

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2989

To improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. MOORE of Utah) 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

A BILL

To improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, 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,*

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

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Shared stewardship agreement for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 4. Giant sequoia lands coalition.
- Sec. 5. Giant sequoia health and resiliency assessment.
- Sec. 6. Giant sequoia emergency response.
- Sec. 7. Giant sequoia reforestation and rehabilitation strategy.
- Sec. 8. Giant sequoia strike teams.
- Sec. 9. Giant sequoia collaborative restoration grants.
- Sec. 10. Good neighbor authority for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 11. Stewardship contracting for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 12. Giant sequoia emergency protection program and fund.
- Sec. 13. Authorization of appropriations.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) **ASSESSMENT.**—The term “Assessment”
8 means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-
9 sessment required by section 5.

10 (2) **COALITION.**—The term “Coalition” means
11 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition certified under
12 section 4.

13 (3) **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.**—The term “col-
14 laborative process” means a process relating to the
15 management of National Forest System lands or
16 public lands by which a project or forest manage-
17 ment activity is developed and implemented by the
18 Secretary concerned through collaboration with mul-

1 multiple interested persons representing diverse inter-
2 ests.

3 (4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
4 LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System
5 lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-
6 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
7 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
8 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
9 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
10 Forest.

11 (5) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
12 quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
13 *giganteum*.

14 (6) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS RE-
15 DUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific haz-
16 ardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed
17 by the applicable land management agency prior to
18 conducting an analysis under the National Environ-
19 mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to ad-
20 dress hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia
21 groves.

22 (7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
23 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
24 Project carried out under section 6.

1 (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
2 means—

3 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
4 ation Management Area in California managed
5 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

6 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
7 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
8 California managed by the National Park Serv-
9 ice.

10 (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
11 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover by es-
12 tablishing young trees through natural regeneration,
13 artificial or natural regeneration with site prepara-
14 tion, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation com-
15 petition control following artificial or natural regen-
16 eration.

17 (10) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-
18 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-
19 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to
20 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-
21 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

22 (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
24 tees” means—

1 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
2 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
3 Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
5 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
6 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

7 (12) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
8 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
9 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
10 authority to make and implement a decision on a
11 proposed action.

12 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
13 means the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (14) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
15 “Secretary concerned” means—

16 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
17 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
18 or their designee; and

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
20 spect to public lands, or their designee.

21 (15) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
22 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
23 Strategy established under section 7.

1 (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
2 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
3 under section 8.

4 (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
5 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
6 tion, California.

7 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
8 **QUOIAS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
10 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
11 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into an
12 agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor
13 of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry
14 out the following:

15 (1) Not later than 30 days after entering into
16 the agreement, certify the Giant Sequoia Lands Coa-
17 lition in accordance with section 4(a).

18 (2) Not later than 30 days after entering into
19 the agreement, conduct Protection Projects under
20 section 6.

21 (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into
22 the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-
23 quoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy
24 under section 7.

25 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
2 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
3 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
4 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
6 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
7 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
9 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
10 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
11 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
13 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
14 a party to such agreement.

15 **SEC. 4. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
17 tion with the parties to such agreement, shall certify the
18 Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition in accordance with the
19 charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter”
20 (or successor charter) signed during the period beginning
21 June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022 by each of the
22 following:

23 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
24 quoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

1 (2) The National Park Service, representing
2 Yosemite National Park.

3 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
4 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
5 ment.

6 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
7 tional Forest.

8 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
9 tional Forest.

10 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
11 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
12 agement Area.

13 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
14 dian Reservation.

15 (8) The State of California, representing
16 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

17 (9) The State of California, representing Moun-
18 tain Home Demonstration State Forest.

19 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
20 representing Whitaker's Research Forest.

21 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
22 resenting Balch Park.

23 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
24 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
25 shall—

1 (1) carry out the Assessment under section 5;

2 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
3 recommendations to the Secretary, with respect to—

4 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
5 section 6; and

6 (B) the Strategy established under section
7 7;

8 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
9 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
10 jurisdictional boundaries;

11 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
12 available science as described in section 5(c) and
13 mapping resources; and

14 (5) support the development and dissemination
15 of educational materials and programs that inform
16 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
17 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being
18 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
19 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

20 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
21 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
22 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
23 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
24 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-

1 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
2 essary to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**
4 **MENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 first meeting of the Coalition, the Coalition shall submit
7 to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia
8 Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best
9 available science—

10 (1) identifies—

11 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
12 perience a—

13 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

14 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
15 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
16 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
17 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
18 grove;

19 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
20 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
21 turbance;

22 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves
23 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity
24 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant
25 sequoia groves; and

