

June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2098; Pub. L. 113-79, title X, §10006, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 947.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

Section was enacted as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and not as part of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, which in part comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-79 substituted “2018” for “2012”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.

DEFINITION OF “SECRETARY”

“Secretary” as meaning the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 8701 of this title.

§ 7655b. Forestry products advanced utilization research

(a) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish a forestry and forestry products research and extension initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools that address the needs of the forestry sector and their respective regions, forest and timberland owners and managers, and forestry products engineering, manufacturing, and related interests.

(b) Activities

The initiative described in subsection (a) shall include the following activities:

(1) Research conducted for purposes of—

(A) wood quality improvement with respect to lumber strength and grade yield;

(B) the development of novel engineered lumber products and renewable energy from wood; and

(C) enhancing the longevity, sustainability, and profitability of timberland through sound management and utilization.

(2) Demonstration activities and technology transfer to demonstrate the beneficial characteristics of wood as a green building material, including investments in life cycle assessment for wood products.

(3) Projects designed to improve—

(A) forestry products, lumber, and evaluation standards and valuation techniques;

(B) lumber quality and value-based, on-forest management techniques; and

(C) forestry products conversion and manufacturing efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including forestry product marketing).

(c) Grants

(1) In general

The Secretary shall make competitive grants to carry out the activities described in subsection (b).

(2) Priorities

In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give higher priority to activities that are carried out by entities that—

(A) are multistate, multiinstitutional, or multidisciplinary;

(B) have explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers, forestry industry stakeholders, policymakers, and the public; and

(C) have—

(i) extensive history and demonstrated experience in forestry and forestry products research;

(ii) existing capacity in forestry products research and dissemination; and

(iii) a demonstrated means of evaluating and responding to the needs of the related commercial sector.

(3) Administration

In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall follow the requirements of paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of section 450i of this title.

(4) Term

The term of a grant made under this section may not exceed 10 years.

(d) Coordination

The Secretary shall ensure that any activities carried out under this section are carried out in coordination with the Forest Service, including the Forest Products Laboratory, and other appropriate agencies of the Department.

(e) Report

The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate describing, for the period covered by the report—

(1) the research that has been conducted under paragraph (2) of subsection (b);

(2) the number of buildings the Forest Service has built with wood as the primary structural material; and

(3) the investments made by the Forest Service in green building and wood promotion.

(f) Authorization of appropriations

(1) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

(2) Matching funds

To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall match any funds made available under paragraph (1) with funds made available under section 1646 of title 16.

(Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, §617, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title VII, §7310, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 892.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 617 of Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 607, which was not classified to the Code, was repealed by Pub. L. 107-171, title VII, §7302, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 455.

§ 7656. Designation of Crisis Management Team within Department

(a) Designation of Crisis Management Team

The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate a Crisis Management Team within the Department of Agriculture, which shall be—

(1) composed of senior departmental personnel with strong subject matter expertise selected from each relevant agency of the Department; and

(2) headed by a team leader with management and communications skills.

(b) Duties of Crisis Management Team

The Crisis Management Team shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Developing a Department-wide crisis management plan, taking into account similar plans developed by other government agencies and other large organizations, and developing written procedures for the implementation of the crisis management plan.

(2) Conducting periodic reviews and revisions of the crisis management plan and procedures developed under paragraph (1).

(3) Ensuring compliance with crisis management procedures by personnel of the Department and ensuring that appropriate Department personnel are familiar with the crisis management plan and procedures and are encouraged to bring information regarding crises or potential crises to the attention of members of the Crisis Management Team.

(4) Coordinating the Department's information gathering and dissemination activities concerning issues managed by the Crisis Management Team.

(5) Ensuring that Department spokespersons convey accurate, timely, and scientifically sound information regarding crises or potential crises that can be easily understood by the general public.

(6) Cooperating with, and coordinating among, other Federal agencies, States, local governments, industry, and public interest groups, Department activities regarding a crisis.

(c) Role in prioritizing certain research

The Crisis Management Team shall cooperate with the Advisory Board in the prioritization of agricultural research conducted or funded by the Department regarding animal health, natural disasters, food safety, and other agricultural issues.

(d) Cooperative agreements

The Secretary shall seek to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal departments and agencies that have related programs or activities to help ensure consistent, accurate, and coordinated dissemination of information throughout the executive branch in the event of a crisis, such as, in the case of a threat to human health from food-borne pathogens, developing a rapid and coordinated response among the Department, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration.

(Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, §618, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 607.)

§ 7657. Senior Scientific Research Service

(a) In general

There is established in the Department of Agriculture the Senior Scientific Research Service (referred to in this section as the "Service").

(b) Members

(1) In general

Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4), the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Service.

(2) Qualifications

To be eligible for appointment to the Service, an individual shall—

(A) have conducted outstanding research in the field of agriculture or forestry;

(B) have earned a doctoral level degree at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20); and

(C) meet qualification standards prescribed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management for appointment to a position at level GS-15 of the General Schedule.

(3) Number

Not more than 100 individuals may serve as members of the Service at any 1 time.

(4) Other requirements

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B) and subsection (d)(2), the Secretary may appoint and employ a member of the Service without regard to—

(i) the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service;

(ii) the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 5 relating to retention preference;

(iii) the provisions of chapter 43 of title 5 relating to performance appraisal and performance actions;

(iv) the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5 relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates; and

(v) the provisions of chapter 75 of title 5 relating to adverse actions.

(B) Exception

A member of the Service appointed and employed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall have the same right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board and the same right to file a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel as an employee appointed to a position at level GS-15 of the General Schedule.

(c) Performance appraisal system

The Secretary shall develop a performance appraisal system for members of the Service that is designed to—

(1) provide for the systematic appraisal of the employment performance of the members; and

(2) encourage excellence in employment performance by the members.

(d) Compensation

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall determine the compensation of members of the Service.

(2) Limitations

The rate of pay for a member of the Service shall—