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14

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1404**  
**OFFERED BY Mr. Goodlatte**

Add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS TO**  
2 **REDUCE HAZARDOUS FUELS ON NATIONAL**  
3 **FOREST SYSTEM LANDS TO PREVENT OR RE-**  
4 **DUCE THE SEVERITY OF WILDFIRES.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” means  
7 any contracting authority available to the Secretary  
8 of Agriculture, including a sole source contract or  
9 other agreement for the mutual benefit of the Sec-  
10 retary and a State Forester.

11 (2) GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT.—The term  
12 “good neighbor project” means any project on Na-  
13 tional Forest System land that meets the require-  
14 ments for hazardous fuels reduction projects under  
15 subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) of section 102 of  
16 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (16 U.S.C.  
17 6512).

18 (3) STATE FORESTER.—The term “State For-  
19 ester” has the meaning given that term in section

1 4(k) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of  
2 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103).

3 (b) PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of  
4 Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”)  
5 may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with  
6 a State Forester to prepare and implement good neighbor  
7 projects on National Forest System land to complement  
8 any similar project being performed on bordering or adja-  
9 cent non-Federal land. The decision to proceed with a  
10 good neighbor project is in the Secretary’s sole discretion.

11 (c) STATE FORESTER OR EQUIVALENT OFFICIAL AS  
12 AGENT.—A cooperative agreement or contract under sub-  
13 section (b) may authorize the State Forester to serve as  
14 the agent for the Secretary in providing all services nec-  
15 essary to facilitate the performance of good neighbor  
16 projects, except that any decision with respect to a good  
17 neighbor project required to be made under the National  
18 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
19 seq.) may not be delegated to a State Forester or any offi-  
20 cer or employee of the State Forester.

21 (d) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—In implementing any  
22 good neighbor project, the Secretary shall ensure that—

23 (1) the project is consistent with the applicable  
24 land and resource management plan developed under  
25 section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable

1 Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604);  
2 and

3 (2) the project improves the cost efficiency of  
4 managing the National Forest System land covered  
5 by the project, as determined by the Secretary.

6 (e) PRIORITY FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.—The  
7 Secretary shall give priority to good neighbor projects that  
8 are—

9 (1) developed in collaboration with nongovern-  
10 mental entities;

11 (2) consistent with a community wildfire protec-  
12 tion plan (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy  
13 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6502));  
14 or

15 (3) prepared in a manner consistent with the  
16 Implementation Plan for the Comprehensive Strat-  
17 egy for a Collaborative Approach for Reducing  
18 Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Envi-  
19 ronment, dated May 2002, developed pursuant to  
20 the conference report to accompany the Department  
21 of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations  
22 Act, 2001 (House Report No. 106-64), and subse-  
23 quent revisions of the implementation plan.

24 (f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Subsections (d)  
25 and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management

1 Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) shall not apply to a contract  
2 or other agreement under this subsection.

3 (g) SUBCONTRACTING BY A STATE FORESTER.—A  
4 State Forester may subcontract to the extent allowed by  
5 State and local law to prepare or implement a contract  
6 or other agreement under this section.

