

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5179

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Mr. GALLEGRO (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal  
Wildlife Corridors, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Wildlife Cor-  
5 ridors Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

4           (2) CORRIDOR.—The term “corridor” means a  
5           distinct component of a landscape or seascape  
6           that—

7                   (A) provides habitat or ecological connec-  
8                   tivity; and

9                   (B) allows for fish, wildlife, or plant move-  
10                  ment.

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

14                   (A) held in trust by the United States; or

15                   (B) subject to a restriction against alien-  
16                  ation imposed by the United States.

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

21          (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22          the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
23          rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-  
24          ice, in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Af-  
25          fairs.

1           (6) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The term  
2           “Tribal Wildlife Corridor” means a corridor estab-  
3           lished by the Secretary under section 3(a).

4 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—

6           (1) NOMINATIONS.—An Indian tribe may nomi-  
7           nate a corridor within Indian land of the Indian  
8           tribe as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor by submitting to  
9           the Secretary an application at such time, in such  
10          manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
11          retary may require.

12          (2) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days  
13          after the date on which the Secretary receives an ap-  
14          plication under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
15          determine whether the nominated Tribal Wildlife  
16          Corridor described in the application meets the cri-  
17          teria established under subsection (b).

18          (3) PUBLICATION.—On approval of an applica-  
19          tion under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pub-  
20          lish in the Federal Register a notice of the establish-  
21          ment of the Tribal Wildlife Corridor, which shall in-  
22          clude a map and legal description of the land des-  
23          ignated as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.

24          (b) CRITERIA.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days  
2       after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3       retary shall establish criteria for determining wheth-  
4       er a corridor nominated by an Indian tribe under  
5       subsection (a)(1) qualifies as a Tribal Wildlife Cor-  
6       ridor.

7           (2) INCLUSIONS.—The criteria established  
8       under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum,  
9       the following:

10                (A) The restoration of historical habitat  
11               for the purposes of facilitating connectivity.

12                (B) The management of land for the pur-  
13               poses of facilitating connectivity.

14                (C) The management of land to prevent  
15               the imposition of barriers that may hinder cur-  
16               rent or future connectivity.

17       (c) REMOVAL.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may elect to  
19       remove the designation of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor  
20       on the Indian land of the Indian tribe by notifying  
21       the Secretary.

22           (2) EFFECT OF REMOVAL.—An Indian tribe  
23       that elects to remove a designation under paragraph  
24       (1) may not receive assistance under section 5 or 6.

1 **SEC. 4. COORDINATION OF LAND USE PLANS.**

2 Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
3 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by striking “Indian tribes by” and in-  
6 serting the following: “Indian tribes—

7 “(1) by”;

8 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by  
9 striking the period at the end and inserting “;  
10 and”; and

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

12 “(2) for the purposes of determining whether  
13 the land use plans for land in the National Forest  
14 System would provide additional connectivity to ben-  
15 efit the purposes of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor estab-  
16 lished under section 3(a) of the Tribal Wildlife Cor-  
17 ridors Act of 2019.”; and

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

19 “(g) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—On the estab-  
20 lishment of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor under section 3(a)  
21 of the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019, the Secretary  
22 shall conduct a meaningful consultation with the Indian  
23 tribe that administers the Tribal Wildlife Corridor to de-  
24 termine whether, through the revision of one or more ex-  
25 isting land use plans, the Tribal Wildlife Corridor can—

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

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

4   **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

5           The Secretary shall provide to Indian tribes technical  
6   assistance relating to the establishment, management, and  
7   expansion of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor, including assist-  
8   ance with accessing wildlife data and working with private  
9   landowners to access Federal and State programs to im-  
10   prove wildlife habitat and connectivity on non-Federal  
11   land.

12   **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.**

13           (a) CONSERVATION PROGRAMS PRIORITY.—

14               (1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications  
15   under conservation programs described in paragraph  
16   (2), the Secretary of Agriculture may give priority to  
17   an application for a project that would enhance  
18   connectivity through the expansion of a Tribal Wild-  
19   life Corridor.

20               (2) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The conservation  
21   programs referred to in paragraph (1) are any of the  
22   following conservation programs administered by the  
23   Secretary of Agriculture:

24                   (A) The conservation reserve program es-  
25                   tablished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of

1 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act  
2 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).

3 (B) The environmental quality incentives  
4 program established under subchapter A of  
5 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food  
6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et  
7 seq.).

8 (C) The conservation stewardship program  
9 established under subchapter B of chapter 4 of  
10 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act  
11 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21 et seq.).

12 (D) The agricultural conservation ease-  
13 ment program established under subtitle H of  
14 title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
15 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.).

16 (b) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
18 a Tribal Wildlife Corridor grant program to encour-  
19 age wildlife movement in accordance with this Act.

20 (2) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 3 years  
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
22 retary shall make grants under the program estab-  
23 lished under paragraph (1) to one or more Indian  
24 tribes to increase connectivity through Tribal Wild-  
25 life Corridors.

1 **SEC. 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

2       Nothing in this Act authorizes or affects the use of  
3 private property or Indian land.

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