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HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

On Thursday, October 30, 2003, the Senate passed H.R. 1904, as follows:

H.R. 1904

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1904) entitled "An Act to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to plan and conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes.", do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
- Sec. 102. Authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- Sec. 103. Prioritization.
- Sec. 104. Environmental analysis.
- Sec. 105. Special administrative review process.
- Sec. 106. Judicial review in United States district courts.

- Sec. 107. Effect of title.
- Sec. 108. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—BIOMASS

- Sec. 201. Findings.
- Sec. 202. Definitions.
- Sec. 203. Grants to improve commercial value of forest biomass for electric energy, useful heat, transportation fuels, compost, value-added products, and petroleum-based product substitutes.
- Sec. 204. Reporting requirement.
- Sec. 205. Improved biomass use research program.
- Sec. 206. Rural revitalization through forestry.

TITLE III—WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 301. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 302. Watershed forestry assistance program.
- Sec. 303. Tribal watershed forestry assistance.

TITLE IV—INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES

- Sec. 401. Findings and purpose.
- Sec. 402. Definitions.
- Sec. 403. Accelerated information gathering regarding forest-damaging insects.
- Sec. 404. Applied silvicultural assessments.
- Sec. 405. Relation to other laws.
- Sec. 406. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE V—HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

- Sec. 501. Establishment of healthy forests reserve program.
- Sec. 502. Eligibility and enrollment of lands in program.
- Sec. 503. Restoration plans.
- Sec. 504. Financial assistance.
- Sec. 505. Technical assistance.
- Sec. 506. Protections and measures.
- Sec. 507. Involvement by other agencies and organizations.
- Sec. 508. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VI—PUBLIC LAND CORPS

- Sec. 601. Purposes.
- Sec. 602. Definitions.
- Sec. 603. Public Land Corps.
- Sec. 604. Nondisplacement.
- Sec. 605. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VII—RURAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

- Sec. 701. Purpose.
- Sec. 702. Definitions.
- Sec. 703. Rural community forestry enterprise program.

TITLE VIII—FIREFIGHTERS MEDICAL MONITORING ACT

- Sec. 801. Short Title.
- Sec. 802. Monitoring of firefighters in disaster areas.

TITLE IX—DISASTER AIR QUALITY MONITORING ACT

- Sec. 901. Short Title.
- Sec. 902. Monitoring of air quality in disaster areas.

TITLE X—HIGHLANDS REGION CONSERVATION

- Sec. 1001. Short title.
- Sec. 1002. Findings.
- Sec. 1003. Purposes.
- Sec. 1004. Definitions.
- Sec. 1005. Land conservation partnership projects in the Highlands region.
- Sec. 1006. Forest Service and USDA programs in the Highlands region.
- Sec. 1007. Private property protection and lack of regulatory effect.

TITLE XI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 1101. Forest inventory and management.
- Sec. 1102. Program for emergency treatment and reduction of nonnative invasive plants.
- Sec. 1103. USDA National Agroforestry Center.

- Sec. 1104. Upland Hardwoods Research Center.
- Sec. 1105. Emergency fuel reduction grants.
- Sec. 1106. Eastern Nevada landscape coalition.
- Sec. 1107. Sense of Congress regarding enhanced community fire protection.
- Sec. 1108. Collaborative monitoring.
- Sec. 1109. Best-value contracting.
- Sec. 1110. Suburban and community forestry and open space program; Forest Legacy Program.
- Sec. 1111. Wildland firefighter safety.
- Sec. 1112. Green Mountain National Forest boundary adjustment.
- Sec. 1113. Puerto Rico karst conservation.
- Sec. 1114. Farm Security and Rural Development Act.
- Sec. 1115. Enforcement of animal fighting prohibitions under the Animal Welfare Act.
- Sec. 1116. Increase in maximum fines for violation of public land regulations and establishment of minimum fine for violation of public land fire regulations during fire ban.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to reduce wildfire risk to communities, municipal water supplies, and other at-risk Federal land through a collaborative process of planning, prioritizing, and implementing hazardous fuel reduction projects;
- (2) to authorize grant programs to improve the commercial value of forest biomass (that otherwise contributes to the risk of catastrophic fire or insect or disease infestation) for producing electric energy, useful heat, transportation fuel, and petroleum-based product substitutes, and for other commercial purposes;
- (3) to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape;
- (4) to promote systematic gathering of information to address the impact of insect and disease infestations and other damaging agents on forest and rangeland health;
- (5) to improve the capacity to detect insect and disease infestations at an early stage, particularly with respect to hardwood forests; and
- (6) to protect, restore, and enhance forest ecosystem components—
 - (A) to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species;
 - (B) to improve biological diversity; and
 - (C) to enhance productivity and carbon sequestration.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means—
 - (A) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and
 - (B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
- (2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

TITLE I—HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

- (1) **AT-RISK COMMUNITY.**—The term "at-risk community" means an area—
 - (A) that is comprised of—
 - (i) an interface community as defined in the notice entitled "Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire" issued by

the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001); or

(i) a group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services (such as utilities and collectively maintained transportation routes) within or adjacent to Federal land;

(B) in which conditions are conducive to a large-scale wildland fire disturbance event; and

(C) for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire disturbance event.

(2) **AUTHORIZED HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT.**—The term “authorized hazardous fuel reduction project” means the measures and methods described in the definition of “appropriate tools” contained in the glossary of the Implementation Plan, on Federal land described in section 102(a) and conducted under sections 103 and 104.

(3) **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN.**—The term “community wildfire protection plan” means a plan for an at-risk community that—

(A) is developed within the context of the collaborative agreements and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and State agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of the at-risk community;

(B) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect 1 or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure; and

(C) recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

(4) **CONDITION CLASS 2.**—The term “condition class 2”, with respect to an area of Federal land, means the condition class description developed by the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in the general technical report entitled “Development of Coarse-Scale Spatial Data for Wildland Fire and Fuel Management” (RMRS-87), dated April 2000 (including any subsequent revision to the report), under which—

(A) fire regimes on the land have been moderately altered from historical ranges;

(B) there exists a moderate risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire;

(C) fire frequencies have increased or decreased from historical frequencies by 1 or more return intervals, resulting in moderate changes to—

(i) the size, frequency, intensity, or severity of fires; or

(ii) landscape patterns; and

(D) vegetation attributes have been moderately altered from the historical range of the attributes.

(5) **CONDITION CLASS 3.**—The term “condition class 3”, with respect to an area of Federal land, means the condition class description developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station in the general technical report referred to in paragraph (4) (including any subsequent revision to the report), under which—

(A) fire regimes on land have been significantly altered from historical ranges;

(B) there exists a high risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire;

(C) fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals, resulting in dramatic changes to—

(i) the size, frequency, intensity, or severity of fires; or

(ii) landscape patterns; and

(D) vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from the historical range of the attributes.

(6) **DAY.**—The term “day” means—

(A) a calendar day; or

(B) if a deadline imposed by this title would expire on a nonbusiness day, the end of the next business day.

(7) **DECISION DOCUMENT.**—The term “decision document” means—

(A) a decision notice (as that term is used in the Forest Service Handbook);

(B) a decision record (as that term is used in the Bureau of Land Management Handbook); and

(C) a record of decision (as that term is used in applicable regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality).

(8) **FIRE REGIME I.**—The term “fire regime I” means an area—

(A) in which historically there have been low-severity fires with a frequency of 0 through 35 years; and

(B) that is located primarily in low elevation forests of pine, oak, or pinyon juniper.

(9) **FIRE REGIME II.**—The term “fire regime II” means an area—

(A) in which historically there are stand replacement severity fires with a frequency of 0 through 35 years; and

(B) that is located primarily in low- to mid-elevation rangeland, grassland, or shrubland.

(10) **FIRE REGIME III.**—The term “fire regime III” means an area—

(A) in which historically there are mixed severity fires with a frequency of 35 through 100 years; and

(B) that is located primarily in forests of mixed conifer, dry Douglas fir, or wet Ponderosa pine.

(11) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—The term “Implementation Plan” means the Implementation Plan for the Comprehensive Strategy for a Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, dated May 2002, developed pursuant to the conference report to accompany the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (House Report 106-64) (and subsequent revisions).

(12) **MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.**—The term “municipal water supply system” means the reservoirs, canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, and other surface facilities and systems constructed or installed for the collection, impoundment, storage, transportation, or distribution of drinking water.

(13) **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “resource management plan” means—

(A) a land and resource management plan prepared for 1 or more units of land of the National Forest System described in section 3(1)(A) under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604); or

(B) a land use plan prepared for 1 or more units of the public land described in section 3(1)(B) under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(14) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land of the National Forest System described in section 3(1)(A); and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands described in section 3(1)(B).

(15) **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT.**—The term “threatened and endangered species habitat” means Federal land identified in—

(A) a determination that a species is an endangered species or a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) a designation of critical habitat of the species under that Act; or

(C) a recovery plan prepared for the species under that Act.

(16) **WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.**—The term “wildland-urban interface” means—

(A) an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified in recommenda-

tions to the Secretary in a community wildfire protection plan; or

(B) in the case of any area for which a community wildfire protection plan is not in effect—

(i) an area extending ½-mile from the boundary of an at-risk community;

(ii) an area extending more than ½-mile from the boundary of an at-risk community, if the land adjacent to the at-risk community—

(I) has a sustained steep slope that creates the potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community; or

(II) has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or ridge top, within ¼-mile of the nearest at-risk community boundary; and

(iii) an area that is adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that the Secretary determines, in cooperation with the at-risk community, requires hazardous fuel reduction to provide safer evacuation from the at-risk community.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZED PROJECTS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects, consistent with the Implementation Plan, on—

(1) Federal land in wildland-urban interface areas;

(2) condition class 3 Federal land, in such proximity to a municipal water supply system or a stream feeding such a system within a municipal watershed that a significant risk exists that a fire disturbance event would have adverse effects on the water quality of the municipal water supply or the maintenance of the system, including a risk to water quality posed by erosion following such a fire disturbance event;

(3) condition class 2 Federal land located within fire regime I, fire regime II, or fire regime III, in such proximity to a municipal water supply system or a stream feeding such a system within a municipal watershed that a significant risk exists that a fire disturbance event would have adverse effects on the water quality of the municipal water supply or the maintenance of the system, including a risk to water quality posed by erosion following such a fire disturbance event;

(4) Federal land on which windthrow or blow-down, ice storm damage, or the existence of disease or insect infestation, poses a significant threat to an ecosystem component, or forest or rangeland resource, on the Federal land or adjacent non-Federal land;

(5) Federal land not covered by paragraphs (1) through (4) that contains threatened and endangered species habitat, if—

(A) natural fire regimes on that land are identified as being important for, or wildfire is identified as a threat to, an endangered species, a threatened species, or habitat of an endangered species or threatened species in a species recovery plan prepared under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533), or a notice published in the Federal Register determining a species to be an endangered species or a threatened species or designating critical habitat;

(B) the authorized hazardous fuel reduction project will provide enhanced protection from catastrophic wildfire for the endangered species, threatened species, or habitat of the endangered species or threatened species; and

(C) the Secretary complies with any applicable guidelines specified in any management or recovery plan described in subparagraph (A).

(b) **RELATION TO AGENCY PLANS.**—An authorized hazardous fuel reduction project shall be conducted consistent with the resource management plan and other relevant administrative policies or decisions applicable to the Federal land covered by the project.

(c) **ACREAGE LIMITATION.**—Not more than a total of 20,000,000 acres of Federal land may be treated under authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects.

(d) **EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.**—The Secretary may not conduct an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project that would occur on—

(1) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(2) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation (including the applicable implementation plan); or

(3) a Wilderness Study Area.

(e) **OLD GROWTH STANDS.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection and subsection (f):

(A) **COVERED PROJECT.**—The term “covered project” means an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project carried out under paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5) of subsection (a).

(B) **OLD GROWTH STAND.**—The term “old growth stand” has the meaning given the term under standards used pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4), based on the structure and composition characteristic of the forest type, and in accordance with applicable law, including section 6(g)(3)(B) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(B)).

(C) **STANDARDS.**—The term “standards” means definitions, designations, standards, guidelines, goals, or objectives established for an old growth stand under a resource management plan developed in accordance with applicable law, including section 6(g)(3)(B) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(B)).

