

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3856

To require certain forest supervisors of units of the National Forest System to submit to the Chief of the Forest Service a harvesting improvement report, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Mr. ROUNDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require certain forest supervisors of units of the National Forest System to submit to the Chief of the Forest Service a harvesting improvement report, 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 “Timber Harvesting
5 Restoration Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. HARVESTING IMPROVEMENT ON NATIONAL FOREST**
7 **SYSTEM LAND.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY.—The term
 2 “allowable sale quantity” means the maximum vol-
 3 ume of timber potentially available in a unit of the
 4 National Forest System as part of regularly sched-
 5 uled timber sales from land suitable for timber pro-
 6 duction over a 10-year period.

7 (2) COVERED NFS UNIT.—The term “covered
 8 NFS unit” means a unit of the National Forest Sys-
 9 tem with respect to which, as determined by the Sec-
 10 retary, the actual volume of timber sold from the
 11 unit during the fiscal year preceding the date of en-
 12 actment of this Act is not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the allow-
 13 able sale quantity.

14 (3) FOREST SUPERVISOR.—The term “forest
 15 supervisor” means a forest supervisor of a unit of
 16 the National Forest System.

17 (4) HARVESTING IMPROVEMENT REPORT.—The
 18 term “harvesting improvement report” means a har-
 19 vesting improvement report described in subsection
 20 (b)(1).

21 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 22 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
 23 Chief of the Forest Service.

24 (b) HARVESTING IMPROVEMENT REPORTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, each forest
3 supervisor of a covered NFS unit shall submit to the
4 Secretary a harvesting improvement report that
5 identifies areas of the covered NFS unit that could
6 be used, and any actionable steps that may be taken,
7 to increase the volume of timber sold from the cov-
8 ered NFS unit.

9 (2) CONSULTATION.—In preparing a harvesting
10 improvement report, a forest supervisor shall consult
11 with—

12 (A) relevant members of private industry;

13 (B) relevant advisory committees;

14 (C) State, local, and Tribal governments;

15 and

16 (D) relevant stakeholder groups.

17 (3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary shall notify each forest supervisor of whether
20 that forest supervisor is required to file a harvesting
21 improvement report.

22 (c) ACTIONABLE STEPS.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, each forest supervisor
24 required to submit a harvesting improvement report shall
25 demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that the

1 forest supervisor has taken actionable steps toward in-
2 creasing the volume of timber sold from the applicable cov-
3 ered NFS unit.

4 (d) MEASURING PERFORMANCE.—

5 (1) REVIEW OF PROGRESS.—1 year after the
6 date on which a forest supervisor submits a har-
7 vesting improvement report, the Secretary shall re-
8 view the progress made toward increasing the vol-
9 ume of timber sold from the applicable covered NFS
10 unit.

11 (2) IMPROVEMENT.—If the Secretary deter-
12 mines, after a review under paragraph (1), that the
13 actual volume of timber sold from the unit is more
14 than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the allowable sale quantity for the unit,
15 the forest supervisor of that unit shall not be re-
16 quired to submit any additional harvesting improve-
17 ment reports under this section.

18 (3) LACK OF IMPROVEMENT.—If the Secretary
19 determines, after a review under paragraph (1), that
20 the actual volume of timber sold from the unit is not
21 more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the allowable sale quantity for the
22 unit, the forest supervisor of that unit shall, not
23 later than 180 days after the review under para-
24 graph (1), submit to the Secretary another har-
25 vesting improvement report.

1 (e) SUPPORTING HARVESTING IMPROVEMENTS.—

2 With respect to a unit described in subsection (d)(3), the
3 Secretary shall allocate any available resources to that
4 unit for the purpose of increasing the volume of timber
5 sold, which resources may include—

6 (1) providing additional personnel;

7 (2) expanding the use of good neighbor agree-
8 ments under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of
9 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

10 (3) using any feasible actions and authorities to
11 expedite environmental review processes.

12 (f) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive a require-
13 ment to submit a harvesting improvement report under
14 this section with respect to a unit of the National Forest
15 System if the Secretary determines that there is a plau-
16 sible reason, such as a natural disaster, for the lack of
17 progress toward increasing the volume of timber sold.

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