

Calendar No. 257

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 858

[Report No. 105-138]

AN ACT

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.

NOVEMBER 4, 1997

Reported with an amendment

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

NOVEMBER 4, 1997

Reported by Mr. MURKOWSKI, with an amendment

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

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROJECT FOR PLUMAS, LASSEN, AND TAHOE**
5 **NATIONAL FORESTS TO IMPLEMENT QUINCY**
6 **LIBRARY GROUP PROPOSAL.**

7 (a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
8 term “Quincy Library Group Community Stability Pro-
9 posal” means the agreement by a coalition of representa-
10 tives of fisheries, timber, environmental, county govern-
11 ment, citizen groups, and local communities that formed
12 in northern California to develop a resource management
13 program that promotes ecologic and economic health for
14 certain Federal lands and communities in the Sierra Ne-
15 vada area. Such proposal includes the map entitled
16 “QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability Pro-
17 posal”, dated June 1993, and prepared by VESTRA Re-
18 sources of Redding, California.

19 (b) PILOT PROJECT REQUIRED.—

20 (1) PILOT PROJECT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
21 retary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as
22 the “Secretary”), acting through the Forest Service
23 and after completion of an environmental impact
24 statement (a record of decision for which shall be
25 adopted within 200 days), shall conduct a pilot
26 project on the Federal lands described in paragraph

1 (2) to implement and demonstrate the effectiveness
2 of the resource management activities described in
3 subsection (d) and the other requirements of this
4 section, as recommended in the Quincy Library
5 Group-Community Stability Proposal.

6 (2) PILOT PROJECT AREA.—The Secretary shall
7 conduct the pilot project on the Federal lands within
8 Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest,
9 and the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe Na-
10 tional Forest in the State of California designated as
11 “Available for Group Selection” on the map entitled
12 “QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability
13 Proposal”, dated June 1993 (in this section referred
14 to as the “pilot project area”). Such map shall be
15 on file and available for inspection in the appro-
16 priate offices of the Forest Service.

17 (c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS, RIPARIAN PRO-
18 TECTION AND COMPLIANCE.—

19 (1) EXCLUSION.—All spotted owl habitat areas
20 and protected activity centers located within the
21 pilot project area designated under subsection (b)(2)
22 will be deferred from resource management activities
23 required under subsection (d) and timber harvesting
24 during the term of the pilot project.

25 (2) RIPARIAN PROTECTION.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Scientific Analysis
2 Team guidelines for riparian system protection
3 described in subparagraph (B) shall apply to all
4 resource management activities conducted
5 under subsection (d) and all timber harvesting
6 activities that occur in the pilot project area
7 during the term of the pilot project.

8 (B) GUIDELINES DESCRIBED.—The guide-
9 lines referred to in subparagraph (A) are those
10 in the document entitled “Viability Assessments
11 and Management Considerations for Species
12 Associated with Late-Successional and Old-
13 Growth Forests of the Pacific Northwest”, a
14 Forest Service research document dated March
15 1993 and co-authored by the Scientific Analysis
16 Team, including Dr. Jack Ward Thomas.

17 (3) COMPLIANCE.—All resource management
18 activities required by subsection (d) shall be imple-
19 mented to the extent consistent with applicable Fed-
20 eral law and the standards and guidelines for the
21 conservation of the California spotted owl as set
22 forth in the California Spotted Owl Sierran Provenance
23 Interim Guidelines, or the subsequently issued final
24 guidelines whichever is in effect.

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

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

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

22 (A) GROUP SELECTION.—Group selection
23 on an average acreage of .57 percent of the
24 pilot project area land each year of the pilot
25 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
7 70,000 acres each year.

8 ~~(4) RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT.~~—A program of ri-
9 parian management, including wide protection zones
10 and riparian restoration projects, consistent with ri-
11 parian protection guidelines in subsection ~~(e)(2)(B)~~.

