

“(2) The record 2000 fire season is a prime example of what can be expected if action is not taken.

“(3) Wildland fires threaten not only the forested resources of the United States, but also the thousands of communities intermingled with the wildlands in the wildland-urban interface.

“(4) The National Fire Plan, if implemented to achieve appropriate priorities, is the proper, coordinated, and most effective means to address the issue of wildfires.

“(5) While adequate authorities exist to tackle the wildfire issues at the landscape level on Federal lands, there is limited authority to take action on most private lands, and the largest threat to life and property exists on private lands.

“(6) There is a significant Federal interest in enhancing community protection from wildfire.”

§ 2107. Financial, technical, and related assistance to States

(a) Development of State organizations for protection and management of non-Federal forest lands; scope of assistance; request by officials

To aid in achieving maximum effectiveness in the programs and activities conducted under this chapter, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the development of stronger and more efficient State organizations that will enable them to fulfill better their responsibilities for the protection and management of non-Federal forest lands. Assistance under this subsection may include, but will not be limited to, assistance in matters related to organization management, program planning and management, budget and fiscal accounting services, personnel training and management, information services, and recordkeeping. Assistance under this subsection may be extended only upon request by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

(b) Assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, resources planning, etc.; scope of assistance; other statutory provisions unaffected

To ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for and effectively presented in State and Federal natural resources planning, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in the assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, in the training of State forest resources planners, and in participating in natural resources planning at the State and Federal levels. The Secretary shall restrict assistance under this subsection to the implementation of the forestry aspects of State and Federal natural resources planning conducted under other laws. This subsection shall not be construed, in any way whatsoever, as extending, limiting, amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any other law or authority.

(c) Technology implementation program; scope of program; availability of funds; use of forest resources planning committees

To ensure that new technology is introduced, new information is integrated into existing technology, and forest resources research findings are promptly made available to State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals, the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program of technology implementation.

(1) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to work through State foresters or equivalent State officials, and, if the State forester or equivalent State official is unable to deliver these services, the Secretary is authorized to act through appropriate United States Department of Agriculture agencies, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals to—

(A) strengthen technical assistance and service programs of cooperators participating in programs under this chapter by applying research results and conducting pilot projects and field tests of management and utilization practices, equipment, and technologies, related to programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(B) study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices on forest management;

(C) develop and maintain technical information systems in support of programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(D) test, evaluate, and seek registration of chemicals for use in implementing the programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(E) conduct other activities, including training of State forestry personnel whom the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that the programs and activities authorized under this chapter are responsive to special problems, unique situations, and changing conditions.

(2) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators under this chapter without regard to the provisions of section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31, which prohibits advances of public money.

(3) The Secretary shall use forest resources planning committees at National and State levels in implementing this subsection.

(d) Authorization of appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section.

(Pub. L. 95-313, §11, formerly §8, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 371; renumbered §11, Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, §1215(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3525.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (c)(2), “section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31” substituted for “section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529)” on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11 of Pub. L. 95-313 was renumbered section 14 and is classified to section 2110 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2106b of this title.

§ 2108. Consolidation of payments**(a) Request by State; excluded funds**

To provide flexibility in funding activities authorized under this chapter, the Secretary may, upon the request of any State, consolidate the annual financial assistance payments to that State under this chapter, in lieu of functional cost sharing mechanisms, formulas, or agreements. However, consolidated payments shall not include money appropriated under section 2103 of this title or money from any special Treasury fund established under this chapter.

(b) State forest resources programs as basis

Consolidation of payments made under this section shall be based upon State forest resources programs developed by State foresters or equivalent State officials, and reviewed by the Secretary.

(c) Amount of payments

Consolidated payments to any State during any fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of non-Federal funds expended within the State during that year to implement its State forest resources program. However, the Secretary may make payments that exceed the non-Federal amount expended for selected activities under the program, if the total Federal expenditure during any fiscal year does not exceed the total non-Federal expenditure during that year under the State forest resources program.

(d) Certification requirement by State forester or equivalent State official for Federal payment

The Secretary may make consolidated payments on the certificate of the State forester or equivalent State official that the conditions for Federal payment have been met.

(e) Administration of consolidated payments program not to adversely affect, etc., other programs

The Secretary shall administer this section to ensure that the use of consolidated payments does not adversely affect or eliminate any program authorized under this chapter.

(f) Total annual amount of financial assistance to participating State; financial assistance for special projects not to be included in determining base amount

Subject to applicable appropriation Acts, the total annual amount of financial assistance to any participating State after July 1, 1978, shall not be less than the base amount of financial assistance provided to that State under all the provisions of law specified in section 2111 of this title during the fiscal year in which this chapter is enacted. However, financial assistance for special projects of two years or less duration shall not be included in determining the base amount for any participating State.

(Pub. L. 95-313, §12, formerly §9, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 372; renumbered §12 and amended Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, §§1215(1), 1224(2), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3525, 3542.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 12 of Pub. L. 95-313, which amended section 1606 of this title and enacted provisions set out

as a note under that section, was renumbered section 15.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-624, §1224(2), made technical amendment to reference to section 2111 of this title to reflect renumbering of corresponding section of original act.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2106b of this title.

§ 2109. General provisions**(a) Cooperative and coordinating requirements for implementation of programs, etc.**

In implementing this chapter, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) work through, cooperate with, and assist State foresters or equivalent State officials;

(2) encourage cooperation and coordination between State foresters or equivalent State officials and other State agencies that manage renewable natural resources;

(3) use and encourage cooperators under this chapter to use, private agencies, consultants, organizations, firms, and individuals to furnish necessary materials and services; and

(4) promote effectiveness and economy by coordinating the direct actions and assistance authorized under this chapter with related programs the Secretary administers, and with cooperative programs of other agencies.

(b) Availability of appropriations

Money appropriated under this chapter shall remain available until expended.

(c) Consultation requirements for implementation of programs, etc.

Requirements for the development of State forest resources programs and State participation in management assistance, planning assistance, and technology implementation, the apportionment of funds among States participating under this chapter, the administrative expenses in connection with activities and programs under this chapter, and the amounts to be expended by the Secretary to assist non-State cooperators under this chapter, shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with a committee of not less than five State foresters or equivalent State officials selected by a majority of the State foresters or equivalent State officials from States participating in programs under this chapter. However, the Secretary need not consult with such committee regarding funds to be expended under emergency conditions that the Secretary may determine.

(d) Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter—

(1) The terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the territories and possessions of the United States;

(2) The term “forest resources” shall include esthetics, fish and wildlife, forage, outdoor