(2) **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out a covered project, the Secretary shall fully maintain, or contribute toward the restoration of, the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type, taking into account the contribution of the stand to landscape fire adaptation and watershed health, and retaining the large trees contributing to old growth structure.

(3) **NEWER STANDARDS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the standards for an old growth stand were established during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall meet the requirements of paragraph (2) in carrying out a covered project by implementing the standards.

(B) **AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS.**—Any amendment or revision to standards for which final administrative approval is granted after the date of enactment of this Act shall be consistent with paragraph (2) for the purpose of carrying out covered projects.

(4) **OLDER STANDARDS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the standards for an old growth stand were established before the 10-year period described in paragraph (3)(A), the Secretary shall meet the requirements of paragraph (2) in carrying out a covered project by implementing the standards—

(i) during the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) if the Secretary is in the process of revising a resource management plan as of the date of enactment of this Act, during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **REVIEW REQUIRED.**—During the applicable period described in subparagraph (A) for the standards for an old growth stand under a resource management plan, the Secretary shall—

(i) review the standards, taking into account any relevant scientific information made available since the adoption of the standards; and

(ii) revise the standards to be consistent with paragraph (2), if necessary to reflect relevant scientific information the Secretary did not consider in formulating the resource management plan.

(C) **REVIEW NOT COMPLETED.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary does not complete the review of the standards in accordance with subparagraph (B), during the appli-

cable period described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall not carry out any portion of a covered project in a stand that is identified as an old growth stand (based on substantial supporting evidence) by any person during scoping.

(ii) **PERIOD.**—Clause (i) applies during the period—

(I) beginning on the termination of the applicable period for the standards described in subparagraph (A); and

(II) ending on the earlier of—

(aa) the date the Secretary completes the action required by subparagraph (B) for the standards; or

(bb) the date on which the acreage limitation specified in subsection (c) (as that limitation may be adjusted by subsequent Act of Congress) is reached.

(f) **LARGE TREE RETENTION.**—Except in old growth stands where the standards are consistent with subsection (e)(2), the Secretary shall carry out a covered project in a manner that—

(1) focuses largely on small diameter trees, thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and prescribed fire to modify fire behavior, as measured by the projected reduction of uncharacteristically severe wildfire effects for the forest type (such as adverse soil impacts, tree mortality or other impacts); and

(2) maximizes the retention of large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote fire-resilient stands and the purposes of section 6(g)(3)(B) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(B)).

(g) **MONITORING AND ASSESSING FOREST AND RANGELAND HEALTH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each Forest Service administrative region and each Bureau of Land Management State Office, the Secretary shall—

(A) monitor the results of the projects authorized under this section; and

(B) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and each 5 years thereafter, issue a report that includes—

(i) an evaluation of the progress towards project goals; and

(ii) recommendations for modifications to the projects and management treatments.

(2) **CONSISTENCY OF PROJECTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS.**—An authorized hazardous fuel reduction project approved following the issuance of a monitoring report shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with any applicable recommendations in the report.

(3) **SIMILAR VEGETATION TYPES.**—The results of a monitoring report shall be made available in, and (if appropriate) used for, a project conducted in a similar vegetation type on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(4) **MONITORING AND ASSESSMENTS.**—From a representative sample of authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects, for each management unit, monitoring and assessment shall include a description of the effects on changes in condition class, using the Fire Regime Condition Class Guidebook or successor guidance, specifically comparing end results to—

(A) pretreatment conditions;

(B) historical fire regimes; and

(C) any applicable watershed or landscape goals or objectives in the resource management plan or other relevant direction.

(5) **TRACKING.**—For each management unit, the Secretary shall track acres burned, by the degree of severity, by large wildfires (as defined by the Secretary).

(6) **MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OF TREATED AREAS.**—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, develop a process for monitoring the need for maintenance of treated areas, over time, in order to preserve the forest health benefits achieved.

SEC. 103. PRIORITIZATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with the Implementation Plan, the Secretary shall develop an annual program of work for Federal land

that gives priority to authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects that provide for the protection of at-risk communities or watersheds or that implement community wildfire protection plans.

(b) **COLLABORATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall consider recommendations under subsection (a) that are made by at-risk communities that have developed community wildfire protection plans.

(2) **EXEMPTION.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the planning process and recommendations concerning community wildfire protection plans.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Federal agency involvement in a community wildfire protection plan, or a recommendation made in a community wildfire protection plan, shall not be considered a Federal agency action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) **COMPLIANCE.**—In implementing authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects on Federal land, the Secretary shall, in accordance with section 104, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(d) **FUNDING ALLOCATION.**—

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall use not less than 50 percent of the funds allocated for authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface.

(B) **APPLICABILITY AND ALLOCATION.**—The funding allocation in subparagraph (A) shall apply at the national level, and the Secretary may allocate the proportion of funds differently than is required under subparagraph (A) within individual management units as appropriate, in particular to conduct authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects on land described in section 102(a)(4).

(2) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—In providing financial assistance under any provision of law for hazardous fuel reduction projects on non-Federal land, the Secretary shall consider recommendations made by at-risk communities that have developed community wildfire protection plans.

SEC. 104. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.

(a) **AUTHORIZED HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Secretary shall conduct authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects in accordance with—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.); and

(2) other applicable laws.

(b) **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OR IMPACT STATEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement (pursuant to section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))) for any authorized hazardous fuel reduction project.

(2) **ALTERNATIVES.**—In the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement prepared under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall study, develop, and describe—

(A) the proposed agency action;

(B) the alternative of no action; and

(C) an additional action alternative, if the additional alternative—

(i) is proposed during scoping or the collaborative process; and

(ii) meets the purpose and need of the project, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality.

(3) **MULTIPLE ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVES.**—If more than 1 additional alternative is proposed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary shall—

(A) select which additional alternative to consider; and

(B) provide a written record describing the reasons for the selection.

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING.—

(1) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide notice of each authorized hazardous fuel reduction project in accordance with applicable regulations and administrative guidelines.

(2) PUBLIC MEETING.—During the preparation stage of each authorized hazardous fuel reduction project, the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct a public meeting at an appropriate location proximate to the administrative unit of the Federal land on which the authorized hazardous fuel reduction project will be conducted; and

(B) provide advance notice of the location, date, and time of the meeting.

(d) PUBLIC COLLABORATION.—In order to encourage meaningful public participation during preparation of authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects, the Secretary shall facilitate collaboration among State and local governments and Indian tribes, and participation of interested persons, during the preparation of each authorized fuel reduction project in a manner consistent with the Implementation Plan.

(e) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—In accordance with section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) and the applicable regulations and administrative guidelines, the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public comment during the preparation of any environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project.

(f) DECISION DOCUMENT.—The Secretary shall sign a decision document for authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects and provide notice of the final agency actions.

SEC. 105. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS.

(a) INTERIM FINAL REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate interim final regulations to establish a predecisional administrative review process for the period described in paragraph (2) that will serve as the sole means by which a person can seek administrative review regarding an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project on Forest Service land.

(2) PERIOD.—The predecisional administrative review process required under paragraph (1) shall occur during the period—

(A) beginning after the completion of the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement; and

(B) ending not later than the date of the issuance of the final decision approving the project.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The interim final regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of promulgation of the regulations.

(b) FINAL REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate final regulations to establish the process described in subsection (a)(1) after the interim final regulations have been published and reasonable time has been provided for public comment.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person may bring a civil action challenging an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project in a Federal district court only if the person has challenged the authorized hazardous fuel reduction project by exhausting—

(A) the administrative review process established by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section; or

(B) the administrative hearings and appeals procedures established by the Department of the Interior.

(2) ISSUES.—An issue may be considered in the judicial review of an action under section 106 only if the issue was raised in an administrative review process described in paragraph (1).

(3) EXCEPTION.—An exception to the requirement of exhausting the administrative review

process before seeking judicial review shall be available if a Federal court finds that the futility or inadequacy exception applies to a specific plaintiff or claim.

SEC. 106. JUDICIAL REVIEW IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) VENUE.—Notwithstanding section 1391 of title 28, United States Code, or other applicable law, an authorized hazardous fuels reduction project conducted under this title shall be subject to judicial review only in the United States district court for the district in which the Federal land to be treated under the authorized hazardous fuels reduction project is located.

(b) EXPEDITIOUS COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.—In the judicial review of an action challenging an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under subsection (a), Congress encourages a court of competent jurisdiction to expedite, to the maximum extent practicable, the proceedings in the action with the goal of rendering a final determination on jurisdiction, and (if jurisdiction exists) a final determination on the merits, as soon as practicable after the date on which a complaint or appeal is filed to initiate the action.

(c) INJUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the length of any preliminary injunctive relief and stays pending appeal covering an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project carried out under this title shall not exceed 60 days.

(2) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A court of competent jurisdiction may issue 1 or more renewals of any preliminary injunction, or stay pending appeal, granted under paragraph (1).

(B) UPDATES.—In each renewal of an injunction in an action, the parties to the action shall present the court with updated information on the status of the authorized hazardous fuel reduction project.

(3) BALANCING OF SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS.—As part of its weighing the equities while considering any request for an injunction that applies to an agency action under an authorized hazardous fuel reduction project, the court reviewing the project shall balance the impact to the ecosystem likely affected by the project of—

(A) the short- and long-term effects of undertaking the agency action; against

(B) the short- and long-term effects of not undertaking the agency action.

SEC. 107. EFFECT OF TITLE.

(a) OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title affects, or otherwise biases, the use by the Secretary of other statutory or administrative authority (including categorical exclusions adopted to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)) to conduct a hazardous fuel reduction project on Federal land (including Federal land identified in section 102(d)) that is not conducted using the process authorized by section 104.

(b) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—For projects and activities of the National Forest System other than authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects, nothing in this title affects, or otherwise biases, the notice, comment, and appeal procedures for projects and activities of the National Forest System contained in part 215 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, or the consideration or disposition of any legal action brought with respect to the procedures.

SEC. 108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$760,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out—

(1) activities authorized by this title; and

(2) other hazardous fuel reduction activities of the Secretary, including making grants to States for activities authorized by law.

TITLE II—BIOMASS**SEC. 201. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds that—

(1)(A) thousands of communities in the United States, many located near Federal land, are at risk of wildfire;

(B) more than 100,000,000 acres of land managed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are at risk of catastrophic fire in the near future; and

(C) the accumulation of heavy forest and rangeland fuel loads continues to increase as a result of fire exclusion, disease, insect infestations, and drought, further raising the risk of fire each year;

(2)(A) more than 70,000,000 acres across all land ownerships are at risk of higher than normal mortality during the 15-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act because of insect infestation and disease; and

(B) high levels of tree mortality from insects and disease result in—

(i) increased fire risk;

(ii) loss of older trees and old growth;

(iii) degraded watershed conditions;

(iv) changes in species diversity and productivity;

(v) diminished fish and wildlife habitat;

(vi) decreased timber values; and

(vii) increased threats to homes, businesses, and community watersheds;

(3)(A) preventive treatments (such as reducing fuel loads, crown density, ladder fuels, and hazard trees), planting proper species mix, restoring and protecting early successional habitat, and completing other specific restoration treatments designed to reduce the susceptibility of forest and rangeland to insect outbreaks, disease, and catastrophic fire present the greatest opportunity for long-term forest and rangeland health, maintenance, and enhancement by creating a mosaic of species-mix and age distribution; and

(B) those vegetation management treatments are widely acknowledged to be more successful and cost-effective than suppression treatments in the case of insects, disease, and fire;

(4)(A) the byproducts of vegetative management treatment (such as trees, brush, thinnings, chips, slash, and other hazardous fuels) removed from forest and rangeland represent an abundant supply of—

(i) biomass for biomass-to-energy facilities; and

(ii) raw material for business; and

(B) there are currently few markets for the extraordinary volumes of by-products being generated as a result of the necessary large-scale preventive treatment activities; and

(5) the United States should—

(A) promote economic and entrepreneurial opportunities in using by-products removed through vegetation treatment activities relating to hazardous fuels reduction, disease, and insect infestation;

(B) develop and expand markets for traditionally underused wood and biomass as an outlet for by-products of preventive treatment activities; and

(C) promote research and development to provide, for the by-products, economically and environmentally sound—

(i) management systems;

(ii) harvest and transport systems; and

(iii) utilization options.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) BIOMASS.—The term “biomass” means trees and woody plants (including limbs, tops, needles, other woody parts, and wood waste) and byproducts of preventive treatment (such as wood, brush, thinnings, chips, and slash) that are removed—

(A) to reduce hazardous fuels;

(B) to reduce the risk of or to contain disease or insect infestation; or

(C) to improve forest health and wildlife habitat conditions.

