

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2795

To establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR SYSTEM ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATER

- Sec. 101. National Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 102. Administrative designation of National Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 103. Management of National Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 104. Collaboration and coordination.
- Sec. 105. Effect.

TITLE II—TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

- Sec. 201. Tribal Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 202. Protection of Indian tribes.

TITLE III—WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER

- Sec. 301. Wildlife movements grant program.
- Sec. 302. National Coordination Committee.
- Sec. 303. Regional wildlife movement councils.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DATABASE

- Sec. 401. National wildlife corridors database.

TITLE V—FUNDING

- Sec. 501. Wildlife Corridors Stewardship Fund.
- Sec. 502. Working landscapes.
- Sec. 503. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the native fish, wildlife, and plant species in
 4 the United States are part of a rich natural heritage
 5 and an important legacy to pass on to future genera-
 6 tions;

7 (2) the populations of many native fish, wildlife,
 8 and plant species in the United States are in decline;

9 (3) scientists estimate that 1 in 5 animal and
 10 plant species in the United States is at risk of ex-
 11 tinction, and many species are declining in numbers;

1 (4) threats to the survival and diversity of
2 many native fish, wildlife, and plant species in the
3 United States include the loss, degradation, frag-
4 mentation, and obstruction of natural habitats;

5 (5) climate change threatens native fish, wild-
6 life, and plant species;

7 (6) the 2019 global assessment report from the
8 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bio-
9 diversity and Ecosystem Services found that—

10 (A) 1,000,000 wildlife and plant species
11 worldwide are now threatened with extinction;
12 and

13 (B) 75 percent of the land-based environ-
14 ment, and approximately 66 percent of the ma-
15 rine environment, have been significantly al-
16 tered by human actions;

17 (7) the conservation of new and existing land-
18 scape and seascape corridors, through which native
19 species can transition from 1 habitat to another,
20 plays an important role in helping—

21 (A) to conserve native biodiversity; and

22 (B) to ensure resiliency against impacts
23 from a range of biotic and abiotic stressors;

24 (8) the conservation, restoration, and establish-
25 ment of new ecological connections to facilitate the

1 movement of species into more suitable habitats is a
2 key climate change adaptation strategy;

3 (9) the protection of new and existing corridors
4 is often one of the first steps in restoration and re-
5 covery planning;

6 (10) States have recognized the importance of
7 habitat connectivity, including—

8 (A) a New England Governors and East-
9 ern Canadian Premiers' Conference on the im-
10 portance of connectivity for ecosystem adapt-
11 ability and resilience, biodiversity, and human
12 communities; and

13 (B) an expired 2007 policy resolution of
14 the Western Governors' Association;

15 (11) the strategic plan of the United States
16 Fish and Wildlife Service to respond to accelerating
17 climate change entitled “Rising to the Urgent Chal-
18 lenge” acknowledges that “processes such as polli-
19 nation, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, natural dis-
20 turbance cycles, predator-prey relations, and others
21 must be part of the natural landscapes we seek to
22 maintain or restore . . . and are likely to function
23 more optimally in landscapes composed of large
24 habitat blocks connected by well-placed corridors”;

1 (12) Federal and State agencies continue to de-
2 velop policies to address—

3 (A) the importance of conserving fish,
4 wildlife, and plant corridors;

5 (B) the gap between science and manage-
6 ment for at-risk species; and

7 (C) ecological connectivity; and

8 (13) Federal policies consistently recognize the
9 importance of voluntary improvement projects by
10 private landowners to habitat conservation and res-
11 toration for native species.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

13 (1) to support a diverse array of native species,
14 including species protected under Federal, State,
15 and Tribal law, that have experienced or may experi-
16 ence habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, or ob-
17 struction to connectivity;

18 (2) to provide long-term habitat connectivity for
19 native species migration, dispersal, adaptation to cli-
20 mate and other environmental change, and genetic
21 exchange;

22 (3) to help restore wildlife movements that have
23 been disrupted by habitat loss, degradation, frag-
24 mentation, or obstruction;

1 (4) to facilitate coordinated landscape- and
2 seascape-scale connectivity planning and manage-
3 ment across jurisdictions; and

4 (5) to support State, Tribal, local, voluntary
5 private landowner, and Federal agency decision-
6 makers in the planning and development of National
7 Wildlife Corridors.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
11 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
12 gress” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
14 Resources of the Senate;

15 (B) the Committee on Environment and
16 Public Works of the Senate;

17 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
18 the Senate;

19 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
20 merce of the House of Representatives;

21 (E) the Committee on Natural Resources
22 of the House of Representatives; and

23 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
24 the House of Representatives.

1 (2) CONNECTIVITY.—The term “connectivity”
2 means the degree to which the landscape or seascape
3 facilitates native species movement.

4 (3) CORRIDOR.—The term “corridor” means a
5 feature of the landscape or seascape that—

6 (A) provides habitat or ecological
7 connectivity; and

8 (B) allows for native species movement or
9 dispersal.