12 ~~(e) COST-EFFECTIVENESS.~~—In conducting the pilot
13 project, Secretary shall use the most cost-effective means
14 available, as determined by the Secretary, to implement
15 resource management activities described in subsection
16 ~~(d)~~.

17 ~~(f) FUNDING.~~—

18 ~~(1) SOURCE OF FUNDS.~~—In conducting the
19 pilot project, the Secretary shall use, subject to the
20 relevant reprogramming guidelines of the House and
21 Senate Committees on Appropriations—

22 ~~(A)~~ those funds specifically provided to the
23 Forest Service by the Secretary to implement
24 resource management activities according to the

1 Quincy Library Group-Community Stability
2 Proposal; and

3 ~~(B)~~ excess funds that are allocated for the
4 administration and management of Plumas Na-
5 tional Forest, Lassen National Forest, and the
6 Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe National
7 Forest.

8 ~~(2)~~ PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN
9 FUNDS.—The Secretary may not conduct the pilot
10 project using funds appropriated for any other unit
11 of the National Forest System.

12 ~~(3)~~ FLEXIBILITY.—Subject to normal re-
13 programming guidelines, during the term of the pilot
14 project, the forest supervisors of Plumas National
15 Forest, Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National
16 Forest may allocate and use all accounts that con-
17 tain excess funds and all available excess funds for
18 the administration and management of Plumas Na-
19 tional Forest, Lassen National Forest, and the
20 Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest
21 to perform the resource management activities de-
22 scribed in subsection ~~(d)~~.

23 ~~(4)~~ RESTRICTION.—The Secretary or the forest
24 supervisors, as the case may be, shall not utilize au-
25 thority provided under paragraphs ~~(1)(B)~~ and ~~(3)~~ if,

1 in their judgment, doing so will limit other nontim-
2 ber related multiple use activities for which such
3 funds were available.

4 ~~(5) OVERHEAD.~~—Of amounts available to carry
5 out this section—

6 ~~(A)~~ not more than 12 percent may be used
7 or allocated for general administration or other
8 overhead; and

9 ~~(B)~~ at least 88 percent shall be used to im-
10 plement and carry out activities required by
11 this section.

12 ~~(6) AUTHORIZED SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.~~—
13 There are authorized to be appropriated to imple-
14 ment and carry out the pilot project such sums as
15 are necessary.

16 ~~(7) BASELINE FUNDS.~~—Amounts available for
17 resource management activities authorized under
18 subsection (d) shall at a minimum include existing
19 baseline funding levels.

20 ~~(g) TERM OF PILOT PROJECT.~~—The Secretary shall
21 conduct the pilot project during the period beginning on
22 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the
23 later of the following:

24 ~~(1)~~ The date on which the Secretary completes
25 amendment or revision of the land and resource

1 management plans for Plumas National Forest,
2 Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest
3 pursuant to subsection (i).

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

6 (h) CONSULTATION.—(1) Each statement required
7 by subsection (b)(1) shall be prepared in consultation with
8 the Quincy Library Group.

9 (2) CONTRACTING.—The Forest Service, subject to
10 the availability of appropriations, may carry out any (or
11 all) of the requirements of this section using private con-
12 tracts.

13 (i) CORRESPONDING FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS.—
14 Within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act, the Regional Forester for Region 5 shall initiate the
16 process to amend or revise the land and resource manage-
17 ment plans for Plumas National Forest, Lassen National
18 Forest, and Tahoe National Forest. The process shall in-
19 clude preparation of at least one alternative that—

20 (1) incorporates the pilot project and area des-
21 ignations made by subsection (b), the resource man-
22 agement activities described in subsection (d), and
23 other aspects of the Quincy Library Group Commu-
24 nity Stability Proposal; and

1 (2) makes other changes warranted by the anal-
2 yses conducted in compliance with section 102(2) of
3 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
4 U.S.C. 4332(2)), section 6 of the Forest and Range-
5 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
6 U.S.C. 1604), and other applicable laws.