(2) PERSON.—The term “person” includes—

(A) an individual;

(B) a community (as determined by the Secretary);

(C) an Indian tribe;

(D) a small business, microbusiness, or a corporation that is incorporated in the United States; and

(E) a nonprofit organization.

(3) **PREFERRED COMMUNITY.**—The term “preferred community” means—

(A) any town, township, municipality, Indian tribe, or other similar unit of local government (as determined by the Secretary) that—

(i) has a population of not more than 50,000 individuals; and

(ii) the Secretary, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, determines contains or is located near, or with a water supply system that contains or is located near, land that—

(I) is at significant risk of catastrophic wildfire, disease, or insect infestation; or

(II) suffers from disease or insect infestation; or

(B) any area or unincorporated area represented by a nonprofit organization approved by the Secretary, that—

(i) is not wholly contained within a metropolitan statistical area; and

(ii) the Secretary, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, determines contains or is located near, or with a water supply system that contains or is located near, land—

(I) the condition of which is at significant risk of catastrophic wildfire, disease, or insect infestation; or

(II) that suffers from disease or insect infestation.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior (including land held in trust for the benefit of an Indian tribe).

SEC. 203. GRANTS TO IMPROVE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF FOREST BIOMASS FOR ELECTRIC ENERGY, USEFUL HEAT, TRANSPORTATION FUELS, COMPOST, VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS, AND PETROLEUM-BASED PRODUCT SUBSTITUTES.

(a) **BIOMASS COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may make grants to any person that owns or operates a facility that uses biomass as a raw material to produce electric energy, sensible heat, transportation fuels, substitutes for petroleum-based products, wood-based products, pulp, or other commercial products to offset the costs incurred to purchase biomass for use by the facility.

(2) **GRANT AMOUNTS.**—A grant under this subsection may not exceed \$20 per green ton of biomass delivered.

(3) **MONITORING OF GRANT RECIPIENT ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of a grant under this subsection, the grant recipient shall keep such records as the Secretary may require to fully and correctly disclose the use of the grant funds and all transactions involved in the purchase of biomass.

(B) **ACCESS.**—On notice by a representative of the Secretary, the grant recipient shall afford the representative—

(i) reasonable access to the facility that purchases or uses biomass; and

(ii) an opportunity to examine the inventory and records of the facility.

(b) **VALUE-ADDED GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary—

(A) may make grants to persons to offset the cost of projects to add value to biomass; and

(B) in making a grant under subparagraph (A), shall give preference to persons in preferred communities.

(2) **SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall select a grant recipient under paragraph (1)(A) after giving consideration to—

(A) the anticipated public benefits of the project;

(B) opportunities for the creation or expansion of small businesses and microbusinesses resulting from the project; and

(C) the potential for new job creation as a result of the project.

(3) **GRANT AMOUNT.**—A grant under this subsection shall not exceed \$100,000.

(c) **RELATION TO OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES AND RIPARIAN PROTECTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall comply with applicable endangered species and riparian protections in making grants under this section.

(2) **PROJECTS.**—Projects funded using grant proceeds shall be required to comply with the protections.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

SEC. 204. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the results of the grant programs authorized by section 203.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report shall include—

(1) an identification of the source, size, type, and the end-use of biomass by persons that receive grants under section 203;

(2) the haul costs incurred and the distance between the land from which the biomass was removed and the facilities that used the biomass;

(3) the economic impacts, particularly new job creation, resulting from the grants to and operation of the eligible operations; and

(4) the environmental effects of the activities described in this section.

SEC. 205. IMPROVED BIOMASS USE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) **USES OF GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND ASSISTANCE.**—Section 307(d) of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7624 note; Public Law 106-224) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) research to integrate silviculture, harvesting, product development, processing information, and economic evaluation to provide the science, technology, and tools to forest managers and community developers for use in evaluating forest treatment and production alternatives, including—

“(A) to develop tools that would enable land managers, locally or in a several-State region, to estimate—

“(i) the cost to deliver varying quantities of wood to a particular location; and

“(ii) the amount that could be paid for stumpage if delivered wood was used for a specific mix of products;

“(B) to conduct research focused on developing appropriate thinning systems and equipment designs that are—

“(i) capable of being used on land without significant adverse effects on the land;

“(ii) capable of handling large and varied landscapes;

“(iii) adaptable to handling a wide variety of tree sizes;

“(iv) inexpensive; and

“(v) adaptable to various terrains; and

“(C) to develop, test, and employ in the training of forestry managers and community developers curricula materials and training programs on matters described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).”

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 310(b) of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C.

7624 note; Public Law 106-224) is amended by striking “\$49,000,000” and inserting “\$54,000,000”.

SEC. 206. RURAL REVITALIZATION THROUGH FORESTRY.

Section 2371 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in consultation with the State and Private Forestry Technology Marketing Unit at the Forest Products Laboratory, and in collaboration with eligible institutions, may carry out a program—

“(A) to accelerate adoption of technologies using biomass and small-diameter materials;

“(B) to create community-based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects; and

“(C) to establish small-scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials.

“(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”

TITLE III—WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

SEC. 301. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) there has been a dramatic shift in public attitudes and perceptions about forest management, particularly in the understanding and practice of sustainable forest management;

(2) it is commonly recognized that the proper stewardship of forest land is essential to sustaining and restoring the health of watersheds;

(3) forests can provide essential ecological services in filtering pollutants, buffering important rivers and estuaries, and minimizing flooding, which makes forest restoration worthy of special focus; and

(4) strengthened education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for nonindustrial private forest landowners and communities, relating to the protection of watershed health, is needed to realize the expectations of the general public.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to improve landowner and public understanding of the connection between forest management and watershed health;

(2) to encourage landowners to maintain tree cover on property and to use tree plantings and vegetative treatments as creative solutions to watershed problems associated with varying land uses;

(3) to enhance and complement forest management and buffer use for watersheds, with an emphasis on community watersheds;

(4) to establish new partnerships and collaborative watershed approaches to forest management, stewardship, and conservation;

(5) to provide technical and financial assistance to States to deliver a coordinated program that enhances State forestry best-management practices programs, and conserves and improves forested land and potentially forested land, through technical, financial, and educational assistance to qualifying individuals and entities; and

(6) to maximize the proper management and conservation of wetland forests and to assist in the restoration of those forests.

SEC. 302. WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2103a) the following:

“SEC. 6. WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITION OF NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.**—In this section, the term ‘non-industrial private forest land’ means rural land, as determined by the Secretary, that—

“(1) has existing tree cover or that is suitable for growing trees; and

“(2) is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decisionmaking authority over the land.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may provide technical, financial, and related assistance to State foresters, equivalent State officials, and officials of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service for the purpose of expanding State forest stewardship capacities and activities through State forestry best-management practices and other means at the State level to address watershed issues on non-Federal forested land and potentially forested land.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with State foresters, officials of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, or equivalent State officials, shall engage interested members of the public, including nonprofit organizations and local watershed councils, to develop a program of technical assistance to protect water quality described in paragraph (2).

“(2) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The program under this subsection shall be designed—

“(A) to build and strengthen watershed partnerships that focus on forested landscapes at the State, regional, and local levels;

“(B) to provide State forestry best-management practices and water quality technical assistance directly to owners of nonindustrial private forest land;

“(C) to provide technical guidance to land managers and policymakers for water quality protection through forest management;

“(D) to complement State and local efforts to protect water quality and provide enhanced opportunities for consultation and cooperation among Federal and State agencies charged with responsibility for water and watershed management; and

“(E) to provide enhanced forest resource data and support for improved implementation and monitoring of State forestry best-management practices.

“(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—In the case of a participating State, the program of technical assistance shall be implemented by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

“(d) WATERSHED FORESTRY COST-SHARE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a watershed forestry cost-share program—

“(A) which shall be—

“(i) administered by the Forest Service; and

“(ii) implemented by State foresters or equivalent State officials in participating States; and

“(B) under which funds or other support provided to participating States shall be made available for State forestry best-management practices programs and watershed forestry projects.

“(2) WATERSHED FORESTRY PROJECTS.—The State forester, State Research, Education and Extension official, or equivalent State official of a participating State, in coordination with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee established under section 19(b) (or an equivalent committee) for that State, shall make awards to communities, nonprofit groups, and owners of nonindustrial private forest land under the program for watershed forestry projects described in paragraph (3).

“(3) PROJECT ELEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES.—A watershed forestry project shall accomplish critical forest stewardship, watershed protection, and restoration needs within a State by demonstrating the value of trees and forests to watershed health and condition through—

“(A) the use of trees as solutions to water quality problems in urban and rural areas;

“(B) community-based planning, involvement, and action through State, local and nonprofit partnerships;

“(C) application of and dissemination of monitoring information on forestry best-management practices relating to watershed forestry;

“(D) watershed-scale forest management activities and conservation planning; and

“(E)(i) the restoration of wetland (as defined by the States) and stream-side forests; and

“(ii) the establishment of riparian vegetative buffers.

“(4) COST-SHARING.—

“(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(i) FUNDS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.—Funds provided under this subsection for a watershed forestry project may not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the project.

“(ii) OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.—The percentage of the cost of a project described in clause (i) that is not covered by funds made available under this subsection may be paid using other Federal funding sources, except that the total Federal share of the costs of the project may not exceed 90 percent.

“(B) FORM.—The non-Federal share of the costs of a project may be provided in the form of cash, services, or other in-kind contributions.

“(5) PRIORITIZATION.—The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee for a State, or equivalent State committee, shall prioritize watersheds in that State to target watershed forestry projects funded under this subsection.

“(6) WATERSHED FORESTER.—Financial and technical assistance shall be made available to the State Forester or equivalent State official to create a State watershed or best-management practice forester position to—

“(A) lead statewide programs; and

“(B) coordinate watershed-level projects.

“(e) DISTRIBUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available for a fiscal year under subsection (g), the Secretary shall use—

“(A) at least 75 percent of the funds to carry out the cost-share program under subsection (d); and

“(B) the remainder of the funds to deliver technical assistance, education, and planning, at the local level, through the State Forester or equivalent State official.

“(2) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Distribution of funds by the Secretary among States under paragraph (1) shall be made only after giving appropriate consideration to—

“(A) the acres of agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and highly erodible land in each State;

“(B) the miles of riparian buffer needed;

“(C) the miles of impaired stream segments and other impaired water bodies where forestry practices can be used to restore or protect water resources;

“(D) the number of owners of nonindustrial private forest land in each State; and

“(E) water quality cost savings that can be achieved through forest watershed management.

“(f) WILLING OWNERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Participation of an owner of nonindustrial private forest land in the watershed forestry assistance program under this section is voluntary.

“(2) WRITTEN CONSENT.—The watershed forestry assistance program shall not be carried out on nonindustrial private forest land without the written consent of the owner of, or entity having definitive decisionmaking over, the nonindustrial private forest land.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”

SEC. 303. TRIBAL WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall provide technical, financial, and related assistance to Indian tribes for the purpose of expanding tribal stewardship capacities and activities through tribal forestry best-management

practices and other means at the tribal level to address watershed issues on land under the jurisdiction of or administered by the Indian tribes.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with Indian tribes, shall develop a program to provide technical assistance to protect water quality, as described in paragraph (2).

(2) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The program under this subsection shall be designed—

(A) to build and strengthen watershed partnerships that focus on forested landscapes at the State, regional, tribal, and local levels;

(B) to provide tribal forestry best-management practices and water quality technical assistance directly to Indian tribes;

(C) to provide technical guidance to tribal land managers and policy makers for water quality protection through forest management;

(D) to complement tribal efforts to protect water quality and provide enhanced opportunities for consultation and cooperation among Federal agencies and tribal entities charged with responsibility for water and watershed management; and

(E) to provide enhanced forest resource data and support for improved implementation and monitoring of tribal forestry best-management practices.

(c) WATERSHED FORESTRY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a watershed forestry program to be administered by Indian tribes.

(2) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—Funds or other support provided under the program shall be made available for tribal forestry best-management practices programs and watershed forestry projects.

(3) ANNUAL AWARDS.—The Secretary shall annually make awards to Indian tribes to carry out this subsection.

