

SUBCHAPTER II—NATIONAL FOREST-
DEPENDENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

§ 6611. Findings and purposes

(a) Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the economic well-being of rural America is vital to our national growth and prosperity;

(2) the economic well-being of many rural communities depends upon the goods and services that are derived from National Forest System land;

(3) the economies of many of these communities suffer from a lack of industrial and business diversity;

(4) this lack of diversity is particularly serious in communities whose economies are predominantly dependent on timber and recreation resources and where management decisions made on National Forest System land by Federal and private organizations may disrupt the supply of those resources;

(5) the Forest Service has expertise and resources that could be directed to promote modernization and economic diversification of existing industries and services based on natural resources;

(6) the Forest Service has the technical expertise to provide leadership, in cooperation with other governmental agencies and the private sector, to assist rural communities dependent upon National Forest System land resources to upgrade existing industries and diversify by developing new economic activity in non-forest-related industries; and

(7) technical assistance, training, education, and other assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture can be targeted to provide immediate help to those rural communities in greatest need.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are—

(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