

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the re-creation of the
3 National Forest Trust Fund; re-creating and
4 renaming the National Forest Trust Fund;
5 carrying forward current balances and
6 continuing current sources and uses thereof;
7 amending s. 215.551, F.S., to conform;
8 providing an effective date.

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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to extend the life of
11 the National Forest Trust Fund, which is otherwise scheduled
12 to be terminated pursuant to constitutional mandate, and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the National
14 Forest Trust Fund before its scheduled termination date and
15 has found that it continues to meet an important public
16 purpose, and

17 WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that existing public
18 policy concerning the National Forest Trust Fund sets adequate
19 parameters for its use, NOW, THEREFORE,

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21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23 Section 1. (1) The National Forest Trust Fund, FLAIR
24 number 44-2-307, which was created within the Department of
25 Banking and Finance and which is to be terminated pursuant to
26 Section 19(f), Article III of the State Constitution on
27 November 4, 2000, is re-created and renamed the Federal Use of
28 State Lands Trust Fund.

29 (2) All current balances of the trust fund are carried
30 forward, and all current sources and uses of the trust fund
31 are continued.

1 Section 2. Section 215.551, Florida Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 215.551 Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~
4 Trust Fund; county distribution.--

5 (1) The Comptroller may make distribution of the
6 Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~ Trust Fund, when so
7 requested by the counties in interest, of such amounts as may
8 be accumulated in that fund.

9 (2) The Comptroller shall ascertain, from the records
10 of the General Land Office or other departments in Washington,
11 D.C., the number of acres of land situated in the several
12 counties in which the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Ocala, and
13 Osceola Forest Reserves are located, the number of acres of
14 land of such forest reserve embraced in each of the counties
15 in each of the reserves, and, also, the amount of money
16 received by the United States Government from each of the
17 reserves, respectively. The Comptroller shall apportion the
18 money on hand to each county in each reserve, respectively and
19 separately; such distribution shall be based upon the number
20 of acres of land embraced in the Apalachicola Forest,
21 Choctawhatchee Forest, Ocala Forest, and Osceola Forest,
22 respectively, in each county and shall be further based upon
23 the amount collected by the United States from each of such
24 forests, so that such distribution, when made, will include
25 for each county the amount due each county, based upon the
26 receipts for the particular forest and the acreage in the
27 particular county in which such forest is located. The
28 Comptroller shall issue two warrants on the Treasurer in each
29 case, the sum of which shall be the amount due each of such
30 counties from the fund. One warrant shall be payable to the
31 county for the county general road fund, and one warrant, of

1 equal amount, shall be payable to such county's district
2 school board for the district school fund.

3 (3) In the event that actual figures of receipts from
4 different reserves cannot be obtained by counties, so as to
5 fully comply with subsections (1) and (2), the Comptroller may
6 adjust the matter according to the United States statutes, or
7 as may appear to him or her to be just and fair, and with the
8 approval of all counties in interest.

9 (4) The moneys that may be received and credited to
10 the Federal Use of State Lands ~~National Forest~~ Trust Fund are
11 appropriated for the payment of the warrants of the
12 Comptroller drawn on the Treasurer in pursuance of this
13 section.

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect November 4,
15 2000.

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