

HR 2644

National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jun 3, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. (Jul 13, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2644>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-At Large]

Party: Republican • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 13, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2647	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 634.

National Forest Collaborative Incentive Act of 2015

This bill shall apply whenever the Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Forest Service, with respect to National Forest System lands derived from the public domain, prepares an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for a forest management activity that is:

- developed through a collaborative process,
- proposed by a resource advisory committee, or
- covered by a community wildfire protection plan.

In such an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, the Forest Service shall study and develop only the forest management activity proposed and the alternative of no action.

Any plaintiffs challenging a forest management activity developed under this Act shall be required to post a bond or other security acceptable to the court.

The bill repeals the Merchantable Timber Contracting Pilot Program under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

The USDA, with respect to National Forest System land, and the Department of the Interior, with respect to certain land under its jurisdiction, shall ensure that at least 50% of the project funds reserved by a participating county shall be made available only for projects that: (1) include the sale of timber or other forest products, and (2) implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality. Repeals the current limitation of such projects to those for road maintenance, decommissioning, or obliteration or for restoration of streams and watersheds.

The membership of a new resource advisory committee (RAC) may lower from 15 to a minimum of 6 during a specified period ending September 30, 2020.

The Forest Service shall conduct a self-sustaining RAC program under which 10 RACs will propose projects intended to accomplish forest management objectives or support community development and generate receipts.

A participating county shall be allowed to use certain funds to: (1) reimburse the county for law enforcement patrols performed on federal land, and (2) cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to emergency services.

Monies from an agreement or contract for a stewardship end result contracting project under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation to cover up to 25% of the cost of planning additional such projects.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund shall be used to pay up to 50% of the costs of planning (as well as, under current law, carrying out and monitoring) ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System land derived from the public domain for each proposal selected under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

A State-Supported Forest Management Fund is established in the Treasury to cover the costs of the Forest Service to plan, carry out, and monitor a forest management activity on National Forest System lands developed under this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 13, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
- **Jun 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Jun 3, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 3, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.