

Union Calendar No. 456

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 2795

[Report No. 116-558, Part I]

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

October 9, 2020

Additional sponsors: Ms. Haaland, Mr. Luján, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico, Mr. Rooney of Florida, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Norton, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Murphy of Florida

October 9, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment [Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

OCTOBER 9, 2020

Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 16, 2019]

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 movement 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.

8 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

- 9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- 10 (1) the native fish, wildlife, and plant species in
- 11 the United States are part of a rich natural heritage

1	and an important legacy to pass on to future genera-
2	tions;
3	(2) the populations of many native fish, wildlife,
4	and plant species in the United States are in decline;
5	(3) scientists estimate that 1 in 5 animal and
6	plant species in the United States is at risk of extinc-
7	tion, and many species are declining in numbers;
8	(4) threats to the survival and diversity of many
9	native fish, wildlife, and plant species in the United
10	States include the loss, degradation, fragmentation,
11	and obstruction of natural habitats;
12	(5) climate change threatens native fish, wildlife,
13	and plant species;
14	(6) the 2019 global assessment report from the
15	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bio-
16	diversity and Ecosystem Services found that—
17	(A) 1,000,000 wildlife and plant species
18	worldwide are now threatened with extinction;
19	and
20	(B) 75 percent of the land-based environ-
21	ment, and approximately 66 percent of the ma-
22	rine environment, have been significantly altered
23	by human actions;
24	(7) the conservation of new and existing land-
25	scape and seascape corridors, through which native

1	species can transition from 1 habitat to another,
2	plays an important role in helping—
3	(A) to conserve native biodiversity; and
4	(B) to ensure resiliency against impacts
5	from a range of biotic and abiotic stressors;
6	(8) the conservation, restoration, and establish-
7	ment of new ecological connections to facilitate the
8	movement of species into more suitable habitats is a
9	key climate change adaptation strategy;
10	(9) the protection of new and existing corridors
11	is often one of the first steps in restoration and recov-
12	ery planning;
13	(10) States have recognized the importance of
14	habitat connectivity, including—
15	(A) a New England Governors and Eastern
16	Canadian Premiers' Conference on the impor-
17	tance of connectivity for ecosystem adaptability
18	and resilience, biodiversity, and human commu-
19	nities; and
20	(B) past Western Governors' Association
21	policy resolution;
22	(11) the strategic plan of the United States Fish
23	and Wildlife Service to respond to accelerating cli-
24	mate change entitled "Rising to the Urgent Chal-
25	lenge" acknowledges that "processes such as polli-

1	nation, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, natural dis-
2	turbance cycles, predator-prey relations, and others
3	must be part of the natural landscapes we seek to
4	maintain or restore and are likely to function
5	more optimally in landscapes composed of large habi-
6	tat blocks connected by well-placed corridors";
7	(12) Federal and State agencies continue to de-
8	velop policies to address—
9	(A) the importance of conserving fish, wild-
10	life, and plant corridors;
11	(B) the gap between science and manage-
12	ment for at-risk species; and
13	(C) ecological connectivity; and
14	(13) Federal policies consistently recognize the
15	importance of voluntary improvement projects by pri-
16	vate landowners to habitat conservation and restora-
17	tion for native species.
18	(b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are—
19	(1) to support a diverse array of native species,
20	including species protected under Federal, State, and
21	Tribal law, that have experienced or may experience
22	habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, or obstruc-
23	tion to connectivity;
24	(2) to provide long-term habitat connectivity for
25	native species migration, dispersal, adaptation to cli-

1	mate and other environmental change, and genetic ex-
2	change;
3	(3) to help restore wildlife movements that have
4	been disrupted by habitat loss, degradation, frag-
5	$mentation,\ or\ obstruction;$
6	(4) to facilitate coordinated landscape- and
7	seascape-scale connectivity planning and management
8	across jurisdictions; and
9	(5) to support State, Tribal, local, voluntary pri-
10	vate landowner, and Federal agency decisionmakers
11	in the planning and development of National Wildlife
12	Corridors.
13	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.
14	In this Act:
15	(1) Appropriate committees of congress.—
16	The term "appropriate committees of Congress"
17	means—
18	(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
19	Resources of the Senate;
20	(B) the Committee on Environment and
21	Public Works of the Senate;
22	(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the
23	Senate;
24	(D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
25	merce of the House of Representatives;