(4) PROJECT ELEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES.—A watershed forestry project shall accomplish critical forest stewardship, watershed protection, and restoration needs within land under the jurisdiction of or administered by an Indian tribe by demonstrating the value of trees and forests to watershed health and condition through—

(A) the use of trees as solutions to water quality problems;

(B) application of and dissemination of monitoring information on forestry best-management practices relating to watershed forestry;

(C) watershed-scale forest management activities and conservation planning;

(D) the restoration of wetland and stream-side forests and the establishment of riparian vegetative buffers; and

(E) tribal-based planning, involvement, and action through State, tribal, local, and nonprofit partnerships.

(5) PRIORITIZATION.—An Indian tribe that participates in the program under this subsection shall prioritize watersheds in land under the jurisdiction of or administered by the Indian tribe to target watershed forestry projects funded under this subsection.

(6) WATERSHED FORESTER.—The Secretary may provide to Indian tribes under this section financial and technical assistance to establish a position of tribal forester to lead tribal programs and coordinate small watershed-level projects.

(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall devote—

(1) at least 75 percent of the funds made available for a fiscal year under subsection (e) to the program under subsection (c); and

(2) the remainder of the funds to deliver technical assistance, education, and planning on the ground to Indian tribes.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

TITLE IV—INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES

SEC. 401. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) high levels of tree mortality resulting from insect infestation (including the interaction between insects and diseases) may result in—

- (A) increased fire risk;
- (B) loss of old trees and old growth;
- (C) loss of threatened and endangered species;
- (D) loss of species diversity;
- (E) degraded watershed conditions;
- (F) increased potential for damage from other agents of disturbance, including exotic, invasive species; and

(G) decreased timber values;

(2)(A) forest-damaging insects destroy hundreds of thousands of acres of trees each year;

(B) in the West, more than 21,000,000 acres are at high risk of forest-damaging insect infestation, and in the South, more than 57,000,000 acres are at risk across all land ownerships; and

(C) severe drought conditions in many areas of the South and West will increase the risk of forest-damaging insect infestations;

(3) the hemlock woolly adelgid is—

(A) destroying streamside forests throughout the mid-Atlantic and Appalachian regions;

(B) threatening water quality and sensitive aquatic species; and

(C) posing a potential threat to valuable commercial timber land in northern New England;

(4)(A) the emerald ash borer is a nonnative, invasive pest that has quickly become a major threat to hardwood forests because an emerald ash borer infestation is almost always fatal to affected trees; and

(B) the emerald ash borer pest threatens to destroy more than 692,000,000 ash trees in forests in Michigan and Ohio alone, and between 5 and 10 percent of urban street trees in the Upper Midwest;

(5)(A) epidemic populations of Southern pine beetles are ravaging forests in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia; and

(B) in 2001, Florida and Kentucky experienced 146 percent and 111 percent increases, respectively, in Southern pine beetle populations;

(6) those epidemic outbreaks of Southern pine beetles have forced private landowners to harvest dead and dying trees, in rural areas and increasingly urbanized settings;

(7) according to the Forest Service, recent outbreaks of the red oak borer in Arkansas and Missouri have been unprecedented, with more than 1,000,000 acres infested at population levels never seen before;

(8) much of the damage from the red oak borer has taken place in national forests, and the Federal response has been inadequate to protect forest ecosystems and other ecological and economic resources;

(9)(A) previous silvicultural assessments, while useful and informative, have been limited in scale and scope of application; and

(B) there have not been sufficient resources available to adequately test a full array of individual and combined applied silvicultural assessments;

(10) only through the full funding, development, and assessment of potential applied silvicultural assessments over specific time frames across an array of environmental and climatic conditions can the most innovative and cost effective management applications be determined that will help reduce the susceptibility of forest ecosystems to attack by forest pests;

(11)(A) often, there are significant interactions between insects and diseases;

(B) many diseases (such as white pine blister rust, beech bark disease, and many other diseases) can weaken trees and forest stands and predispose trees and forest stands to insect attack; and

(C) certain diseases are spread using insects as vectors (including Dutch elm disease and pine pitch canker); and

(12) funding and implementation of an initiative to combat forest pest infestations and associated diseases should not come at the expense

of supporting other programs and initiatives of the Secretary.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to require the Secretary to develop an accelerated basic and applied assessment program to combat infestations by forest-damaging insects and associated diseases;

(2) to enlist the assistance of colleges and universities (including forestry schools, land grant colleges and universities, and 1890 Institutions), State agencies, and private landowners to carry out the program; and

(3) to carry out applied silvicultural assessments.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPLIED SILVICULTURAL ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “applied silvicultural assessment” means any vegetative or other treatment carried out for a purpose described in section 403.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “applied silvicultural assessment” includes (but is not limited to) timber harvesting, thinning, prescribed burning, pruning, and any combination of those activities.

(2) 1890 INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “1890 Institution” means a college or university that is eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “1890 Institution” includes Tuskegee University.

(3) FOREST-DAMAGING INSECT.—The term “forest-damaging insect” means—

- (A) a Southern pine beetle;
- (B) a mountain pine beetle;
- (C) a spruce bark beetle;
- (D) a gypsy moth;
- (E) a hemlock woolly adelgid;
- (F) an emerald ash borer;
- (G) a red oak borer;
- (H) a white oak borer; and
- (I) such other insects as may be identified by the Secretary.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Service, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through appropriate offices of the United States Geological Survey, with respect to federally owned land administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 403. ACCELERATED INFORMATION GATHERING REGARDING FOREST-DAMAGING INSECTS.

(a) INFORMATION GATHERING.—The Secretary, acting through the Forest Service and United States Geological Survey, as appropriate, shall establish an accelerated program—

(1) to plan, conduct, and promote comprehensive and systematic information gathering on forest-damaging insects and associated diseases, including an evaluation of—

(A) infestation, prevention, and suppression methods;

(B) effects of infestations and associated disease interactions on forest ecosystems;

(C) restoration of forest ecosystem efforts;

(D) utilization options regarding infested trees; and

(E) models to predict the occurrence, distribution, and impact of outbreaks of forest-damaging insects and associated diseases;

(2) to assist land managers in the development of treatments and strategies to improve forest health and reduce the susceptibility of forest ecosystems to severe infestations of forest-damaging insects and associated diseases on Federal land and State and private land; and

(3) to disseminate the results of the information gathering, treatments, and strategies.

(b) COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish and carry out the program in cooperation with—

(A) scientists from colleges and universities (including forestry schools, land grant colleges and universities, and 1890 Institutions);

(B) Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(C) private and industrial landowners; and

(2) designate such colleges and universities to assist in carrying out the program.

SEC. 404. APPLIED SILVICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT EFFORTS.—For information gathering and research purposes, the Secretary may conduct applied silvicultural assessments on Federal land that the Secretary determines is at risk of infestation by, or is infested with, forest-damaging insects.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to—

(A) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(B) any Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(C) a congressionally-designated wilderness study area; or

(D) an area in which activities under subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.

(2) CERTAIN TREATMENT PROHIBITED.—Nothing in subsection (a) authorizes the application of insecticides in municipal watersheds or associated riparian areas.

(3) PEER REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before being carried out, each applied silvicultural assessment under this title shall be peer reviewed by scientific experts selected by the Secretary, which shall include non-Federal experts.

(B) EXISTING PEER REVIEW PROCESSES.—The Secretary may use existing peer review processes to the extent the processes comply with subparagraph (A).

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

(1) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide notice of each applied silvicultural assessment proposed to be carried out under this section.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public comment before carrying out an applied silviculture assessment under this section.

(d) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Applied silvicultural assessment and research treatments carried out under this section on not more than 1,000 acres for an assessment or treatment may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement and environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—Applied silvicultural assessments and research treatments categorically excluded under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall not be carried out in an area that is adjacent to another area that is categorically excluded under paragraph (1) that is being treated with similar methods; and

(B) shall be subject to the extraordinary circumstances procedures established by the Secretary pursuant to section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) MAXIMUM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The total number of acres categorically excluded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 250,000 acres.

(4) NO ADDITIONAL FINDINGS REQUIRED.—In accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not be required to make any findings as to whether an applied silvicultural assessment project, either individually or cumulatively, has a significant effect on the environment.

SEC. 405. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.

The authority provided to each Secretary under this title is supplemental to, and not in lieu of, any authority provided to the Secretaries under any other law.

SEC. 406. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

TITLE V—HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM**SEC. 501. ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the healthy forests reserve program for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems—

(1) to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species;

(2) to improve biodiversity; and

(3) to enhance carbon sequestration.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out the healthy forests reserve program in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 502. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT OF LANDS IN PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall describe and define forest ecosystems that are eligible for enrollment in the healthy forests reserve program.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible for enrollment in the healthy forests reserve program, land shall be—

(1) private land the enrollment of which will restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably increase the likelihood of recovery of a species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

(2) private land the enrollment of which will restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably improve the well-being of species that—

(A) are not listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); but

(B) are candidates for such listing, State-listed species, or special concern species.

(c) **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.**—In enrolling land that satisfies the criteria under subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall give additional consideration to land the enrollment of which will—

(1) improve biological diversity; and

(2) increase carbon sequestration.

(d) **ENROLLMENT BY WILLING OWNERS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall enroll land in the healthy forests reserve program only with the consent of the owner of the land.

(e) **MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT.**—The total number of acres enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program shall not exceed 2,000,000 acres.

(f) **METHODS OF ENROLLMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Land may be enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program in accordance with—

(A) a 10-year cost-share agreement;

(B) a 30-year agreement; or

(C) an agreement of not more than 99 years.

(2) **PROPORTION.**—The extent to which each enrollment method is used shall be based on the approximate proportion of owner interest expressed in that method in comparison to the other methods.

(g) **ENROLLMENT PRIORITY.**—

(1) **SPECIES.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to the enrollment of land that provides the greatest conservation benefit to—

(A) primarily, species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

(B) secondarily, species that—

(i) are not listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); but

(ii) are candidates for such listing, State-listed species, or special concern species.

(2) **COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall also consider the cost-effec-

tiveness of each agreement, and associated restoration plans, so as to maximize the environmental benefits per dollar expended.

SEC. 503. RESTORATION PLANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program shall be subject to a restoration plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) **PRACTICES.**—The restoration plan shall require such restoration practices as are necessary to restore and enhance habitat for—

(1) species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

(2) animal or plant species before the species reach threatened or endangered status, such as candidate, State-listed species, and special concern species.

SEC. 504. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **AGREEMENTS OF NOT MORE THAN 99 YEARS.**—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using an agreement of not more than 99 years described in section 502(f)(1)(C), the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not less than 75 percent, nor more than 100 percent, of (as determined by the Secretary)—

(1) the fair market value of the enrolled land during the period the land is subject to the agreement, less the fair market value of the land encumbered by the agreement; and

(2) the actual costs of the approved conservation practices or the average cost of approved practices carried out on the land during the period in which the land is subject to the agreement.

(b) **30-YEAR AGREEMENT.**—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using a 30-year agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not more than (as determined by the Secretary)—

(1) 75 percent of the fair market value of the land, less the fair market value of the land encumbered by the agreement; and

(2) 75 percent of the actual costs of the approved conservation practices or 75 percent of the average cost of approved practices.

(c) **10-YEAR AGREEMENT.**—In the case of land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program using a 10-year cost-share agreement, the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay the owner of the land an amount equal to not more than (as determined by the Secretary)—

(1) 50 percent of the actual costs of the approved conservation practices; or

(2) 50 percent of the average cost of approved practices.

(d) **ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may accept and use contributions of non-Federal funds to make payments under this section.

SEC. 505. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide landowners with technical assistance to assist the owners in complying with the terms of plans (as included in agreements) under the healthy forests reserve program.

(b) **TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may request the services of, and enter into cooperative agreements with, individuals or entities certified as technical service providers under section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842), to assist the Secretary in providing technical assistance necessary to develop and implement the healthy forests reserve program.

SEC. 506. PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES

(a) **PROTECTIONS.**—In the case of a landowner that enrolls land in the program and whose conservation activities result in a net conservation benefit for listed, candidate, or other species, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

(1) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

(2) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

(b) **MEASURES.**—If protection under subsection (a) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the applicable restoration plan agreed to under section 503, the cost of the additional measures, as well as the cost of any permit, shall be considered part of the restoration plan for purposes of financial assistance under section 504.

