TITLE 16—CONSERVATION

Chap. ...Sec.  
1. National Parks, Military Parks, Monuments, and Seashores ...1  
1A. Historic Sites, Buildings, Objects, and Antiquities ...461  
1B. Archaeological Resources Protection ...470aa  
1C. Paleontological Resources Preservation ...470aaa  
2. National Forests ...471  
3. Forests; Forest Service; Reforestation; Management ...551  
3A. Unemployment Relief Through Performance of Useful Public Work [Omitted or Repealed] ...584  
3B. Soil Conservation ...590a  
3C. Water Conservation ...590r  
4. Protection of Timber, and Depredations ...591  
5. Protection of Fur Seals and Other Fur-Bearing Animals ...631  
5A. Protection and Conservation of Wildlife ...661  
5B. Wildlife Restoration ...669  
5C. Conservation Programs on Government Lands ...670a  
6. Game and Bird Preserves; Protection ...671  
7. Protection of Migratory Game and Insectivorous Birds ...701  
8. Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge ...721  
9. Fish and Wildlife Service ...741  
9A. Preservation of Fishery Resources ...755  
9B. National Fish Hatchery System Enhancement ...760aa  
10. Northern Pacific Halibut Fishing ...761  
10A. Sockeye or Pink Salmon Fishing [Repealed] ...776  
10B. Fish Restoration and Management Projects ...777  
10C. Fish Research and Experimentation Program ...778  
10D. State Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Projects [Repealed] ...779  
11. Regulation of Landing, Curing, and Sale of Sponges Taken From Gulf of Mexico and Straits of Florida ...781  
12. Federal Regulation and Development of Power ...791  
12A. Tennessee Valley Authority ...831  
12B. Bonneville Project ...832  
12C. Fort Peck Project ...833  
12D. Columbia Basin Project ...835  
12E. Niagara Power Project ...836  
12F. Pacific Northwest Consumer Power Preference; Reciprocal Priority in Other Regions ...837  
12G. Pacific Northwest Federal Transmission System ...838  
12H. Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation ...839  
13. Regulation of Transportation in Interstate or Foreign Commerce of Black Bass and Other Fish [Repealed] ...851  
14. Regulation of Whaling ...901  
14A. Whale Conservation and Protection ...917  
15. Predatory Sea Lampreys in the Great Lakes [Omitted] ...921  
15A. Great Lakes Fisheries ...931  
15B. Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration ...941  
15C. Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Tissue Bank ...943  
16. Tuna Conventions ...951  
16A. Atlantic Tuna Convention ...971  
16B. Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing ...972  
16C. South Pacific Tuna Fishing ...973  
17. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries [Repealed] ...981  
18. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention ...1001  
18A. Cooperative Watershed Management Program ...1015  
19. North Pacific Fisheries [Repealed or Transferred] ...1021  
20. National Fisheries Center and Aquarium ...1051  
21. Prohibition of Foreign Fishing Vessels in the Territorial Waters of the United States [Repealed] ...1081  
21A. Fisheries Zone Contiguous to Territorial Sea of the United States [Repealed] ...1091  
21B. Prohibition of Certain Foreign Fishing Vessels in United States Fisheries [Omitted] ...1100  
21C. Offshore Shrimp Fisheries [Omitted] ...1100b  
22. International Parks ...1101  
23. National Wilderness Preservation System ...1131  
24. Conservation and Protection of North Pacific Fur Seals ...1151  
25. Jellyfish or Sea Nettles, Other Such Pests, and Seaweed in Coastal Waters: Control or Elimination ...1201
25A. Crown of Thorns Starfish ...1211
25B. Reefs for Marine Life Conservation ...1220
26. Estuarine Areas ...1221
27. National Trails System ...1241
27A. National Recreational Trails Fund ...1261
28. Wild and Scenic Rivers ...1271
29. Water Bank Program for Wetlands Preservation ...1301
30. Wild Horses and Burros: Protection, Management, and Control ...1331
31. Marine Mammal Protection ...1361
32. Marine Sanctuaries ...1431
32A. Regional Marine Research Programs ...1447
33. Coastal Zone Management ...1451
34. Rural Environmental Conservation Program [Repealed] ...1501
35. Endangered Species ...1531
36. Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning ...1600
37. Youth Conservation Corps and Public Lands Corps ...1701
38. Fishery Conservation and Management ...1801
39. Mining Activity Within National Park System Areas ...1901
40. Soil and Water Resources Conservation ...2001
41. Cooperative Forestry Assistance ...2101
42. Emergency Conservation Program ...2201
43. Public Transportation Programs for National Park System Areas ...2301
44. Antarctic Conservation ...2401
44A. Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention ...2431
44B. Antarctic Mineral Resources Protection ...2461
45. Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program ...2501
46. Public Utility Regulatory Policies ...2601
47. Small Hydroelectric Power Projects ...2701
48. National Aquaculture Policy, Planning, and Development ...2801
49. Fish and Wildlife Conservation ...2901
50. Chesapeake Bay Research Coordination [Omitted] ...3001
51. Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation ...3101
52. Salmon and Steelhead Conservation and Enhancement ...3301
53. Control of Illegally Taken Fish and Wildlife ...3371
54. Resource Conservation ...3401
55. Coastal Barrier Resources ...3501
56. North Atlantic Salmon Fishing ...3601
56A. Pacific Salmon Fishing ...3631
57. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ...3701
57A. Partnerships for Wildlife ...3741
57B. Partners for Fish and Wildlife ...3771
58. Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation and Reserve Program ...3801
59. Wetlands Resources ...3901
59A. Wetlands ...3951
60. Fish and Seafood Promotion ...4001
61. Interjurisdictional Fisheries ...4101
62. African Elephant Conservation ...4201
62A. Asian Elephant Conservation ...4261
63. Federal Cave Resources Protection ...4301
64. North American Wetlands Conservation ...4401
65. International Forestry Cooperation ...4501
66. Take Pride in America Program ...4601
67. Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control ...4701
68. Pacific Yew Conservation and Management [Omitted or Repealed] ...4801
69. Wild Exotic Bird Conservation ...4901
70. North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Convention ...5001
71. Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management ...5101
71A. Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation ...5151
72. Recreational Hunting Safety ...5201
73. Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation ...5301
74. National Maritime Heritage ...5401
75. High Seas Fishing Compliance ...5501
TITLE 16 - CHAPTER 86 SOUTHWEST FOREST
HEALTH AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION

NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 4, 2012 (see http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscprint.html).

76. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention ...5601
77. Yukon River Salmon ...5701
78. National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation ...5801
79. National Park Service Management ...5901
80. Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation ...6101
81. User Fees Under Forest System Recreation Residence Program ...6201
81A. National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement ...6231
82. Great Ape Conservation ...6301
83. Coral Reef Conservation ...6401
84. Healthy Forest Restoration ...6501
85. Marine Turtle Conservation ...6601
86. Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention ...6701
87. Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement ...6801
88. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention ...6901
89. Pacific Whiting ...7001
90. Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination ...7101
91. National Landscape Conservation System ...7201
92. Forest Landscape Restoration ...7301
§ 6701. Findings

Congress finds that—

(1) there is an increasing threat of wildfire to millions of acres of forest land and rangeland throughout the United States;

(2) forest land and rangeland are degraded as a direct consequence of land management practices, including practices to control and prevent wildfires and the failure to harvest subdominant trees from overstocked stands that disrupt the occurrence of frequent low-intensity fires that have periodically removed flammable undergrowth;

(3) at least 39,000,000 acres of land of the National Forest System in the interior West are at high risk of wildfire;

(4) an average of 95 percent of the expenditures by the Forest Service for wildfire suppression during fiscal years 1990 through 1994 were made to suppress wildfires in the interior West;

(5) the number, size, and severity of wildfires in the interior West are increasing;

(6) of the timberland in National Forests in the States of Arizona and New Mexico, 59 percent of such land in Arizona, and 56 percent of such land in New Mexico, has an average diameter of 9 to 12 inches diameter at breast height;

(7) the population of the interior West grew twice as fast as the national average during the 1990s;

(8) catastrophic wildfires—

(A) endanger homes and communities;

(B) damage and destroy watersheds and soils; and

(C) pose a serious threat to the habitat of threatened and endangered species;

(9) a 1994 assessment of forest health in the interior West estimated that only a 15- to 30-year window of opportunity exists for effective management intervention before damage from uncontrollable wildfire becomes widespread, with 8 years having already elapsed since the assessment;

(10) healthy forest and woodland ecosystems—

(A) reduce the risk of wildfire to forests and communities;

(B) improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity;

(C) increase tree, grass, forb, and shrub productivity;

(D) enhance watershed values;