1	(E) the Committee on Natural Resources of
2	the House of Representatives; and
3	(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the
4	House of Representatives.
5	(2) Connectivity.—The term "connectivity"
6	means the degree to which the landscape or seascape
7	facilitates native species movement.
8	(3) Corridor.—The term "corridor" means a
9	feature of the landscape or seascape that—
10	(A) provides habitat or ecological
11	connectivity; and
12	(B) allows for native species movement or
13	dispersal.
14	(4) Database.—The term "Database" means the
15	National Wildlife Corridors Database established
16	$under\ section\ 401(a).$
17	(5) Federal land or water.—The term "Fed-
18	eral land or water" means any land or water, or in-
19	terest in land or water, owned by the United States.
20	(6) Fund.—The term "Fund" means the Wildlife
21	Corridors Stewardship Fund established by section
22	501(a).
23	(7) Habitat.—The term "habitat" means land,
24	water, and substrate occupied at any time during the
25	life cycle of a native species that is necessary, with re-

1	spect to the native species, for spawning, breeding,
2	feeding, growth to maturity, or migration.
3	(8) Indian Land.—The term "Indian land"
4	means land of an Indian tribe, or an Indian indi-
5	vidual, that is—
6	(A) held in trust by the United States; or
7	(B) subject to a restriction against alien-
8	ation imposed by the United States.
9	(9) Indian tribe.—The term "Indian tribe" has
10	the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian
11	Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
12	U.S.C. 5304).
13	(10) National coordination committee.—The
14	term "National Coordination Committee" means the
15	National Coordination Committee established under
16	section $302(a)$.
17	(11) National wildlife corridor.—The term
18	"National Wildlife Corridor" means any Federal land
19	or water designated as a National Wildlife Corridor
20	$under\ section\ 101(a).$
21	(12) National wildlife corridor system.—
22	The term "National Wildlife Corridor System" means
23	the system of National Wildlife Corridors established
24	by section $101(a)$.

1	(13) Native species.—The term "native spe-
2	cies" means—
3	(A) a fish, wildlife, or plant species that is
4	or was historically present in a particular eco-
5	system as a result of natural migratory or evolu-
6	tionary processes, including subspecies and plant
7	varieties; and
8	(B) a migratory bird species that is native
9	to the United States or its territories (as defined
10	in section 2(b) of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
11	(16 U.S.C. 703(b))).
12	(14) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP.—The term
13	"regional ocean partnership" means a regional orga-
14	nization of coastal or Great Lakes States, territories,
15	or possessions voluntarily convened by Governors to
16	address cross-jurisdictional ocean matters, or the
17	functional equivalent of such a regional ocean organi-
18	zation designated by the Governor or Governors of a
19	State or States.
20	(15) Regional wildlife movement coun-
21	CIL.—The term "regional wildlife movement council"
22	means a regional wildlife movement council estab-
23	lished under section $303(a)$.
24	(16) Secretaries.—The term "Secretaries"
25	means—

1	(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;
2	(B) the Secretary of Commerce;
3	(C) the Secretary of Defense;
4	(D) the Secretary of the Interior; and
5	(E) the Secretary of Transportation.
6	(17) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
7	the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
8	rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
9	(18) Tribal Wildlife Corridor.—The term
10	"Tribal Wildlife Corridor" means a corridor estab-
11	lished by the Secretary under section $201(a)(1)(C)$.
12	(19) United states.—The term "United
13	States", when used in a geographical sense, means—
14	(A) a State;
15	(B) the District of Columbia;
16	(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
17	(D) $Guam;$
18	(E) American Samoa;
19	(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
20	Mariana Islands;
21	(G) the Federated States of Micronesia;
22	(H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
23	(I) the Republic of Palau;
24	(I) the United States Virgin Islands; and