10 (4) DATABASE.—The term “Database” means
11 the National Wildlife Corridors Database established
12 under section 401(a).

13 (5) FEDERAL LAND OR WATER.—The term
14 “Federal land or water” means any land or water,
15 or interest in land or water, owned by the United
16 States.

17 (6) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Wild-
18 life Corridors Stewardship Fund established by sec-
19 tion 501(a).

20 (7) HABITAT.—The term “habitat” means
21 land, water, and substrate occupied at any time dur-
22 ing the life cycle of a native species that is nec-
23 essary, with respect to the native species, for spawn-
24 ing, breeding, feeding, growth to maturity, or migra-
25 tion.

1 (8) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land”
2 means land of an Indian tribe, or an Indian indi-
3 vidual, that is—

4 (A) held in trust by the United States; or
5 (B) subject to a restriction against alien-
6 ation imposed by the United States.

7 (9) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (10) NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—
12 The term “National Coordination Committee”
13 means the National Coordination Committee estab-
14 lished under section 302(a).

15 (11) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The
16 term “National Wildlife Corridor” means any Fed-
17 eral land or water designated as a National Wildlife
18 Corridor under section 101(a).

19 (12) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR SYS-
20 TEM.—The term “National Wildlife Corridor Sys-
21 tem” means the system of National Wildlife Cor-
22 ridors established by section 101(a).

23 (13) NATIVE SPECIES.—The term “native spe-
24 cies” means—

1 (A) an indigenous fish, wildlife, or plant
2 species of the United States, including sub-
3 species and plant varieties;

4 (B) a fish, wildlife, or plant species not in-
5 digenous to the United States that the Sec-
6 retary determines to be—

7 (i) noninvasive; or

8 (ii) beneficial to the biodiversity of the
9 natural ecosystem; and

10 (C) a migratory bird species that is native
11 to the United States or its territories (as de-
12 fined in section 2(b) of the Migratory Bird
13 Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703(b))).

14 (14) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP.—The
15 term “regional ocean partnership” means a regional
16 organization of coastal or Great Lakes States, terri-
17 tories, or possessions voluntarily convened by Gov-
18 ernors to address cross-jurisdictional ocean matters,
19 or the functional equivalent of such a regional ocean
20 organization designated by the Governor or Gov-
21 ernors of a State or States.

22 (15) REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUN-
23 CIL.—The term “regional wildlife movement council”
24 means a regional wildlife movement council estab-
25 lished under section 303(a).

1 (16) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
2 means—

- 3 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;
4 (B) the Secretary of Commerce;
5 (C) the Secretary of Defense;
6 (D) the Secretary of the Interior; and
7 (E) the Secretary of Transportation.

8 (17) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
9 means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through
10 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
11 Service.

12 (18) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The term
13 “Tribal Wildlife Corridor” means a corridor estab-
14 lished by the Secretary under section 201(a)(1)(C).

15 (19) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
16 States”, when used in a geographical sense,
17 means—

- 18 (A) a State;
19 (B) the District of Columbia;
20 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
21 (D) Guam;
22 (E) American Samoa;
23 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
24 Mariana Islands;
25 (G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

1 (H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
 2 (I) the Republic of Palau;
 3 (J) the United States Virgin Islands; and
 4 (K) the territorial sea (within the meaning
 5 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
 6 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.))
 7 and the exclusive economic zone (as defined in
 8 section 3 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) within
 9 the jurisdiction or sovereignty of the Federal
 10 Government.

11 (20) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT.—The term “wild-
 12 life movement” means the passage of individual
 13 members or populations of a fish, wildlife, or plant
 14 species across a landscape or seascape.

15 **TITLE I—NATIONAL WILDLIFE**
 16 **CORRIDOR SYSTEM ON FED-**
 17 **ERAL LAND AND WATER**

18 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a system
 20 of corridors on Federal land and water, to be known as
 21 the “National Wildlife Corridor System”, which shall con-
 22 sist of National Wildlife Corridors designated as part of
 23 the National Wildlife Corridor System by—

- 24 (1) statute;
 25 (2) rulemaking under section 102; or

1 (3) a land management plan developed or re-
2 vised under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy
3 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

4 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop
6 a strategy for the effective development of the National
7 Wildlife Corridor System—

8 (1) to support the fulfillment of the purposes
9 described in section 2(b);

10 (2) to ensure coordination and consistency
11 across Federal agencies in the development, imple-
12 mentation, and management of National Wildlife
13 Corridors; and

14 (3) to develop a timeline for the implementation
15 of National Wildlife Corridors.

16 **SEC. 102. ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL**
17 **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

18 (a) RULEMAKING.—

19 (1) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Not
20 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of
21 this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
22 retaries, pursuant to the land, water, and resource
23 management planning and conservation authorities
24 of the Secretaries, shall establish a process, by regu-
25 lation, for the designation and management of Na-

1 tional Wildlife Corridors on Federal land or water
2 under the respective jurisdictions of the Secretaries.

