

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2440

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

JULY 22, 2021

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.

8 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Panel shall be com-
9 posed of not fewer than 20, and not more than 30,
10 members, including 1 or more of each of the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(A) State foresters.

13 “(B) Representatives from the Environ-
14 mental Protection Agency.

15 “(C) Representatives from the Department
16 of the Interior.

17 “(D) Academic experts in forest health,
18 management, and economics.

19 “(E) Forest industry representatives
20 throughout the supply chain, including rep-
21 resentatives of large forest landowners and
22 small forest landowners.

23 “(F) Representatives from environmental
24 groups.

1 “(G) Representatives from regional green-
2 house gas trading organizations.

3 “(H) Experts in carbon accounting and
4 carbon offset markets.

5 “(3) DUTIES.—

6 “(A) REVIEW.—The Panel shall conduct a
7 review of the past progress, current priorities,
8 and future needs of the forest inventory and
9 analysis program with respect to forest carbon,
10 climate change, forest health, and sustainable
11 wood products.

12 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than March 31,
13 2022, the Panel shall submit to the Secretary,
14 the Secretary of the Interior, and Congress a
15 report describing the review conducted under
16 subparagraph (A).

17 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

18 “(A) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR-
19 PERSON.—The Panel shall select a Chairperson
20 and Vice Chairperson from among the non-
21 governmental members of the Panel.

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

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

3 “(D) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The
4 Secretary shall provide such administrative sup-
5 port as is necessary for the Panel to carry out
6 its duties.

7 “(E) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8 ACT.—The Panel shall be exempt from the Fed-
9 eral Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).”.

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