

CODIFICATION

“Section 1853 of title 18” substituted in text for “section 104 of title 18” on authority of act June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 683, the first section of which enacted Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

§ 553. Duties of officials of Forest Service; stock laws; protection of fish and game

Officials of the Forest Service designated by the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in all ways that are practicable, aid in the enforcement of the laws of the States or Territories with regard to stock, for the prevention and extinguishment of forest fires, and for the protection of fish and game, and with respect to national forests, shall aid the other Federal bureaus and departments on request from them, in the performance of the duties imposed on them by law.

(May 23, 1908, ch. 192, 35 Stat. 259.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of Secretary of Agriculture, administered through Bureau of Biological Survey, relating to conservation of wildlife, game, and migratory birds, transferred 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 Repealed.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 prescribed 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 exceed \$50,000 may be expended in any one fiscal year pursuant to this authority.

(Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 457, §5, 43 Stat. 1133; Apr. 24, 1950, ch. 97, §13, 64 Stat. 86; Pub. L. 85-464, §9, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 218.)

AMENDMENTS

1958—Pub. L. 85-464 substituted “\$50,000” for “\$25,000”.

1950—Act Apr. 24, 1950, applied section to dwellings or other needed sites and inserted provisos.

§ 555a. Exchange of lands

Where lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service have been acquired and are being administered under laws which contain no provision for their exchange, the Secretary of Agriculture may convey such lands and in exchange therefor may accept on behalf of the United States title to any lands which in his opinion are suitable for use in connection with activities of the Forest Service. The value of the lands so conveyed by the Secretary of Agriculture shall not exceed the value of the lands accepted by him.

(Pub. L. 87-869, §1, Oct. 23, 1962, 76 Stat. 1157.)

§ 555b. Street improvements; availability of Forest Service funds

Funds available to the Forest Service shall be available for expenses of, or payment of assessment for, construction of sidewalks, curbs, or street paving along the boundary of Government-owned residential or otherwise improved lots.

(Pub. L. 87-869, §9, Oct. 23, 1962, 76 Stat. 1157.)

§ 556. Appropriations for Forest Service; use for transportation or traveling expenses; preparation or publication of newspaper or magazine articles

No part of any funds appropriated for the Forest Service shall be used to pay the transportation or traveling expenses of any forest officer or agent except he be traveling on business di-

rectly connected with the Forest Service and in furtherance of the works, aims, and objects specified and authorized by law; nor shall any such funds be paid or used for the purpose of paying for, in whole or in part, the preparation or publication of any newspaper or magazine article, but this shall not prevent the giving out to all persons, without discrimination, including newspapers and magazine writers and publishers, of any facts or official information of value to the public: *Provided*, That this prohibition shall not apply to scientific or technical articles prepared for or published in scientific publications.

(May 11, 1922, ch. 185, 42 Stat. 521; Pub. L. 85-464, §8, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 218.)

AMENDMENTS

1958—Pub. L. 85-464 made prohibition inapplicable to scientific or technical articles prepared for or published in scientific publications.

§ 556a. Omitted

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Section, acts June 16, 1955, ch. 147, title II, §203, 69 Stat. 156; June 13, 1956, ch. 380, title II, §202, 70 Stat. 270, which related to expenditures for options to purchase lands from appropriations made for the Forest Service, was superseded by section 428a of Title 7, Agriculture.

§ 556b. Use of appropriations for expenses of transporting automobiles of employees between points in Alaska

Funds available to the Forest Service may be used, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for expenses of transporting automobiles of employees of that Service between points in Alaska in connection with transfers of official stations of such employees to meet the needs of the Service.

(Pub. L. 85-464, §3, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 217.)

§ 556c. Reimbursement of employees for property losses resulting from fires, floods, or other casualties

Funds available to the Forest Service may be used in amounts not exceeding \$100 in any single claim, for reimbursing employees of the Forest Service for loss of or damage to clothing and other personal effects resulting from fires, floods, or other casualties at or near the place in which such property is temporarily stored during services of the employees in connection with such casualties.

(Pub. L. 85-464, §2, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 217.)

§ 556d. Advances of public moneys to Forest Service for fighting forest fires in emergency cases

Advances of money under any appropriation for the Forest Service may be made to the Forest Service and by authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to chiefs of field parties for fighting forest fires in emergency cases and detailed accounts arising under such advances shall be rendered through and by the Department of Agriculture to the Government Accountability Office.