3 (2) FEDERAL LAND AND WATER MANAGE-
4 MENT.—The Secretaries shall consider the designa-
5 tion of National Wildlife Corridors in any process re-
6 lating to the issuance, revision, or modification of a
7 management plan for land or water under the re-
8 spective jurisdiction of the Secretaries.

9 (b) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—The regulations
10 promulgated by the Secretary under subsection (a)(1)
11 shall ensure that, in designating a National Wildlife Cor-
12 ridor, the Secretaries—

13 (1) base the designation of the National Wild-
14 life Corridor on—

15 (A) coordination with existing—

16 (i) National Wildlife Corridors;

17 (ii) corridors established by States;

18 and

19 (iii) Tribal Wildlife Corridors; and

20 (B) the best available science of—

21 (i) existing native species habitat; and

22 (ii) likely future native species habi-
23 tats;

24 (2) determine that the National Wildlife Cor-
25 ridor supports the connectivity, persistence, resil-

1 ience, and adaptability of the native species for
2 which it has been designated by providing for—

3 (A) dispersal and genetic exchange between
4 populations;

5 (B) range shifting, range expansion, or
6 range restoration, such as in response to cli-
7 mate change;

8 (C) seasonal movement or migration; or

9 (D) succession, movement, or recoloniza-
10 tion following—

11 (i) a disturbance, such as fire, flood,
12 drought, or infestation; or

13 (ii) population decline or previous ex-
14 tirpation;

15 (3) consult the Database; and

16 (4) consider recommendations from the Na-
17 tional Coordination Committee under section
18 302(e)(2)(C).

19 (c) DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL LAND OR WATER RE-
20 QUIRING RESTORATION OR CONNECTION OF HABITAT.—

21 The Secretaries may designate as a National Wildlife Cor-
22 ridor land or water that—

23 (1) is necessary for the natural movements of
24 1 or more native species;

25 (2) requires restoration, including—

1 (A) land or water that is degraded; and

2 (B) land or water from which a species is
3 currently absent—

4 (i) but may be colonized or recolo-
5 nized by the species naturally; or

6 (ii) to which the species may be re-
7 introduced or restored based on habitat
8 changes; and

9 (3) is fragmented or consists of only a portion
10 of the habitat required for the connectivity needs of
11 1 or more native species.

12 (d) NOMINATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the process
14 for designation under subsection (a)(1), the Sec-
15 retary shall include procedures under which—

16 (A) any State, Tribal, or local government,
17 or a nongovernmental organization engaged in
18 the conservation of native species and the im-
19 provement of the habitats of native species, may
20 submit to the Secretaries a nomination to des-
21 ignate as a National Wildlife Corridor an area
22 under the respective jurisdiction of the Secre-
23 taries; and

24 (B) the Secretaries shall consider and, not
25 later than 1 year after the date on which the

1 nomination was submitted under subparagraph
2 (A), respond to any nomination submitted
3 under that subparagraph.

4 (2) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.—A nomina-
5 tion for designation under paragraph (1)(A) shall in-
6 clude supporting documentation, including—

7 (A) the native species for which the Na-
8 tional Wildlife Corridor would be designated;

9 (B) summaries and references of, with re-
10 spect to the designation of a National Wildlife
11 Corridor—

12 (i) the best science available at the
13 time of the submission of the nomination
14 for designation documenting why the cor-
15 ridor is needed; and

16 (ii) the most current scientific reports
17 available at the time of the submission of
18 the nomination for designation;

19 (C) information with respect to how the
20 nomination was coordinated with potential part-
21 ners;

22 (D) a description of supporting stake-
23 holders, such as States, Indian tribes, local gov-
24 ernments, scientific organizations, nongovern-

1 mental organizations, and affected voluntary
2 private landowners; and

3 (E) any additional information the Secre-
4 taries, in consultation with the National Coordi-
5 nation Committee, determine is relevant to the
6 nomination.

7 (e) DESIGNATION ON MILITARY LAND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any designation of a Na-
9 tional Wildlife Corridor on a military installation (as
10 defined in section 100 of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C.
11 670))—

12 (A) shall be consistent with the use of mili-
13 tary installations and State-owned National
14 Guard installations to ensure the preparedness
15 of the Armed Forces; and

16 (B) may not result in a net loss in the ca-
17 pability of military installation lands to support
18 the military mission of the installation.

19 (2) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNA-
20 TION.—The Secretary of Defense may suspend or
21 terminate the designation of any National Wildlife
22 Corridor on a military installation if the Secretary of
23 Defense considers the suspension or termination to
24 be necessary for military purposes, after public no-
25 tice of—

1 (A) the suspension or termination; and

2 (B) any voluntary steps taken by the De-
3 partment of Defense to attempt to provide simi-
4 lar ecological connectivity elsewhere on the mili-
5 tary installation.

