

§ 6613. Rural natural resources and economic diversification action teams

(a) Requests for assistance

Economically disadvantaged rural communities may request assistance from the Secretary in identifying opportunities that will promote economic improvement and diversification and revitalization.

(b) Establishment

Upon request, the Secretary may establish rural natural resources and economic diversification action teams to prepare an action plan to provide technical assistance to economically disadvantaged communities. The action plan shall identify opportunities to promote economic diversification and enhance local economies now dependent upon National Forest System land resources. The action team may also identify opportunities to use value-added products and services derived from National Forest System land resources.

(c) Organization

The Secretary shall design and organize any action team established pursuant to subsection (b) to meet the unique needs of the requesting rural community. Each action team shall be directed by an employee of the Forest Service and may include personnel from other agencies within the Department of Agriculture, from other Federal and State departments and agencies, and from the private sector.

(d) Cooperation

In preparing action plans, the Secretary may cooperate with State and local governments, universities, private companies, individuals, and nonprofit organizations for procurement of services determined necessary or desirable.

(e) Eligibility

The Secretary shall ensure that no substantially similar geographical or defined local area in a State receives a grant for technical assistance to an economically disadvantaged community under this subchapter and a grant for assistance under a designated rural development program during any continuous five-year period.

(f) Approval

After reviewing requests under this section for financial and economic feasibility and viability, the Secretary shall approve and implement in accordance with section 6614 of this title those action plans that will achieve the purposes of this subchapter.

(g) “Designated rural development program” defined

In this section, the term “designated rural development program” means a program carried out under section 1924(b), 1926(a), or 1932(e) of this title for which funds are available at any time during the fiscal year.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2375, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4047; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §753(b)(1), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1131; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(c)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-204.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “natural resources” for “forestry” and substituted “National Forest System land resources” for “national forest resources” in two places.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-127, §753(b)(1)(A), struck out “, as defined in section 2008(b)(2) of this title,” before “during any”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-127, §753(b)(1)(B), added subsec. (g).

§ 6614. Action plan implementation

(a) In general

Action plans shall be implemented, insofar as practicable, to upgrade existing industries to use natural resources more efficiently and to expand the economic base of rural communities so as to alleviate or reduce their dependence on National Forest System land resources.

(b) Assistance

To implement action plans, the Secretary may make grants and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts to provide necessary technical and related assistance. Such grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts may be with the affected rural community, State and local governments, universities, corporations, and other persons.

(c) Limitation

The Federal contribution to the overall implementation of an action plan shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the plan, including administrative and other costs. In calculating the Federal contribution, the Secretary shall take into account the fair market value of equipment, personnel, and services provided.

(d) Available authority

The Secretary may use the Secretary’s authority under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) and other Federal, State, and local governmental authorities in implementing action plans.

(e) Consistency with forest plans

The implementation of action plans shall be consistent with land and resource management plans.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2376, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4048; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(3) [title III, §345(d)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A-204.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 95-313, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 365, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 41 (§2101 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2101 of Title 16 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-113 substituted “natural resources” for “forest resources” and “National Forest System land resources” for “national forest resources”.