

(3) procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings;

(4) plant tree seeds and seedlings on non-Federal forest lands that are suitable for the production of timber, recreation, and for other benefits associated with the growing of trees;

(5) plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom; and

(6) protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields therefrom.

(c) Implementation

In implementing this section, the Secretary shall cooperate with other Federal, State, and local natural resource management agencies, universities and the private sector.

(d) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 95-313, § 3, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 366; Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, § 1213, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3523.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Pub. L. 101-624 amended section generally, substituting present provisions for provisions which set forth Congressional findings relating to rural forestry assistance, related to financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, and authorized appropriations.

§ 2103. Repealed. Pub. L. 113-79, title VIII, § 8001(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 913

Section, Pub. L. 95-313, § 4, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title VIII, § 8002(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 468, related to the establishment and implementation of a forest land enhancement program.

A prior section 2103, Pub. L. 95-313, § 4, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 367; Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, §§ 1214, 1224(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3525, 3542; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §§ 336(a)(2)(B), 373, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1005, 1015, related to forestry incentives program, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 107-171, title VIII, § 8001(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 468.

PURPOSES OF FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Pub. L. 107-171, title VIII, § 8002(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 468, which listed purposes for the establishment of a forest land enhancement program, was repealed by Pub. L. 113-79, title VIII, § 8001(b), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 913.

§ 2103a. Forest Stewardship Program

(a) Establishment

The Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall establish a Forest Stewardship Program (hereafter referred to in this section as the “Program”) to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forest lands by assisting owners of such lands to more actively manage their forest and related resources by utilizing existing State, Federal, and private sector resource management expertise and assistance programs.

(b) Goal

The goal of the Program shall be to enter at least 25,000,000 acres of nonindustrial private forest lands in the Program by December 31, 1995.

(c) “Nonindustrial private forest lands” defined

For the purposes of this section, the term “nonindustrial private forest lands” means rural, as determined by the Secretary, lands with existing tree cover, or suitable for growing trees, and owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity.

(d) Implementation

In carrying out the Program the Secretary, in consultation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, shall provide financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials, including assistance to help such State foresters or equivalent officials to provide financial assistance to other State and local natural resource entities, both public and private, and land-grant universities for the delivery of information and professional assistance to owners of nonindustrial private forest lands. Such information and assistance shall be directed to help such owners understand and evaluate alternative actions they might take, including—

(1) managing and enhancing the productivity of timber, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, recreational resources, and the aesthetic value of forest lands;

(2) investing in practices to protect, maintain, and enhance the resources identified in paragraph (1);

(3) ensuring that afforestation, reforestation, improvement of poorly stocked stands, timber stand improvement, practices necessary to improve seedling growth and survival, and growth enhancement practices occur where needed to enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of timber and nontimber forest resources to help meet future public demand for all forest resources and provide the environmental benefits that result; and

(4) protecting their forests from damage caused by fire, insects, disease, and damaging weather.

(e) Eligibility

All nonindustrial private forest lands that are not in management under Federal, State, or private sector financial and technical assistance programs existing on November 28, 1990, are eligible for assistance under the Program. Non-industrial private forest lands that are managed under such existing programs are eligible for assistance under the Program if forest management activities are expanded and enhanced and the landowner agrees to meet the requirements of this chapter.

(f) Duties of owners

To enter forest land into the Program, landowners shall—

(1) prepare and submit to the State forester or equivalent State official a forest stewardship plan that meets the requirements of this section and that—

(A) is prepared by a professional resource manager;