

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION AUTHORITIES



The education role of the Forest Service is identified in a number of policy documents. The 1600 and 2390 sections of the Forest Service Manual give direction for conducting the environmental education program. Some of the most significant authorities include:

**The Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1862 (7 U.S.C. 2201).** This Act authorizes the establishment of a Department of Agriculture to “diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word.”

**The Smokey Bear Act of 1952 (Public Law 52-359):** This Act gives the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with the National Association of State Foresters and the Advertising Council, the authority to grant permission for the manufacture, reproduction and other uses of Smokey Bear for use in public information concerning the prevention of forest fires.

**The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 (note)):** This Act authorizes and directs that, “to the fullest extent possible, ...all agencies of the Federal Government shall make available to States, counties, municipalities, institutions, and individuals, advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of the environment.”

**National Environmental Education Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-516):** This Act identified education as a mechanism for improving the quality of the human environment.

**Woodsy Owl-Smokey Bear Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-318):** This Act established Woodsy Owl as a “symbol for a public service campaign to promote wise use of the environment and programs which foster maintenance and improvement of environmental quality.” The Act gave responsibility for Woodsy Owl to the Forest Service.

**The 1990 Farm Bill, Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 2101 (note)):** Under the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program, the Secretary, in cooperation with State Foresters, State Extension Directors and interested members of the public, including nonprofit private organizations, shall implement a program of education for urban and community forest resources. As part of the Forest Stewardship Program, the Secretary is authorized to provide education and related assistance to State Foresters, including financial assistance to other State and local entities, and land grant universities to deliver information to nonindustrial private landowners.

**The National Environmental Education Act of 1990 (20 U.S.C. 5501 (note)):** This Act restated the goal of the 1970 Environmental Education Act and stated, “Federal natural resource agencies such as the United States Forest Service have a wide range of environmental expertise and a long history of cooperation with educational institutions and technology transfer that can assist in furthering the purposes of the Act.”