

Union Calendar No. 592

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1524

[Report No. 106–1021]

To authorize the continued use on public lands of the expedited processes successfully used for windstorm-damaged national forests and grasslands in Texas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH (for herself, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. DOOLITTLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

OCTOBER 31, 2000

Additional sponsors: Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HALL of Montana, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. ROGERS

OCTOBER 31, 2000

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To authorize the continued use on public lands of the expedited processes successfully used for windstorm-damaged national forests and grasslands in Texas.

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 “Public Forests Emer-
3 gency Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Natural catastrophic events in February
7 1998 created potentially dangerous fire and insect
8 infestation conditions in areas of national forests
9 and national grasslands in Texas, and the removal
10 of “dead, down, and severely root-sprung trees
11 where mortality is expected” in these areas was ex-
12 pedited by the approval of alternative arrangements
13 for that removal.

14 (2) The Administration should be commended
15 for approving those alternative arrangements, which
16 helped prevent the wildfires and insect and disease
17 infestations often associated with dead and dying
18 trees on land, administered by the Secretary of the
19 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (3) Numerous catastrophic forest conditions
21 similar to, equal to, or worse than the conditions in
22 Texas described in paragraph (1) exist on public
23 lands, including National Forest System lands,
24 throughout the United States, and treatment equiva-
25 lent to that expedited under the alternative arrange-

1 ments is warranted and needed on these public
2 lands.

3 **SEC. 3. REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT OF DEAD,**
4 **DOWNED, AND SEVERELY ROOT-SPRUNG**
5 **TREES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior or
7 the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, shall re-
8 quest from the appropriate officials in the executive
9 branch the authority to remove dead, downed, or severely
10 root-sprung trees in the areas described in subsection (b)
11 in a manner similar to the alternative arrangements ap-
12 proved for national forests and national grasslands in
13 Texas in March 1998.

14 (b) AREAS DESCRIBED.—The areas referred to in
15 subsection (a) are the following:

16 (1) Approximately 3,900 acres of spruce beetle
17 infested lands administered by the Bureau of Land
18 Management within the Kenai Quadrangle in the
19 State of Alaska.

20 (2) Approximately 30,000 acres of spruce beetle
21 infested lands in the Chugach National Forest in the
22 State of Alaska.

23 (3) Approximately 100,000 acres of ice storm
24 damaged and Douglas Fir bark beetle infested lands
25 in the Colville National Forest in the State of Wash-

1 ington and the Idaho-Panhandle National Forests in
2 the State of Idaho.

3 (4) Approximately 50,000 acres of fire damaged
4 and spruce budworm infested lands in the Malheur
5 National Forest in the State of Oregon.

6 (5) Approximately 20,000 acres of mountain
7 pine beetle infested lands in the Black Hills National
8 Forest in the State of South Dakota.

9 (6) Approximately 20,000 acres of National
10 Forest System lands in the Tahoe Basin of Cali-
11 fornia with insect infestation and fuel-loading condi-
12 tions.

13 (7) Approximately 10,000 acres of gypsy moth
14 infested lands in the Allegheny National Forest in
15 the State of Pennsylvania.

16 (8) National Forest System lands in Region 8
17 of the Forest Service, including the following:

18 (A) Approximately 3,000 acres of wind
19 damaged lands in the Desoto, Homochito, and
20 Tombigbee National Forests in the State of
21 Mississippi.

22 (B) Approximately 500 acres of ice storm
23 damaged and gypsy moth infested lands in the
24 George Washington and Jefferson National
25 Forests in the State of Virginia.

1 (C) Approximately 3,000 acres of tornado
2 damaged lands in the Ouachita National Forest
3 in the State of Arkansas and the Kisatchie Na-
4 tional Forest in the State of Louisiana.

5 (D) Approximately 500 acres of southern
6 pine beetle infested lands in the Croatan Na-
7 tional Forest in the State of North Carolina.

8 (E) Approximately 3,500 acres of ice
9 storm and wind damaged lands in the Daniel
10 Boone National Forest in the State of Ken-
11 tucky.

12 (F) Approximately 1,500 acres of ice storm
13 damaged lands in the Bankhead National For-
14 est in the State of Alabama and the Cherokee
15 National Forest in the State of Tennessee.

16 (G) Approximately 1,000 acres of southern
17 pine beetle infested National Forest System
18 lands in Florida.

19 (c) CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS.—Upon receipt of
20 a request under subsection (a), the official in the executive
21 branch responsible for considering the request shall
22 promptly consider and either approve or disapprove the
23 request. Not later than 90 days after receiving each re-
24 quest, the responsible official shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives and

- 1 the Committee on Energy and National Resources of the
- 2 Senate a report describing the specific reasons for approv-
- 3 ing or disapproving the request.

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