1 (D) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
2 perience a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-
3 rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

4 (2) analyzes the resiliency of each giant sequoia
5 grove to threats, such as—

6 (A) high-severity wildfire;

7 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

8 (C) drought;

9 (3) with respect to Protection Projects, pro-
10 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to
11 be carried out under section 6, giving priority to
12 projects located on lands identified under subpara-
13 graphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(1);

14 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
15 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
16 management activities across various jurisdictions
17 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
18 quoya groves with respect to—

19 (A) high-severity wildfires;

20 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

21 (C) drought; and

22 (5) includes program and policy recommenda-
23 tions that address—

24 (A) Federal and State policies that impede
25 activities to improve the health and resiliency of

1 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to
2 address such impediments;

3 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-
4 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-
5 ments that improve the health and resiliency of
6 giant sequoias;

7 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
8 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
9 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
10 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

11 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
12 dressed to improve the best available science on
13 the giant sequoias.

14 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
16 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
17 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
18 tees that—

19 (1) includes any new data, information, or best
20 available science that has changed or become avail-
21 able since the previous Assessment was submitted;

22 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

23 (A) includes information on the number of
24 Protection Projects initiated the previous year

1 and the estimated timeline for completing those
2 projects;

3 (B) includes information on the number of
4 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
5 year and the estimated timeline for completing
6 those projects;

7 (C) provides status updates and long-term
8 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
9 after the completion of Protection Projects;

10 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to
11 initiate at least 7 Protection Projects in the
12 previous year, a written explanation that in-
13 cludes—

14 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
15 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at
16 least 7 Protection Projects;

17 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
18 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to
19 ensure that at least 7 Protection Projects
20 are initiated the following year; and

21 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
22 any policies that need to be changed to as-
23 sist the Secretary concerned in initiating
24 Protection Projects; and

1 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
2 tion of giant sequoias—

3 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
4 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
5 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
6 tion activities; and

7 (B) provides status updates and moni-
8 toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have
9 experienced natural or artificial regeneration as
10 part of the Strategy under section 7.

11 (c) DASHBOARD.—

12 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coali-
13 tion shall create and maintain a website that—

14 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
15 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
16 materials developed by the Coalition;

17 (B) contains searchable information about
18 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

19 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
20 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
21 subsection (a);

22 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
23 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
24 groves; and

1 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
2 activities that have been proposed, initi-
3 ated, or completed in such groves; and

4 (C) maintains a searchable database to
5 track—

6 (i) the status of Federal environ-
7 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
8 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
9 and rehabilitation activities; and

10 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
11 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
12 tion activities.

13 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
14 shall include information on the status of Protection
15 Projects in the searchable database created under
16 paragraph (1)(C), including—

17 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

18 (B) the status of the compliance of each
19 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
20 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

21 (C) any modifications of the permitting
22 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
23 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
24 timetable was modified; and

1 (D) information about project-related pub-
2 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
3 ment periods, which shall be presented in
4 English and the predominant language of the
5 community or communities most affected by the
6 project, as that information becomes available.

7 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
8 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
9 include—

10 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
11 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
12 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
13 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
14 giant sequoia resiliency;

15 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
16 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
17 of giant sequoia groves; and

18 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
19 governments or agencies.

20 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
21 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
22 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
23 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
24 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to

1 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
2 gration of—

3 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
4 technologies;

5 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

6 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
7 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
8 the Assessment.

9 (f) PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make informa-
10 tion from this Assessment available to the Secretary con-
11 cerned and State of California to integrate into the—

12 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
13 Resilience Action Plan;

14 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis
15 Strategy (or successor plan); and

16 (3) Department of the Interior’s Wildfire Risk
17 Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment
18 Plan (or successor plan).

19 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
20 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission
21 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-
22 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
23 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 6. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

2 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
3 QUOIAS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—

5 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
6 gress determines that—

7 (i) an emergency exists on public
8 lands and covered National Forest System
9 lands that makes it necessary to carry out
10 Protection Projects that take needed ac-
11 tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,
12 insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

13 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
14 to control the immediate impacts of the
15 emergency described in clause (i) and are
16 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
17 or important natural or cultural resources
18 on public lands and covered National For-
19 est System lands.

20 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
21 mination established under subparagraph (A)
22 shall apply to all public lands and covered Na-
23 tional Forest System lands.