SEC. 507. INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

In carrying out this title, the Secretary of Agriculture may consult with—

(1) nonindustrial private forest landowners;

(2) other Federal agencies;

(3) State fish and wildlife agencies;

(4) State forestry agencies;

(5) State environmental quality agencies;

(6) other State conservation agencies; and

(7) nonprofit conservation organizations.

SEC. 508. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title—

(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

(2) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008.

TITLE VI—PUBLIC LAND CORPS**SEC. 601. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this title are—

(1) to carry out, in a cost-effective and efficient manner, rehabilitation, enhancement, and beautification projects;

(2) to offer young people, ages 16 through 25, particularly those who are at-risk or economically disadvantaged, the opportunity to gain productive employment and exposure to the world of work;

(3) to give those young people the opportunity to serve their communities and their country; and

(4) to expand educational opportunities by rewarding individuals who participate in the Public Land Corps with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.**—The term “Alaska Native Corporation” means a Regional Corporation or Village Corporation, as defined in section 101(11) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511(11)).

(2) **CORPS.**—The term “Corps” means the Public Land Corps established under section 603(a).

(3) **HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.**—The term “Hawaiian home lands” means that term, within the meaning of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.).

(4) **INDIAN LANDS.**—The term “Indian lands” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).

(5) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS.**—The term “service and conservation corps” means any organization established by a State or local government, nonprofit organization, or Indian tribe that—

(A) has a demonstrable capability to provide productive work to individuals;

(B) gives participants a combination of work experience, basic and life skills, education, training, and support services; and

(C) provides participants with the opportunity to develop citizenship values through service to their communities and the United States.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

- (G) the Federated States of Micronesia;
- (H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (I) the Republic of Palau; and
- (J) the United States Virgin Islands.

SEC. 603. PUBLIC LAND CORPS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a Public Land Corps.

(b) **PARTICIPANTS.**—The Corps shall consist of individuals who are enrolled as members of a service or conservation corps.

(c) **CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretaries may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements—

(1) directly with any service and conservation corps to perform appropriate rehabilitation, enhancement, or beautification projects; or

(2) with a department of natural resources, agriculture, or forestry (or an equivalent department) of any State that has entered into a contract or cooperative agreement with a service and conservation corps to perform appropriate rehabilitation, enhancement, or beautification projects.

(d) **PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries may use the members of a service and conservation corps to perform rehabilitation, enhancement, or beautification projects authorized by law.

(2) **INCLUDED LAND.**—In addition to Federal and State lands, the projects may be carried out on—

(A) Indian lands, with the approval of the applicable Indian tribe;

(B) Hawaiian home lands, with the approval of the relevant State agency in the State of Hawaii; and

(C) Alaska native lands, with the approval of the applicable Alaska Native Corporation.

(e) **PREFERENCE.**—In carrying out this title, the Secretaries shall give preference to projects that will—

(1) provide long-term benefits by reducing hazardous fuels on Federal land;

(2) instill in members of the service and conservation corps—

(A) a work ethic;

(B) a sense of personal responsibility; and

(C) a sense of public service;

(3) be labor intensive; and

(4) be planned and initiated promptly.

(f) **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**—The Secretaries may provide such services as the Secretaries consider necessary to carry out this title.

(g) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—To carry out this title, the Secretaries shall provide technical assistance, oversight, monitoring, and evaluation to—

(1) State Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture (or equivalent agencies); and

(2) members of service and conservation corps.

SEC. 604. NONDISPLACEMENT.

The nondisplacement requirements of section 177(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12637(b)) shall apply to activities carried out by the Corps under this title.

SEC. 605. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

TITLE VII—RURAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

SEC. 701. PURPOSE

The purpose of this title is to assist in the economic revitalization of rural forest resource-dependent communities through incentives and collaboration to promote investment in private enterprise and community development by—

(1) the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the Department of the Interior;

(3) the Department of Commerce;

(4) the Small Business Administration;

(5) land grant colleges and universities; and

(6) 1890 Institutions.

SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **1890 INSTITUTION.**—The term “1890 Institution” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a unit of State or local government;

(B) an Indian tribe;

(C) a nonprofit organization;

(D) a small forest products business;

(E) a rural forest resource-dependent community;

(F) a land grant college or university; or

(G) an 1890 institution.

(3) **ELIGIBLE PROJECT.**—The term “eligible project” means a project described in section 703 that will promote the economic development in rural forest resource-dependent communities based on—

(A) responsible forest stewardship;

(B) the production of sustainable forest products; or

(C) the development of forest related tourism and recreation activities.

(4) **FOREST PRODUCTS.**—The term “forest products” means—

(A) logs;

(B) lumber;

(C) chips;

(D) small-diameter finished wood products;

(E) energy biomass;

(F) mulch; and

(G) any other material derived from forest vegetation or individual trees or shrubs.

(5) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is—

(A) described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(B) exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.

(6) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the rural community forestry enterprise program established under section 703.

(7) **SMALL FOREST PRODUCTS BUSINESS.**—The term “small forest products business” means a small business concern (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) that is classified under subsector 113 or code number 115310 of the North American Industrial Classification System.

(8) **RURAL FOREST RESOURCE-DEPENDENT COMMUNITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “rural forest resource-dependent community” means a community located in a rural area of the United States that is traditionally dependent on forestry products as a primary source of community infrastructure.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “rural forest resource-dependent community” includes a community described in subparagraph (A) located in—

(i) the northern forest land of Maine;

(ii) New Hampshire;

(iii) New York;

(iv) Vermont;

(v) the Upper Peninsula of Michigan;

(vi) northern California; and

(vii) eastern Oregon.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 703. RURAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish within the Forest Service a program to be known as the “Rural Community Forestry Enterprise Program”.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the Small Business Administration;

(B) the Economic Development Administration;

(C) land grant colleges and universities;

(D) 1890 institutions;

(E) research stations and laboratories of the Forest Service;

(F) other agencies of the Department of Agriculture that administer rural development programs; and

(G) private nonprofit organizations.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the program are—

(1) to enhance technical and business management skills training;

(2) to organize cooperatives and marketing programs;

(3) to establish and maintain timber worker skill pools;

(4) to establish and maintain forest product distribution networks and collection centers;

(5) to facilitate technology transfer for processing small diameter trees and brush into useful products;

(6) to develop, where support exists, a program to promote science-based technology implementation and technology transfer that expands the capacity for small forest product businesses to work within market areas;

(7) to promote forest-related tourism and recreational activities;

(8) to enhance the rural forest business infrastructure needed to reduce hazardous fuels on public and private land; and

(9) to carry out related programs and activities, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) **FOREST ENTERPRISE CENTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish Forest Enterprise Centers to provide services to rural forest-dependent communities.

(2) **LOCATION.**—A Center shall be located within close proximity of rural forest-dependent communities served by the Center, with at least 1 center located in each of the States of California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, New Mexico, Vermont, and Washington.

(3) **DUTIES.**—A Center shall—

(A) carry out eligible projects; and

(B) coordinate assistance provided to small forest products businesses with—

(i) the Small Business Administration, including the timber set-aside program carried out by the Small Business Administration;

(ii) the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(iii) the Economic Development Administration, including the local technical assistance program of the Economic Development Administration; and

(iv) research stations and laboratories of the Forest Service.

(d) **FOREST ENTERPRISE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Forest Enterprise Centers established under subsection (c), shall establish a program to provide technical assistance and grants to eligible entities to carry out eligible projects.

(2) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary shall work with each Forest Enterprise Center to develop appropriate program review and prioritization criteria for each Research Station.

(3) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—Grants under this section shall—

(A) not exceed 50 percent of the cost of an eligible project; and

(B) be made on the condition that non-Federal sources pay for the remainder of the cost of an eligible project (including payment through in-kind contributions of services or materials).

(4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

TITLE VIII—FIREFIGHTERS MEDICAL MONITORING ACT

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title shall be referred to as the “Firefighters Medical Monitoring Act of 2003”.

SEC. 802. MONITORING OF FIREFIGHTERS IN DISASTER AREAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall monitor

the long-term medical health of those firefighters who fought fires in any area declared a disaster area by the Federal Government.

(b) **HEALTH MONITORING.**—The long-term health monitoring referred to in subsection (a) shall include, but not be limited to, pulmonary illness, neurological damage, and cardiovascular damage, and shall utilize the medical expertise in the local areas affected.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION.**—To carry out this title, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary in each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

TITLE IX—DISASTER AIR QUALITY MONITORING ACT

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title shall be referred to as the “Disaster Air Quality Monitoring Act of 2003”.

SEC. 902. MONITORING OF AIR QUALITY IN DISASTER AREAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—No later than six (6) months after the enactment of this legislation, the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide each of its regional offices a mobile air pollution monitoring network to monitor the emissions of hazardous air pollutants in areas declared a disaster as referred to in subsection (b), and publish such information on a daily basis on its web site and in other forums, until such time as the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the danger has subsided.

(b) **DISASTER AREAS.**—The areas referred to in subsection (a) are those areas declared a disaster area by the Federal Government.

(c) **CONTINUOUS MONITORING.**—The monitoring referred to in subsection (a) shall include the continuous and spontaneous monitoring of hazardous air pollutants, as defined in Public Law 95-95, section 112(b).

(d) **AUTHORIZATION.**—To carry out this title, there are authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000.

TITLE X—HIGHLANDS REGION CONSERVATION

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Highlands Conservation Act”.

SEC. 1002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Highlands region is a physiographic province that encompasses more than 2,000,000 acres extending from eastern Pennsylvania through the States of New Jersey and New York to northwestern Connecticut.

(2) The Highlands region is an environmentally unique area that—

(A) provides clean drinking water to over 15,000,000 people in metropolitan areas in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania;

(B) provides critical wildlife habitat, including habitat for 247 threatened and endangered species;

(C) maintains an important historic connection to early Native American culture, colonial settlement, the American Revolution, and the Civil War;

(D) contains recreational resources for 14 million visitors annually;

(E) provides other significant ecological, natural, tourism, recreational, educational, and economic benefits; and

(F) provides homeownership opportunities and access to affordable housing that is safe, clean, and healthy;

(3) An estimated 1 in 12 citizens of the United States live within a 2-hour drive of the Highlands region.

(4) More than 1,400,000 residents live in the Highlands region.

(5) The Highlands region forms a greenbelt adjacent to the Philadelphia-New York City-Hartford urban corridor that offers the opportunity to preserve water, forest and agricultural resources, wildlife habitat, recreational areas, and historic sites, while encouraging sustain-

able economic growth and development in a fiscally and environmentally sound manner.

(6) Continued population growth and land use patterns in the Highlands region—

(A) reduce the availability and quality of water;

(B) reduce air quality;

(C) fragment the forests;

(D) destroy critical migration corridors and forest habitat; and

(E) result in the loss of recreational opportunities and scenic, historic, and cultural resources;

(7) The water, forest, wildlife, recreational, agricultural, and cultural resources of the Highlands region, in combination with the proximity of the Highlands region to the largest metropolitan areas in the United States, make the Highlands region nationally significant.

(8) The national significance of the Highlands region has been documented in—

(A) the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study conducted by the Forest Service in 1990;

(B) the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update conducted by the Forest Service;

(C) the bi-State Skylands Greenway Task Force Report;

(D) the New Jersey State Development and Re-development Plan;

(E) the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan;

(F) the Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition FY 2001-2006;

(G) the open space plans of the State of Pennsylvania; and

(H) other open space conservation plans for States in the Highlands region;

(9) The Highlands region includes or is adjacent to numerous parcels of land owned by the Federal Government or federally designated areas that protect, conserve, or restore resources of the Highlands region, including—

(A) the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge;

(B) the Shawanagunk Grasslands Wildlife Refuge;

(C) the Morristown National Historical Park;

(D) the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Corridors;

(E) the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area;

(F) the Delaware River Basin;

(G) the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area;

(H) the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River;

(I) the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;

(J) the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York;

(K) the Highlands National Millenium Trail;

(L) the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge;

(M) the proposed Crossroads of the Revolution National Heritage Area;

(N) the proposed Musconetcong National Scenic and Recreational River in New Jersey; and

(O) the Farmington River Wild and Scenic Area in Connecticut;

(10) It is in the interest of the United States to protect, conserve, and restore the resources of the Highlands region for the residents of, and visitors to, the Highlands region.

(11) The States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, and units of local government in the Highlands region have the primary responsibility for protecting, conserving, preserving, restoring and promoting the resources of the Highlands region.