7 (j) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 28
9 of each year during the term of the pilot project, the
10 Secretary after consultation with the Quincy Library
11 Group, shall submit to Congress a report on the sta-
12 tus of the pilot project. The report shall include at
13 least the following:

14 (A) A complete accounting of the use of
15 funds made available under subsection (f)(1)(A)
16 until such funds are fully expended.

17 (B) A complete accounting of the use of
18 funds and accounts made available under sub-
19 section (f)(1) for the previous fiscal year, in-
20 cluding a schedule of the amounts drawn from
21 each account used to perform resource manage-
22 ment activities described in subsection (d).

23 (C) A description of total acres treated for
24 each of the resource management activities re-
25 quired under subsection (d); forest health im-

1 provements, fire risk reductions, water yield in-
2 creases, and other natural resources-related
3 benefits achieved by the implementation of the
4 resource management activities described in
5 subsection (d).

6 ~~(D)~~ A description of the economic benefits
7 to local communities achieved by the implemen-
8 tation of the pilot project.

9 ~~(E)~~ A comparison of the revenues gen-
10 erated by, and costs incurred in, the implemen-
11 tation of the resource management activities de-
12 scribed in subsection (d) on the Federal lands
13 included in the pilot project area with the reve-
14 nues and costs during each of the fiscal years
15 1992 through 1997 for timber management of
16 such lands before their inclusion in the pilot
17 project.

18 ~~(F)~~ A schedule for the resource manage-
19 ment activities to be undertaken in the pilot
20 project area during the calendar year.

21 ~~(2)~~ LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—The
22 amount of Federal funds expended on each annual
23 report under this subsection shall not exceed
24 \$50,000.

25 ~~(k)~~ FINAL REPORT.—

1 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Beginning after completion
2 of 6 months of the second year of the pilot project,
3 the Secretary shall compile a science-based assess-
4 ment of, and report on, the effectiveness of the pilot
5 project in meeting the stated goals of this pilot
6 project. Such assessment and report—

7 (A) shall include watershed monitoring of
8 lands treated under this section, that should ad-
9 dress the following issues on a priority basis:
10 timing of water releases, water quality changes,
11 and water yield changes over the short and long
12 term in the pilot project area;

13 (B) shall be compiled in consultation with
14 the Quincy Library Group; and

15 (C) shall be submitted to the Congress by
16 July 1, 2002.

17 (2) ~~LIMITATIONS ON EXPENDITURES.~~—The
18 amount of Federal funds expended for the assess-
19 ment and report under this subsection, other than
20 for watershed monitoring under paragraph (1)(A),
21 shall not exceed \$150,000. The amount of Federal
22 funds expended for watershed monitoring under
23 paragraph (1)(A) shall not exceed \$75,000 for each
24 of fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002.

1 (4) ~~RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.~~—Nothing in
 2 this section exempts the pilot project from any Federal
 3 environmental law.

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

8 **NATIONAL FORESTS TO IMPLEMENT QUINCY**
 9 **LIBRARY GROUP PROPOSAL.**

10 (a) *DEFINITION.*—For purposes of this section, the
 11 term “Quincy Library Group-Community Stability Pro-
 12 posal” means the agreement by a coalition of representa-
 13 tives of fisheries, timber, environmental, county govern-
 14 ment, citizen groups, and local communities that formed
 15 in northern California to develop a resource management
 16 program that promotes ecologic and economic health for cer-
 17 tain Federal lands and communities in the Sierra Nevada
 18 area. Such proposal includes the map entitled “QUINCY
 19 LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability Proposal”, dated
 20 October 12, 1993, and prepared by VESTRA Resources of
 21 Redding, California.