1	(K) the territorial sea (within the meaning
2	of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
3	and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.))
4	and the exclusive economic zone (as defined in
5	section 3 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) within
6	the jurisdiction or sovereignty of the Federal
7	Government.
8	(20) Wildlife Movement.—The term "wildlife
9	movement" means the passage of individual members
10	or populations of native species across a landscape or
11	seascape.
12	TITLE I—NATIONAL WILDLIFE
13	CORRIDOR SYSTEM ON FED-
14	ERAL LAND AND WATER
15	SEC. 101. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.
16	(a) Establishment.—There is established a system
17	of corridors on Federal land and water, to be known as
18	the "National Wildlife Corridor System", which shall con-
19	sist of National Wildlife Corridors designated as part of the
20	National Wildlife Corridor System by—
21	(1) statute;
22	(2) rulemaking under section 102; or
23	(3) a land management or land use plan devel-

1	(b) Strategy.—Not later than 18 months after the
2	date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop
3	a strategy for the effective development of the National
4	Wildlife Corridor System—
5	(1) to support the fulfillment of the purposes de-
6	scribed in section 2(b);
7	(2) to ensure coordination and consistency across
8	Federal agencies in the development, implementation,
9	and management of National Wildlife Corridors; and
10	(3) to develop a timeline for the implementation
11	of National Wildlife Corridors.
12	SEC. 102. ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL
13	WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.
14	(a) Rulemaking.—
15	(1) National wildlife corridors.—Not later
16	than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
17	the Secretaries, pursuant to the Secretaries' respective
18	land, water, and resource management planning and
19	conservation authorities, shall establish a process, by
20	regulation, for the designation and management of
21	National Wildlife Corridors on Federal land or water
22	under the respective jurisdictions of the Secretaries.
23	(2) Federal land and water management.—
24	The Secretaries shall consider the designation of Na-

1	the issuance, revision, or modification of a manage-
2	ment plan for land or water under the respective ju-
3	risdiction of the Secretaries.
4	(b) Criteria for Designation.—The regulations
5	promulgated by the Secretary under subsection (a)(1) shall
6	ensure that, in designating a National Wildlife Corridor,
7	the Secretaries—
8	(1) base the designation of the National Wildlife
9	Corridor on—
10	(A) coordination with existing—
11	(i) National Wildlife Corridors;
12	(ii) corridors established or recognized
13	by States; and
14	(iii) Tribal Wildlife Corridors; and
15	(B) the best available science of—
16	(i) existing native species habitat; and
17	(ii) likely future native species habi-
18	tats;
19	(2) determine that the National Wildlife Cor-
20	ridor supports the connectivity, persistence, resilience,
21	and adaptability of the native species for which it has
22	been designated by providing for—
23	(A) dispersal and genetic exchange between
24	populations;

1	(B) range shifting, range expansion, or
2	range restoration, such as in response to climate
3	change;
4	(C) seasonal movement or migration; or
5	(D) succession, movement, or recolonization
6	following—
7	(i) a disturbance, such as fire, flood,
8	drought, or infestation; or
9	(ii) population decline or previous ex-
10	tirpation;
11	(3) consult the Database; and
12	(4) consider recommendations from the National
13	Coordination Committee under section $302(e)(2)(C)$.
14	(c) Designation of Federal Land or Water Re-
15	QUIRING RESTORATION OR CONNECTION OF HABITAT.—The
16	Secretaries may designate as a National Wildlife Corridor
17	land or water that—
18	(1) is necessary for the natural movements of 1
19	or more native species;
20	(2) requires restoration, including—
21	(A) land or water that is degraded; and
22	(B) land or water from which a species is
23	currently absent—
24	(i) but may be colonized or recolonized
25	by the species naturally; or

