

national system used to provide a measure of fire danger according to a range of low to moderate to high to very high to extreme.

“(2) **PRESCRIBED BURN.**—The term ‘prescribed burn’ means a planned fire intentionally ignited.

“(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.”

§ 551d. Wildland firefighter safety

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Secretaries

The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) Wildland firefighter

The term “wildland firefighter” means any person who participates in wildland firefighting activities—

(A) under the direction of either of the Secretaries; or

(B) under a contract or compact with a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(b) Annual report to Congress

(1) In general

The Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress an annual report on the wildland firefighter safety practices of the Secretaries, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use, during the preceding calendar year.

(2) Timeline

Each report under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be submitted by not later than March of the year following the calendar year covered by the report; and

(B) include—

(i) a description of, and any changes to, wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use;

(ii) statistics and trend analyses;

(iii) an estimate of the amount of Federal funds expended by the Secretaries on wildland firefighter safety practices, including training programs and activities for wildland fire suppression, prescribed burning, and wildland fire use;

(iv) progress made in implementing recommendations from the Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or an agency report relating to a wildland firefighting fatality issued during the preceding 10 years; and

(v) a description of—

(I) the provisions relating to wildland firefighter safety practices in any Federal contract or other agreement governing the provision of wildland firefighters by a non-Federal entity;

(II) a summary of any actions taken by the Secretaries to ensure that the provisions relating to safety practices, including training, are complied with by the non-Federal entity; and

(III) the results of those actions.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title III, §3101, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1127.)

§ 552. Consent to agreement by States for conservation of forests and water supply

Consent of the Congress of the United States is given to each of the several States of the Union to enter into any agreement or compact, not in conflict with any law of the United States, with any other State or States for the purpose of conserving the forests and the water supply of the States entering into such agreement or compact.

(Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, §1, 36 Stat. 961.)

SHORT TITLE

Act Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, 36 Stat. 961, which enacted this section, former sections 513 and 514 of this title, and sections 515 to 519, 521, and 563 of this title and amended sections 480 and 500 of this title, is popularly known as the Weeks Law.

§ 552a. Restoration of withdrawn national forest lands to appropriation

The President, upon recommendation of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, may, by Executive order, when in his judgment the public interest would best be served thereby and after reasonable notice has been given through the Department of the Interior, restore any reserved national-forest lands covered by a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of a watershed within a national forest from which water is secured, to appropriation under any applicable public-lands law.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, §1, 54 Stat. 224; Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, §704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.)

CODIFICATION

The words “restore any of the lands so withdrawn” have been changed to “restore any reserved national-forest lands covered by a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of a watershed within a national forest from which water is secured” to reflect the change made by Pub. L. 94-579. See 1976 Amendment note below.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-579 struck out everything preceding second proviso which read: “Whenever a municipality obtains its water supply from a national forest and has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the watershed within the national forest from which the water is secured, the President of the United States may, and he is, authorized, upon application by said municipality, and endorsed by the governing board of the county or counties in which the lands concerned are located and approved by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, to reserve and set aside from all forms of location, entry, or appropriation any national-forest lands, which are covered by such cooperative agreement, subject, however, to valid, existing rights and claims, and such reservation shall remain in force until revoked by

the President or by an Act of Congress: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall affect the power of the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw and utilize withdrawn lands under the Federal reclamation laws”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 704(a) of Pub. L. 94-579 provided in part that this section is amended effective on and after Oct. 21, 1976.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-579 not to be construed as terminating any valid lease, permit, patent, etc., existing on Oct. 21, 1976, see note set out under section 1701 of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 552b. Administration of withdrawn lands; rules and regulations

Lands withdrawn under the provisions of sections 552a to 552d of this title shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture under such agreements for the protection of the watershed as he may make with the municipality concerned, and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in addition to the rules and regulations adopted for the administration of the national forests, to adopt and prescribe such further rules and regulations as he considers necessary to effect the adequate protection of the watershed, including a rule or regulation forbidding persons other than forest officers and representatives of the municipality from going on the lands so reserved or making any use whatever thereof.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, § 2, 54 Stat. 224.)

§ 552c. Reimbursement of United States for loss of revenue

Whenever national-forest lands are withdrawn under sections 552a to 552d of this title, and the municipality concerned objects to the utilization of the timber or other resources of lands withdrawn, and the Secretary of Agriculture agrees to withhold such resources from utilization, said municipality shall pay to the Forest Service annually an amount which the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine is necessary to reimburse the United States for the loss of net annual revenues which would be derived from the resources so withheld from disposition.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, § 3, 54 Stat. 225.)

§ 552d. Punishment of violations of regulations

Any violation of the regulations issued under sections 552a to 552d of this title shall be punished as is provided in section 1853 of title 18.

(May 28, 1940, ch. 220, § 4, 54 Stat. 225.)

CODIFICATION

“Section 1853 of title 18” substituted in text for “section 104 of title 18” on authority of act June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 683, the first section of which enacted Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

§ 553. Duties of officials of Forest Service; stock laws; protection of fish and game

Officials of the Forest Service designated by the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in all ways that are practicable, aid in the enforcement of the laws of the States or Territories with regard

to stock, for the prevention and extinguishment of forest fires, and for the protection of fish and game, and with respect to national forests, shall aid the other Federal bureaus and departments on request from them, in the performance of the duties imposed on them by law.

(May 23, 1908, ch. 192, 35 Stat. 259.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of Secretary of Agriculture, administered through Bureau of Biological Survey, relating to conservation of wildlife, game, and migratory birds, transferred to Secretary of the Interior by Reorg. Plan No. II of 1939, §4(f), eff. July 1, 1939, 4 F.R. 2731, 53 Stat. 1433, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 553a. Repealed. Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 655

Section, acts June 29, 1949, ch. 280, title I, 63 Stat. 337; Oct. 15, 1949, ch. 695, §6(a), 63 Stat. 881, prescribed salary of Chief Forester. See section 5316 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 554. Forest supervisors and rangers

Forest supervisors and rangers shall be selected, when practicable, from qualified citizens of the States or Territories in which the national forests, respectively, are situated.

(Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, § 3, 33 Stat. 628.)

CODIFICATION

“National forests” substituted in text for “reserves” on authority of act Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, 34 Stat. 1269, which provided that forest reserves shall hereafter be known as national forests.

§ 554a. Employees to be appointed without regard to political affiliations

Forest inspectors, superintendents, supervisors, surveyors, rangers, and fire patrol are to be hereafter appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture wholly with reference to their fitness and without regard for their political affiliations.

(July 7, 1898, ch. 571, §1, 30 Stat. 673; Feb. 1, 1905, ch. 288, §1, 33 Stat. 628.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Act Feb. 1, 1905, transferred certain functions with regard to the administration of public forests from Secretary of the Interior to Secretary of Agriculture.

§ 554b. Medical care for employees engaged in hazardous work; notification and transportation of employees

Appropriations for the Forest Service shall be available for medical supplies and services and other assistance necessary for the immediate relief of artisans, laborers, and other employees engaged in any hazardous work under the Forest Service, and for expenses of notifying employees of the death or serious illness of close relatives and, in such cases where no public transportation is available, for transporting the employees to a point where public transportation is available.

(Sept. 21, 1944, ch. 412, title II, §202, 58 Stat. 736; Pub. L. 85-464, § 4, June 20, 1958, 72 Stat. 217.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as a part of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944.