.

(b) The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), with respect to non-Federal forest lands, to assist in—

(1) the advancement of forest resources management;

(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; and

(7) the planning and conduct of urban forestry programs.

(c) It is in the national interest for the Secretary to work through and in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials in implementing Federal programs affecting non-Federal forest lands.
(d) This Act shall be deemed to complement the policies and direction set forth in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

RURAL FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

SEC. 3. (a) Congress finds that—

(1) production of timber on non-Federal forest lands and the efficient processing and use of wood produced on these lands are important in meeting the Nation's demand for wood and wood products;

(2) the Federal Government can assist in increasing timber inventories, improving and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat, and providing other forest resources on non-Federal forest lands; and

(3) Federal assistance in forest resources management on non-Federal forest lands and the utilization of resources from these lands contribute to the economic strength and environmental quality of the Nation, providing many public benefits.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials to—

(1) develop genetically improved tree seeds;

(2) procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings;

(3) plant tree seeds and trees for the reforestation or afforestation of non-Federal forest lands suitable for the production of timber and other benefits associated with the growing of trees;

(4) plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including, but not limited to, thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural practices designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom;

(5) protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields; and

(6) provide technical information, advice, and related assistance to private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals regarding—

(A) the harvesting, processing, and marketing of timber and other forest resources and the marketing and utilization of wood and wood products;

(B) conversion of wood to energy for domestic, industrial, municipal, and other uses;

(C) management planning and treatment of forest land, including, but not limited to, site preparation, reforestation, thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural practices designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of timber and other forest resources;

(D) protection and improvement of forest soil fertility and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields; and

(E) the effects of forestry practices on fish and wildlife and their habitats.

(c) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section.
FORESTRY INCENTIVES

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary is authorized to develop and implement a forestry incentives program to encourage the development, management, and protection of nonindustrial private forest lands. The purposes of such program shall be to encourage landowners to apply practices that will provide for afforestation of suitable open lands, reforestation of cutover or other nonstocked or understocked forest lands, timber stand improvement practices, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural treatments, and forest resources management and protection, so as to provide for the production of timber and other forest resources associated therewith.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "private forest land" means land capable of producing crops of industrial wood and owned by any private individual, group, Indian tribe or other native group, association, corporation, or other legal entity.

(c) Landowners shall be eligible for cost sharing under this program if they own one thousand acres or less of private forest land, except that the Secretary may approve cost sharing with landowners owning more than one thousand acres of such land if significant public benefits will accrue. In no case, however, may the Secretary approve cost sharing with landowners owning more than five thousand acres of private forest land.

(d) The Secretary shall administer this section in accordance with regulations the Secretary shall develop in consultation with the committee described in section 10(c) of this Act. Regulations issued under title X of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, shall remain in effect until revoked or amended by regulations issued under this subsection. The regulations issued under this subsection shall include guidelines for the administration of this section at the Federal and State levels, and shall identify the measures and activities eligible for cost sharing under this section.

(e) Individual forest management plans developed by the landowner in cooperation with and approved by the State forester or equivalent State official shall be the basis for agreements between the landowner and the Secretary under this section. The Secretary shall encourage participating States to use private agencies, consultants, organizations, and firms to the extent feasible for the preparation of individual forest management plans.

(f) In return for the agreement by the landowner, the Secretary shall agree to share the cost of implementing those forestry practices and measures set forth in the agreement for which the Secretary determines that cost sharing is appropriate. The portion of such cost (including labor) to be shared shall be that portion that the Secretary determines is necessary and appropriate to implement the forestry practices and measures under the agreement, but not more than 75 percent of the actual costs incurred by the landowner. The maximum amount any individual may receive annually under the program authorized by this section shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with the committee described in section 10(c) of this Act.

