

Union Calendar No. 77

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 858

[Report No. 105-136, Part I]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group and to amend current land and resource management plans for these national forests to consider the incorporation of these resource management activities.

JUNE 18, 1997

Reported from the Committee on Resources with an amendment

Referral to the Committee on Agriculture extended for a period ending not later than June 18, 1997

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. HERGER (for himself, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. FALCOMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

JUNE 18, 1997

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Additional sponsors: Mr. CANADY of Florida, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. POMBO, Mr. PARKER, Mr. LEWIS of California, and Mr. CANNON

JUNE 18, 1997

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 27, 1997]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a pilot project on designated lands within Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests in the State of California to demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group and to amend current land and resource management plans for these national forests to consider the incorporation of these resource management activities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Quincy Library Group*
 5 *Forest Recovery and Economic Stability Act of 1997”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROJECT FOR PLUMAS, LASSEN, AND TAHOE**

7 **NATIONAL FORESTS TO IMPLEMENT QUINCY**

8 **LIBRARY GROUP PROPOSAL.**

9 (a) *DEFINITION.*—*For purposes of this section, the*
 10 *term “Quincy Library Group-Community Stability Pro-*
 11 *posal” means the agreement of July 1993 by a coalition*
 12 *of representatives of fisheries, timber, environmental, coun-*
 13 *ty government, citizen groups, and local communities that*
 14 *formed in northern California to develop a resource man-*

1 agement program for certain Federal lands in the Sierra
2 Nevada area. Such proposal includes the map entitled
3 “QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability Pro-
4 posal”, dated June 1993, and prepared by VESTRA Re-
5 sources of Redding, California.

6 (b) PILOT PROJECT REQUIRED.—

7 (1) PILOT PROJECT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
8 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest Serv-
9 ice, shall conduct a pilot project on the Federal lands
10 described in paragraph (2) to implement and dem-
11 onstrate the effectiveness of the resource management
12 activities described in subsection (d), as recommended
13 in the Quincy Library Group-Community Stability
14 Proposal.

15 (2) PILOT PROJECT AREA.—The Secretary shall
16 conduct the pilot project on the Federal lands within
17 Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and
18 the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe National
19 Forest in the State of California designated as
20 “Available for Group Selection” on the map entitled
21 “QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability
22 Proposal”, dated June 1993. Such lands shall be re-
23 ferred to as the “pilot project area” for purposes of
24 this Act. Such map shall be on file and available for

1 *inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest*
2 *Service.*

3 (c) *EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS AND RIPARIAN*
4 *PROTECTION.—*

5 (1) *EXCLUSION.—All spotted owl habitat areas*
6 *and protected activity centers located within the pilot*
7 *project area designated under subsection (b)(2) will be*
8 *deferred from resource management activities required*
9 *under subsection (d) and timber harvesting during*
10 *the term of the pilot project.*

11 (2) *RIPARIAN PROTECTION.—*

12 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The Scientific Analysis*
13 *Team guidelines for riparian system protection*
14 *described in subparagraph (B) shall apply to all*
15 *resource management activities conducted under*
16 *subsection (d) and all timber harvesting activi-*
17 *ties that occur in the pilot project area during*
18 *the term of the pilot project.*

19 (B) *GUIDELINES DESCRIBED.—The guide-*
20 *lines referred to in subparagraph (A) are those*
21 *in the document entitled “Viability Assessments*
22 *and Management Considerations for Species As-*
23 *sociated with Late-Successional and Old-Growth*
24 *Forests of the Pacific Northwest”, a Forest Serv-*
25 *ice research document dated March 1993 and co-*

1 *authored by the Scientific Analysis Team, in-*
2 *cluding Dr. Jack Ward Thomas.*

3 *(d) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—During*
4 *the term of the pilot project, the Secretary shall implement*
5 *and carry out the following resource management activities*
6 *on an acreage basis on the Federal lands included within*
7 *the pilot project area designated under subsection (b)(2):*

8 *(1) FUELBREAK CONSTRUCTION.—Construction*
9 *of a strategic system of defensible fuel profile zones,*
10 *including shaded fuelbreaks, utilizing thinning, indi-*
11 *vidual tree selection, and other methods of vegetation*
12 *management consistent with the Quincy Library*
13 *Group-Community Stability Proposal, on not less*
14 *than 40,000, but not more than 60,000, acres per*
15 *year.*

16 *(2) GROUP SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL TREE*
17 *SELECTION.—Utilization of group selection and indi-*
18 *vidual tree selection uneven-aged forest management*
19 *prescriptions described in the Quincy Library Group-*
20 *Community Stability Proposal to achieve a desired*
21 *future condition of all-age, multistory, fire resilient*
22 *forests as follows:*

23 *(A) GROUP SELECTION.—Group selection on*
24 *an average acreage of .57 percent of the pilot*
25 *project area land each year of the pilot project.*

1 (B) *INDIVIDUAL TREE SELECTION.*—*Indi-*
2 *vidual tree selection may also be utilized within*
3 *the pilot project area.*

