

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 433

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convene a blue ribbon panel to review the forest inventory and analysis program of the Forest Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convene a blue ribbon panel to review the forest inventory and analysis program of the Forest Service, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM**

4 **BLUE RIBBON PANEL.**

5 Section 3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
6 Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(f) FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM
9 BLUE RIBBON PANEL.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
3 Secretary, in consultation with the National Associa-
4 tion of State Foresters, shall convene a blue ribbon
5 panel (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Panel’)
6 to review the forest inventory and analysis program
7 established under this section (referred to in this
8 subsection as the ‘program’).

9 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

10 “(A) NUMBER.—The Panel shall be com-
11 posed of not fewer than 10, and not more than
12 20, members.

13 “(B) MEMBERS.—Members of the Panel
14 shall—

15 “(i) include recognized national lead-
16 ers from across State and Federal agen-
17 cies, universities, industry, and nongovern-
18 mental organizations; and

19 “(ii) have knowledge of and expertise
20 in forest biometrics, inventory, and remote
21 sensing technology.

22 “(3) DUTIES.—

23 “(A) REVIEW.—The Panel shall conduct a
24 review of the past progress, current priorities,
25 and future needs of the program with respect to

1 national monitoring of forest carbon, climate
2 change, forest health, and sustainable wood
3 products.

4 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under
5 subparagraph (A) shall include consideration
6 of—

7 “(i) the modernization of the pro-
8 gram—

9 “(I) broadly; and

10 “(II) specifically relating to the
11 integration of advanced remote sens-
12 ing technologies and methods such as
13 small area estimation; and

14 “(ii) the possibility of more public-pri-
15 vate-academic partnerships under the pro-
16 gram to help meet the goals of the pro-
17 gram and external needs, particularly re-
18 lating to research priorities, operational
19 implementation of current or ongoing
20 science, and decision support.

21 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than March 31,
22 2024, the Panel shall submit to the Secretary,
23 the Secretary of the Interior, and Congress a
24 report describing the review conducted under
25 subparagraph (A).

1 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

2 “(A) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-
3 PERSON.—The Panel shall select a Chairperson
4 and Vice Chairperson from among the non-
5 governmental members of the Panel.

6 “(B) COMMITTEES.—The Panel may es-
7 tablish 1 or more committees within the Panel
8 as the Panel determines to be appropriate.

9 “(C) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
10 Panel shall serve without compensation.

11 “(D) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The
12 Secretary shall provide such administrative sup-
13 port as is necessary for the Panel to carry out
14 its duties.

15 “(E) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
16 ACT.—The Panel shall be exempt from chapter
17 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly re-
18 ferred to as the ‘Federal Advisory Committee
19 Act’).”.

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