22 (b) *PILOT PROJECT REQUIRED.*—

23 (1) *PILOT PROJECT AND PURPOSE.*—The Sec-
 24 retary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the
 25 “Secretary”), acting through the Forest Service and

1 *after completion of an environmental impact state-*
2 *ment (a record of decision for which shall be adopted*
3 *within 300 days), shall conduct a pilot project on the*
4 *Federal lands described in paragraph (2) to imple-*
5 *ment and demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource*
6 *management activities described in subsection (d) and*
7 *the other requirements of this section, as recommended*
8 *in the Quincy Library Group-Community Stability*
9 *Proposal.*

10 (2) *PILOT PROJECT AREA.—The Secretary shall*
11 *conduct the pilot project on the Federal lands within*
12 *Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and*
13 *the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe National*
14 *Forest in the State of California designated as*
15 *“Available for Group Selection” on the map entitled*
16 *“QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP Community Stability*
17 *Proposal”, dated October 12, 1993 (in this section re-*
18 *ferred to as the “pilot project area”). Such map shall*
19 *be on file and available for inspection in the appro-*
20 *priate offices of the Forest Service.*

21 (c) *EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS, RIPARIAN PRO-*
22 *TECTION AND COMPLIANCE.—*

23 (1) *EXCLUSION.—All spotted owl habitat areas*
24 *and protected activity centers located within the pilot*
25 *project area designated under subsection (b)(2) will be*

1 *deferred from resource management activities required*
2 *under subsection (d) and timber harvesting during*
3 *the term of the pilot project.*

4 (2) *RIPARIAN PROTECTION.*—

5 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Scientific Analysis*
6 *Team guidelines for riparian system protection*
7 *described in subparagraph (B) shall apply to all*
8 *resource management activities conducted under*
9 *subsection (d) and all timber harvesting activi-*
10 *ties that occur in the pilot project area during*
11 *the term of the pilot project.*

12 (B) *GUIDELINES DESCRIBED.*—*The guide-*
13 *lines referred to in subparagraph (A) are those*
14 *in the document entitled “Viability Assessments*
15 *and Management Considerations for Species As-*
16 *sociated with Late-Successional and Old-Growth*
17 *Forests of the Pacific Northwest”, a Forest Serv-*
18 *ice research document dated March 1993 and co-*
19 *authored by the Scientific Analysis Team, in-*
20 *cluding Dr. Jack Ward Thomas.*

21 (C) *LIMITATION.*—*Nothing in this section*
22 *shall be construed to require the application of*
23 *the Scientific Analysis Team guidelines to any*
24 *livestock grazing in the pilot project area during*
25 *the term of the pilot project, unless the livestock*

1 *grazing is being conducted in the specific loca-*
2 *tion at which the Scientific Analysis Team*
3 *guidelines are being applied to an activity under*
4 *subsection (d).*

5 (3) *COMPLIANCE.*—*All resource management ac-*
6 *tivities required by subsection (d) shall be imple-*
7 *mented to the extent consistent with applicable Fed-*
8 *eral law and the standards and guidelines for the*
9 *conservation of the California spotted owl as set forth*
10 *in the California Spotted Owl Sierran Provenance In-*
11 *terim Guidelines or the subsequently issued guide-*
12 *lines, whichever are in effect.*

13 (4) *ROADLESS AREA PROTECTION.*—*The Re-*
14 *gional Forester for Region 5 shall direct that any re-*
15 *source management activity required by subsection*
16 *(d)(1) and (2), all road building, all timber harvest-*
17 *ing activities, and any riparian management under*
18 *subsection (d)(4) that utilizes road construction or*
19 *timber harvesting shall not be conducted on Federal*
20 *lands within the Plumas National Forest, Lassen Na-*
21 *tional Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger District of*
22 *the Tahoe National Forest that are designated as ei-*
23 *ther “Off Base” or “Deferred” on the map referred to*
24 *in subsection (a). Such direction shall be effective*
25 *during the term of the pilot project.*

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

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

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

21 (A) *GROUP SELECTION.*—Group selection on
22 *an average acreage of .57 percent of the pilot*
23 *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 (4) *RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT.*—*A program of ri-*
9 *parian management, including wide protection zones*
10 *and riparian restoration projects, consistent with ri-*
11 *parian protection guidelines in subsection (c)(2)(B).*

