

(1) to provide assistance to rural communities that are located in or near National Forest System land and that are economically dependent upon natural resources or are likely to be economically disadvantaged by Federal or private sector land management practices;

(2) to aid in diversifying such communities' economic bases; and

(3) to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural America.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2373, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4046; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-203.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)(1)(A)], substituted “National Forest System land;” for “national forests;”.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)(1)(B)], substituted “National Forest System land” for “the national forests”.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)(1)(C)], substituted “natural resources;” for “forest resources;”.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)(1)(D)], substituted “National Forest System land resources” for “national forest resources”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 106-113, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(a)(2)], substituted “National Forest System land” for “national forests” and “natural resources” for “forest resources”.

§ 6612. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) The term “action team” means a rural natural resources and economic diversification action team established by the Secretary pursuant to section 6613(b) of this title.

(2) The term “economically disadvantaged” means economic hardship due to the loss of jobs or income (labor or proprietor) derived from forestry, the wood products industry, or related commercial enterprises such as recreation and tourism in the national forest.

(3) The term “rural community” means—

(A) any town, township, municipality, or other similar unit of general purpose local government, or any area represented by a not-for-profit corporation or institution organized under State or Federal law to promote broad based economic development, or unit of general purpose local government, as approved by the Secretary, that has a population of not more than 10,000 individuals, is located within a county in which at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation, forage production, and tourism and that is located within the boundary, or within 100 miles of the boundary, of a national forest; or

(B) any county that is not contained within a Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the United States Office of Management and Budget, in which at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation, forage production, and tourism and that is located within the

boundary, or within 100 miles of the boundary, of a national forest.

(4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2374, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4046; Pub. L. 103-115, Oct. 26, 1993, 107 Stat. 1117; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(b)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-203.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Par. (1). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “natural resources” for “forestry”.

1993—Par. (3). Pub. L. 103-115 amended par. (3) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (3) read as follows: “The term ‘rural community’ means—

“(A) any town, township, municipality, or other similar unit of general purpose local government having a population of not more than 10,000 individuals (according to the latest decennial census) that is located in a county where at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation and tourism; or

“(B) any county or similar unit of general purpose local government having a population of not more than 22,550 individuals (according to the latest decennial census) in which at least 15 percent of the total primary and secondary labor and proprietor income is derived from forestry, wood products, and forest-related industries such as recreation and tourism, that is located within the boundary, or within 100 miles of the boundary, of a national forest.”

§ 6613. Rural natural resources and economic diversification action teams

(a) Requests for assistance

Economically disadvantaged rural communities may request assistance from the Secretary in identifying opportunities that will promote economic improvement and diversification and revitalization.

(b) Establishment

Upon request, the Secretary may establish rural natural resources and economic diversification action teams to prepare an action plan to provide technical assistance to economically disadvantaged communities. The action plan shall identify opportunities to promote economic diversification and enhance local economies now dependent upon National Forest System land resources. The action team may also identify opportunities to use value-added products and services derived from National Forest System land resources.

(c) Organization

The Secretary shall design and organize any action team established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to meet the unique needs of the requesting rural community. Each action team shall be directed by an employee of the Forest Service and may include personnel from other agencies within the Department of Agriculture, from other Federal and State departments and agencies, and from the private sector.

(d) Cooperation

In preparing action plans, the Secretary may cooperate with State and local governments, universities, private companies, individuals, and

nonprofit organizations for procurement of services determined necessary or desirable.

(e) Eligibility

The Secretary shall ensure that no substantially similar geographical or defined local area in a State receives a grant for technical assistance to an economically disadvantaged community under this subchapter and a grant for assistance under a designated rural development program during any continuous five-year period.

(f) Approval

After reviewing requests under this section for financial and economic feasibility and viability, the Secretary shall approve and implement in accordance with section 6614 of this title those action plans that will achieve the purposes of this subchapter.

(g) “Designated rural development program” defined

In this section, the term “designated rural development program” means a program carried out under section 1924(b), 1926(a), or 1932(e) of this title for which funds are available at any time during the fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2375, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4047; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §753(b)(1), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1131; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(c)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-204.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “natural resources” for “forestry” and substituted “National Forest System land resources” for “national forest resources” in two places.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-127, §753(b)(1)(A), struck out “, as defined in section 2008(b)(2) of this title,” before “during any”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-127, §753(b)(1)(B), added subsec. (g).

§ 6614. Action plan implementation

(a) In general

Action plans shall be implemented, insofar as practicable, to upgrade existing industries to use natural resources more efficiently and to expand the economic base of rural communities so as to alleviate or reduce their dependence on National Forest System land resources.

(b) Assistance

To implement action plans, the Secretary may make grants and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts to provide necessary technical and related assistance. Such grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts may be with the affected rural community, State and local governments, universities, corporations, and other persons.

(c) Limitation

The Federal contribution to the overall implementation of an action plan shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the plan, including administrative and other costs. In calculating the Federal contribution, the Secretary shall take into account the fair market value of equipment, personnel, and services provided.

(d) Available authority

The Secretary may use the Secretary’s authority under the Cooperative Forestry Assis-

tance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) and other Federal, State, and local governmental authorities in implementing action plans.

(e) Consistency with forest plans

The implementation of action plans shall be consistent with land and resource management plans.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2376, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4048; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(d)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-204.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 95-313, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 365, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 41 (§2101 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2101 of Title 16 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “natural resources” for “forest resources” and “National Forest System land resources” for “national forest resources”.

§ 6615. Training and education

(a) Programs

In furtherance of an action plan, the Secretary may use the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and other appropriate agencies of the Department of Agriculture to develop and conduct education programs that assist businesses, elected or appointed officials, and individuals in rural communities to deal with the effects of a transition from being economically disadvantaged to economic diversification. These programs may include—

- (1) community economic analysis and strategic planning;
- (2) methods for improving and retooling enterprises now dependent on National Forest System land resources;
- (3) methods for expanding enterprises and creating new economic opportunities by emphasizing economic opportunities in other industries or services not dependent on National Forest System land resources; and
- (4) assistance in the evaluation, counseling, and enhancement of vocational skills, training in basic and remedial literacy skills, assistance in job seeking skills, and training in starting or operating a business enterprise.

(b) Existing educational and training programs

Insofar as practicable, the Secretary shall use existing Federal, State, and private education resources in carrying out these programs.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2377, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4048; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(e)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-204; Pub. L. 110-234, title VII, §7511(c)(26), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1270; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VII, §7511(c)(26), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2031.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.