

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3922

To eliminate the regional system of organizing the National Forest System and to replace the regional offices of the Forest Service with State offices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1998

Mr. SKEEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To eliminate the regional system of organizing the National Forest System and to replace the regional offices of the Forest Service with State offices.

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. STATE ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL FOREST**
4 **SYSTEM.**

5 (a) ELIMINATION OF REGIONS AND REGIONAL OF-
6 FICES.—Beginning not later than one year after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
8 shall no longer administer the National Forest System
9 using the organizational structure of Forest Service re-
10 gions. By the end of the one-year period beginning on the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
2 eliminate the 10 existing regional offices of the Forest
3 Service and replace such offices with State offices as pro-
4 vided in subsection (b).

5 (b) STATE FOREST SERVICE OFFICES.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to paragraph
7 (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a
8 State office of the Forest Service in each State con-
9 taining any portion of the National Forest System.
10 The Forest Service office for a State shall be re-
11 sponsible for the administration of National Forest
12 System lands within the State.

13 (2) MULTI-STATE OFFICES.—The Secretary
14 may establish a Forest Service office under para-
15 graph (1) to serve more than one State, or consoli-
16 date separate offices previously established under
17 paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the
18 total acreage of National Forest System lands in a
19 particular State does not justify a separate Forest
20 Service office for that State and the National Forest
21 System lands in that State can be readily managed
22 through a Forest Service office in another State.

23 (3) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this subsection,
24 the term “State” includes Guam, Puerto Rico, the

1 Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and the Vir-
2 gin Islands.

3 (c) TECHNICAL SUPPORT CENTERS.—To facilitate
4 the cost-effective provision of technical support to State
5 Forest Service offices established under subsection (b), the
6 Secretary of Agriculture may establish up to six technical
7 support centers in the United States for the Forest Serv-
8 ice. The Secretary shall establish such a center at the
9 same location as a State office.

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