

the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of Title 42 and Tables.

§ 6518. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated \$760,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out—

- (1) activities authorized by this subchapter; and
- (2) other hazardous fuel reduction activities of the Secretary, including making grants to States, local governments, Indian tribes, and other eligible recipients for activities authorized by law.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title I, §108, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1901.)

SUBCHAPTER II—BIOMASS

§ 6531. Biomass commercial utilization grant program

(a) In general

In addition to any other authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to a person that owns or operates a facility that uses biomass as a raw material to produce electric energy, sensible heat, transportation fuel, or substitutes for petroleum-based products, the Secretary may make grants to a person that owns or operates a facility that uses biomass for wood-based products or other commercial purposes to offset the costs incurred to purchase biomass.

(b) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title II, §203, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1902.)

SUBCHAPTER III—WATERSHED FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

§ 6541. Findings and purposes

(a) Findings

Congress finds that—

- (1) there has been a dramatic shift in public attitudes and perceptions about forest management, particularly in the understanding and practice of sustainable forest management;
- (2) it is commonly recognized that the proper stewardship of forest land is essential to sustaining and restoring the health of watersheds;
- (3) forests can provide essential ecological services in filtering pollutants, buffering important rivers and estuaries, and minimizing flooding, which makes forest restoration worthy of special focus; and
- (4) strengthened education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for nonindustrial private forest landowners and communities, relating to the protection of watershed health, is needed to realize the expectations of the general public.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are—

- (1) to improve landowner and public understanding of the connection between forest management and watershed health;

(2) to encourage landowners to maintain tree cover on property and to use tree plantings and vegetative treatments as creative solutions to watershed problems associated with varying land uses;

(3) to enhance and complement forest management and buffer use for watersheds, with an emphasis on community watersheds;

(4) to establish new partnerships and collaborative watershed approaches to forest management, stewardship, and conservation;

(5) to provide technical and financial assistance to States to deliver a coordinated program that enhances State forestry best-management practices programs, and conserves and improves forested land and potentially forested land, through technical, financial, and educational assistance to qualifying individuals and entities; and

(6) to maximize the proper management and conservation of wetland forests and to assist in the restoration of those forests.

(Pub. L. 108-148, title III, §301, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1902.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this title”, meaning title III of Pub. L. 108-148, Dec. 3, 2003, 117 Stat. 1902, which enacted this subchapter and section 2103b of this title. For complete classification of title III to the Code, see Tables.

§ 6542. Tribal watershed forestry assistance

(a) In general

The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall provide technical, financial, and related assistance to Indian tribes for the purpose of expanding tribal stewardship capacities and activities through tribal forestry best-management practices and other means at the tribal level to address watershed issues on land under the jurisdiction of or administered by the Indian tribes.

(b) Technical assistance to protect water quality

(1) In general

The Secretary, in cooperation with Indian tribes, shall develop a program to provide technical assistance to protect water quality, as described in paragraph (2).

(2) Purpose of program

The program under this subsection shall be designed—

(A) to build and strengthen watershed partnerships that focus on forested landscapes at the State, regional, tribal, and local levels;

(B) to provide tribal forestry best-management practices and water quality technical assistance directly to Indian tribes;

(C) to provide technical guidance to tribal land managers and policy makers for water quality protection through forest management;

(D) to complement tribal efforts to protect water quality and provide enhanced opportunities for consultation and cooperation among Federal agencies and tribal entities charged with responsibility for water and watershed management; and