

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1294

To establish a program that will generate dependable economic activity for counties and local governments containing National Forest System land through a management-focused approach, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2013

Mr. LABRADOR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural 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 establish a program that will generate dependable economic activity for counties and local governments containing National Forest System land through a management-focused approach, 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. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Establishment of community forest demonstration areas.
- Sec. 5. Board of Trustees.
- Sec. 6. Management of community forest demonstration areas.
- Sec. 7. Distribution of funds from Community Forest Demonstration Area.

3 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

4 The purpose of this Act is to generate dependable
 5 economic activity for counties and local governments
 6 through sustainable forest management.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The term “Board
 10 of Trustees” means the Board of Trustees appointed
 11 by the Governor of a State for the community forest
 12 demonstration area established for the State.

13 (2) COMMUNITY FOREST DEMONSTRATION
 14 AREA.—The term “community forest demonstration
 15 area” means a community forest demonstration area
 16 established for a State under section 4.

17 (3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
 18 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
 19 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
 20 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
 21 U.S.C. 1609(a)), except that the term does not in-
 22 clude the National Grasslands and land utilization

1 projects designated as National Grasslands adminis-
2 tered pursuant to the Act of July 22, 1937 (7
3 U.S.C. 1010–1012).

4 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Agriculture or the designee of the
6 Secretary of Agriculture.

7 (5) STATE.—The term “State” includes the
8 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST DEM-**
10 **ONSTRATION AREAS.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED; TIME FOR ESTAB-
12 LISHMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
14 establish the community forest demonstration area or
15 areas of a State at the request of the Board of Trustees
16 appointed to manage community forest demonstration
17 area land in that State.

18 (b) COVERED LAND.—

19 (1) INCLUSION OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
20 LAND.—The community forest demonstration areas
21 of a State shall consist of the National Forest Sys-
22 tem land in the State identified for inclusion by the
23 Board of Trustees of that State.

1 (2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LAND.—A commu-
2 nity forest demonstration area shall not include Na-
3 tional Forest System land—

4 (A) that is a component of the National
5 Wilderness Preservation System; or

6 (B) on which the removal of vegetation is
7 specifically prohibited by Federal law.

8 (c) CONDITIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 (1) ACREAGE REQUIREMENT.—A community
10 forest demonstration area must include at least
11 200,000 acres of National Forest System land.

12 (2) MANAGEMENT LAW REQUIREMENT.—A
13 community forest demonstration area may be estab-
14 lished in a State only if the State has a forest prac-
15 tices law or regulatory structure applicable to State
16 or privately owned forest land in the State.

17 (3) REVENUE SHARING REQUIREMENT.—As a
18 condition of the inclusion in a community forest
19 demonstration area of National Forest System land
20 located in a particular county in a State, the county
21 must enter into an agreement with the Governor of
22 the State that requires that, in utilizing revenues re-
23 ceived by the county under section 7, the county
24 shall continue to meet any obligations under applica-
25 ble State law as provided under title I of the Secure

1 Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination
2 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.) or as provided
3 in the sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST
4 SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C.
5 500) and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911
6 (16 U.S.C. 500).

7 (d) TREATMENT UNDER CERTAIN OTHER LAWS.—
8 National Forest System land included in a community for-
9 est demonstration area shall not be considered Federal
10 land for purposes of making payments to counties under
11 the sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERV-
12 ICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500) and
13 section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500).

14 (e) RECOGNITION OF VALID AND EXISTING
15 RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit
16 or restrict—

17 (1) access to National Forest System land in-
18 cluded in a community forest demonstration area for
19 hunting, fishing, and other related purposes; or

20 (2) valid and existing rights regarding such Na-
21 tional Forest System land, including rights of any
22 federally recognized Indian tribe.

1 **SEC. 5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

2 (a) APPOINTMENT.—A community forest demonstra-
3 tion area for a State shall be managed by a Board of
4 Trustees appointed by the Governor of the State.

5 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Board of Trustees for a
6 community forest demonstration area in a State shall in-
7 clude, but is not limited to, the following members:

8 (1) One member who holds county or local
9 elected office, appointed from each county or local
10 governmental unit in the State containing commu-
11 nity forest demonstration area land.

12 (2) One member who represents the commercial
13 timber, wood products, or milling industry.

14 (3) One member who represents persons hold-
15 ing Federal grazing or other land use permits.

16 (4) One member who represents recreational
17 users of National Forest System land.

18 (c) TERMS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of certain
20 initial appointments required by paragraph (2),
21 members of a Board of Trustees shall serve for a
22 term of three years.