6 **SEC. 103. MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE COR-**
7 **RIDORS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, consistent
9 with other applicable Federal land and water management
10 requirements, laws, and regulations, manage each Na-
11 tional Wildlife Corridor under the respective administra-
12 tive jurisdiction of the Secretaries in a manner that con-
13 tributes to the long-term connectivity, persistence, resil-
14 ience, and adaptability of native species for which the Na-
15 tional Wildlife Corridor is identified, including through—

16 (1) the maintenance and improvement of habi-
17 tat connectivity within the National Wildlife Cor-
18 ridor;

19 (2) the implementation of strategies and activi-
20 ties that enhance the ability of native species to re-
21 spond to climate change and other environmental
22 factors;

23 (3) the maintenance or restoration of the integ-
24 rity and functionality of the National Wildlife Cor-
25 ridor;

1 (4) the mitigation or removal of human infra-
2 structure that obstructs the natural movement of
3 native species; and

4 (5) the use of existing conservation programs,
5 including Tribal Wildlife Corridors, under the re-
6 spective jurisdiction of the Secretaries to contribute
7 to the connectivity, persistence, resilience, and
8 adaptability of native species.

9 (b) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS SPANNING
10 MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS.—In the case of a National
11 Wildlife Corridor that spans the administrative jurisdic-
12 tion of 2 or more of the Secretaries, the relevant Secre-
13 taries shall coordinate management of the National Wild-
14 life Corridor in accordance with section 104(b) to advance
15 the purposes described in section 2(b).

16 (c) ROAD MITIGATION.—In the case of a National
17 Wildlife Corridor that intersects, adjoins, or crosses a new
18 or existing State, Tribal, or local road or highway, the rel-
19 evant Secretaries shall coordinate with the Secretary of
20 Transportation and State, Tribal, and local transportation
21 agencies, as appropriate, to identify and implement vol-
22 untary environmental mitigation measures—

23 (1) to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-
24 caused native species mortality while maintaining
25 habitat connectivity; and

1 (2) to mitigate damage to the natural move-
2 ments of native species through strategies such as—

3 (A) the construction, maintenance, or re-
4 placement of native species underpasses, over-
5 passes, and culverts; and

6 (B) the maintenance, replacement, or re-
7 moval of dams, bridges, culverts, and other
8 hydrological obstructions.

9 (d) COMPATIBLE USES.—A use of Federal land or
10 water that was authorized before the date on which the
11 Federal land or water is designated as a National Wildlife
12 Corridor may continue if the applicable Secretaries deter-
13 mine that the use is compatible with the wildlife move-
14 ments of the species for which the National Wildlife Cor-
15 ridor was designated, consistent with applicable Federal
16 laws and regulations.

17 **SEC. 104. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**

18 (a) COLLABORATION.—The Secretaries may partner
19 with and provide funds to States, local governments, In-
20 dian tribes, the National Coordination Committee, vol-
21 untary private landowners, and the regional wildlife move-
22 ment councils to support the purposes described in section
23 2(b).

24 (b) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent prac-
25 ticable and consistent with applicable law, the Secretary

1 or Secretaries, as applicable, shall develop the strategy
2 under section 101(b), designate National Wildlife Cor-
3 ridors under section 102, and manage National Wildlife
4 Corridors under section 103—

5 (1) in consultation and coordination with—

6 (A) other relevant Federal agencies;

7 (B) States, including—

8 (i) State fish and wildlife agencies;

9 and

10 (ii) other State agencies responsible
11 for managing the natural resources and
12 wildlife;

13 (C) Indian tribes;

14 (D) units of local government;

15 (E) other interested stakeholders identified
16 by the Secretary, including applicable voluntary
17 private landowners;

18 (F) landscape- and seascape-scale partner-
19 ships, including—

20 (i) the National Fish Habitat Part-
21 nership;

22 (ii) the National Marine Fisheries
23 Service;

24 (iii) regional fishery management
25 councils established under section 302(a)

1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
2 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
3 1852(a));

4 (iv) relevant regional ocean partner-
5 ships;

6 (v) the Climate Science Centers of the
7 Department of the Interior; and

8 (vi) the Landscape Conservation Co-
9 operative Network;

10 (G) the National Coordination Committee;

11 and

12 (H) the regional wildlife movement coun-
13 cils.

14 **SEC. 105. EFFECT.**

15 (a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CONSERVATION
16 LAWS.—Nothing in this Act amends or otherwise affects
17 any other law (including regulations) relating to the con-
18 servation of native species.

19 (b) JURISDICTION OF STATES AND INDIAN
20 TRIBES.—Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by
21 this Act affects the jurisdiction of a State or an Indian
22 tribe with respect to fish and wildlife management, includ-
23 ing the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in a
24 National Wildlife Corridor or a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.

TITLE II—TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

SEC. 201. TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) NOMINATIONS.—An Indian tribe may nominate a corridor within Indian land of the Indian tribe as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor by submitting to the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall determine whether the nominated Tribal Wildlife Corridor described in the application meets the criteria established under paragraph (2).

