



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE WEEKS ACT

March 1, 2011

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Weeks Act, named for its sponsor Representative John Weeks of Massachusetts, became law on March 1, 1911, and ranks among the significant natural resource conservation achievements of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS the Weeks Act, by allowing the United States Department of Agriculture to cooperate with States and individuals to protect forests and watersheds from fire and other threats led to the creation of national forests throughout the East and additions to national forests and grasslands across the United States and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS the Centennial of the Weeks Act is an appropriate time to contemplate carrying this conservation legacy forward, recognizing that forests and watersheds face new threats from development, climate change, and invasive species; and

WHEREAS those threats require collaborative management at a landscape-scale in order to restore, protect, and enhance water and ecosystem resources, so as to make forests more resilient while supporting healthy communities and local economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby encourage the people of the United States to recognize the economic and environmental benefits that accrue from the sustainable management of our nation's lands and celebrate this Centennial of the Weeks Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of February 2011, the two-hundred thirty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack".

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary