

H.R. 2 - Farm Bill Forestry Title:

Subtitle A: Reauthorizations:

Sec. 8301: *State Forest Assessments*: Reauthorizes for 5 years.

Sec. 8102: *Forest Legacy*: Reauthorizes for 5 years, cuts authorized appropriations from current \$60 million to \$35 million annually.

Sec. 8103: *Community Forest and Open Space Conservation*: Reauthorizes at \$5 million annually for 5 years.

Sec. 8104 *State & Private Forest Landscape Scale Restoration Program*: Encourages restoration work on non-federal lands, including through competitive grants, focusing on objectives identified in State forest action plans. Authorized at \$10 million annually.

Sec. 8105: *Rural Revitalization Technologies*: Reauthorizes for 5 years.

Sec. 8106: *Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program*: Creates a competitive matching grant program for small (10 MW or less) wood energy facilities and facilities that produce “innovative wood products” including Cross Laminated Timber, LVL, and nano. Limited to 35 percent of the cost of a facility or \$1.5 million. Authorizes \$25 million annually for 5 years.

Sec. 8107: *HFRA Amendments*:

Healthy Forest Reserve Program: Expands eligibility, increases eligible land management practices on private lands eligible for the program.

Insect & Disease Categorical Exclusion: adds new purpose to Farm Bill insect & disease CE (hazardous fuels reduction), makes the CE’s permanent, expands them to 6,000 acres (from the current limit of 3,000 acres), and allows acres outside of the WUI or frequent fire return forests to be eligible for designation and use of CE.

Sec. 8108: *National Forest Foundation Reauthorization*: Reauthorizes NFF through 2023.

Subtitle B: Secure Rural School Amendments

Sec. 8201: *SRS Amendment*: Requires that half of SRS project funds be used for projects that produce timber, reduce fire risks, or improve water supplies.

Sec. 8202: *RAC’s*: Reduces size of county-based Resource Advisory Committees (from 15 to 9) and requires members to reside in the County covered by the RAC, allows appointment to the RAC by Subcabinet officer or Chief of FS, .

Sec. 8203: *Self-Sustaining RAC’s*: Allows selection of 10 RAC’s to be funded out of receipts generated from the area covered by the RAC. 5 year authorization.

Subtitle C: Categorical Exclusions:

Sec. 8301 *Definitions*: defines various terms used in Categorical Exclusions created by this subtitle.

Sec. 8302: *Rule of Application*: Restricts use of CE's created by this subtitle. CE's may not be used on Wilderness, Roadless Areas (except pursuant to specific exemptions in the national or State roadless rule that applies), and on which timber harvest is prohibited by statute.

Sec. 8303: *Consultation*: Doesn't require consultation if Sec. of Ag. makes "not likely to adversely effect" listed species or designated critical habitat, requires consultation be completed within 90 days when consultation is necessary.

Sec. 8404: *Secretarial Discretion* in choosing among CE's: if a forest management activity might fall under more than one of the categorical exclusions, the Secretary has full discretion in determining which categorical exclusion to apply.

Sec. 8311: *Critical Response CE*: 6,000 acre CE to address insect & disease infestations, reduce hazardous fuels, protect municipal watersheds, maintain or enhance critical habitat to protect from catastrophic disturbance, increase water yield.

Sec. 8312: *Salvage CE*: 6,000 acre CE for salvage, requires that salvage operations protect streams and stream buffers as provided in the forest plan, requires the development of a reforestation plan as part of the salvage operation.

Sec. 8313: *Early Seral CE*: 6,000 acre CE for projects intended to improve, enhance, or create early seral habitat, consistent with the Forest Plan.

Sec. 8314: *Hazard Tree CE*: CE for removal of hazard trees for purposes of the protection of public health or safety, water supply, or public infrastructure.

Sec. 8315: *CE to improve or restore NFS lands*, public lands, or reduce risk of fire. 6,000 acre CE that focuses on grazing management, removal of competing vegetation (pinon-juniper).