(12) Because of the longstanding Federal practice of assisting States in creating, protecting, conserving, and restoring areas of significant natural and cultural importance, and the national significance of the Highlands region, the Federal Government should, in partnership with the Highlands States and units of local government in the Highlands region, pro-

tect, restore, and preserve the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational and cultural resources of the Highlands region.

SEC. 1003. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To recognize the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational and cultural resources of the Highlands, and the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States.

(2) To authorize the Secretary of Interior to work in partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to the Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation lands in the Highlands region.

(3) To continue the ongoing Forest Service programs in the Highlands region to assist the Highlands States, local units of government and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of lands and natural resources in the Highlands region.

SEC. 1004. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **HIGHLANDS REGION.**—The term “Highlands region” means the physiographic province, defined by the Reading Prong and ecologically similar adjacent upland areas, that encompasses more than 2,000,000 acres extending from eastern Pennsylvania through the States of New Jersey and New York to northwestern Connecticut.

(2) **HIGHLANDS STATE.**—The term “Highlands State” means—

(A) the State of Connecticut;

(B) the State of New Jersey;

(C) the State of New York;

(D) the State of Pennsylvania; and

(E) any agency or department of any Highlands State.

(3) **LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT.**—The term “land conservation partnership project” means a land conservation project located within the Highlands region identified as having high conservation value by the Forest Service in which a non-Federal entity acquires land or an interest in land from a willing seller for the purpose of permanently protecting, conserving, or preserving the land through a partnership with the Federal Government.

(4) **NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.**—The term “non-Federal entity” means any Highlands State, or any agency or department of any Highlands State with authority to own and manage land for conservation purpose, including the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

(5) **STUDY.**—The term “study” means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study conducted by the Forest Service in 1990.

(6) **UPDATE.**—The term “update” means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update conducted by the Forest Service.

(7) **UPDATE.**—The term “update” means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update conducted by the Forest Service.

SEC. 1005. LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS IN THE HIGHLANDS REGION.

(a) **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS.**—Annually, the Governors of the Highlands States, with input from pertinent units of local government and the public, may jointly identify land conservation partnership projects in the Highlands region that shall be proposed for Federal financial assistance and submit a list of those projects to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall annually submit to Congress a list of those land conservation partnership projects submitted under subsection (a) that are eligible to receive financial assistance under this section.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS.**—To be eligible for financial assistance under this section for a land conservation partnership project, a non-Federal entity shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior that—

(1) identifies the non-Federal entity that shall own or hold and manage the land or interest in land;

(2) identifies the source of funds to provide the non-Federal share required under subsection (d);

(3) describes the management objectives for the land that will assure permanent protection and use of the land for the purpose for which the assistance will be provided;

(4) provides that, if the non-Federal entity converts, uses, or disposes of the land conservation partnership project for a purpose inconsistent with the purpose for which the assistance was provided, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, the United States may seek specific performance of the conditions of financial assistance in accordance with paragraph (3) in Federal court and shall be entitled to reimbursement from the non-Federal entity in an amount that is, as determined at the time of conversion, use, or disposal, the greater of—

(A) the total amount of the financial assistance provided for the project by the Federal Government under this section; or

(B) the amount by which the financial assistance increased the value of the land or interest in land; and

(5) provides that land conservation partnership projects will be consistent with areas identified as having high conservation value in the following:

(A) Important Areas portion of the Forest Service study.

(B) Conservation Focal Areas portion of the Forest Service update.

(C) Conservation Priorities portion of the update.

(D) Lands identified as having higher or highest resource value in the Conservation Values Assessment portion of the update.

(d) NON-FEDERAL SHARE REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a land conservation partnership project under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the land conservation partnership project.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior from the general funds of the Treasury or the Land and Water Conservation Fund to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2014. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization of appropriations shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 1006. FOREST SERVICE AND USDA PROGRAMS IN THE HIGHLANDS REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to meet the land resource goals of, and the scientific and conservation challenges identified in, the study, update, and any future study that the Forest Service may undertake in the Highlands region, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in consultation with the Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, shall continue to assist the Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of lands and natural resources in the Highlands region.

(b) DUTIES.—The Forest Service shall—

(1) in consultation with the Highlands States, undertake other studies and research as appropriate in the Highlands region consistent with the purposes of this title;

(2) communicate the findings of the study and update and maintain a public dialogue regarding implementation of the study and update; and

(3) assist the Highland States, local units of government, individual landowners, and private organizations in identifying and using Forest Service and other technical and financial assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2014.

SEC. 1007. PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION AND LACK OF REGULATORY EFFECT.

(a) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(1) require any private property owner to permit public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; and

(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private lands.

(b) LIABILITY.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to create any liability, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any persons injured on such private property.

(c) RECOGNITION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTROL LAND USE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to modify any authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.

(d) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located in the Highlands region to participate in the land conservation, financial, or technical assistance or any other programs established under this title.

(e) PURCHASE OF LANDS OR INTERESTS IN LANDS FROM WILLING SELLERS ONLY.—Funds appropriated to carry out this title shall be used to purchase lands or interests in lands only from willing sellers.

TITLE XI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 1101. FOREST INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT.

Section 17 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 note; Public Law 95313) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 17. FOREST INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program using geospatial and information management technologies (including remote sensing imaging and decision support systems) to inventory, monitor, characterize, assess, and identify forest stands and potential forest stands on—

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

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

“(b) MEANS.—The Secretary shall carry out the program through the use of—

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

“(2) emerging geospatial capabilities in research activities;

“(3) validating techniques, including coordination and reconciliation with existing data through field verification, using application demonstrations; and

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

“(c) ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall address issues including—

“(1) early detection, identification, and assessment of environmental threats (including insect, disease, invasive species, fire, acid deposition, and weather-related risks and other episodic events);

“(2) loss or degradation of forests;

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

“(4) quantification of carbon uptake rates;

“(5) management practices that focus on preventing further forest degradation; and

“(6) characterization of vegetation types, density, fire regimes, post-fire effects, and condition class.

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

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

“(2) prevent epidemics, such as the American chestnut blight in the first half of the twentieth century, that could be environmentally and economically devastating to forests.

“(e) ADMINISTRATION.—To carry out this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) designate a facility within Forest Service Region 8 that—

“(A) is best-suited to take advantage of existing resources to coordinate and carry out the program through the means described in subsection (b); and

“(B) will address the issues described in subsection (c), with a particular emphasis on hardwood forest stands in the Eastern United States; and

“(2) designate a facility in the Ochoco National Forest headquarters within Forest Service Region 6 that will address the issues described in subsection (c), with a particular emphasis on coniferous forest stands in the Western United States.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”

SEC. 1102. PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND REDUCTION OF NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INTERFACE COMMUNITY.—The term “interface community” has the meaning given the term in the notice published at 66 Fed. Reg. 751 (January 4, 2001) (including any subsequent revision to the notice).

(2) INTERMIX COMMUNITY.—The term “intermix community” has the meaning given the term in the notice published at 66 Fed. Reg. 751 (January 4, 2001) (including any subsequent revision to the notice).

(3) PLANT.—The term “plant” includes—

- (A) a tree;
- (B) a shrub; and
- (C) a vine.

(4) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the program for emergency treatment and reduction of nonnative invasive plants established under subsection (b)(1).

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a program for emergency treatment and reduction of nonnative invasive plants to provide to State and local governments and agencies, conservation districts, tribal governments, and willing private landowners grants for use in carrying out hazardous fuel reduction projects to address threats of catastrophic fires that have been determined by the Secretaries to pose a serious threat to—

- (A) property;
- (B) human life; or
- (C) the ecological stability of an area.

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretaries shall coordinate with such Federal agencies, State and local governments and agencies, and conservation districts as are affected by projects under the program.

(c) ELIGIBLE LAND.—A project under the program shall—

(1) be carried out only on land that is located—

(A) in an interface community or intermix community; or

(B) in such proximity to an interface community or intermix community as would pose a significant risk in the event of the spread of a fire disturbance event from the land (including a risk that would threaten human life or property in proximity to or within the interface community or intermix community), as determined by the Secretaries;

(2) remove fuel loads determined by the Secretaries, a State or local government, a tribal government, or a private landowner to pose a serious threat to—

(A) property;
 (B) human life; or
 (C) the ecological stability of an area; and
 (3) involve the removal of nonnative invasive plants.
 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available for a project under the program shall be used only for—

(1) the removal of plants or other potential fuels that are—

(A) adjacent to or within the wildland urban interface; or

(B) adjacent to a municipal watershed, river, or water course;

(2) the removal of erosion structures that impede the removal of nonnative plants; or

(3) the replanting of native vegetation to reduce the reestablishment of nonnative invasive plants in a treatment area.

(e) REVOLVING FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a grant provided to a willing owner to carry out a project on non-Federal land under this section, the owner shall deposit into a revolving fund established by the Secretaries any proceeds derived from the sale of timber or biomass removed from the non-Federal land under the project.

(2) USE.—The Secretaries shall use amounts in the revolving fund to make additional grants under this section.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 1103. USDA NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101-624) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

“**SEC. 1243. USDA NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTER.**”;

and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “SEMIARID” and inserting “USDA NATIONAL”; and

(B) by striking “Semiarid” and inserting “USDA National”.

(b) PROGRAM.—Section 1243(b) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101-624) is amended—

(1) by inserting “local governments, community organizations, the Institute of Tropical Forestry and the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry of the Forest Service,” after “entities,”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “on semiarid lands”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “from semiarid land”;

(4) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) collect information on the design, installation, and function of forested riparian and upland buffers to—

“(A) protect water quality; and

“(B) manage water flow;”;

(5) in paragraphs (6) and (7), by striking “on semiarid lands” each place it appears;

(6) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) provide international leadership in the worldwide development and exchange of agroforestry practices;”;

(7) in paragraph (9), by striking “on semiarid lands”;

(8) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(9) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(10) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) quantify the carbon storage potential of agroforestry practices such as—

“(A) windbreaks;

“(B) forested riparian buffers;

“(C) silvopasture timber and grazing systems; and

“(D) alley cropping; and

“(13) modify and adapt riparian forest buffer technology used on agricultural land for use by communities to manage stormwater runoff.”.

SEC. 1104. UPLAND HARDWOODS RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an Upland Hardwood Research Center.

(b) LOCATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall locate the Research Center in an area that, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, would best use and study the upland hardwood resources of the Ozark Mountains and the South.

(c) DUTIES.—The Upland Hardwood Research Center shall, in conjunction with the Southern Forest Research Station of the Department of Agriculture—

(1) provide the scientific basis for sustainable management of southern upland hardwood forests, particularly in the Ozark Mountains and associated mountain and upland forests; and

(2) conduct research in all areas to emphasize practical application toward the use and preservation of upland hardwood forests, particularly—

(A) the effects of pests and pathogens on upland hardwoods;

(B) hardwood stand regeneration and reproductive biology;

(C) upland hardwood stand management and forest health;

(D) threatened, endangered, and sensitive aquatic and terrestrial fauna;

(E) ecological processes and hardwood ecosystem restoration; and

(F) education and outreach to nonindustrial private forest landowners and associations.

(d) RESEARCH.—In carrying out the duties under subsection (c), the Upland Hardwood Research Center shall—

(1) cooperate with the Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research of the Southern Forest Research Station of the Department of Agriculture, located in Stoneville, Mississippi; and

(2) provide comprehensive research in the Mid-South region of the United States, the Upland Forests Ecosystems Unit of the Southern Forest Research Station of the Department of Agriculture, located in Monticello, Arkansas.

(e) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall encourage and facilitate the participation of private landowners in the program under this section.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,500,000 for each fiscal year.

SEC. 1105. EMERGENCY FUEL REDUCTION GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an emergency fuel reduction grant program under which the Secretary shall provide grants to State and local agencies to carry out hazardous fuel reduction projects addressing threats of catastrophic fire that pose a serious threat to human life, as determined by the Forest Service.

(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—To be eligible to be carried out with a grant under the program, a hazardous fuel reduction project shall—

(1) be surrounded by or immediately adjacent to the boundary of a national forest;

(2) be determined to be of paramount urgency, as indicated by declarations to that effect by both local officials and the Governor of the State in which in the project is to be carried out; and

(3) remove fuel loading that poses a serious threat to human life, as determined by the Forest Service.