(E) improve the environment; and

(F) provide a basis in some areas for economically and environmentally sustainable uses;

(11) sustaining the long-term ecological and economic health of interior West forests and woodland, and their associated human communities requires preventing severe wildfires before the wildfires occur and permitting natural, low-intensity ground fires;

(12) more natural fire regimes cannot be accomplished without the reduction of excess fuels and thinning of subdominant trees (which fuels and trees may be of commercial value);

(13) ecologically based forest and woodland ecosystem restoration on a landscape scale will—
§ 6702. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to enhance the capacity to develop, transfer, apply, monitor, and regularly update practical science-based forest restoration treatments that will reduce the risk of severe wildfires, and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the interior West;

(2) to synthesize and adapt scientific findings from conventional research programs to the implementation of forest and woodland restoration on a landscape scale;

(3) to facilitate the transfer of interdisciplinary knowledge required to understand the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of wildfire on ecosystems and landscapes;

(4) to require the Institutes established under this chapter to collaborate with Federal agencies—

(A) to use ecological restoration treatments to reverse declining forest health and reduce the risk of severe wildfires across the forest landscape; and

(B) to design, implement, monitor, and regularly revise representative wildfire treatments based on the use of adaptive ecosystem management;

(5) to assist land managers in—

(A) treating acres with restoration-based applications; and

(B) using new management technologies (including the transfer of understandable information, assistance with environmental review, and field and classroom training and collaboration) to accomplish the goals identified in—

(i) the National Fire Plan;

(ii) the report entitled “Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems-A Cohesive Strategy” (65 Fed. Reg. 67480); and

(iii) the report entitled “10-Year Comprehensive Strategy: A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment” of the Western Governors’ Association;
(6) to provide technical assistance to collaborative efforts by affected entities to develop, implement, and monitor adaptive ecosystem management restoration treatments that are ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible; and

(7) to assist Federal and non-Federal land managers in providing information to the public on the role of fire and fire management in dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the interior West.


§ 6703. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Adaptive ecosystem management
   (A) Definition
   The term “adaptive ecosystem management” means a natural resource management process under
which planning, implementation, monitoring, research, evaluation, and incorporation of new
knowledge are combined into a management approach that—

   (i) is based on scientific findings and the needs of society;
   (ii) treats management actions as experiments;
   (iii) acknowledges the complexity of these systems and scientific uncertainty; and
   (iv) uses the resulting new knowledge to modify future management methods and policy.

   (B) Clarification
   This paragraph shall not define the term “adaptive ecosystem management” for the purposes of
the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.).

(2) Affected entities
The term “affected entities” includes—

   (A) land managers;
   (B) stakeholders;
   (C) concerned citizens; and
   (D) the States of the interior West, including political subdivisions of the States.

(3) Dry forest and woodland ecosystem
The term “dry forest and woodland ecosystem” means an ecosystem that is dominated by ponderosa
pines and associated dry forest and woodland types.

(4) Institute
The term “Institute“ means an Institute established under section 6704 (a) of this title.

(5) Interior West
The term “interior West” means the States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and
Utah.

(6) Land manager
   (A) In general
   The term “land manager” means a person or entity that practices or guides natural resource
management.

   (B) Inclusions
   The term “land manager” includes a Federal, State, local, or tribal land management agency.

(7) Restoration
The term “restoration” means a process undertaken to move an ecosystem or habitat toward—
(A) a sustainable structure of the ecosystem or habitat; or
(B) a condition that supports a natural complement of species, natural function, or ecological process (such as a low-intensity fire).

(8) Secretary
The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(9) Secretaries
The term “Secretaries” means—
(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and
(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) Stakeholder
The term “stakeholder” means any person interested in or affected by management of forest or woodland ecosystems.

(11) Subdominant trees
Are trees that occur underneath the canopy or extend into the canopy but are smaller and less vigorous than dominant trees.

(12) Overstocked stands
Where the number of trees per acre exceeds the natural carrying capacity of the site.

(13) Resilience
The ability of a system to absorb disturbance without being pushed into a different, possibly less desirable stable state.


§ 6704. Establishment of Institutes

(a) In general
The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—
(1) not later than 180 days after October 5, 2004, establish Institutes to promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of forest and woodland ecosystems, in the interior West; and
(2) provide assistance to the Institutes to promote the use of collaborative processes and adaptive ecosystem management in accordance with paragraph (1).