(C) PUBLICATION.—On approval of an application under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the establishment of the Tribal Wild-

1 life Corridor, which shall include a map and
2 legal description of the land designated as a
3 Tribal Wildlife Corridor.

4 (2) CRITERIA.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18
6 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
7 the Secretary shall establish criteria for deter-
8 mining whether a corridor nominated by an In-
9 dian tribe under paragraph (1)(A) qualifies as
10 a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.

11 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The criteria established
12 under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a min-
13 imum, the following:

14 (i) The restoration of historical habi-
15 tat for the purposes of facilitating
16 connectivity.

17 (ii) The management of land for the
18 purposes of facilitating connectivity.

19 (iii) The management of land to pre-
20 vent the imposition of barriers that may
21 hinder current or future connectivity.

22 (3) REMOVAL.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may
24 elect to remove the designation of a Tribal

1 Wildlife Corridor on the Indian land of the In-
2 dian tribe by notifying the Secretary.

3 (B) EFFECT OF REMOVAL.—An Indian
4 tribe that elects to remove a designation under
5 subparagraph (A) may not receive assistance
6 under subsection (c) or (d)(1) or section 301.

7 (b) COORDINATION OF LAND USE PLANS.—Section
8 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
9 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking “Indian tribes by” and in-
12 serting the following: “Indian tribes—
13 “(1) by”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
15 striking the period at the end and inserting “;
16 and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) for the purposes of determining whether
19 the land use plans for land in the National Forest
20 System would provide additional connectivity to ben-
21 efit the purposes of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor estab-
22 lished under section 10(a)(1) of the Wildlife Cor-
23 ridors Conservation Act of 2019.”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(g) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—On the estab-
2 lishment of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor under section
3 10(a)(1) of the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of
4 2019, the Secretary shall conduct a meaningful consulta-
5 tion with the Indian tribe that administers the Tribal
6 Wildlife Corridor to determine whether, through the revi-
7 sion of 1 or more existing land use plans, the Tribal Wild-
8 life Corridor can—

9 “(1) be expanded into public lands; or

10 “(2) otherwise benefit connectivity (as defined
11 in section 3 of that Act) between public lands and
12 the Tribal Wildlife Corridor.”.

13 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
14 provide to Indian tribes technical assistance relating to the
15 establishment, management, and expansion of a Tribal
16 Wildlife Corridor, including assistance with accessing wild-
17 life data and working with voluntary private landowners
18 to access Federal and State programs to improve wildlife
19 habitat and connectivity on non-Federal land.

20 (d) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—

21 (1) CONSERVATION PROGRAMS CONSIDER-
22 ATION.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applica-
24 tions under conservation programs described in
25 subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture

1 may consider whether a project would enhance
2 connectivity through the expansion of a Tribal
3 Wildlife Corridor.

4 (B) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The con-
5 servation programs referred to in subparagraph
6 (A) are any of the following conservation pro-
7 grams administered by the Secretary of Agri-
8 culture:

9 (i) The conservation reserve program
10 established under subchapter B of chapter
11 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-
12 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et
13 seq.).

14 (ii) The environmental quality incen-
15 tives program established under subchapter
16 A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of
17 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
18 3839aa et seq.).

19 (iii) The conservation stewardship
20 program established under subchapter B of
21 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
23 3839aa–21 et seq.).

24 (iv) The agricultural conservation
25 easement program established under sub-

1 title H of title XII of the Food Security
2 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.).

3 (2) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.—

4 An Indian tribe that has a Tribal Wildlife Corridor
5 established on the Indian land of the Indian tribe
6 shall be eligible for a grant under the wildlife move-
7 ments grant program under section 301, subject to
8 other applicable requirements of that grant program.

9 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section au-
10 thorizes or affects the use of private property or Indian
11 land.

12 **SEC. 202. PROTECTION OF INDIAN TRIBES.**

13 (a) FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in
14 this Act amends, alters, or waives the Federal trust re-
15 sponsibility to Indian tribes.

16 (b) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—

17 (1) EXEMPTION.—Information described in
18 paragraph (2) shall not be subject to disclosure
19 under section 552 of title 5, United States Code
20 (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information
21 Act”), if the head of the agency that receives the in-
22 formation, in consultation with the Secretary and
23 the affected Indian tribe, determines that disclosure
24 may—

25 (A) cause a significant invasion of privacy;

1 (B) risk harm to human remains or re-
 2 sources, cultural items, uses, or activities; or

3 (C) impede the use of a traditional reli-
 4 gious site by practitioners.

5 (2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information
 6 referred to in paragraph (1) is information received
 7 by a Federal agency—

8 (A) pursuant to this Act relating to—

9 (i) the location, character, or owner-
 10 ship of human remains of a person of In-
 11 dian ancestry; or

12 (ii) resources, cultural items, uses, or
 13 activities identified by an Indian tribe as
 14 traditional or cultural because of the long-
 15 established significance or ceremonial na-
 16 ture to the Indian tribe; or

17 (B) pursuant to the Native American
 18 Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25
 19 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

20 **TITLE III—WILDLIFE MOVEMENT**
 21 **GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-**
 22 **FEDERAL LAND AND WATER**

23 **SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 25 wildlife movements grant program (referred to in this sec-

1 tion as the “grant program”) to encourage wildlife move-
2 ment in accordance with this subsection.

