

ferred to Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. II of 1939, §4(f), eff. July 1, 1939, 4 F.R. 2731, 53 Stat. 1433, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 553a. Repealed. Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 655**

Section, acts June 29, 1949, ch. 280, title I, 63 Stat. 337; Oct. 15, 1949, ch. 695, §6(a), 63 Stat. 881, prescribed salary of Chief Forester. See section 5316 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 554. Forest supervisors and rangers**

Forest supervisors and rangers shall be selected, when practicable, from qualified citizens of the States or Territories in which the national forests, respectively, are situated.

(Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, §3, 33 Stat. 628.)

CODIFICATION

“National forests” substituted in text for “reserves” on authority of act Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, 34 Stat. 1269, which provided that forest reserves shall hereafter be known as national forests.

**§ 554a. Employees to be appointed without regard to political affiliations**

Forest inspectors, superintendents, supervisors, surveyors, rangers, and fire patrol are to be hereafter appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture wholly with reference to their fitness and without regard for their political affiliations.

(July 7, 1898, ch. 571, §1, 30 Stat. 673; Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, §1, 33 Stat. 628.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Act Feb. 1, 1905, transferred certain functions with regard to the administration of public forests from Secretary of the Interior to Secretary of Agriculture.

**§ 554b. Medical care for employees engaged in hazardous work; notification and transportation of employees**

Appropriations for the Forest Service shall be available for medical supplies and services and other assistance necessary for the immediate relief of artisans, laborers, and other employees engaged in any hazardous work under the Forest Service, and for expenses of notifying employees of the death or serious illness of close relatives and, in such cases where no public transportation is available, for transporting the employees to a point where public transportation is available.

(Sept. 21, 1944, ch. 412, title II, §202, 58 Stat. 736; Pub. L. 85-464, §4, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 217.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as a part of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944.

AMENDMENTS

1958—Pub. L. 85-464 made appropriations available for expenses of notifying employees of the death or serious illness of close relatives, and for transportation of employees.

**§ 554c. Care of employees' graves**

Appropriations for the Forest Service shall be available within such limitations as may be pre-

scribed therein for the expenses of properly caring for the graves of persons who have lost their lives as a result of fighting fires while employed by the Forest Service.

(Sept. 21, 1944, ch. 412, title II, §206, 58 Stat. 736.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as a part of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944.

**§ 554d. Recreation facilities for employees of Forest Service and their immediate families**

Not to exceed \$100,000 annually of funds available to the Forest Service may be expended for providing recreation facilities, equipment, and services for use by employees of the Service located at isolated situations and, where deemed to be in the public interest, by members of the immediate families of such employees.

(Pub. L. 87-869, §3, Oct. 23, 1962, 76 Stat. 1157; Pub. L. 101-512, title II, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1944.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-512 substituted “\$100,000” for “\$35,000”.

**§ 554e. Employment of workers for emergencies**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after October 21, 1998, the Forest Service is authorized to employ or otherwise contract with persons at regular rates of pay, as determined by the Service, to perform work occasioned by emergencies such as fires, storms, floods, earthquakes or any other unavoidable cause without regard to Sundays, Federal holidays, and the regular workweek.

(Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(e) [title II], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-273.)

SIMILAR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

- Pub. L. 105-83, title II, Nov. 14, 1997, 111 Stat. 1577.
- Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(d) [title II], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-181, 3009-208.
- Pub. L. 104-134, title I, §101(c) [title II], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-156, 1321-185; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104-140, §1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327.
- Pub. L. 103-332, title II, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2524.
- Pub. L. 103-138, title II, Nov. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 1404.
- Pub. L. 102-381, title II, Oct. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 1402.
- Pub. L. 102-154, title II, Nov. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1019.
- Pub. L. 101-512, title II, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1944.

**§ 555. Forest headquarters, ranger stations, dwellings, or other needed sites**

Where no suitable Government land is available for national forest headquarters, ranger stations, dwellings, or for other sites required for the effective conduct of the authorized activities of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to purchase such lands out of the appropriation applicable to the purpose for which the land is to be used, and to accept donations of land for any national forest or experimental purpose: *Provided*, That such lands may be acquired subject to such reservations and outstanding interests as the Secretary determines will not interfere with the purpose for which acquired: *Provided further*, That not to ex-