24 (C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
25 mination established under subparagraph (A)

1 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
4 determination established under subsection (a) is in
5 effect—

6 (A) a responsible official may carry out a
7 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
8 before initiating—

9 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
10 the National Environmental Policy Act of
11 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

12 (ii) consultation under section 7 of the
13 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
14 U.S.C. 1536); and

15 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
16 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
17 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

18 (B) the rules established under subsections
19 (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure
20 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)
21 and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection
22 Projects by substituting “Protection Projects”
23 for “authorized emergency action under this
24 section” each place it appears in such sub-
25 sections; and

1 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to
2 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the
3 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
4 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

5 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
6 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
7 ment activities as Protection Projects under the
8 emergency determination under this section:

9 (A) Activities recommended by the Assess-
10 ment under section 5.

11 (B) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
12 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
13 tion, and prescribed burning.

14 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
15 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
16 mined by the responsible official.

17 (D) Removing trees to address over-
18 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
19 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
20 forest stand as determined by the responsible
21 official.

22 (E) Activities included in the applicable
23 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

1 (F) Using chemical treatments to address
2 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
3 petition.

4 (G) Any combination of activities described
5 in this paragraph.

6 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
8 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
9 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
10 under this Act that are described by subpara-
11 graph (D) are a category of actions hereby des-
12 ignated as being categorically excluded from the
13 preparation of an environmental assessment or
14 an environmental impact statement under sec-
15 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy
16 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

17 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
18 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
19 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
20 with this section.

21 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

22 (i) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that
23 Protection Projects carried out under this
24 section are consistent with improving the
25 health and resiliency of critical habitat for

1 threatened and endangered species, includ-
2 ing the pacific fisher and California spot-
3 ted owl.

4 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal
5 consultation requirements in sections
6 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,
7 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
8 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-
9 tion Projects.

10 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
11 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
12 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
13 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity—

15 (i) covers an area of no more than—

16 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
17 quoia groves where a grove-specific
18 hazardous fuels reduction plan has
19 been developed by the relevant land
20 management agency or on lands iden-
21 tified under section 5(a)(1)(B); and

22 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
23 fied under section 5(a)(1)(C); and

24 (ii) was—

- 1 (I) proposed by the Assessment
2 under section 5(a)(3);
3 (II) developed through a collabo-
4 rative process; or
5 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
6 sory committee (as defined in section
7 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and
8 Community Self-Determination Act of
9 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and
10 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
11 Federal land with the consent of the non-
12 Federal landowner.

13 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
14 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
15 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
16 this section in combination with other authori-
17 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
18 ing—

- 19 (i) good neighbor agreements entered
20 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
21 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and
22 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
23 entered into under section 604 of the
24 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
25 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

1 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
2 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
3 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
4 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
5 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
6 Tribe.

7 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
8 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer
9 than 7 Protection Projects each year.

10 **SEC. 7. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHABILITA-**
11 **TION STRATEGY.**

12 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
13 EGY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
15 timeline and agreement established in section
16 3(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
17 ties to such agreement, shall develop and implement
18 a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Refor-
19 estation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the
20 reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia
21 groves that—

22 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
23 of natural or artificial regeneration, giving
24 highest priority to groves identified under sec-
25 tion 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

- 1 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
2 and rehabilitation activities;
- 3 (C) identifies and addresses—
- 4 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
5 bilitation including—
- 6 (I) regulatory barriers;
- 7 (II) seedling shortages or related
8 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
9 straints;
- 10 (III) labor and workforce short-
11 ages;
- 12 (IV) technology and science gaps;
- 13 and
- 14 (V) site preparation challenges;
- 15 (ii) potential public-private partner-
16 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
17 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;
- 18 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
19 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
20 in the 10-year period after the agreement
21 is entered into under section 3; and
- 22 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
23 sity across giant sequoia groves; and

1 (D) includes program and policy rec-
2 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
3 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

4 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-
5 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-
6 tion 5.

7 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
8 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
9 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
10 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

11 (1) in item (bb), by striking “and”;

12 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
13 serting “; and”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(dd) shall include reforestation and rehabilitation
16 activities conducted under section 7 of the Save Our Se-
17 quoiias Act.”.

18 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
19 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
20 “Nothing in this Act shall restrict or prohibit the Sec-
21 retary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture from
22 conducting reforestation (as such term is defined in sec-
23 tion 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act) activities to reestab-
24 lish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the period
25 at the end.

1 **SEC. 8. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.**

2 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
4 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
5 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
6 plementation of—

7 (A) primarily, section 6; and

8 (B) secondarily, section 7.

9 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

10 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
11 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
12 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
13 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
14 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16
15 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under
16 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
17 1531 et seq.);

18 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
19 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
20 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
21 activity;

22 (C) implement Protection Projects under
23 section 6; and

24 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
25 tion activities under section 7.

