

toration of priority forest landscapes through a process that—

- (1) encourages ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- (2) leverages local resources with national and private resources;
- (3) facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through reestablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; and
- (4) demonstrates the degree to which—
 - (A) various ecological restoration techniques—
 - (i) achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and
 - (ii) affect wildfire activity and management costs; and
 - (B) the use of forest restoration byproducts can offset treatment costs while benefiting local rural economies and improving forest health.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title IV, §4001, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1141.)

§ 7302. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Fund

The term “Fund” means the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund established by section 7303(f) of this title.

(2) Program

The term “program” means the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program established under section 7303(a) of this title.

(3) Proposal

The term “proposal” means a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal described in section 7303(b) of this title.

(4) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(5) Strategy

The term “strategy” means a landscape restoration strategy described in section 7303(b)(1) of this title.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title IV, §4002, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1141.)

§ 7303. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

(a) In general

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program to select and fund ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes in accordance with—

- (1) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);
- (2) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and
- (3) any other applicable law.

(b) Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for nomination under subsection (c), a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal shall—

(1) be based on a landscape restoration strategy that—

- (A) is complete or substantially complete;
- (B) identifies and prioritizes ecological restoration treatments for a 10-year period within a landscape that is—
 - (i) at least 50,000 acres;
 - (ii) comprised primarily of forested National Forest System land, but may also include land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or other Federal, State, tribal, or private land;
 - (iii) in need of active ecosystem restoration; and
 - (iv) accessible by existing or proposed wood-processing infrastructure at an appropriate scale to use woody biomass and small-diameter wood removed in ecological restoration treatments;

(C) incorporates the best available science and scientific application tools in ecological restoration strategies;

(D) fully maintains, or contributes toward the restoration of, the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type, taking into account the contribution of the stand to landscape fire adaptation and watershed health and retaining the large trees contributing to old growth structure;

(E) would carry out any forest restoration treatments that reduce hazardous fuels by—

- (i) focusing on small diameter trees, thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and fire use to modify fire behavior, as measured by the projected reduction of uncharacteristically severe wildfire effects for the forest type (such as adverse soil impacts, tree mortality or other impacts); and
- (ii) maximizing the retention of large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote fire-resilient stands; and

(F)(i) does not include the establishment of permanent roads; and

(ii) would commit funding to decommission all temporary roads constructed to carry out the strategy;

(2) be developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

- (A) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and
- (B)(i) is transparent and nonexclusive; or
- (ii) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under subsections (c) through (f) of section 7125 of this title;¹

(3) describe plans to—

(A) reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, including through the use of fire for ecological restoration and maintenance and reestablishing natural fire regimes, where appropriate;

(B) improve fish and wildlife habitat, including for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species;

¹ See References in Text note below.