(g) The Secretary shall, for the purposes of this section, distribute funds available for cost sharing among the States only after assessing the public benefit incident thereto, and after giving appropriate consideration to (1) the acreage of private commercial forest land in
(a) The Secretary is authorized to protect from insects and diseases 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, in order to—

1. enhance the growth and maintenance of trees and forests;
2. promote the stability of forest-related industries and employment associated therewith through protection of forest resources;
3. aid in forest fire prevention and control;
4. conserve forest cover on watersheds;
5. protect outdoor recreation opportunities and other forest resources; and
6. extend timber supplies by protecting wood products, stored wood, and wood in use.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section and subject to whatever other conditions the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary is authorized, directly on the National Forest System, and in cooperation with other Federal departments on other Federal lands, and in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals on non-Federal lands, to—

1. conduct surveys to detect and appraise insect infestations and disease conditions affecting trees;
2. determine the biological, chemical, and mechanical measures necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress incipient, potential, threatening, or emergency insect infestations and disease conditions affecting trees;
3. plan, organize, direct, and perform measures the Secretary determines necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress incipient, potential, threatening, or emergency insect infestations and disease epidemics affecting trees;
4. provide technical information, advice, and related assistance in managing and coordinating the use of pesticides and other toxic substances applied to trees and other vegetation, and to wood products, stored wood, and wood in use; and
5. take any other actions the Secretary deems necessary to accomplish the objectives and purposes of this section.
Operations planned to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects or diseases affecting forests and trees on land not controlled or administered by the Secretary shall not be conducted without the consent, cooperation, and participation of the entity having ownership of or jurisdiction over the affected land.

No money appropriated to implement this section shall be expended to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects or diseases affecting trees on non-Federal land until the entity having ownership of or jurisdiction over the affected land contributes, or agrees to contribute, to the work to be done in the amount and in the manner determined by the Secretary.

The Secretary may, in the Secretary's discretion and out of any money appropriated to implement this section, make allocations to Federal agencies having jurisdiction over lands held or owned by the United States in the amounts the Secretary deems necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insect infestations and disease epidemics affecting trees on those lands.

Any money appropriated to implement this section shall be available for necessary expenses. However, no money appropriated to implement this section shall be used to (1) pay the cost of felling and removing dead or dying trees unless the Secretary determines that such actions are necessary to prevent the spread of a major insect infestation or disease epidemic severely affecting trees, or (2) compensate for the value of any property injured, damaged, or destroyed by any cause. The Secretary may procure materials and equipment necessary to prevent, retard, control, or suppress insects and diseases affecting trees without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (41 U.S.C. 5), under whatever procedures the Secretary may prescribe, whenever the Secretary deems such action necessary and in the public interest.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section.

URBAN FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

Congress finds that—

1. trees and forests in urban areas, including cities, their suburbs, and towns, improve esthetic quality, reduce noise, filter impurities from the air and add oxygen to it, save energy by moderating temperature extremes, control wind and water erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife;

2. trees and forests in urban areas are weakened, damaged, or killed by highway and street widening, sidewalk construction, air pollution, modified drainage patterns, erosion, depletion of soil fertility, insects and diseases, mechanical and structural facilities, and other adverse influences that result from or are aggravated by the concentrated use of land; and

3. planting, protecting, and maintaining trees and forests and utilizing wood from pruned limbs, damaged trees, and felled trees in urban areas make those areas more pleasant and healthful.

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

Appropriation authorization.
developments in urban areas. The Secretary is also authorized to cooperate directly with units of local government and others in implementing this section whenever the Secretary and the affected State forester or equivalent State official agree that direct cooperation would better achieve the purposes of this section.

(c) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section.

RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

SEC. 7. (a) Congress finds that—

(1) significant accomplishments have been made by the Secretary and cooperating States in the prevention and control of fires on forest lands and on nonforested watersheds for more than fifty years;

(2) progress is being made by the Secretary and cooperating States and rural communities in the protection of human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources from fires in rural areas;

(3) notwithstanding the accomplishments and progress that have been made, fire prevention and control on rural lands and in rural communities are of continuing high priority to protect human lives, agricultural crops and livestock, property and other improvements, and natural resources;

(4) the effective cooperative relationships between the Secretary and the States regarding fire prevention and control on rural lands and in rural communities should be retained and improved;

(5) efforts in fire prevention and control in rural areas should be coordinated among Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(6) in addition to providing assistance to State and local rural fire prevention and control programs, the Secretary should provide prompt and adequate assistance whenever a rural fire emergency overwhelms, or threatens to overwhelm, the firefighting capability of the affected State or rural area.

