

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2886

AN ACT

To provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

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To provide for a demonstration project in the Stanislaus National Forest, California, under which a private contractor will perform multiple resource management activities for that unit of the National Forest System.

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 “Granite Watershed En-
3 hancement and Protection Act of 1998”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
5 **PROJECT, STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST,**
6 **CALIFORNIA, TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT**
7 **THE GRANITE WATERSHED.**

8 (a) **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AUTHOR-**
9 **IZED.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a con-
10 tract with a single private contractor to perform multiple
11 resource management activities on Federal lands within
12 the Stanislaus National Forest in the State of California
13 for the purpose of demonstrating enhanced ecosystem
14 health and water quality, and significantly reducing the
15 risk of catastrophic wildfire, in the Granite watershed at
16 a reduced cost to the Government. The contract shall be
17 for a term of five years.

18 (b) **AUTHORIZED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The
19 types of resource management activities performed under
20 the contract shall include the following:

21 (1) Reduction of forest fuel loads through the
22 use of precommercial and commercial thinning and
23 prescribed burns.

24 (2) Monitoring of ecosystem health and water
25 quality in the Granite watershed.

1 (3) Monitoring of the presence of wildlife in the
2 area in which management activities are performed
3 and the effect of the activities on wildlife presence.

4 (4) Such other resource management activities
5 as the Secretary considers appropriate to dem-
6 onstrate enhanced ecosystem health and water qual-
7 ity in the Granite watershed.

8 (c) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW AND SPOT-
9 TED OWL GUIDELINES.—All resource management activi-
10 ties performed under the contract shall be performed in
11 a manner consistent with applicable Federal law and the
12 standards and guidelines for the conservation of the Cali-
13 fornia spotted owl (as set forth in the California Spotted
14 Owl Sierran Province Interim Guidelines or the subse-
15 quently issued final guidelines, whichever is in effect).

16 (d) FUNDING.—

17 (1) SOURCES OF FUNDS.—To provide funds for
18 the resource management activities to be performed
19 under the contract, the Secretary may use—

20 (A) funds appropriated to carry out this
21 section;

22 (B) funds specifically provided to the For-
23 est Service to implement projects to dem-
24 onstrate enhanced water quality and protect
25 aquatic and upland resources;

1 (C) excess funds that are allocated for the
2 administration and management of the
3 Stanislaus National Forest, California;

4 (D) hazardous fuels reduction funds allo-
5 cated for Region 5 of the Forest Service; and

6 (E) a contract provision allowing the cost
7 of performing authorized management activities
8 described in subsection (b) to be offset by the
9 values owed to the United States for any forest
10 products removed by the contractor.

11 (2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN
12 FUNDS.—Except as provided in paragraph (1), the
13 Secretary may not carry out the contract using
14 funds appropriated for any other unit of the Na-
15 tional Forest System.

16 (3) CONDITIONS ON FUNDS TRANSFERS.—Any
17 transfer of funds under paragraph (1) may be made
18 only in accordance with the procedures concerning
19 notice to, and review by, the Committee on Appro-
20 priations of the House of Representatives and the
21 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate that are
22 applied by the Secretary in the case of a transfer of
23 funds between appropriations.

24 (e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF STATE FUNDS.—The
25 Secretary may accept and use funds provided by the State

1 of California to assist in the implementation of the con-
2 tract under this section.

3 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
4 February 28 of each year during the term of the contract,
5 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describ-
6 ing—

7 (1) the resource management activities per-
8 formed under the contract during the period covered
9 by the report;

10 (2) the source and amount of funds used under
11 subsection (d) to carry out the contract; and

12 (3) the resource management activities to be
13 performed under the contract during the calendar
14 year in which the report is submitted.

15 (g) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in
16 this section exempts the contract, or resource management
17 activities to be performed under the contract, from any
18 Federal environmental law.

Passed the House of Representatives May 12, 1998.

Attest:

Clerk.