3 (b) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 2 years after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, based
5 on recommendations from the National Coordination
6 Committee under section 302(e)(2)(C), shall make grants
7 to 1 or more projects that—

8 (1) are a regional priority project identified by
9 a regional wildlife movement council;

10 (2) satisfy the purposes described in section
11 2(b); and

12 (3) increase connectivity for native species.

13 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—A person that is eligible
14 to receive a grant under the grant program is—

15 (1) a voluntary private landowner or group of
16 landowners;

17 (2) a State fish and wildlife agency or other
18 State agency responsible for managing natural re-
19 sources and wildlife;

20 (3) an Indian tribe;

21 (4) a unit of local government;

22 (5) an agricultural cooperative;

23 (6) water, irrigation, or rural water districts or
24 associations, or other organizations with water deliv-

1 ery authority (including acequias and land grant
2 communities in the State of New Mexico);

3 (7) institutions of higher education;

4 (8) an entity approved for a grant by a regional
5 wildlife movement council; and

6 (9) any group of entities described in para-
7 graphs (1) through (8).

8 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In administering the grant
9 program, the Secretary shall use the criteria, guidelines,
10 contracts, reporting requirements, and evaluation metrics
11 developed by the National Coordination Committee under
12 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 302(e)(2).

13 **SEC. 302. NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
16 establish a committee, to be known as the “National Co-
17 ordination Committee”.

18 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall
19 provide administrative support for the National Coordina-
20 tion Committee.

21 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The National Coordination Com-
22 mittee shall be composed of—

23 (1) the Secretary (or a designee);

24 (2) the Secretary of Transportation (or a des-
25 ignee);

1 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee);

2 (4) the Secretary of Commerce (or a designee);

3 (5) the Secretary of Defense (or a designee);

4 (6) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
5 (or a designee);

6 (7) the Executive Director of the Association of
7 Fish and Wildlife Agencies (or a designee);

8 (8) 2 representatives of intertribal organiza-
9 tions, to be appointed by the Secretary;

10 (9) the chairperson of each regional wildlife
11 movement council (or a designee); and

12 (10) not more than 3 representatives of non-
13 governmental, science, or academic organizations
14 with expertise in wildlife conservation and habitat
15 connectivity, to be appointed by the Secretary in a
16 manner that ensures that the membership of the
17 National Coordination Committee is fair and bal-
18 anced.

19 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The National Coordination
20 Committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chair-
21 person from among the members of the National Coordi-
22 nation Committee.

23 (e) DUTIES.—The National Coordination Com-
24 mittee—

1 (1) shall establish standards for regional wild-
 2 life movement plans to allow for better cross-regional
 3 collaboration; and

4 (2) shall, with respect to the wildlife movements
 5 grant program under section 301—

6 (A) establish criteria and develop guide-
 7 lines for the solicitation of applications for
 8 grants by regional wildlife movement councils;

9 (B) develop standardized contracts, report-
 10 ing requirements, and evaluation metrics for
 11 grant recipients; and

12 (C) make recommendations annually to the
 13 Secretary for the selection of grant recipients
 14 on the basis of the ranked lists of regional pri-
 15 ority projects received from the regional wildlife
 16 movement councils under section 303(c)(4) that
 17 are consistent with the purposes described in
 18 section 2(b).

19 (f) **APPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—Except as otherwise
 20 provided in this section, the Federal Advisory Committee
 21 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the National Coordina-
 22 tion Committee.

23 **SEC. 303. REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.**

24 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after
 25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 tablish not less than 4 regional wildlife movement councils
2 with separate geographic jurisdictions that encompass the
3 entire United States.

4 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each regional wildlife move-
6 ment council shall be composed of—

7 (A) the director of each State fish and
8 wildlife agency within the jurisdiction of the re-
9 gional wildlife movement council (or a des-
10 ignee);

11 (B) balanced representation from Tribal
12 governments within the jurisdiction of the re-
13 gional wildlife movement council;

14 (C) to serve as a Federal agency liaison
15 and nonvoting, ex officio member—

16 (i) the Director of the United States
17 Fish and Wildlife Service (or a designee);
18 or

19 (ii) the director of any applicable re-
20 gional office of the United States Fish and
21 Wildlife Service (or a designee);

22 (D) not more than 3 representatives of
23 nongovernmental, science, or academic organi-
24 zations with expertise in native species con-
25 servation and the habitat connectivity needs of

1 the region covered by the regional wildlife move-
2 ment council; and

3 (E) not more than 3 voluntary representa-
4 tives of private landowners with property in the
5 applicable region, not less than 1 of whom shall
6 be a farmer or rancher.

7 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (A) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall
9 ensure that the membership of each regional
10 wildlife movement council is fair and balanced
11 in terms of expertise and perspectives rep-
12 resented.