(b) Notwithstanding the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, the Secretary is authorized, under whatever conditions the Secretary may prescribe, to—

(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; and

(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, range-land, 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.

(c) The Secretary, with the cooperation and assistance of the Administrator of General Services, shall encourage the use of excess personal property (within the meaning of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949) by State and local fire forces receiving assistance under this section.

(d) To promote maximum effectiveness and economy, the Secretary shall seek to coordinate the assistance the Secretary provides under this section with the assistance provided by the Secretary of Commerce under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

(e) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement subsection (b) of this section.

(f) There shall be established in the Treasury a special rural fire disaster fund that shall be immediately available to and used by the Secretary to supplement any other money available to carry out this section with respect to rural fire emergencies, as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary shall determine that State and local resources are fully used or will be fully used before expending money in the disaster fund to assist a State in which one or more rural fire emergencies exist. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be needed to establish and replenish the disaster fund established by this subsection.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE, PLANNING ASSISTANCE, AND TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

Sec. 8. (a) To aid in achieving maximum effectiveness in the programs and activities conducted under this Act, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the development of stronger and more efficient State organizations that will enable them to fulfill better their responsibilities for the protection and management of non-Federal forest lands. Assistance under this subsection may include, but will not be limited to, assistance in matters related to organization management, program planning and management, budget and fiscal accounting services, personnel training and management, information services, and recordkeeping. Assistance under this subsection may be extended only upon request by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

(b) To ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for and effectively presented in State and Federal natural resources planning, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in the assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, in the training of State forest resource planners, and in participating in natural resources planning at the State and Federal levels. The Secretary shall restrict assistance under this subsection to the implementation of the forestry aspects of State and Federal natural resources planning conducted under other laws. This subsection shall not be construed, in any way whatsoever, as extending, limiting, amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any other law or authority.

(c) To ensure that new technology is introduced, new information is integrated into existing technology, and forest resources research findings are promptly made available to State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood
processors, public agencies, and individuals, the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program of technology implementation.

(1) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to work through State foresters or equivalent State officials, and, if the State forester or equivalent State official is unable to deliver these services, the Secretary is authorized to act through appropriate United States Department of Agriculture agencies, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals to—

(A) strengthen technical assistance and service programs of cooperators participating in programs under this Act by applying research results and conducting pilot projects and field tests of management and utilization practices, equipment, and technologies, related to programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(B) study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices on forest management;

(C) develop and maintain technical information systems in support of programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(D) test, evaluate, and seek registration of chemicals for use in implementing the programs and activities authorized under this Act;

(E) conduct other activities, including training of State forestry personnel whom the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that the programs and activities authorized under this Act are responsive to special problems, unique situations, and changing conditions.

(2) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators 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.

(3) The Secretary shall use forest resources planning committees at National and State levels in implementing this subsection.

Appropriation authorization.

16 USC 2108.

SEC. 9. (a) To provide flexibility in funding activities authorized under this Act, the Secretary may, upon the request of any State, consolidate the annual financial assistance payments to that State under this Act, in lieu of functional cost sharing mechanisms, formulas, or agreements. However, consolidated payments shall not include money appropriated under section 4 of this Act or money from any special Treasury fund established under this Act.

(b) Consolidation of payments made under this section shall be based upon State forest resources programs developed by State foresters or equivalent State officials, and reviewed by the Secretary.

(c) Consolidated payments to any State during any fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of non-Federal funds expended within the State during that year to implement its State forest resources program. However, the Secretary may make payments that exceed the non-Federal amount expended for selected activities under the program, if the total Federal expenditure during any fiscal year does not exceed the total non-Federal expenditure during that year under the State forest resources program.