Sec. 8316: *CE for forest restoration*: 6,000 acre CE for projects intended to "to improve forest health and resiliency to disturbances, to reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife and aquatic habitat on National Forest System lands, including timber harvest, hazardous, fuel reduction, and prescribed burning. Allows up to 3 miles of new road, requires decommissioning of temporary roads within 3 years.

Sec. 8317: *CE for Infrastructure*: No acreage limit CE for activities related to infrastructure on National Forest System land, constructing, reconstructing, or decommissioning roads of less than 3 miles, adding a road to the FS road system, construction or maintenance of bridges, removing dams, and maintaining facilities.

Sec. 8318: CE for Developed Recreation Sites: CE for the operation, maintenance, modification, reconstruction or decommissioning of existing recreation sites.

Sec. 8319: CE for Administrative Sites: CE for construction, maintenance, decommissioning, relocation, and disposal of administrative sites.

Sec. 8320: CE for Special Use Authorizations: CE for reissuance of existing special use permits that do not create substantial change to the scope and scale of the authorized use.

Sec. 8321: Clarification of Existing CE: Amends Farm Bill insect & disease CE to include forests in Fire Regime IV and V (Lodgepole pine and others).

Part III: Miscellaneous Forest Management Activities:

Sec. 8331: Good Neighbor Authority: Amends 2014 Bill to allow Good Neighbor Agreements with Indian Tribes.

Sec. 8332: Cross-boundary Wildfire Mitigation: allows use of Forest Service's wildland fire hazardous fuels funding to perform cross-boundary work to reduce hazardous fuels, when the funding exceeds \$300 million in any fiscal year (allowing up to \$20 million to be distributed to States for this work), prioritizes high risk areas for use of the funds.

Sec. 8333: Designates Certain Tree Species on NFS lands in California Exempt from Export Restrictions: directs the Secretary to issue rulemaking declaring unprocessed pine timber from the National Forest System lands in California surplus to domestic needs and exempt from export prohibitions; requires the Secretary to consult with representatives of sawmills in California, avoid adverse impacts to the industry.

Subtitle D: Tribal Forestry Participation:

Sec. 8401: Protection of Tribal forest assets: amends Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 authorizing Federal land management agencies up to 120 days to respond to Tribal request for forest management on agency lands and two years to complete the analysis.

Sec. 8402: Allows tribal management of NFS lands: gives authority to Indian Tribes to request to conduct forest management activities on Federal lands where they have a Tribal interest. The authority to conduct those activities would come from authorities on Indian lands.

Sec. 8403: Tribal forest management demonstration projects: authorizes demonstration projects through which Tribes may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of the Tribal Forest Protection Act

Subtitle E: Other Matters:

Sec. 8501: *Clarification of R&D program for wood building construction*; directs the Secretary to conduct research and development, education, and technical assistance facilitating the use of innovative wood products in wood building construction; requires the Secretary to collaborate with the wood products industry, conservation organizations, and institutions of higher education to achieve measurable performance goals using competitive grants.

Sec. 8502: *Utility rights-of-way vegetation management pilot program*; establishes a limited, voluntary pilot program that permits vegetation management projects on National Forest System land that is adjacent to or near rights-of-way, within 75 feet of right-of-way. No projects in a designated wilderness area, wilderness study area, or inventoried roadless area. Activities under the pilot program may include thinning, fuel reduction, creation and treatment of shaded fuel breaks.

Sec. 8503: *Revision of extraordinary circumstances regulations*; direct the Secretary to clarify that extraordinary circumstances do not preclude the use of a CE; if the project is in compliance with the applicable provisions of the biological opinion; and eliminates the requirement to perform an environmental impact statement for all projects that would substantially alter a potential wilderness area.

Sec. 8504: *No Loss of Funds for Wild-fire Suppression*; clarifies that nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title may be construed to limit from the availability of funds or other resources for wild-fire suppression.

Sec. 8505: *Technical Corrections* contains technical amendments to the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act.