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[Laws in effect as of January 3, 2005]
[Document not affected by Public Laws enacted between
January 3, 2005 and June 19, 2006]
[CITE: 16USC558a-d]

TITLE 16--CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 3--FORESTS; FOREST SERVICE; REFORESTATION; MANAGEMENT

SUBCHAPTER I--GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 558a. Volunteers in the National Forests Program

The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service \1\ classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development, or other activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretary through the Forest Service. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consider referrals of prospective volunteers made by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

\1\ So in original. The word "and" probably should appear after "civil service".

(**Pub. L. 92-300**, Sec. 1, May 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 147; **Pub. L. 103-82**, title IV, Sec. 405(d), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 921.)

References in Text

The civil service laws, referred to in text, are set out in Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. See, particularly, section 3301 et seq. of Title 5.

The classification laws, referred to in text, are classified to chapter 51 (Sec. 5101 et seq.) and subchapter III (Sec. 5331 et seq.) of chapter 53 of Title 5.

Amendments

1993--**Pub. L. 103-82** substituted "the Corporation for National and Community Service" for "ACTION".

Effective Date of 1993 Amendment

Amendment by **Pub. L. 103-82** effective Apr. 4, 1994, see section 406(b) of **Pub. L. 103-82**, set out as a note under section 8332 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Short Title

Section 5 of **Pub. L. 92-300** provided that: "This Act [enacting this section and sections 558b to 558d of this title] may be cited as the 'Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972'."

Sec. 558b. Incidental expenses of program volunteers

The Secretary is authorized to provide for incidental expenses, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, and subsistence.

(Pub. L. 92-300, Sec. 2, May 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 147.)

Sec. 558c. Employment status of volunteers

(a) Federal employee status

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

(b) Tort claims

For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of title 28, a volunteer under sections 558a to 558d of this title shall be considered a Federal employee.

(c) Civil employees

For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under sections 558a to 558d of this title shall be deemed civil employees of the United States within the meaning of the term "employee" as defined in section 8101 of title 5, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply.

(d) Compensation for losses and damages

For the purposes of claims relating to damage to, or loss of, personal property of a volunteer incident to volunteer service, a volunteer under sections 558a to 558d of this title shall be considered a Federal employee, and the provisions of section 3721 of title 31 shall apply.

(Pub. L. 92-300, Sec. 3, May 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 147; Pub. L. 101-286, title II, Sec. 204(a), May 9, 1990, 104 Stat. 175.)

References in Text

Tort claim provisions of title 28, referred to in subsec. (b), are the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act, which is classified generally to section 1346(b) and chapter 171 (Sec. 2671 et seq.) of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Amendments

1990--Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-286 added subsec. (d).

Sec. 558d. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 558a to 558d of this title.

(**Pub. L. 92-300**, Sec. 4, May 18, 1972, 86 Stat. 147; **Pub. L. 95-289**, Sec. 1, June 5, 1978, **92** Stat. 289.)

Amendments

1978--**Pub. L. 95-289** struck out limitation requiring not more than \$100,000 to be appropriated in any one year.

Effective Date of 1978 Amendment

Section 2 of **Pub. L. 95-289** provided that: ``The amendment made by this Act to the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 [amending this section] shall become effective October 1, 1978."''