

ment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

**(2) Acquisition of obligations**

For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

- (A) on original issue at the issue price; or
- (B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

**(3) Sale of obligations**

Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

**(4) Credits to Fund**

The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

**(d) Transfers of amounts**

**(1) In general**

The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

**(2) Adjustments**

Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

**(e) Acceptance and use of donations**

The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 6603 of this title. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

(Pub. L. 108–266, § 5, July 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 794; Pub. L. 116–9, title VII, § 7001(c)(3)(D), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 788.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 116–9, § 7001(c)(3)(D)(i), substituted “section 6606(a)” for “section 6605”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 116–9, § 7001(c)(3)(D)(ii), substituted “5 percent, or up to \$150,000” for “3 percent, or up to \$80,000”.

**§ 6605. Advisory group**

**(a) In general**

To assist in carrying out this chapter, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

**(b) Public participation**

**(1) Meetings**

The Advisory Group<sup>1</sup> shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

**(2) Notice**

The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

**(3) Minutes**

Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

**(c) Exemption from chapter 10 of title 5**

Chapter 10 of title 5 shall not apply to the advisory group.

(Pub. L. 108–266, § 6, July 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 795; Pub. L. 116–9, title VII, § 7001(c)(3)(E), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 788; Pub. L. 117–286, § 4(a)(131), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4320.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117–286 substituted “chapter 10 of title 5” for “Federal Advisory Committee Act” in heading and “Chapter 10 of title 5” for “The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” in text.

2019—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 116–9 inserted “, freshwater turtles, or tortoises” after “marine turtles”.

**§ 6606. Authorization of appropriations**

**(a) In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

**(b) Allocation**

Of the amounts made available for each fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) not less than \$1,510,000 shall be used by the Secretary for marine turtle conservation purposes in accordance with this chapter; and

(2) of the amounts in excess of the amount described in paragraph (1), not less than 40 percent shall be used by the Secretary for freshwater turtle and tortoise conservation purposes in accordance with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 108–266, § 7, July 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 795; Pub. L. 116–9, title VII, § 7001(c)(3)(F), Mar. 12, 2019, 133 Stat. 788; Pub. L. 118–159, div. E, title LIII, § 5307(b), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2446.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118–159 substituted “2025 through 2029” for “2019 through 2023”.

2019—Pub. L. 116–9 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”

**§ 6607. Report to Congress**

Not later than October 1, 2005, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the results and effectiveness of the program carried out under this chapter, including recommenda-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

tions concerning how this chapter might be improved and whether the Fund should be continued in the future.

(Pub. L. 108-266, §8, July 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 796.)

**CHAPTER 86—SOUTHWEST FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION**

Sec.  
 6701. Findings.  
 6702. Purposes.  
 6703. Definitions.  
 6704. Establishment of Institutes.  
 6705. Cooperation between Institutes and Federal agencies.  
 6706. Monitoring and evaluation.  
 6707. Authorization of appropriations.

**§ 6701. Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) there is an increasing threat of wildfire to millions of acres of forest land and rangeland throughout the United States;

(2) forest land and rangeland are degraded as a direct consequence of land management practices, including practices to control and prevent wildfires and the failure to harvest subdominant trees from overstocked stands that disrupt the occurrence of frequent low-intensity fires that have periodically removed flammable undergrowth;

(3) at least 39,000,000 acres of land of the National Forest System in the interior West are at high risk of wildfire;

(4) an average of 95 percent of the expenditures by the Forest Service for wildfire suppression during fiscal years 1990 through 1994 were made to suppress wildfires in the interior West;

(5) the number, size, and severity of wildfires in the interior West are increasing;

(6) of the timberland in National Forests in the States of Arizona and New Mexico, 59 percent of such land in Arizona, and 56 percent of such land in New Mexico, has an average diameter of 9 to 12 inches diameter at breast height;

(7) the population of the interior West grew twice as fast as the national average during the 1990s;

(8) catastrophic wildfires—

- (A) endanger homes and communities;
- (B) damage and destroy watersheds and soils; and
- (C) pose a serious threat to the habitat of threatened and endangered species;

(9) a 1994 assessment of forest health in the interior West estimated that only a 15- to 30-year window of opportunity exists for effective management intervention before damage from uncontrollable wildfire becomes widespread, with 8 years having already elapsed since the assessment;

(10) healthy forest and woodland ecosystems—

- (A) reduce the risk of wildfire to forests and communities;
- (B) improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity;
- (C) increase tree, grass, forb, and shrub productivity;

- (D) enhance watershed values;
- (E) improve the environment; and
- (F) provide a basis in some areas for economically and environmentally sustainable uses;

(11) sustaining the long-term ecological and economic health of interior West forests and woodland, and their associated human communities requires preventing severe wildfires before the wildfires occur and permitting natural, low-intensity ground fires;

(12) more natural fire regimes cannot be accomplished without the reduction of excess fuels and thinning of subdominant trees (which fuels and trees may be of commercial value);

(13) ecologically based forest and woodland ecosystem restoration on a landscape scale will—

- (A) improve long-term community protection;
- (B) minimize the need for wildfire suppression;
- (C) improve resource values;
- (D) improve the ecological integrity and resilience of these systems;
- (E) reduce rehabilitation costs;
- (F) reduce loss of critical habitat; and
- (G) protect forests for future generations;

(14) although landscape scale restoration is needed to effectively reverse degradation, scientific understanding of landscape scale treatments is limited;

(15) rigorous, objective, understandable, and applied scientific information is needed for—

- (A) the design, implementation, monitoring, and adaptation of landscape scale restoration treatments and improvement of wildfire management;
- (B) the environmental review process; and
- (C) affected entities that collaborate in the development and implementation of wildfire treatment.

(Pub. L. 108-317, §2, Oct. 5, 2004, 118 Stat. 1204.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 108-317, §1, Oct. 5, 2004, 118 Stat. 1204, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004'."

**§ 6702. Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to enhance the capacity to develop, transfer, apply, monitor, and regularly update practical science-based forest restoration treatments that will reduce the risk of severe wildfires, and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the interior West;

(2) to synthesize and adapt scientific findings from conventional research programs to the implementation of forest and woodland restoration on a landscape scale;

(3) to facilitate the transfer of interdisciplinary knowledge required to understand the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of wildfire on ecosystems and landscapes;

(4) to require the Institutes established under this chapter to collaborate with Federal agencies—