23 (2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—In making initial
24 appointments to a Board of Trustees, the Governor
25 making the appointments shall stagger terms so that

1 at least one-third of the members will be replaced
 2 every three years.

3 (d) COMPENSATION.—Members of a Board of Trust-
 4 ees shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed from
 5 the funds made available for the management of a commu-
 6 nity forest demonstration area for the actual and nec-
 7 essary travel and subsistence expenses incurred by mem-
 8 bers in the performance of their duties.

9 **SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FOREST DEM-**
 10 **ONSTRATION AREAS.**

11 (a) ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT.—

12 (1) CONFIRMATION.—The Board of Trustees
 13 appointed for a community forest demonstration
 14 area shall assume all management authority with re-
 15 gard to the community forest demonstration area as
 16 soon as the Secretary confirms that—

17 (A) the National Forest System land to be
 18 included in the community forest demonstration
 19 area meets the requirements of subsections (b)
 20 and (c) of section 4; and

21 (B) the Board of Trustees has been duly
 22 appointed under section 5 and is able to con-
 23 duct business.

24 (2) SCOPE AND TIME FOR CONFIRMATION.—

25 The determination of the Secretary under paragraph

1 (1) is limited to confirming whether the conditions
2 specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such
3 paragraph have been satisfied. The Secretary shall
4 make the determination not later than 60 days after
5 the date of the appointment of the Board of Trust-
6 ees.

7 (3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO CONFIRM.—If the
8 Secretary determines that either or both conditions
9 specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph
10 (1) are not satisfied for confirmation of a Board of
11 Trustees, the Secretary shall—

12 (A) promptly notify the Governor of the af-
13 fected State and the Board of Trustees of the
14 reasons preventing confirmation; and

15 (B) make a new determination under para-
16 graph (2) within 60 days after receiving a new
17 request from the Board of Trustees that ad-
18 dresses the reasons that previously prevented
19 confirmation.

20 (b) MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—Upon as-
21 sumption of management of a community forest dem-
22 onstration area, the Board of Trustees for the community
23 forest demonstration area shall manage the land and re-
24 sources of the community forest demonstration area and
25 the occupancy and use thereof in conformity with this Act,

1 and to the extent not in conflict with this Act, the laws
2 and regulations applicable to management of State forest
3 lands in the State in which the community forest dem-
4 onstration area is located.

5 (c) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—

6 The administration and management of a community for-
7 est demonstration area, including implementing actions,
8 shall not be considered Federal action and shall be subject
9 to the following only to the extent that such laws apply
10 to the State administration and management of forest
11 lands in the State in which the community forest dem-
12 onstration area is located:

13 (1) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act
14 (33 U.S.C. 1251 note).

15 (2) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

16 (3) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
17 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

18 (4) Federal laws and regulations governing pro-
19 curement by Federal agencies.

20 (5) Other Federal laws.

21 (d) CONSULTATION.—

22 (1) WITH INDIAN TRIBES.—The Board of
23 Trustees for a community forest demonstration area
24 shall cooperate and consult with Indian tribes on
25 management policies and practices for the commu-

1 nity forest demonstration area that may affect the
2 Indian tribes. The Board of Trustees may allow the
3 use of lands within the community forest demonstra-
4 tion area for religious and cultural uses by Native
5 Americans.

6 (2) WITH COLLABORATIVE GROUPS.—The
7 Board of Trustees for a community forest dem-
8 onstration area shall consult with any applicable for-
9 est collaborative group.

10 (e) RECREATION.—Nothing in this section shall af-
11 fect public use and recreation within a community forest
12 demonstration area.

13 (f) FIRE MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-
14 vide fire presuppression, suppression, and rehabilitation
15 services on and with respect to a community forest dem-
16 onstration area to the same extent generally authorized
17 in other units of the National Forest System.

18 **SEC. 7. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM COMMUNITY FOR-**
19 **EST DEMONSTRATION AREA.**

20 (a) RETENTION OF FUNDS FOR MANAGEMENT.—The
21 Board of Trustees of a community forest demonstration
22 area may retain such sums as the Board of Trustees con-
23 siders to be necessary from amounts generated from that
24 community forest demonstration area to fund the manage-
25 ment, administration, restoration, operation and mainte-

1 nance, improvement, repair, and related expenses incurred
2 with respect to the community forest demonstration area.

3 (b) FUNDS TO COUNTIES OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL
4 UNITS.—Subject to subsection (a), the Board of Trustees
5 of a community forest demonstration area in a State shall
6 distribute funds received by the Board of Trustees under
7 section 6 to each county or local governmental unit in the
8 State in an amount proportional to the funds received by
9 the county or local governmental unit under title I of the
10 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination
11 Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111 et seq.).

