

[H.R. 2394, National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, June 9, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 2394](#), the *National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015*, under suspension of the rules. The bill was introduced on May 18, 2015, by Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, which ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 20, 2015.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2394 reauthorizes the National Forest Foundation at a level of \$3 million a year for each of fiscal years (FY) 2016 to 2018, which is consistent with funding it has received in past years. The previous authorization level was \$1 million a year.

BACKGROUND

The National Forest Foundation was created by Congress in 1993 to support and promote the conservation of the 193 million acre National Forest System. The Foundation uses federal dollars as a match for private donations to restore and enhance our national forests and grasslands. In past years, federal funds have been leveraged by additional resources at an overall ratio of 4.3 to 1.¹ Today, there are 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 states and Puerto Rico, covering approximately 193 million acres.²

According to the bill sponsor, “through the Foundation, we are able to leverage private and federal dollars to support our nation’s great forests in a variety of ways. The Foundation is an integral component in keeping our national forests, such as the Allegheny National Forest in my district and dozens of other national forests around the country, viable and thriving for years to come.”³

COST

¹ See House Report 114-138 at 5.

² See [U.S. Forest Service “Our History”](#).

³ See [Agriculture Committee Press Release](#), May 20, 2015.

The Congressional Budget Office [estimates](#) that implementing the legislation would cost \$9 million over the 2016 to 2018 period. Because enacting H.R. 2394 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [John Huston](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-5539.