4 (3) *TOTAL ACREAGE.*—*The total acreage on*
5 *which resource management activities are imple-*
6 *mented under this subsection shall not exceed 70,000*
7 *acres each year.*

8 (e) *COST-EFFECTIVENESS.*—*In conducting the pilot*
9 *project, the Secretary shall use the most cost-effective means*
10 *available, as determined by the Secretary, to implement re-*
11 *source management activities described in subsection (d).*

12 (f) *EFFECT ON MULTIPLE USE ACTIVITIES.*—*The Sec-*
13 *retary shall not rely on the resource management activities*
14 *described in subsection (d) as a basis for administrative ac-*
15 *tion limiting other multiple use activities on Federal lands*
16 *included within the pilot project area designated under sub-*
17 *section (b)(2).*

18 (g) *FUNDING.*—

19 (1) *SOURCE OF FUNDS.*—*In conducting the pilot*
20 *project, the Secretary shall use—*

21 (A) *those funds specifically provided to the*
22 *Forest Service by the Secretary to begin imple-*
23 *menting resource management activities accord-*
24 *ing to the Quincy Library Group-Community*
25 *Stability Proposal; and*

1 (B) other funds as are allocated for the ad-
2 ministration of Plumas National Forest, Lassen
3 National Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger Dis-
4 trict of Tahoe National Forest.

5 (2) *PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS.*—
6 The Secretary may not conduct the pilot project using
7 funds appropriated for any other unit of the National
8 Forest System.

9 (3) *FLEXIBILITY.*—During the term of the pilot
10 project, the forest supervisors of Plumas National For-
11 est, Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National For-
12 est may allocate and use all accounts available for the
13 administration of Plumas National Forest, Lassen
14 National Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger District
15 of Tahoe National Forest to perform the resource
16 management activities described in subsection (d).

17 (h) *TERM OF PILOT PROJECT.*—The Secretary shall
18 conduct the pilot project during the period beginning on
19 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the
20 later of the following:

21 (1) The date on which the Secretary completes
22 amendment or revision of the land and resource man-
23 agement plans for Plumas National Forest, Lassen
24 National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest pursuant
25 to subsection (i).

1 (2) *The date that is five years after the date of*
2 *the commencement of the pilot project.*

3 (i) *CORRESPONDING FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS.—*

4 *Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,*
5 *the Regional Forester for Region 5 shall initiate the process*
6 *to amend or revise the land and resource management plans*
7 *for Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and*
8 *Tahoe National Forest. The process shall include prepara-*
9 *tion of at least one alternative that—*

10 (1) *incorporates the pilot project and area des-*
11 *ignations made by subsection (b) and the resource*
12 *management activities described in subsection (d);*
13 *and*

14 (2) *makes other changes warranted by the analy-*
15 *ses conducted in compliance with section 102(2) of the*
16 *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42*
17 *U.S.C. 4332(2)), section 6 of the Forest and Range-*
18 *land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16*
19 *U.S.C. 1604), and other applicable laws.*

20 (j) *REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—*

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 28 of*
22 *each year during the term of the pilot project, the Sec-*
23 *retary after consultation with the Quincy Library*
24 *Group, shall submit to Congress a report on the status*

1 of the pilot project. The report shall include at least
2 the following:

3 (A) A complete accounting of the use of
4 funds made available under subsection (g)(1)(A)
5 until such funds are fully expended.

6 (B) A complete accounting of the use of
7 funds and accounts made available under sub-
8 section (g)(1) for the previous fiscal year, includ-
9 ing a schedule of the amounts drawn from each
10 account used to perform resource management
11 activities described in subsection (d).

12 (C) A description of total acres treated for
13 each of the resource management activities re-
14 quired under subsection (d), forest health im-
15 provements, fire risk reductions, water yield in-
16 creases, and other natural resources-related bene-
17 fits achieved by the implementation of the re-
18 source management activities described in sub-
19 section (d).

20 (D) A description of the economic benefits to
21 local communities achieved by the implementa-
22 tion of the pilot project.

23 (E) A comparison of the revenues generated
24 by, and costs incurred in, the implementation of
25 the resource management activities described in

1 *subsection (d) on the Federal lands included in*
2 *the pilot project area with the revenues and costs*
3 *during each of the fiscal years 1992 through*
4 *1997 of timber management of such lands before*
5 *their inclusion in the pilot project.*

6 *(F) A schedule for the resource management*
7 *activities to be undertaken in the pilot project*
8 *area during the calendar year.*

9 *(2) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—The*
10 *amount expended on each annual report under this*
11 *subsection shall not exceed \$30,000.*

12 *(k) FINAL REPORT.—*

13 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after completion of*
14 *the fourth year of the pilot project, the Secretary shall*
15 *compile a science-based assessment of, and report on,*
16 *the effectiveness of the pilot project in meeting the*
17 *stated goals of this pilot project. Such assessment*
18 *shall be compiled in consultation with the Quincy Li-*
19 *brary Group and shall be submitted to the Congress*
20 *by February 28, 2003.*

21 *(2) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—The*
22 *amount expended for each report under this sub-*
23 *section shall not exceed \$100,000.*