(c) USES OF GRANTS.—A grant under the program may be used only—

(1) to remove trees, shrubs, or other potential fuel adjacent to a primary evacuation route;

(2) to remove trees, shrubs, or other potential fuel that are adjacent to an emergency response center, emergency communication facility, or site designated as a shelter-in-place facility; or

(3) to conduct an evacuation drill or preparation.

(d) REVOLVING FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a grant under the program that is used to carry out a project on private or county land, the grant recipient shall deposit in a revolving fund maintained by the Secretary any proceeds from the sale of timber or biomass as a result of the project.

(2) USE.—The Secretary shall use amounts in the revolving fund to make other grants under this section, without further appropriation.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each fiscal year.

SEC. 1106. EASTERN NEVADA LANDSCAPE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are authorized to make grants to the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition for the study and restoration of rangeland and other lands in Nevada's Great Basin in order to help assure the reduction of hazardous fuels and for related purposes.

(2) Notwithstanding sections 6301 through 6308 of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition for the Great Basin Restoration Project, including hazardous fuels and mechanical treatments and related work.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 1107. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ENHANCED COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION.

It is the sense of Congress to reaffirm the importance of enhanced community fire protection program, as described in section 10A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106c) (as added by section 8003(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171; 116 Stat. 473)).

SEC. 1108. COLLABORATIVE MONITORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process in order to assess the positive or negative ecological and social effects of a representative sampling of projects implemented pursuant to title I and section 404 of this Act. The Secretaries shall include diverse stakeholders, including interested citizens and Indian tribes, in the monitoring and evaluation process.

(b) MEANS.—The Secretaries may collect monitoring data using cooperative agreements, grants or contracts with small or micro-businesses, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, Youth Conservation Corps work crews or related partnerships with State, local, and other non-Federal conservation corps.

(c) FUNDS.—Funds to implement this section shall be derived from hazardous fuels operations funds.

SEC. 1109. BEST-VALUE CONTRACTING.

To conduct a project under this Act, the Secretaries may use best value contracting criteria in awarding contracts and agreements. Best-value contracting criteria includes—

(1) the ability of the contractor to meet the ecological goals of the projects;

(2) the use of equipment that will minimize or eliminate impacts on soils; and

(3) benefits to local communities such as ensuring that the byproducts are processed locally.

SEC. 1110. SUBURBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM; FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.

(a) SUBURBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.—The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 21. SUBURBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Committee’ means a State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee established under section 19(b).

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a unit of local government or a nonprofit organization that—

“(A) the Secretary determines, in accordance with the criteria established under subsection (c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) is eligible to receive a grant under subsection (c)(2); and

“(B) the State forester, in consultation with the Committee, determines—

“(i) has the abilities necessary to acquire and manage interests in real property; and

“(ii) has the resources necessary to monitor and enforce any terms applicable to the eligible project.

“(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term ‘eligible project’ means a fee purchase, easement, or donation of land to conserve private forest land identified for conservation under subsection (c)(1)(A)(ii)(I).

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ means any organization that is—

“(A) described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(6) PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—The term ‘private forest land’ means land that is—

“(A) capable of producing commercial forest products; and

“(B) owned by—

“(i) a private entity; or

“(ii) an Indian tribe.

“(7) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the Suburban and Community Forestry and Open Space Program established by subsection (b).

“(8) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Forest Service a program to be known as the ‘Suburban and Community Forestry and Open Space Program’.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to provide assistance to eligible entities to carry out eligible projects in States in which less than 25 percent of the land is owned by the United States to—

“(A) conserve private forest land and maintain working forests in areas threatened by significant suburban sprawl or by conversion to nonforest uses; and

“(B) provide communities a means by which to address significant suburban sprawl.

“(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—

“(A) CRITERIA.—

“(i) NATIONAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish national eligibility criteria for the identification of private forest land that may be conserved under this section.

“(ii) STATE CRITERIA.—The State forester, in consultation with the Committee, shall, based on the criteria established under clause (i), and subject to the approval of the Secretary, establish criteria for—

“(I) the identification, subject to subparagraph (B), of private forest land in each State that may be conserved under this section; and

“(II) the identification of eligible entities.

“(B) CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBLE PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—Private forest land identified for conservation under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) shall be land that—

“(i) is located in a State in which less than 25 percent of the land is owned by the United States; and

“(ii) as determined by the State forester, in consultation with the Committee and subject to the approval of the Secretary—

“(I) is located in an area that is affected, or threatened to be affected, by significant suburban sprawl, taking into account housing needs in the area; and

“(II) is threatened by present or future conversion to nonforest use.

“(2) GRANTS.—

“(A) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall award competitive grants to eligible entities to carry out eligible projects.

“(ii) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Eligible entities are encouraged to provide public access to land on which an eligible project is carried out.

“(B) APPLICATION; STEWARDSHIP PLAN.—An eligible entity that seeks to receive a grant under this section shall submit to the State forester—

“(i) at such time and in such form as the Secretary shall prescribe, an application for the grant (including a description of any private forest land to be conserved using funds from the grant and a description of the extent of the threat of conversion to nonforest use); and

“(ii) a stewardship plan that describes the manner in which—

“(I) any private forest land to be conserved using funds from the grant will be managed in accordance with this section;

“(II) the stewardship plan will be implemented; and

“(III) the public benefits to be achieved from implementation of the stewardship plan.

“(C) ASSESSMENT OF NEED.—With respect to an application submitted under subparagraph (B), the State forester shall—

“(i) assess the need for preserving suburban forest land and open space and containing suburban sprawl in the State, taking into account the housing needs of the area in which the eligible project is to be carried out; and

“(ii) submit to the Secretary—

“(I) the application submitted under subparagraph (B); and

“(II) the assessment of need.

“(D) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), as soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary receives an application under subparagraph (C)(ii) or a resubmission under clause (II)(bb)(BB), the Secretary shall—

“(I) review the application; and

“(II)(aa) award a grant to the applicant; or

“(bb)(AA) disapprove the application; and

“(BB) provide the applicant a statement that describes the reasons why the application was disapproved (including a deadline by which the applicant may resubmit the application).

“(ii) CONSIDERATIONS; PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(I) consider the need for the eligible project based on the assessment of need submitted under subparagraph (C) and subject to any criteria under paragraph (1); and

“(II) give priority to applicants that propose to fund eligible projects that promote—

“(aa) the preservation of suburban forest land and open space;

“(bb) the containment of suburban sprawl;

“(cc) the sustainable management of private forest land;

“(dd) community involvement in determining the objectives for eligible projects that are funded under this section; and

“(ee) community and school education programs and curricula relating to sustainable forestry.

“(3) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant awarded under this section to carry out an eligible project shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the eligible project.

“(B) ASSURANCES.—As a condition of receipt of a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall provide to the Secretary such assurances as the Secretary determines are sufficient to demonstrate that the share of the cost of each eligible project that is not funded by the grant awarded under this section has been secured.

“(C) FORM.—The share of the cost of carrying out any eligible project described in subparagraph (A) that is not funded by a grant awarded under this section may be provided in cash or in kind (including a donation of land).

“(d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR PURCHASES OF LAND OR EASEMENTS.—

“(1) PURCHASES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), funds made available, and grants awarded, under this section may be used to purchase private forest land or interests in private forest land (including conservation easements) only from willing sellers at fair market value.

“(B) SALES AT LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE.—A sale of private forest land or an interest in private forest land at less than fair market value shall be permitted only on certification by the landowner that the sale is being entered into willingly and without coercion.

“(2) TITLE.—Title to private forest land or an interest in private forest land purchased under paragraph (1) may be held, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, by—

“(A) a State;

“(B) a unit of local government; or

“(C) a nonprofit organization.

“(3) TERMINATION OF EASEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), all right, title, and interest of a unit of local government or nonprofit organization in and to a conservation easement shall terminate and vest in the State if the State determines that—

“(i) the unit of local government or nonprofit organization is unable or unwilling to enforce the terms of the conservation easement; or

“(ii) the conservation easement has been modified in a way that is inconsistent with the purposes of the program.

“(B) CONVEYANCE TO ANOTHER UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—If the State makes a determination under subparagraph (A), the State may convey or authorize the unit of local government or nonprofit organization to convey the conservation easement to another unit of local government or nonprofit organization.

“(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The State, on approval of the Secretary and subject to any regulations promulgated by the Secretary, may use amounts made available under subsection (g) to pay the administrative costs of the State relating to the program.

“(f) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the eligible projects carried out under this section in accordance with section 8(c) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1606(c)).

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

“(2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.”.

(b) FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.—Section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (i), by striking the last sentence;

(2) in subsection (i), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “this section”;

(3) in subsection (j)(1), by inserting “(other than by donation)” after “acquired”;

(4) in subsection (k)(2), by striking "the United States or its" and inserting "the United States, a State, or other entity, or their"; and

(5) in subsection (l), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) STATE AUTHORIZATION.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF STATE FORESTER.—The term 'State forester' has the meaning given the term in section 4(k).

"(B) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) and paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall, on request by a State, authorize the State to allow a qualified organization (as defined in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and that is organized for at least 1 of the purposes described in section 170(h)(4)(A) of that Code, using amounts granted to a State under this paragraph, to acquire 1 or more conservation easements to carry out the Forest Legacy Program in the State.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to acquire and manage conservation easements under this paragraph, a qualified organization described in subparagraph (B) shall, as determined by the Secretary, acting through the State forester, demonstrate the abilities necessary to acquire, monitor, and enforce interests in forest land consistent with the Forest Legacy Program and the assessment of need for the State.

"(D) MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A qualified organization that acquires a conservation easement under this paragraph shall be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the terms of the conservation easement and any of the costs of the qualified organization associated with such monitoring and enforcement.

"(ii) CONTINGENT RIGHTS.—If a qualified organization that acquires a conservation easement under this paragraph fails to enforce the terms of the conservation easement, as determined by the State, the State or the Secretary shall have the right to enforce the terms of the conservation easement under Federal or State law.

"(iii) AMENDMENTS.—Any amendments to a conservation easement that materially affect the terms of the conservation easement shall be subject to approval by the Secretary or the State, as appropriate.

"(E) TERMINATION OF EASEMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), all right, title, and interest of a qualified organization described in subparagraph (B) in and to a conservation easement shall terminate and vest in the State or a qualified designee if the State determines that—

"(I) the qualified organization fails to enforce the terms of the conservation easement;

"(II) the conservation easement has been modified in a way that is inconsistent with the purposes of the Forest Legacy Program or the assessment of need for the State; or

"(III) the conservation easement has been conveyed to another person (other than to a qualified organization).

"(ii) CONVEYANCE TO ANOTHER QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—If the State makes a determination under clause (i), the State may convey or authorize the qualified organization to convey the conservation easement to another qualified organization.

"(F) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary, acting through the State forester, shall implement this paragraph in accordance with the assessment of need for the State as approved by the Secretary."

SEC. 1111. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term "Secretary" means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land of the National Forest System described in section 3(1)(A); and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands described in section 3(1)(B).

(b) FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND TRAINING BUDGET.—The Secretary shall—

(1) track funds expended for firefighter safety and training programs and activities; and

(2) include a line item for such expenditures in each budget request submitted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretaries shall, on an annual basis, jointly submit to Congress a report on the implementation and efficacy of wildland firefighter safety and training programs and activities.

(d) SAFETY QUALIFICATION OF PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall ensure that any Federal contract or agreement entered into with a private entity for wildland firefighting services requires the entity to provide firefighter training that is consistent with qualification standards established by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretaries shall develop a program to monitor and enforce compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1).

SEC. 1112. GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundaries of the Green Mountain National Forest are modified to include all parcels of land depicted on the forest maps entitled "Green Mountain Expansion Area Map I" and "Green Mountain Expansion Area Map II", each dated February 20, 2002, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Washington, District of Columbia.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Federally owned land delineated on the maps acquired for National Forest purposes shall continue to be managed in accordance with the laws (including regulations) applicable to the National Forest System.

(c) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For the purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460–9), the boundaries of the Green Mountain National Forest, as adjusted by this Act, shall be considered to be the boundaries of the national forest as of January 1, 1965.

