

**§ 551b. Omitted**

## CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 101-286, title II, §202, May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 174, which required the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, for areas under their respective jurisdictions, to submit annual reports to Congress on rehabilitation needs resulting from disastrous forest fire damage, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, pages 47 and 108 of House Document No. 103-7.

**§ 551c. Planning for fire protection****(a) Volunteer firefighters**

The Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall annually offer training programs to certify volunteers for suppressing forest fires on National Forest System lands, National Park System lands and Bureau of Land Management public lands in the event that the appropriate Secretary determines that such volunteers are needed. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretaries should utilize existing authorities to train volunteer firefighters for use in fire emergencies. The Secretaries should assess the capabilities of educational institutions and other public and private organizations to provide such training programs.

**(b) “Educational institutions” defined**

For the purposes of this section, the term “educational institutions” shall include institutions established pursuant to the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq., commonly known as the “Morrill Act”), or the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq., commonly known as the “Second Morrill Act”).

**(c) Mobilization of local equipment**

Not later than one year after May 9, 1990—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Congress information with respect to regions of the National Forest System, and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Congress information with respect to the Bureau of Land Management public lands on a State-by-State basis and each region of the National Park System

that documents mobilization plans that provide for the use of firefighting equipment in cases of fire emergencies that may occur in each such area that may be highly prone to disastrous forest fires.

**(d) Presuppression needs**

Not later than one year after May 9, 1990, information from the Secretary of Agriculture on presuppression needs for each region of the National Forest System and information from the Secretary of the Interior on the presuppression needs for each region of the National Park System and for each State unit of the Bureau of Land Management shall be submitted to Congress. These reports shall include needs, including an estimate of the funds required, for fire prevention, fuel reduction, training and seasonal fire crews.

(Pub. L. 101-286, title II, §203, May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 175.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of July 2, 1862, referred to in subsec. (b), is act July 2, 1862, ch. 130, 12 Stat. 503, as amended, popularly

known as the Morrill Act and also as the First Morrill Act, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§301 et seq.) of chapter 13 of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 301 of Title 7 and Tables.

Act of August 30, 1890, referred to in subsec. (b), is act Aug. 30, 1890, ch. 841, 26 Stat. 417, as amended, popularly known as the Agricultural College Act of 1890 and also as the Second Morrill Act, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§321 et seq.) of chapter 13 of Title 7. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 321 of Title 7 and Tables.

FOREST FIREFIGHTING PLANNING AND COOPERATION;  
FINDINGS

Pub. L. 101-286, title II, §201, May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 174, provided that: “The Congress finds that—

“(1) it is in the best interest of the Nation to take swift action to rehabilitate burned forests, and an assessment of the situation is necessary to accomplish this; and

“(2) volunteers should be trained to assist where possible.”

**§ 551d. Wildland firefighter safety****(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Secretaries**

The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

**(2) Wildland firefighter**

The term “wildland firefighter” means any person who participates in wildland firefighting activities—

(A) under the direction of either of the Secretaries; or

(B) under a contract or compact with a federally recognized Indian tribe.

**(b) Annual report to Congress****(1) In general**

The Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress an annual report on the wildland firefighter safety practices of the Secretaries, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use, during the preceding calendar year.

**(2) Timeline**

Each report under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be submitted by not later than March of the year following the calendar year covered by the report; and

(B) include—

(i) a description of, and any changes to, wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use;

(ii) statistics and trend analyses;

(iii) an estimate of the amount of Federal funds expended by the Secretaries on wildland firefighter safety practices, in-

cluding training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use;

(iv) progress made in implementing recommendations from the Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or an agency report relating to a wildland firefighting fatality issued during the preceding 10 years; and

(v) a description of—

(I) the provisions relating to wildland firefighter safety practices in any Federal contract or other agreement governing the provision of wildland firefighters by a non-Federal entity;

(II) a summary of any actions taken by the Secretaries to ensure that the provisions relating to safety practices, including training, are complied with by the non-Federal entity; and

(III) the results of those actions.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title III, §3101, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1127.)

**§ 552. Consent to agreement by States for conservation of forests and water supply**

Consent of the Congress of the United States is given to each of the several States of the Union to enter into any agreement or compact, not in conflict with any law of the United States, with any other State or States for the purpose of conserving the forests and the water supply of the States entering into such agreement or compact.

(Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, §1, 36 Stat. 961.)

SHORT TITLE

Act Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, 36 Stat. 961, as amended, which is classified to sections 480, 500, 513 to 519, 521, 552, and 563 of this title, is popularly known as the Weeks Law.

**§ 552a. Restoration of withdrawn national forest lands to appropriation**

The President, upon recommendation of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, may, by Executive order, when in his judgment the public interest would best be served thereby and after reasonable notice has been given through the Department of the Interior, restore any reserved national-forest lands covered by a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of a watershed within a national forest from which water is secured, to appropriation under any applicable public-lands law.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, §1, 54 Stat. 224; Pub. L. 94–579, title VII, §704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.)

CODIFICATION

The words “restore any of the lands so withdrawn” have been changed to “restore any reserved national-forest lands covered by a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of a watershed within a national forest from which water is secured” to reflect the change made by Pub. L. 94–579. See 1976 Amendment note below.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94–579 struck out everything preceding second proviso which read: “Whenever a municipality

obtains its water supply from a national forest and has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the watershed within the national forest from which the water is secured, the President of the United States may, and he is, authorized, upon application by said municipality, and endorsed by the governing board of the county or counties in which the lands concerned are located and approved by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, to reserve and set aside from all forms of location, entry, or appropriation any national-forest lands, which are covered by such cooperative agreement, subject, however, to valid, existing rights and claims, and such reservation shall remain in force until revoked by the President or by an Act of Congress: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall affect the power of the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw and utilize withdrawn lands under the Federal reclamation laws”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 704(a) of Pub. L. 94–579 provided in part that this section is amended effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94–579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see note set out under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

**§ 552b. Administration of withdrawn lands; rules and regulations**

Lands withdrawn under the provisions of sections 552a to 552d of this title shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture under such agreements for the protection of the watershed as he may make with the municipality concerned, and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in addition to the rules and regulations adopted for the administration of the national forests, to adopt and prescribe such further rules and regulations as he considers necessary to effect the adequate protection of the watershed, including a rule or regulation forbidding persons other than forest officers and representatives of the municipality from going on the lands so reserved or making any use whatever thereof.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, §2, 54 Stat. 224.)

**§ 552c. Reimbursement of United States for loss of revenue**

Whenever national-forest lands are withdrawn under sections 552a to 552d of this title, and the municipality concerned objects to the utilization of the timber or other resources of lands withdrawn, and the Secretary of Agriculture agrees to withhold such resources from utilization, said municipality shall pay to the Forest Service annually an amount which the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine is necessary to reimburse the United States for the loss of net annual revenues which would be derived from the resources so withheld from disposition.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, §3, 54 Stat. 225.)

**§ 552d. Punishment of violations of regulations**

Any violation of the regulations issued under sections 552a to 552d of this title shall be punished as is provided in section 1853 of title 18.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, §4, 54 Stat. 225.)