

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 745

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the designation of treatment areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 17, 2013

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the designation of treatment areas, and for other purposes.

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 “National Forest Insect
5 and Disease Treatment Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.**

7 Title VI of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 602. DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.**

2 “(a) DESIGNATION OF TREATMENT AREAS.—

3 “(1) INITIAL AREAS.—Not later than 60 days
4 after the date of enactment of the National Forest
5 Insect and Disease Treatment Act of 2013, the Sec-
6 retary shall, in consultation with the Governor of the
7 State, designate as part of an insect and disease
8 treatment program 1 or more subwatersheds (sixth-
9 level hydrologic units, according to the System of
10 Hydrologic Unit Codes of the United States Geologi-
11 cal Survey) in at least 1 national forest in each
12 State that is experiencing an insect or disease epi-
13 demic.

14 “(2) ADDITIONAL AREAS.—After the end of the
15 60-day period described in paragraph (1), the Sec-
16 retary may designate additional subwatersheds
17 under this section as needed to address insect and
18 disease threats.

19 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A subwatershed designated
20 under subsection (a) shall be—

21 “(1) experiencing substantially increased tree
22 mortality due to insect or disease infestation, based
23 on annual forest health surveys conducted by the
24 Secretary;

25 “(2) at risk of experiencing substantially in-
26 creased tree mortality over the next 15 years due to

1 insect or disease infestation, based on the most re-
 2 cent National Insect and Disease Risk Map pub-
 3 lished by the Forest Service; or

4 “(3) in an area in which the risk of hazard
 5 trees poses an imminent risk to public infrastruc-
 6 ture, health, or safety.

7 “(c) TREATMENT OF AREAS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry
 9 out priority projects on Federal land in the sub-
 10 watersheds designated under subsection (a) to re-
 11 duce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience
 12 to, insect or disease infestation in the subwater-
 13 sheds.

14 “(2) AUTHORITY.—Any project under para-
 15 graph (1) for which a public notice to initiate
 16 scoping is issued on or before September 30, 2018,
 17 may be carried out in accordance with subsections
 18 (b), (c), (d), and (g) (other than paragraph (4)) of
 19 section 102, and sections 104, 105, and 106.

20 “(3) EFFECT.—Projects carried out under this
 21 subsection shall be considered ‘authorized hazardous
 22 fuel reduction projects’ for purposes of the authori-
 23 ties described in paragraph (2).

1 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than September 30,
2 2018, the Secretary shall issue a report that in-
3 cludes—

4 “(A) an evaluation of the progress towards
5 project goals; and

6 “(B) recommendations for modifications to
7 the projects and management treatments.

8 “(d) TREE RETENTION.—The Secretary shall carry
9 out projects under subsection (b) in a manner that maxi-
10 mizes the retention of old-growth and large trees, as ap-
11 propriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees
12 promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease.

13 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
16 2018.”.

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