13 (B) EXPERTISE.—Each regional wildlife
14 movement council shall include experts in eco-
15 logical connectivity, native species ecology, and
16 ecological adaptation.

17 (3) CHAIRPERSON.—Each regional wildlife
18 movement council shall select a Chairperson from
19 among the members of the regional wildlife move-
20 ment council.

21 (c) DUTIES.—Each regional wildlife movement coun-
22 cil shall—

23 (1) not later than 2 years after the date of es-
24 tablishment of the regional wildlife movement coun-
25 cil and in accordance with any standards established

1 by the National Coordination Committee, prepare
2 and submit to the Secretary and the National Co-
3 ordination Committee a regional wildlife movement
4 plan that maintains natural wildlife movement by
5 identifying research priorities and data needs for the
6 Database that is revised, amended, or updated not
7 less frequently than once every 5 years;

8 (2) provide for public engagement, including en-
9 gagement of Indian tribes, at appropriate times and
10 in appropriate locations in the region covered by the
11 regional wildlife movement council, to allow all inter-
12 ested persons an opportunity to be heard in the de-
13 velopment and implementation of a regional wildlife
14 movement plan under paragraph (1);

15 (3) solicit applications for wildlife movement
16 grants under section 301 in accordance with the cri-
17 teria and guidelines established by the National Co-
18 ordination Council under section 302(e)(2)(A);

19 (4) in accordance with the criteria and guide-
20 lines established under section 302(e)(2)(A), submit
21 to the National Coordination Committee an annual
22 list of regional priority projects, in ranked order, for
23 wildlife movements grants under section 301 to
24 maintain wildlife movements in the area under the

1 jurisdiction of the regional wildlife movement coun-
2 cil; and

3 (5) submit to the Secretary and the National
4 Coordination Committee, and make publicly avail-
5 able, an annual report describing the activities of the
6 regional wildlife movement council.

7 (d) COORDINATION.—If applicable, to increase habi-
8 tat connectivity between designated Federal land and
9 water and non-Federal land and water, a regional wildlife
10 movement council shall coordinate with—

11 (1) Federal agencies;

12 (2) Indian tribes;

13 (3) regional fishery management councils estab-
14 lished under section 302(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens
15 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
16 U.S.C. 1852(a));

17 (4) migratory bird joint ventures partnerships
18 recognized by the United States Fish and Wildlife
19 Service with respect to migratory bird species;

20 (5) State fish and wildlife agencies;

21 (6) regional associations of fish and wildlife
22 agencies;

23 (7) nongovernmental organizations;

24 (8) applicable voluntary private landowners;

25 (9) the National Coordination Committee;

- 1 (10) fish habitat partnerships;
- 2 (11) other regional wildlife movement councils
- 3 with respect to crossregional projects;
- 4 (12) international wildlife management entities
- 5 with respect to transboundary species in accordance
- 6 with trade policies of the United States; and
- 7 (13) Federal and State transportation agencies.

8 (e) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Except as otherwise
 9 provided in this section, the Federal Advisory Committee
 10 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the regional wildlife
 11 movement councils.

12 **TITLE IV—NATIONAL WILDLIFE**

13 **CORRIDORS DATABASE**

14 **SEC. 401. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DATABASE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
 16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the
 17 United States Geological Survey (referred to in this sec-
 18 tion as the “Director”), in consultation with the National
 19 Coordination Committee and the regional wildlife move-
 20 ment councils, shall establish a database, to be known as
 21 the “National Wildlife Corridors Database”.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Database shall—

24 (A) include maps, data, models, surveys,
 25 and descriptions of native species habitats, wild-

1 life movements, and corridors that have been
2 developed by Federal agencies that pertain to
3 Federal land and water;

4 (B) include maps, models, analyses, and
5 descriptions of projected shifts in habitats, wild-
6 life movements, and corridors of native species
7 in response to climate change or other environ-
8 mental factors;

9 (C) reflect the best scientific data and in-
10 formation available; and

11 (D) in accordance with the requirements of
12 the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (Public Law
13 115–254), have the data, models, and analyses
14 included in the Database available at scales
15 useful to State, Tribal, local, and Federal agen-
16 cy decisionmakers and the public.

