

§ 3115. Cooperative agreement between Department of the Interior and Indian tribes

(a) Cooperative agreements

(1) To facilitate the administration of the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior, the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with Indian tribes to—

(A) engage in cooperative manpower and job training and development programs,

(B) to develop and publish cooperative environmental education and natural resource planning materials, and

(C) to perform land and facility improvements, including forestry and other natural resources protection, fire protection, reforestation, timber stand improvement, debris removal, and other activities related to land and natural resource management.

The Secretary may enter into such agreements when the Secretary determines the public interest will be benefited.

(2) In such cooperative agreements, the Secretary is authorized to advance or reimburse funds to contractors from any appropriated funds available for similar kinds of work or by furnishing or sharing materials, supplies, facilities or equipment without regard to the provisions of section 3324, title 31, relating to the advance of public moneys.

(b) Supervision

In any agreement authorized by this section, Indian tribes and their employees may perform cooperative work under the supervision of the Department of the Interior in emergencies or otherwise as mutually agreed to, but shall not be deemed to be Federal employees other than for purposes of section¹ 2671 through 2680 of title 28 and section¹ 8101 through 8193 of title 5.

(c) Savings provision

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements otherwise authorized by law.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 316, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4543.)

§ 3116. Obligated service; breach of contract

(a) Obligated service

Where an individual enters into an agreement for obligated service in return for financial assistance under any provision of this chapter, the Secretary shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to provide for the offer of employment to the recipient of such assistance as required by such provision. Where an offer of employment is not reasonably made, the regulations shall provide that such service shall no longer be required.

(b) Breach of contract; repayment

Where an individual fails to accept a reasonable offer of employment in fulfillment of such obligated service or unreasonably terminates or fails to perform the duties of such employment,

the Secretary shall require a repayment of the financial assistance provided, prorated for the amount of time of obligated service performed, together with interest on such amount which would be payable if at the time the amounts were paid they were loans bearing interest at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasurer of the United States.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 317, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4544.)

§ 3117. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 318, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4544.)

§ 3118. Regulations

Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the Secretary is directed to promulgate final regulations for the implementation of the¹ chapter within eighteen months from November 28, 1990. All regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter shall be developed by the Secretary with the participation of the affected Indian tribes.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 319, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4544.)

§ 3119. Severability

If any provision of this chapter, or the application of any provision of this chapter to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision or circumstance and the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 320, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4544.)

§ 3120. Trust responsibility

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish or expand the trust responsibility of the United States toward Indian forest lands, or any legal obligation or remedy resulting therefrom.

(Pub. L. 101-630, title III, § 321, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4544.)

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¹ So in original. Probably should be “sections”.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “this”.