1 (3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may
2 appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve
3 on a Strike Team comprised of—

4 (A) employees of the Department of the
5 Interior;

6 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

7 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
8 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
9 ment, local government, academic institution, or
10 private organization; and

11 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
12 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
13 local government, academic institution, or pri-
14 vate organization.

15 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
16 **GRANTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
18 with the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall
19 establish a program to award grants to eligible entities
20 to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and
21 resiliency.

22 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
23 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
24 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-

1 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
2 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

3 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
5 that—

6 (1) primarily, are likely to have the greatest im-
7 pact on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and

8 (2) secondarily—

9 (A) are small businesses, particularly in
10 rural areas; and

11 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
12 rural areas.

13 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Funds from grants
14 awarded under this section shall be used to—

15 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
16 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
17 markets for biomass and biochar;

18 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
19 tion 6, including by reducing the cost of trans-
20 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
21 tion Project;

22 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-
23 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or
24 process hazardous fuels removed under section 6;
25 and

1 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
2 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
3 facilitate the Strategy established under section 7.

4 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
5 **QUOIAS.**

6 Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
7 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—

10 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
13 clause (iv);

14 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
15 following:

16 “(iii) activities conducted under sec-
17 tion 6 of the Save Our Sequoias Act;”;

18 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
19 by striking the period at the end and in-
20 serting “; or”; and

21 (v) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(v) any combination of activities
23 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”;

24 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-
25 dian tribe”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
2 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
3 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
4 semite National Park.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
7 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

8 (B) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read
9 as follows:

10 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds
11 received from the sale of timber by a Governor,
12 an Indian tribe, or a county under a good
13 neighbor agreement shall be retained and used
14 by the Governor, Indian tribe, or county, as ap-
15 plicable—

16 “(i) to carry out authorized restora-
17 tion services under such good neighbor
18 agreement; and

19 “(ii) if there are funds remaining
20 after carrying out the services under clause
21 (i), to carry out authorized restoration
22 services within the State under other good
23 neighbor agreements.”;

24 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
25 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

1 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

2 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
3 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
4 2113a(a)) is amended—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “,
6 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, In-
8 dian tribe,” after “Governor”.

9 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
10 **QUOIAS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
12 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
13 6591c(c)) is amended to read—

14 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
15 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
16 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
17 and the Director of the National Park Service with
18 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
19 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
20 tional Park.”.

21 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
22 Section 604(e) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
23 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
24 end the following:

1 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of
2 giant sequoias.”.

3 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
4 **GRAM AND FUND.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 101123. Giant sequoia emergency protection pro-**
9 **gram and fund**

10 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
11 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
12 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
13 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
14 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

15 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
16 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
17 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
18 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

19 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-
20 quoias on National Park Service and covered Na-
21 tional Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

22 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
23 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination
24 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
25 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia

1 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
2 this section), to be administered in support of the program
3 established under subsection (a).

4 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
5 PROTECTION.—The following shall apply to the
6 Fund:

7 “(A) The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
8 devises, or bequests that are provided to the
9 National Park Foundation or National Forest
10 Foundation for such purpose.

11 “(B) The National Park Foundation and
12 National Forest Foundation shall deposit any
13 funds received for the Fund in a federally in-
14 sured interest-bearing account or may invest
15 funds in appropriate security obligations, as
16 mutually agreed upon.

17 “(C) Any accrued interest or dividends
18 earned on funds received for the Fund shall be
19 added to the principal and form a part of the
20 Fund.

21 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
22 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
23 est Foundation without further appropriation, sub-
24 ject to the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects
25 and activities approved by the Chief of the Forest

1 Service or the Director of the National Park Service
2 as appropriate, or their designees, to—

3 “(A) primarily, support the management
4 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
5 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-
6 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
7 sects, and drought; and

8 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
9 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
10 covered National Forest System lands impacted
11 by wildfire.

12 “(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
13 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
14 est Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than
15 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support
16 tribal management and conservation of giant se-
17 quoias.

18 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
19 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
20 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
21 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
22 and Fund created under this section that includes—

23 “(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in
24 the Fund during the fiscal year;

1 “(2) the amount of the balance remaining in
2 the Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

3 “(3) a description of the program and projects
4 funded during the fiscal year.

5 “(d) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
6 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered National
7 Forest System lands’ has the meaning given such term
8 in section 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions for chapter of title 54, United States Code, is amend-
11 ed by inserting at the end the following:

 “Sec. 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.”.

12 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
14 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
15 retary concerned shall allocate up to—

16 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

17 (2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

18 (3) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
19 through 2028; and

20 (4) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2029
21 through 2030.

22 (b) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts authorized under
23 subsection (a), not less than 90 percent of funds shall be
24 used to carry out section 6 and section 9 of this Act.

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