CONSOLIDATED PAYMENTS
(d) The Secretary may make consolidated payments on the certificate of the State forester or equivalent State official that the conditions for Federal payment have been met.

(e) The Secretary shall administer this section to ensure that the use of consolidated payments does not adversely affect or eliminate any program authorized under this Act.

(f) Subject to applicable appropriation Acts, the total annual amount of financial assistance to any participating State after the enactment of this Act shall not be less than the base amount of financial assistance provided to that State under all the provisions of law specified in section 13 of this Act during the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted. However, financial assistance for special projects of two years or less duration shall not be included in determining the base amount for any participating State.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 10. (a) In implementing this Act, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) work through, cooperate with, and assist State foresters or equivalent State officials;

(2) encourage cooperation and coordination between State foresters or equivalent State officials and other State agencies that manage renewable natural resources;

(3) use and encourage cooperators under this Act to use, private agencies, consultants, organizations, firms, and individuals to furnish necessary materials and services; and

(4) promote effectiveness and economy by coordinating the direct actions and assistance authorized under this Act with related programs the Secretary administers, and with cooperative programs of other agencies.

(b) Money appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

(c) Requirements for the development of State forest resources programs and State participation in management assistance, planning assistance, and technology implementation, the apportionment of funds among States participating under this Act, the administrative expenses in connection with activities and programs under this Act, and the amounts to be expended by the Secretary to assist non-State cooperators under this Act, shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with a committee of not less than five State foresters or equivalent State officials selected by a majority of the State foresters or equivalent State officials from States participating in programs under this Act. However, the Secretary need not consult with such committee regarding funds to be expended under emergency conditions that the Secretary may determine.

(d) For the purposes of this Act—

(1) 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;

(2) The term "forest resources" shall include esthetics, fish and wildlife, forage, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber, and water; and
(3) The term “urban forestry” means the planning, establishment, protection, and management of trees and associated plants, individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within cities, their suburbs, and towns.

(e) The Secretary may prescribe rules and regulations, as the Secretary deems appropriate, to implement the provisions of this Act.

(f) The Secretary is authorized to make grants, agreements, contracts, and other arrangements the Secretary deems necessary to implement this Act.

(g) 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 section 13 of this Act.

STATEMENT OF LIMITATION

16 USC 2110. Sec. 11. This Act does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private land or to deprive owners of land of their rights to property or to income from the sale of property, and this Act does not diminish in any way the rights and responsibilities of the States and political subdivisions of States.

REPEAL OF OTHER LAWS; EXISTING CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS; APPROPRIATIONS

16 USC 2111. Sec. 13. (a) The following laws, and portions of laws, are hereby repealed:

(1) sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Act of June 7, 1924, known as the Clarke-McNary Act (43 Stat. 653-654, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 564, 565, 566, 567);

(2) the Act of April 26, 1940, known as the White Pine Blister Rust Protection Act (54 Stat. 168; 16 U.S.C. 594a);

(3) the Forest Pest Control Act;

(4) the Cooperative Forest Management Act;

(5) section 401 of the Agricultural Act of 1956;

(6) title IV of the Rural Development Act of 1972; and

(7) section 1009 and the proviso to section 1010 of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as added by the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973.
(b) Contracts and cooperative and other agreements under cooperative forestry programs executed under authority of the Acts, or portions thereof, repealed under subsection (a) of this section shall remain in effect until revoked or amended by their own terms or under other provisions of law.

(c) Funds appropriated under the authority of the Acts, or portions thereof, repealed under subsection (a) of this section shall be available for expenditure for the programs authorized under this Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 14. The provisions of this Act shall become effective October 1, 1978.

Approved July 1, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1183 (Comm. on Agriculture).
SENATE REPORT No. 95-879 accompanying S. 3033 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).
   May 22, considered and passed House.
   June 7, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 3033.
   June 16, House concurred in Senate amendments.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 27:
   July 1, Presidential statement.