17 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Subject to subsection (d), the
18 Director, in collaboration with the National Coordination
19 Committee, the regional wildlife movement councils, and
20 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
21 pheric Administration, shall—

22 (1) design the Database to support State, Trib-
23 al, local, voluntary private landowner, and Federal
24 agency decisionmakers and the public with data that
25 will allow those entities—

1 (A) to prioritize and target natural re-
2 source adaptation strategies and enhance exist-
3 ing State and Tribal corridor protections;

4 (B) to assess the impacts of proposed en-
5 ergy, water, transportation, and transmission
6 projects, and other development activities, and
7 to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of
8 those projects and activities on National Wild-
9 life Corridors;

10 (C) to assess the impact of new and exist-
11 ing development on native species habitats and
12 National Wildlife Corridors; and

13 (D) to develop strategies that promote
14 habitat connectivity to allow native species to
15 move—

16 (i) to meet biological and ecological
17 needs;

18 (ii) to adjust to shifts in habitat; and

19 (iii) to adapt to climate change;

20 (2) establish a coordination process among Fed-
21 eral agencies to update maps and other information
22 with respect to landscapes, seascapes, native species
23 habitats and ranges, habitat connectivity, National
24 Wildlife Corridors, and wildlife movement changes as

1 information based on new scientific data becomes
2 available; and

3 (3) not later than 5 years after the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, and not less frequently than
5 once every 5 years thereafter, develop, submit a re-
6 port to the Secretary and the appropriate commit-
7 tees of Congress, and make publicly available a re-
8 port, that, with respect to the Database—

9 (A) outlines the categories for data that
10 may be included in the Database;

11 (B) outlines the data protocols and stand-
12 ards for each category of data in the Database;

13 (C) identifies gaps in native species habitat
14 and National Wildlife Corridor information;

15 (D) prioritizes research and future data
16 collection activities for use in updating the
17 Database; and

18 (E) evaluates and quantifies the efficacy of
19 the Database to meet the needs of the entities
20 described in paragraph (1).

21 (d) PROPRIETARY INTERESTS AND PROTECTED IN-
22 FORMATION.—In developing the Database, the Director
23 shall—

24 (1) as applicable, protect proprietary interests
25 with respect to any licensed information, licensed

1 data, and other items contained in the Database;
2 and

3 (2) protect information in the Database with
4 respect to the habitats and ranges of specific native
5 species to prevent poaching, illegal taking and trap-
6 ping, and other related threats to native species.

7 **TITLE V—FUNDING**

8 **SEC. 501. WILDLIFE CORRIDORS STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTENTS.—There is es-
10 tablished in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the
11 “Wildlife Corridors Stewardship Fund”, that consists of
12 donations of amounts accepted under subsection (c).

13 (b) USE.—The Fund—

14 (1) shall be administered by the Secretary and
15 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, acting
16 jointly; and

17 (2) may be used by the National Fish and
18 Wildlife Foundation to enhance the management
19 and protection of National Wildlife Corridors by pro-
20 viding financial assistance to the Federal Govern-
21 ment, Indian tribes, and nongovernmental, science,
22 and academic organizations.

23 (c) DONATIONS.—The National Fish and Wildlife
24 Foundation may solicit and accept donations of amounts
25 for deposit into the Fund.

1 (d) COORDINATION.—In administering the Fund, the
2 Secretary and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
3 may coordinate with regional wildlife movement councils,
4 regional ocean partnerships, and the National Coordina-
5 tion Committee to the maximum extent practicable.

6 (e) DISCLOSURE OF USE.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
8 thereafter, the Secretary and the National Fish and Wild-
9 life Foundation shall make publicly available a description
10 of usage of the Fund during the preceding calendar year.

11 **SEC. 502. WORKING LANDSCAPES.**

12 The Secretary of Agriculture may—

13 (1) direct investments in working landscapes
14 through conservation programs under the jurisdic-
15 tion of the Secretary of Agriculture, including pro-
16 grams under title XII of the Food Security Act of
17 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), to support the pur-
18 poses described in section 2(b); and

19 (2) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
20 give priority under the conservation programs de-
21 scribed in paragraph (1) to non-Federal land and
22 water for the purposes described in section 2(b).

1 **SEC. 503. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR SYSTEM.—

3 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out title
4 I for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter—

5 (1) to the Secretary, \$7,500,000;

6 (2) to the Secretary of Agriculture, \$3,000,000;

7 (3) to the Secretary of Defense, \$1,500,000;

8 (4) to the Secretary of Commerce, \$3,000,000;

9 and

10 (5) to the Secretary of Transportation,
11 \$3,000,000.

12 (b) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—There is au-
13 thorized to be appropriated to carry out title II
14 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year there-
15 after.

16 (c) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM AND
17 REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.—

18 (1) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
20 be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out
21 the wildlife movements grant program under
22 section 301 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022
23 and each fiscal year thereafter.

24 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appro-
25 priated under subparagraph (A) may be used to
26 complement or match other Federal or non-

1 Federal funding received by the projects funded
2 by those grants.

3 (C) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Not
4 more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated
5 under subparagraph (A) may be used for ad-
6 ministrative support.

7 (2) REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUN-
8 CILS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
10 be appropriated to the Secretary to provide sup-
11 port for the regional wildlife movement councils
12 to carry out section 303 \$1,000,000 for fiscal
13 year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.

14 (B) EQUAL DIVISION.—Amounts appro-
15 priated under subparagraph (A) shall be pro-
16 portionally divided between each regional wild-
17 life movement council.

18 (d) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DATABASE.—
19 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
20 to carry out section 401—

21 (1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

22 (2) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2021 and each
23 fiscal year thereafter.

○