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

16 (f) *FUNDING.*—

17 (1) *SOURCE OF FUNDS.*—*In conducting the pilot*
18 *project, the Secretary shall use, subject to the relevant*
19 *reprogramming guidelines of the House and Senate*
20 *Committees on Appropriations—*

21 (A) *those funds specifically provided to the*
22 *Forest Service by the Secretary to implement re-*
23 *source management activities according to the*
24 *Quincy Library Group-Community Stability*
25 *Proposal; and*

1 *(B) year-end excess funds that are allocated*
2 *for the administration and management of*
3 *Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest,*
4 *and the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe Na-*
5 *tional Forest.*

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

10 (3) *FLEXIBILITY.—Subject to normal reprogram-*
11 *ming guidelines, during the term of the pilot project,*
12 *the forest supervisors of Plumas National Forest,*
13 *Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest*
14 *may allocate and use all accounts that contain year-*
15 *end excess funds and all available excess funds for the*
16 *administration and management of Plumas National*
17 *Forest, Lassen National Forest, and the Sierraville*
18 *Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest to perform*
19 *the resource management activities described in sub-*
20 *section (d).*

21 (4) *RESTRICTION.—The Secretary or the forest*
22 *supervisors, as the case may be, shall not utilize au-*
23 *thority provided under paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) if,*
24 *in their judgment, doing so will limit other nontimber*

1 *related multiple use activities for which such funds*
2 *were available.*

3 (5) *OVERHEAD.*—*The Secretary shall seek to en-*
4 *sure that of amounts available to carry out this sec-*
5 *tion—*

6 (A) *not more than 12 percent is used or al-*
7 *located for general administration or other over-*
8 *head; and*

9 (B) *at least 88 percent is used to implement*
10 *and carry out activities required by this section.*

11 (6) *AUTHORIZED SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.*—*There*
12 *are authorized to be appropriated to implement and*
13 *carry out the pilot project such sums as are necessary.*

14 (7) *BASELINE FUNDS.*—*Amounts available for*
15 *resource management activities authorized under sub-*
16 *section (d) shall at a minimum include existing base-*
17 *line funding levels.*

18 (g) *TERM OF PILOT PROJECT.*—*The Secretary shall*
19 *conduct the pilot project until the earlier of: (1) the date*
20 *on which the Secretary completes amendment or revision*
21 *of the land and resource management plans for the Plumas*
22 *National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe Na-*
23 *tional Forest; or (2) five years after the date of the com-*
24 *mencement of the pilot project.*

1 (h) *CONSULTATION.*—(1) *The statement required by*
2 *subsection (b)(1) shall be prepared in consultation with in-*
3 *terested members of the public, including the Quincy Li-*
4 *brary Group.*

5 (2) *CONTRACTING.*—*The Forest Service, subject to the*
6 *availability of appropriations, may carry out any (or all)*
7 *of the requirements of this section using private contracts.*

8 (i) *CORRESPONDING FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS.*—
9 *Within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,*
10 *the Regional Forester for Region 5 shall initiate the process*
11 *to amend or revise the land and resource management plans*
12 *for Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, and*
13 *Tahoe National Forest. The process shall include prepara-*
14 *tion of at least one alternative that—*

15 (1) *incorporates the pilot project and area des-*
16 *ignations made by subsection (b), the resource man-*
17 *agement activities described in subsection (d), and*
18 *other aspects of the Quincy Library Group-Communi-*
19 *ty Stability Proposal; and*

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

1 (j) *STATUS REPORTS.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than February 28 of
3 each year during the term of the pilot project, the Sec-
4 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the status
5 of the pilot project. The report shall include at least
6 the following:

7 (A) A complete accounting of the use of
8 funds made available under subsection (f)(1)(A)
9 until such funds are fully expended.