SEC. 1113. PUERTO RICO KARST CONSERVATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Act of 2003".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in the Karst Region of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico there are—

(A) some of the largest areas of tropical forests in Puerto Rico, with a higher density of tree species than any other area in the Commonwealth; and

(B) unique geological formations that are critical to the maintenance of aquifers and watersheds that constitute a principal water supply for much of the Commonwealth;

(2) the Karst Region is threatened by development that, if unchecked, could permanently damage the aquifers and cause irreparable damage to natural and environmental assets that are unique to the United States;

(3) the Commonwealth has 1 of the highest population densities in the United States, which makes the protection of the Karst Region imperative for the maintenance of the public health and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth;

(4) the Karst Region—

(A) possesses extraordinary ecological diversity, including the habitats of several endangered and threatened species and tropical migrants; and

(B) is an area of critical value to research in tropical forest management; and

(5) coordinated efforts at land protection by the Federal Government and the Commonwealth are necessary to conserve the environmentally critical Karst Region.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to authorize and support conservation efforts to acquire, manage, and protect the tropical forest areas of the Karst Region, with particular emphasis on water quality and the protection of the aquifers that are vital to the

health and wellbeing of the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

(2) to promote cooperation among the Commonwealth, Federal agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals in those conservation efforts.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMONWEALTH.—The term "Commonwealth" means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(2) FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.—The term "Forest Legacy Program" means the program established under section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c).

(3) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Fund established by subsection (f).

(4) KARST REGION.—The term "Karst Region" means the areas in the Commonwealth generally depicted on the map entitled "Karst Region Conservation Area" and dated March 2001, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in—

(A) the Office of the Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources; and

(B) the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(5) LAND.—The term "land" includes land, water, and an interest in land or water.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(e) CONSERVATION OF THE KARST REGION.—

(1) FEDERAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.—In furtherance of the acquisition, protection, and management of land in and adjacent to the Karst Region and in implementing related natural resource conservation strategies, the Secretary may—

(A) make grants to and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with the Commonwealth, other Federal agencies, organizations, corporations, and individuals; and

(B) use all authorities available to the Secretary, including—

(i) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.);

(ii) section 1472 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318); and

(iii) section 12 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a).

(2) FUNDING SOURCES.—The activities authorized by this subsection may be carried out using—

(A) amounts in the Fund;

(B) amounts in the fund established by section 4(b) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1643(b));

(C) funds appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

(D) funds appropriated for the Forest Legacy Program; and

(E) any other funds made available for those activities.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Land acquired under this subsection shall be managed, in accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.), in a manner to protect and conserve the water quality and aquifers and the geological, ecological, fish and wildlife, and other natural values of the Karst Region.

(B) FAILURE TO MANAGE AS REQUIRED.—In any deed, grant, contract, or cooperative agreement implementing this subsection and the Forest Legacy Program in the Commonwealth, the Secretary may require that, if land acquired by the Commonwealth or other cooperating entity under this section is sold or conveyed in whole or part, or is not managed in conformity with subparagraph (A), title to the land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, vest in the United States.

(4) WILLING SELLERS.—Any land acquired by the Secretary in the Karst Region shall be acquired only from a willing seller.

(5) RELATION TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) diminishes any other authority that the Secretary may have to acquire, protect, and manage land and natural resources in the Commonwealth; or

(B) exempts the Federal Government from Commonwealth water laws.

(f) PUERTO RICO KARST CONSERVATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury an interest-bearing account to be known as the "Puerto Rico Karst Conservation Fund".

(2) CREDITS TO FUND.—There shall be credited to the Fund—

(A) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(B) all amounts donated to the Fund;

(C) all amounts generated from the Caribbean National Forest that would, but for this paragraph, be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the Treasury of the United States, but not including amounts authorized by law for payments to the Commonwealth or authorized by law for retention by the Secretary for any purpose;

(D) all amounts received by the Administrator of General Services from the disposal of surplus real property in the Commonwealth under subtitle I of title 40, United States Code; and

(E) interest derived from amounts in the Fund.

(3) USE OF FUND.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, to carry out subsection (e).

(g) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

(1) DONATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept donations, including land and money, made by public and private agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals in furtherance of the purposes of this subsection.

(B) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Secretary may accept donations even if the donor conducts business with or is regulated by the Department of Agriculture or any other Federal agency.

(C) APPLICABLE LAW.—Public Law 95-442 (7 U.S.C. 2269) shall apply to donations accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph.

(2) RELATION TO FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All land in the Karst Region shall be eligible for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program.

(B) COST SHARING.—The Secretary may credit donations made under paragraph (1) to satisfy any cost-sharing requirements of the Forest Legacy Program.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 1114. FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT.

Section 10806(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (21 U.S.C. 321d; 116 Stat. 526), is deemed to have first become effective 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1115. ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITIONS UNDER THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) SHARP INSTRUMENTS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver in interstate or foreign commerce a knife, a gaff, or any other sharp instrument attached, or designed or intended to be attached, to the leg of a bird for use in an animal fighting venture.”;

(3) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “(c)” and inserting “(d)”;

(4) in subsection (f) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “(a), (b), or (c)” and inserting “(a), (b), (c), or (d)”;

(B) by striking “1 year” and inserting “2 years”;

(5) by striking subsection (g) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) and inserting the following:

“(g) INVESTIGATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or any person authorized by the Secretary shall make such investigations as the Secretary considers necessary to determine whether any person has violated or is violating any provision of this section.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—Through cooperative agreements, the Secretary may obtain the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, and other law enforcement agencies of the United States and of State, tribal, and local governmental agencies in the conduct of an investigation under paragraph (1).

“(3) WARRANTS.—

“(A) ISSUANCE.—A judge of the United States, United States magistrate judge, or judge of a State or tribal court of competent jurisdiction in the district in which is located an animal, paraphernalia, instrument, or other property or thing that there is probable cause to believe was involved, is about to be involved, or is intended to be involved in a violation of this section shall issue a warrant to search for and seize the animal or other property or thing.

“(B) APPLICATION; EXECUTION.—A United States marshal or any person authorized under this section to conduct an investigation may apply for and execute a warrant issued under subparagraph (A), and any animal, paraphernalia, instrument, or other property or thing seized under such a warrant shall be held by the authorized person pending disposition of the animal, paraphernalia, instrument, or other property or thing by a court in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) STORAGE OF ANIMALS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An animal seized by a United States marshal or other authorized person under paragraph (3) shall be taken promptly to an animal housing facility in which the animal shall be stored humanely.

“(B) NO FACILITY AVAILABLE.—If there is not available a suitable animal storage facility sufficient in size to hold all of the animals involved in a violation, a United States marshal or other authorized person shall—

“(i) seize a representative sample of the animals for evidentiary purposes to be transported to an animal storage facility in which the animals shall be stored humanely; and

“(ii)(I) keep the remaining animals at the location where the animals were seized;

“(II) provide for the humane care of the animals; and

“(III) cause the animals to be banded, tagged, or marked by microchip and photographed or videotaped for evidentiary purposes.

“(5) CARE.—While a seized animal is held in custody, a United States marshal or other authorized person shall ensure that the animal is provided necessary care (including housing, feeding, and veterinary treatment).

“(6) FORFEITURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any animal, paraphernalia, instrument, vehicle, money, or other property or thing involved in a violation of this section shall be liable to be proceeded against and forfeited to the United States at any time on complaint filed in any United States district court or other court of the United States for any jurisdiction in which the animal, paraphernalia, instrument, vehicle, money, or other property or thing is found.

“(B) DISPOSITION.—On entry of a judgment of forfeiture, a forfeited animal shall be disposed of by humane means, as the court may direct.

“(C) COSTS.—Costs incurred by the United States for care of an animal seized and forfeited

under this section shall be recoverable from the owner of the animal—

“(i) in the forfeiture proceeding, if the owner appears in the forfeiture proceeding; or

“(ii) in a separate civil action brought in the jurisdiction in which the owner is found, resides, or transacts business.

“(D) CLAIM TO PROPERTY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The owner, custodian, or other person claiming an interest in a seized animal may prevent disposition of the animal by posting, or may be ordered by any United States district court or other court of the United States, or by any tribal court, for any jurisdiction in which the animal is found to post, not later than 10 days after the animal is seized, a bond with the court in an amount sufficient to provide for the care of the animal (including housing, feeding, and veterinary treatment) for not less than 30 days.

“(ii) RENEWAL.—The owner, custodian, or other person claiming an interest in a seized animal may renew a bond, or be ordered to renew a bond, by posting a new bond, in an amount sufficient to provide for the care of the animal for at least an additional 30 days, not later than 10 days after the expiration of the period for which a previous bond was posted.

“(iii) DISPOSITION.—If a bond expires and is not renewed, the animal may be disposed of as provided in subparagraph (A).

“(7) EUTHANIZATION.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (6), an animal may be humanely euthanized if a veterinarian determines that the animal is suffering extreme pain.”; and

(6) in subsection (h) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “(including a movement to, from, or within land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “telephone, radio, or television” and inserting “telephone, the Internet, radio, television, or any technology”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 23 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2153) is amended—

(1) by striking “SEC. 23. The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 23. FEES; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) FEES.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the later of—

(1) the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) May 13, 2003.

SEC. 1116. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM FINES FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC LAND REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM FINE FOR VIOLATION OF PUBLIC LAND FIRE REGULATIONS DURING FIRE BAN.

(a) LANDS UNDER JURISDICTION OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.—Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking “no more than \$1,000” and inserting “as provided in title 18, United States Code.”; and

(2) by inserting after the second sentence the following: “In the case of a regulation issued under this section regarding the use of fire by individuals on the public lands, if the violation of the regulation was the result of reckless conduct and occurred in an area subject to a complete ban on open fires, the fine may not be less than \$500.”.

(b) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LANDS.—

(1) FINES.—Section 3 of the Act of August 25, 1916 (popularly known as the National Park Service Organic Act; 16 U.S.C. 3) is amended—

(A) by striking "That the Secretary" at the beginning of the section and inserting "(a) REGULATIONS FOR USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM; ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary";

(B) by striking "\$500" and inserting "\$10,000"; and

(C) by inserting after the first sentence the following: "In the case of a rule or regulation issued under this subsection regarding the use of fire by individuals on such lands, if the violation of the rule or regulation was the result of reckless conduct and occurred in an area subject to a complete ban on open fires, the fine may not be less than \$500."

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(A) by striking "He may also" the first place it appears and inserting the following:

(b) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior may";

(B) by striking "He may also" the second place it appears and inserting "The Secretary may"; and

(C) by striking "No natural," and inserting the following:

(c) LEASE AND PERMIT AUTHORITIES.—No natural".

(c) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The eleventh undesignated paragraph under the heading "SURVEYING THE PUBLIC LANDS" of the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551), is amended—

(1) by striking "\$500" and inserting "\$10,000"; and

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following: "In the case of such a rule or regulation regarding the use of fire by individuals on such lands, if the violation of the rule or regulation was the result of reckless conduct and occurred in an area subject to a complete ban on open fires, the fine may not be less than \$500."

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to improve the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape, and for other purposes."

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3365

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3365, the Fallen Patriot's Tax Relief Act; that the McCain-Baucus-Grassley amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; the title amendment be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is H.R. 3365, is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator LANDRIEU has objected to this. I am told that she has been working with the committee on a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that should resolve this. I hope that can be done quickly.

I ask that people direct their attention to Senator LANDRIEU. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 7

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7, the charitable choice bill. I further ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Snowe amendment and the Grassley-Baucus amendment, which are at the desk, be agreed to en bloc; that the substitute amendment, which is the text of S. 476, the Senate-passed version of the charitable choice bill as amended by the Snowe and Grassley-Baucus amendments, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that the Senate insist upon its amendments and request a conference with the House; and lastly, that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees with a ratio of 3 to 2, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as some will remember, we on this side are ready to pass this bill with the amendments and send it over to the House for their consideration. The majority insists on going to conference and we object to this part of the consent only. Therefore, I object for the reasons previously stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's calendar: Calendar Nos. 430, 431, 432. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Naomi Churchill Earp, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term ending July 1, 2005.

Leslie Silverman, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2008.

Stuart Ishimaru, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2007.

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I also ask consent that the following nominations be discharged from the Rules Committee and be placed on the calendar: Paul S. DeGregorio, Gracie Hillman, Raymundo Martinez, Deforest Soaries, Jr., and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1805

Mr. MCCONNELL. I understand S. 1805, which was introduced earlier today, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1805) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and object to further proceedings on the matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1806

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand S. 1806, introduced earlier today, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1806) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and object to further proceeding on the matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

VITIATION OF ACTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the agreement to amendments numbered 1995 and 2004 to H.R. 2800 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.