(b) Location
(1) Existing Institutes
The Secretary may designate an institute in existence on October 5, 2004, to serve as an Institute established under this chapter.

(2) States
Of the Institutes established under this chapter, the Secretary shall establish 1 Institute in each of—
(A) the State of Arizona, to be located at Northern Arizona University;
(B) the State of New Mexico, to be located at New Mexico Highlands University, while engaging the full resources of the consortium of universities represented in the Institute of Natural Resource Analysis and Management (INRAM); and

(C) the State of Colorado.

(c) Duties

Each Institute shall—

(1) develop, conduct research on, transfer, promote, and monitor restoration-based hazardous fuel reduction treatments to reduce the risk of severe wildfires and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems in the interior West;

(2) synthesize and adapt scientific findings from conventional research to implement restoration-based hazardous fuel reduction treatments on a landscape scale using an adaptive ecosystem management framework;

(3) translate for and transfer to affected entities any scientific and interdisciplinary knowledge about restoration-based hazardous fuel reduction treatments;

(4) assist affected entities with the design of adaptive management approaches (including monitoring) for the implementation of restoration-based hazardous fuel reduction treatments; and

(5) provide peer-reviewed annual reports.

(d) Qualifications

Each Institute shall—

(1) develop and demonstrate capabilities in the natural, physical, social, and policy sciences; and

(2) explicitly integrate those disciplines in the performance of the duties listed in subsection (c).

(e) Cooperation

Each Institute may cooperate with—

(1) researchers and cooperative extension programs at colleges, community colleges, and universities in the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado that have a demonstrated capability to conduct research described in subsection (c); and

(2) other organizations and entities in the interior West (such as the Western Governors’ Association).

(f) Annual work plans

As a condition of the receipt of funds made available under this chapter, for each fiscal year, each Institute shall develop in consultation with the Secretary, for review by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, an annual work plan that includes assurances, satisfactory to the Secretaries, that the proposed work of the Institute will serve the informational needs of affected entities.

(g) Establishment of additional Institutes

If after 2 years after October 5, 2004, the Secretary finds that the Institute model established at the locations named in subsection (b)(2) would be constructive for other interior West States, the Secretary may establish 1 institute in each of those States.


§ 6705. Cooperation between Institutes and Federal agencies

In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) to the extent that funds are appropriated for the purpose, shall provide financial and technical assistance to the Institutes to carry out the duties of the Institutes under section 6704 of this title;

(2) shall encourage Federal agencies to use, on a cooperative basis, information and expertise provided by the Institutes;
(3) shall encourage cooperation and coordination between Federal programs relating to—

(A) ecological restoration;

(B) wildfire risk reduction; and

(C) wildfire management technologies;

(4) notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, may—

(A) enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and interagency personnel agreements to carry out this chapter; and

(B) carry out other transactions under this chapter;

(5) may accept funds from other Federal agencies to supplement or fully fund grants made, and contracts entered into, by the Secretaries;

(6) may support a program of internships for qualified individuals at the undergraduate and graduate levels to carry out the educational and training objectives of this chapter;

(7) shall encourage professional education and public information activities relating to the purposes of this chapter; and

(8) may promulgate such regulations as the Secretaries determine are necessary to carry out this chapter.


§ 6706. Monitoring and evaluation

(a) In general

Not later than 5 years after October 5, 2004, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall complete and submit to the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a detailed evaluation of the programs and activities of each Institute—

(1) to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the research, communication tools, and information transfer activities of each Institute are sufficient to achieve the purposes of this chapter, including—

(A) implementing active adaptive ecosystem management practices at the landscape level;

(B) reducing unnecessary planning costs;

(C) avoiding duplicative and conflicting efforts;

(D) increasing public acceptance of active adaptive ecosystem management practices; and

(E) achieving general satisfaction on the part of affected entities;

(2) to determine the extent to which each Institute has implemented its duties under section 6704(c) of this title; and

(3) to determine whether continued provision of Federal assistance to each Institute is warranted.

(b) Termination of assistance

If, as a result of an evaluation under subsection (a), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, determines that an Institute does not qualify for further Federal assistance under this chapter, the Institute shall receive no further Federal assistance under this chapter until such time as the qualifications of the Institute are reestablished to the satisfaction of the Secretaries.


Change of Name

Committee on Resources of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.
§ 6707. Authorization of appropriations

(a) **In general**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this chapter $15,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(b) **Limitation**

No funds made available under subsection (a) shall be used to pay the costs of constructing any facilities.