

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3566

To amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish a program using geospatial and information management technologies to inventory, monitor, characterize, assess, and identify forest stands and potential forest stands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish a program using geospatial and information management technologies to inventory, monitor, characterize, assess, and identify forest stands and potential forest stands, and for other purposes.

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. FOREST INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT.**

4 The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16
5 U.S.C. 2101 note; Public Law 95313) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 21. FOREST INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
3 program using geospatial and information management
4 technologies (including remote sensing imaging and deci-
5 sion support systems) to inventory, monitor, characterize,
6 assess, and identify forest stands and potential forest
7 stands on—

8 “(1) units of the National Forest System; and

9 “(2) private forest land, with the consent of the
10 owner of the land.

11 “(b) MEANS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pro-
12 gram through the use of—

13 “(1) remote sensing technology of the National
14 Aeronautics and Space Administration and the
15 United States Geological Survey;

16 “(2) emerging geospatial capabilities in re-
17 search activities;

18 “(3) validating techniques, including coordina-
19 tion and reconciliation with existing data through
20 field verification, using application demonstrations;
21 and

22 “(4) integration of results into pilot operational
23 systems.

24 “(c) ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED.—In carrying out
25 the program, the Secretary shall address issues, includ-
26 ing—

1 “(1) early detection, identification, and assess-
2 ment of environmental threats (including insect, dis-
3 ease, invasive species, fire, acid deposition, and
4 weather-related risks and other episodic events);

5 “(2) loss or degradation of forests;

6 “(3) degradation of the quality forest stands
7 caused by inadequate forest regeneration practices;

8 “(4) quantification of carbon uptake rates;

9 “(5) management practices that focus on pre-
10 venting further forest degradation; and

11 “(6) characterization of vegetation types, den-
12 sity, fire regimes, post-fire effects, and condition
13 class.

14 “(d) EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.—In carrying out the
15 program, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive
16 early warning system for potential catastrophic environ-
17 mental threats to forests to increase the likelihood that
18 forest managers will be able to—

19 “(1) isolate and treat a threat before the threat
20 gets out of control; and

21 “(2) prevent epidemics, such as the American
22 chestnut blight in the first half of the twentieth cen-
23 tury, that could be environmentally and economically
24 devastating to forests.

1 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—To carry out this section,
2 the Secretary shall designate a facility in the Ochoco Na-
3 tional Forest headquarters within Forest Service Region
4 6 that will address the issues described in subsection (c),
5 with a particular emphasis on coniferous forest stands in
6 the Western United States.

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
9 essary to carry out this section.”.

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