

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 858

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. HERGER (for himself, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) 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

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,*

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 Proposal of 1993” means
9 the agreement reached in 1993 by a coalition of represent-
10 atives of the timber industry, environmental organizations,
11 citizens, and local communities that formed in northern
12 California to develop a resource management program for
13 Federal lands in the Sierra Nevada.

14 (b) PILOT PROJECT REQUIRED.—

15 (1) IMPLEMENTATION AND PURPOSE.—The
16 Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Forest
17 Service, shall conduct a pilot project on the Federal
18 lands described in paragraph (2) to implement and
19 demonstrate the effectiveness of the resource man-
20 agement activities described in subsection (d), as
21 recommended in the Quincy Library Group Proposal
22 of 1993.

23 (2) PILOT PROJECT AREA.—The Secretary shall
24 conduct the pilot project on the Federal lands within
25 Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest,

1 and the Sierraville Ranger District of Tahoe Na-
2 tional Forest in the State of California designated as
3 “Available for Group Selection” on the map entitled
4 “Quincy Library Group Community Stability Pro-
5 posal”, dated June 1993. The map shall be on file
6 and available for inspection in the appropriate of-
7 fices of the Forest Service.

8 (c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS; EXCEPTION.—

9 (1) EXCLUSION.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2), all spotted owl habitat areas and pro-
11 tected activity centers located within the pilot project
12 area designated under subsection (b)(2) will be de-
13 ferred from timber harvesting during the term of the
14 pilot project.

15 (2) EXCEPTION FOR DESIGNATED CATA-
16 STROPHIC EVENT AREAS.—The Secretary may des-
17 ignate an area within the pilot project area that is
18 otherwise precluded from timber harvesting pursu-
19 ant to paragraph (1) and subsection (b)(2) as a cat-
20 astrophic event area in which the resource manage-
21 ment activities described in subsection (d) may be
22 applied if the Secretary, upon completion of an envi-
23 ronmental impact statement, finds that—

24 (A) the area proposed for designation has
25 experienced catastrophic disturbances from

1 wildfires, insect infestations, disease, drought,
2 or other natural causes and will suffer further
3 environmental degradation, such as soil erosion,
4 stream damage, or habitat loss, in the absence
5 of the resource management activities; and

6 (B) implementation of one or more re-
7 source management activities described in sub-
8 section (d) in the area proposed for designation
9 is likely to reduce or prevent continued environ-
10 mental degradation.

11 (3) NOTICE OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION.—Im-
12 mediately upon publication of the draft environ-
13 mental impact statement required under paragraph
14 (2), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Reg-
15 ister notice of any prospective decision to designate
16 a catastrophic event area under such paragraph on
17 the basis of the environmental impact statement.
18 The notice shall—

19 (A) set forth the location of the affected
20 area;

21 (B) describe the forest health conditions in
22 such area;

23 (C) provide the reasons for proposing to
24 designate the area as a catastrophic event area;
25 and

1 (D) contain a brief description of the re-
2 source management activity or activities that
3 the Secretary proposes to select for the area.

4 (4) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall
5 provide a 45-day period for the submission of public
6 comments regarding a draft environmental impact
7 statement prepared under paragraph (2) and any
8 prospective decision to designate, on the basis of the
9 environmental impact statement, a catastrophic
10 event area. The comment period shall begin on the
11 date of the publication of the draft environmental
12 impact statement or the date notice is published
13 under paragraph (3) of the prospective decision to
14 designate the catastrophic event area, whichever is
15 later. During the comment period, the Secretary
16 shall hold a hearing on the decision in a community
17 near the area proposed for designation.

18 (d) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—During
19 the term of the pilot project, the Secretary shall implement
20 and carry out the following resource management activi-
21 ties on the Federal lands included within the pilot project
22 area designated under subsection (b)(2):

1 (1) Construction of a strategic system of defen-
2 sible, shaded fuelbreaks, consistent with Quincy Li-
3 brary Group Proposal of 1993, on not less than
4 40,000, but not more than 60,000, acres per year.

5 (2) Implementation, on an acreage rather than
6 volume basis, of uneven-aged forest management
7 prescriptions utilizing individual tree selection and
8 group selection, as described in the Quincy Library
9 Group Proposal of 1993, to achieve a desired future
10 condition of an all-age, multi-story, fire resistant for-
11 est.

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) EFFECT ON MULTIPLE USE ACTIVITIES.—The
18 Secretary shall not rely on the resource management ac-
19 tivities described in subsection (d) as a basis for adminis-
20 trative action limiting other multiple use activities on Fed-
21 eral lands included within the pilot project area designated
22 under subsection (b)(2).

23 (g) FUNDING.—

24 (1) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—In conducting the
25 pilot project, the Secretary shall use—

1 (A) those funds specifically provided to the
2 Forest Service by the Secretary to begin imple-
3 menting resource management activities accord-
4 ing to the Quincy Library Group Proposal of
5 1993; and

6 (B) other funds as are appropriated for
7 the administration of Plumas National Forest,
8 Lassen National Forest, and the Sierraville
9 Ranger District of Tahoe National Forest.

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

14 (3) FLEXIBILITY.—During the term of the pilot
15 project, the forest supervisors of Plumas National
16 Forest, Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National
17 Forest may allocate and use all accounts available
18 for the administration of Plumas National Forest,
19 Lassen National Forest, and the Sierraville Ranger
20 District of Tahoe National Forest to perform the re-
21 source management activities described in subsection
22 (d).

23 (h) TERM OF PILOT PROJECT.—The Secretary shall
24 conduct the pilot project during the period beginning on

1 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the
2 later of the following:

3 (1) The date on which the Secretary completes
4 amendment of the land and resource management
5 plans for Plumas National Forest, Lassen National
6 Forest, and Tahoe National Forest pursuant to sub-
7 section (i).

8 (2) The date that is five years after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act.

10 (i) CORRESPONDING FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

11 Commencing on the date of the enactment of this Act, the
12 Secretary shall initiate a process to amend the land and
13 resource management plans for Plumas National Forest,
14 Lassen National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest to,
15 where appropriate—

16 (1) incorporate the pilot project and area des-
17 ignations made by subsection (b) and the resource
18 management activities described in subsection (d);
19 and

20 (2) make other changes warranted by the analy-
21 ses conducted in compliance with section 102(2) of
22 the 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) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
2 January 1 of each year during the term of the pilot
3 project, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
4 on the status of the pilot project. The report shall include
5 at least the following:

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

9 (2) A complete accounting of the use of funds
10 and accounts made available under subsection (g)(1)
11 for the previous fiscal year, including a schedule of
12 the amounts drawn from each account used to per-
13 form resource management activities described in
14 subsection (d).

15 (3) A description of total acres treated, forest
16 health improvements, fire risk reductions, water
17 yield increases, and other natural resources-related
18 benefits achieved by the implementation of the re-
19 source management activities described in subsection
20 (d).

21 (4) A description of the economic benefits to
22 local communities achieved by the implementation of
23 the pilot project.

1 (5) A comparison of the revenues generated by,
2 and costs incurred in, the implementation of the re-
3 source management activities described in subsection
4 (d) on the Federal lands included in the pilot project
5 area with the revenues and costs during each of the
6 fiscal years 1992 through 1997 of timber manage-
7 ment of such lands before their inclusion in the pilot
8 project.

9 (6) A schedule for the resource management ac-
10 tivities to be undertaken in the pilot project area
11 during the next fiscal year.

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