

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2401

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with State foresters authorizing State foresters to provide certain forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2013

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with State foresters authorizing State foresters to provide certain forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Good Neighbor For-
5 estry Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term “eligible
4 State” means a State that contains National Forest
5 System land or Bureau of Land Management land.

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
7 means—

8 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
9 spect to National Forest System land; or

10 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
11 spect to Bureau of Land Management land.

12 (3) STATE FORESTER.—The term “State for-
13 ester” means the head of a State agency with juris-
14 diction over State forestry programs in an eligible
15 State.

16 **SEC. 3. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a
18 cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source
19 contract) with a State forester to authorize the State for-
20 ester to provide the forest, rangeland, and watershed res-
21 toration, management, and protection services described
22 in subsection (b) on National Forest System land or Bu-
23 reau of Land Management land, as applicable, in the eligi-
24 ble State.

1 (b) AUTHORIZED SERVICES.—The forest, rangeland,
2 and watershed restoration, management, and protection
3 services referred to in this section include the conduct of—

4 (1) activities to treat insect-infected forests;

5 (2) activities to reduce hazardous fuels;

6 (3) activities involving commercial harvesting or
7 other mechanical vegetation treatments; or

8 (4) any other activities to restore or improve
9 forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including
10 fish and wildlife habitat

11 (c) STATE AS AGENT.—Except as provided in sub-
12 section (f), a cooperative agreement or contract entered
13 into under subsection (a) may authorize the State forester
14 to serve as the agent for the Secretary in providing the
15 restoration, management, and protection services author-
16 ized under subsection (a).

17 (d) SUBCONTRACTS.—In accordance with applicable
18 contract procedures for the eligible State, a State forester
19 may enter into subcontracts to provide the restoration,
20 management, and protection services authorized under a
21 cooperative agreement or contract entered into under sub-
22 section (a).

23 (e) TIMBER SALES.—Subsections (d) and (g) of sec-
24 tion 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976
25 (16 U.S.C. 472a) shall not apply to services performed

1 under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into
2 under subsection (a).

3 (f) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any
4 decision required to be made under the National Environ-
5 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with
6 respect to any restoration, management, and protection
7 services to be provided under this Act by a State forester
8 on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Man-
9 agement land, as applicable, shall not be delegated to a
10 State forester or any other officer or employee of the eligi-
11 ble State.

12 (g) APPLICABLE LAW.—The restoration, manage-
13 ment, and protection services to be provided under this
14 Act shall be carried out on a project-to-project basis under
15 existing authorities of the Forest Service or Bureau of
16 Land Management, as applicable.

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