

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1827

To eliminate below-cost sales of timber from National Forest System lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 1997

Ms. FURSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To eliminate below-cost sales of timber from National Forest System lands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ELIMINATION OF BELOW-COST SALES OF TIM-**
4 **BER FROM NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
5 **LANDS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Forest Management
7 Act of 1976 is amended by inserting after section 14 (16
8 U.S.C. 472a) the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 14A. ELIMINATION OF BELOW-COST TIMBER SALES**
2 **FROM NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

3 “(a) **REQUIREMENT THAT SALE REVENUES EXCEED**
4 **COSTS.**—On and after October 1, 2002, in appraising tim-
5 ber and setting a minimum bid for trees, portions of trees,
6 or forest products located on National Forest System
7 lands proposed for sale under section 14 or any other pro-
8 vision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure
9 that the estimated cash returns to the United States
10 Treasury from each sale exceed the estimated costs to be
11 incurred by the Federal Government in the preparation
12 of the sale or as a result of the sale.

13 “(b) **COSTS TO BE CONSIDERED.**—For purposes of
14 estimating under this section the costs to be incurred by
15 the Federal Government from each timber sale, the Sec-
16 retary shall assign to the sale the following costs:

17 “(1) The actual appropriated expenses for sale
18 preparation and harvest administration incurred or
19 to be incurred by the Federal Government from the
20 sale and the payments to counties to be made as a
21 result of the sale.

22 “(2) A portion of the annual timber resource
23 planning costs, silvicultural examination costs, other
24 resource support costs, road design and construction
25 costs, road maintenance costs, transportation plan-
26 ning costs, appropriated reforestation costs, timber

1 stand improvement costs, forest genetics costs, gen-
2 eral administrative costs (including administrative
3 costs of the national and regional offices of the For-
4 est Service), and facilities construction costs of the
5 Federal Government directly or indirectly related to
6 the timber harvest program conducted on National
7 Forest System lands.

8 “(c) METHOD OF ALLOCATING COSTS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall allocate the costs referred to in subsection
10 (b)(2) to each unit of the National Forest System, and
11 each proposed timber sale in such unit, on the basis of
12 harvest volume.

13 “(d) TRANSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—To ensure the
14 elimination of all below-cost timber sales by the date speci-
15 fied in subsection (a), the Secretary shall progressively re-
16 duce the number and size of below-cost timber sales on
17 National Forest System lands as follows:

18 “(1) In fiscal years 1998 and 1999, the quan-
19 tity of timber sold in below-cost timber sales on Na-
20 tional Forest System lands shall not exceed 75 per-
21 cent of the quantity of timber sold in such sales in
22 the preceding fiscal year.

23 “(2) In fiscal year 2000, the quantity of timber
24 sold in below-cost timber sales on National Forest
25 System lands shall not exceed 65 percent of the

1 quantity of timber sold in such sales in fiscal year
2 1998.

3 “(3) In fiscal year 2001, the quantity of timber
4 sold in below-cost timber sales on National Forest
5 System lands shall not exceed 50 percent of the
6 quantity of timber sold in such sales in the fiscal
7 year 2000.

8 “(e) BELOW-COST TIMBER SALE.—For purposes of
9 this section, the term ‘below-cost timber sale’ means a sale
10 of timber in which the costs to be incurred by the Federal
11 Government exceed the cash returns to the United States
12 Treasury.”.

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