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

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

1 (D) *A description of the economic benefits to*
2 *local communities achieved by the implementa-*
3 *tion of the pilot project.*

4 (E) *A comparison of the revenues generated*
5 *by, and costs incurred in, the implementation of*
6 *the resource management activities described in*
7 *subsection (d) on the Federal lands included in*
8 *the pilot project area with the revenues and costs*
9 *during each of the fiscal years 1992 through*
10 *1997 for timber management of such lands before*
11 *their inclusion in the pilot project.*

12 (F) *A proposed schedule for the resource*
13 *management activities to be undertaken in the*
14 *pilot project area during the 1-year period begin-*
15 *ning on the date of submittal of the report.*

16 (G) *A description of any adverse environ-*
17 *mental impacts from the pilot project.*

18 (2) *LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—The*
19 *amount of Federal funds expended on each annual re-*
20 *port under this subsection shall not exceed \$125,000.*

21 (k) *FINAL REPORT.—*

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish*
23 *an independent scientific panel to review and report*
24 *on whether, and to what extent, implementation of the*
25 *pilot project under this section achieved the goals stat-*

1 *ed in the Quincy Library Group-Community Stabil-*
2 *ity Proposal, including improved ecological health*
3 *and community stability. The membership of the*
4 *panel shall reflect expertise in diverse disciplines in*
5 *order to adequately address all of those goals.*

6 (2) *PREPARATION.—The panel shall initiate such*
7 *review no sooner than 18 months after the first day*
8 *of the term of the pilot project under subsection (g).*
9 *The panel shall prepare the report in consultation*
10 *with interested members of the public, including the*
11 *Quincy Library Group. The report shall include, but*
12 *not be limited to, the following:*

13 (A) *A description of any adverse environ-*
14 *mental impacts resulting from implementation*
15 *of the pilot project.*

16 (B) *An assessment of watershed monitoring*
17 *data on lands treated pursuant to this section.*
18 *Such assessment shall address the following is-*
19 *ssues on a priority basis: timing of water releases;*
20 *water quality changes; and water yield changes*
21 *over the short- and long-term in the pilot project*
22 *area.*

23 (3) *SUBMISSION TO THE CONGRESS.—The panel*
24 *shall submit the final report to the Congress as soon*

1 *as practicable, but in no case later than 18 months*
2 *after completion of the pilot project.*

3 (4) *LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—The*
4 *amount of Federal funds expended for the report*
5 *under this subsection, other than for watershed mon-*
6 *itoring, shall not exceed \$350,000. The amount of*
7 *Federal funds expended for watershed monitoring*
8 *under this subsection shall not exceed \$175,000 for*
9 *each fiscal year in which the report is prepared.*

10 (1) *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this*
11 *section exempts the pilot project from any Federal environ-*
12 *mental law.*

13 (m) *LOANS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR*
14 *WOOD WASTE OR LOW-QUALITY WOOD BYPRODUCTS.—*

15 (1) *EVALUATION OF LOAN ADVISABILITY.—The*
16 *Alternative Agricultural Research and Commer-*
17 *cialization Corporation established under section*
18 *1658 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and*
19 *Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5902) (in this section re-*
20 *ferred to as the “Corporation”) shall evaluate the ad-*
21 *visability of making commercialization assistance*
22 *loans under section 1661 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 5905)*
23 *to support a minimum of 2 demonstration projects*
24 *for the development and demonstration of commercial*
25 *application of technology to convert wood waste or*

1 *low-quality wood byproducts into usable, higher value*
2 *products.*

3 (2) *LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—*

4 *If the Corporation determines to make loans under*
5 *this subsection to support the development and dem-*
6 *onstration of commercial application of technology to*
7 *convert wood waste or low-quality wood byproducts*
8 *into usable, higher value products, the Corporation*
9 *shall consider making one loan with regard to a dem-*
10 *onstration project to be conducted in the pilot project*
11 *area and one loan with regard to a demonstration*
12 *project to be conducted in southeast Alaska.*

13 (3) *ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible*
14 *for a loan under this subsection, a demonstration*
15 *project shall be required to satisfy the eligibility re-*
16 *quirements imposed by the Corporation under section*
17 *1661 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and*
18 *Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5905).*

Passed the House of Representatives July 9, 1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.