

agement of lands in the United States for the following purposes:

- (1) Aid in wildfire prevention and control.
- (2) Protect communities from wildfire threats.
- (3) Enhance the growth and maintenance of trees and forests that promote overall forest health.
- (4) Ensure the continued production of all forest resources, including timber, outdoor recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and clean water, through conservation of forest cover on watersheds, shelterbelts, and wind-breaks.

**(b) Community and Private Land Fire Assistance Program**

**(1) Establishment; purpose**

The Secretary shall establish a Community and Private Land Fire Assistance program (in this subsection referred to as the “Program”)—

- (A) to focus the Federal role in promoting optimal firefighting efficiency at the Federal, State, and local levels;
- (B) to augment Federal projects that establish landscape level protection from wildfires;
- (C) to expand outreach and education programs to homeowners and communities about fire prevention; and
- (D) to establish space around homes and property of private landowners that is defensible against wildfires.

**(2) Administration and implementation**

The Program shall be administered by the Forest Service and implemented through State foresters or equivalent State officials.

**(3) Components**

In coordination with existing authorities under this chapter, the Secretary, in consultation with the State forester or equivalent State official, may undertake on non-Federal lands—

- (A) fuel hazard mitigation and prevention;
- (B) invasive species management;
- (C) multiresource wildfire planning;
- (D) community protection planning;
- (E) community and landowner education enterprises, including the program known as FIREWISE;
- (F) market development and expansion;
- (G) improved wood utilization; and
- (H) special restoration projects.

**(4) Consent required**

Program activities undertaken by the Secretary on non-Federal lands shall be undertaken only with the consent of the owner of the lands.

**(5) Considerations**

The Secretary shall use persons in the local community wherever possible to carry out projects under the Program.

**(c) Consultation**

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-

nology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as necessary.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section—

- (1) \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2007; and
- (2) such sums as are necessary for fiscal years thereafter.

(Pub. L. 95-313, §10A, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title VIII, §8003(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 473.)

**FINDINGS FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION**

Pub. L. 107-171, title VIII, §8003(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 473, provided that: “Congress finds the following:

- “(1) The severity and intensity of wildland fires has increased dramatically over the past few decades as a result of past fire and land management policies.
- “(2) The record 2000 fire season is a prime example of what can be expected if action is not taken.
- “(3) Wildland fires threaten not only the forested resources of the United States, but also the thousands of communities intermingled with the wildlands in the wildland-urban interface.
- “(4) The National Fire Plan, if implemented to achieve appropriate priorities, is the proper, coordinated, and most effective means to address the issue of wildfires.
- “(5) While adequate authorities exist to tackle the wildfire issues at the landscape level on Federal lands, there is limited authority to take action on most private lands, and the largest threat to life and property exists on private lands.
- “(6) There is a significant Federal interest in enhancing community protection from wildfire.”

**§2107. Financial, technical, and related assistance to States**

**(a) Development of State organizations for protection and management of non-Federal forest lands; scope of assistance; request by officials**

To aid in achieving maximum effectiveness in the programs and activities conducted under this chapter, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials for the development of stronger and more efficient State organizations that will enable them to fulfill better their responsibilities for the protection and management of non-Federal forest lands. Assistance under this subsection may include, but will not be limited to, assistance in matters related to organization management, program planning and management, budget and fiscal accounting services, personnel training and management, information services, and recordkeeping. Assistance under this subsection may be extended only upon request by State foresters or equivalent State officials.

**(b) Assembly, analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, resources planning, etc.; scope of assistance; other statutory provisions unaffected**

To ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for and effectively presented in State and Federal natural resources planning, the Secretary is authorized to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials in the assembly,

analysis, display, and reporting of State forest resources data, in the training of State forest resources planners, and in participating in natural resources planning at the State and Federal levels. The Secretary shall restrict assistance under this subsection to the implementation of the forestry aspects of State and Federal natural resources planning conducted under other laws. This subsection shall not be construed, in any way whatsoever, as extending, limiting, amending, repealing, or otherwise affecting any other law or authority.

**(c) Technology implementation program; scope of program; availability of funds; use of forest resources planning committees**

To ensure that new technology is introduced, new information is integrated into existing technology, and forest resources research findings are promptly made available to State forestry personnel, private forest landowners and managers, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals, the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program of technology implementation.

(1) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to work through State foresters or equivalent State officials, and, if the State forester or equivalent State official is unable to deliver these services, the Secretary is authorized to act through appropriate United States Department of Agriculture agencies, subdivisions of States, agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals to—

(A) strengthen technical assistance and service programs of cooperators participating in programs under this chapter by applying research results and conducting pilot projects and field tests of management and utilization practices, equipment, and technologies, related to programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(B) study the effects of tax laws, methods, and practices on forest management;

(C) develop and maintain technical information systems in support of programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(D) test, evaluate, and seek registration of chemicals for use in implementing the programs and activities authorized under this chapter;

(E) conduct other activities, including training of State forestry personnel whom the Secretary deems necessary to ensure that the programs and activities authorized under this chapter are responsive to special problems, unique situations, and changing conditions.

(2) The Secretary may make funds available to cooperators under this chapter without regard to the provisions of section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31, which prohibits advances of public money.

(3) The Secretary shall use forest resources planning committees at National and State levels in implementing this subsection.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated annually such sums as may be needed to implement this section.

(Pub. L. 95-313, §11, formerly §8, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 371; renumbered §11, Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, §1215(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3525.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (c)(2), “section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31” substituted for “section 3648 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 529)” on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11 of Pub. L. 95-313 was renumbered section 14 and is classified to section 2110 of this title.

**§ 2108. Consolidation of payments**

**(a) Request by State; excluded funds**

To provide flexibility in funding activities authorized under this chapter, the Secretary may, upon the request of any State, consolidate the annual financial assistance payments to that State under this chapter, in lieu of functional cost sharing mechanisms, formulas, or agreements. However, consolidated payments shall not include money appropriated under section 2103<sup>1</sup> of this title or money from any special Treasury fund established under this chapter.

**(b) State forest resources programs as basis**

Consolidation of payments made under this section shall be based upon State forest resources programs developed by State foresters or equivalent State officials, and reviewed by the Secretary.

**(c) Amount of payments**

Consolidated payments to any State during any fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of non-Federal funds expended within the State during that year to implement its State forest resources program. However, the Secretary may make payments that exceed the non-Federal amount expended for selected activities under the program, if the total Federal expenditure during any fiscal year does not exceed the total non-Federal expenditure during that year under the State forest resources program.

**(d) Certification requirement by State forester or equivalent State official for Federal payment**

The Secretary may make consolidated payments on the certificate of the State forester or equivalent State official that the conditions for Federal payment have been met.

**(e) Administration of consolidated payments program not to adversely affect, etc., other programs**

The Secretary shall administer this section to ensure that the use of consolidated payments does not adversely affect or eliminate any program authorized under this chapter.

**(f) Total annual amount of financial assistance to participating State; financial assistance for special projects not to be included in determining base amount**

Subject to applicable appropriation Acts, the total annual amount of financial assistance to any participating State after July 1, 1978, shall

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.