

**(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 subchapter 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.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title IV, §404, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1910.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in subsec. (d)(1), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970,

83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

**§ 6555. Relation to other laws**

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

(Pub. L. 108-148, title IV, §405, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1911.)

**§ 6556. Termination of effectiveness**

The authority provided by this subchapter terminates effective October 1, 2023.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title IV, §406, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1911; Pub. L. 115-334, title VIII, §8406(a), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4845.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subchapter for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”

SUBCHAPTER V—HEALTHY FORESTS  
RESERVE PROGRAM**§ 6571. 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;

(3) to conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in section 6572(b) of this title; and

(4) 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.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title V, §501, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1911; Pub. L. 115-334, title VIII, §8407(a)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4845.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(3), (4). Pub. L. 115-334 added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

**§ 6572. 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.