1	(ii) to which the species may be re-
2	introduced or restored based on habitat
3	changes; and
4	(3) is fragmented or consists of only a portion of
5	the habitat required for the connectivity needs of 1 or
6	more native species.
7	(d) Nomination for Designation.—
8	(1) In general.—In establishing the process for
9	designation under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary
10	shall include procedures under which—
11	(A) any State, Tribal, or local government,
12	or a nongovernmental organization engaged in
13	the conservation of native species and the im-
14	provement of the habitats of native species, may
15	submit to the Secretaries a nomination to des-
16	ignate as a National Wildlife Corridor Federal
17	land or water under the respective jurisdiction of
18	the Secretaries; and
19	(B) the Secretaries shall consider and, not
20	later than 1 year after the date on which the
21	nomination was submitted under subparagraph
22	(A), respond to any nomination submitted under
23	$that\ subparagraph.$

1	(2) Supporting documentation.—A nomina-
2	tion for designation under paragraph (1)(A) shall in-
3	clude supporting documentation, including—
4	(A) the native species for which the Na-
5	tional Wildlife Corridor would be designated;
6	(B) summaries and references of, with re-
7	spect to the designation of a National Wildlife
8	Corridor—
9	(i) the best science available at the
10	time of the submission of the nomination for
11	designation documenting why the corridor
12	is needed; and
13	(ii) the most current scientific reports
14	available at the time of the submission of
15	the nomination for designation;
16	(C) information with respect to how the
17	nomination was coordinated with potential part-
18	ners;
19	(D) a description of supporting stake-
20	holders, such as States, Indian tribes, local gov-
21	ernments, scientific organizations, nongovern-
22	mental organizations, and affected voluntary
23	private landowners; and
24	(E) any additional information the Secre-
25	taries, in consultation with the National Coordi-

1	nation Committee, determine is relevant to the
2	nomination.
3	(e) Designation on Military Land.—
4	(1) In general.—Any designation of a Na-
5	tional Wildlife Corridor on a military installation
6	(as defined in section 100 of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C.
7	670))—
8	(A) shall be consistent with the use of mili-
9	tary installations and State-owned National
10	Guard installations to ensure the preparedness of
11	the Armed Forces; and
12	(B) may not result in a net loss in the ca-
13	pability of military installation lands to support
14	the military mission of the installation.
15	(2) Suspension or termination of designa-
16	TION.—The Secretary of Defense may suspend or ter-
17	minate the designation of any National Wildlife Cor-
18	ridor on a military installation if the Secretary of
19	Defense considers the suspension or termination to be
20	necessary for military purposes, after public notice
21	of—
22	(A) the suspension or termination; and
23	(B) any voluntary steps taken by the De-
24	partment of Defense to attempt to provide simi-

1	lar ecological connectivity elsewhere on the mili-
2	tary installation.
3	SEC. 103. MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE COR-
4	RIDORS.
5	(a) In General.—The Secretaries shall, consistent
6	with other applicable Federal land and water management
7	requirements, laws, and regulations, manage each National
8	Wildlife Corridor under the respective administrative juris-
9	diction of the Secretaries in a manner that contributes to
10	the long-term connectivity, persistence, resilience, and
11	adaptability of native species for which the National Wild-
12	life Corridor is identified, including through—
13	(1) the maintenance and improvement of habitat
14	connectivity within the National Wildlife Corridor;
15	(2) the implementation of strategies and activi-
16	ties that enhance the ability of native species to re-
17	spond to climate change and other environmental fac-
18	tors;
19	(3) the maintenance or restoration of the integ-
20	rity and functionality of the National Wildlife Cor-
21	ridor;
22	(4) the mitigation or removal of human infra-
23	structure that obstructs the natural movement of na-
24	tive species; and

1	(5) the use of existing conservation programs, in-
2	cluding Tribal Wildlife Corridors, under the respec-
3	tive jurisdiction of the Secretaries to contribute to the
4	connectivity, persistence, resilience, and adaptability
5	of native species.
6	(b) National Wildlife Corridors Spanning Mul-
7	TIPLE JURISDICTIONS.—In the case of a National Wildlife
8	Corridor that spans the administrative jurisdiction of 2 or
9	more of the Secretaries, the relevant Secretaries shall coordi-
10	nate management of the National Wildlife Corridor in ac-
11	cordance with section 104(b) to advance the purposes de-
12	scribed in section 2(b).
13	(c) ROAD MITIGATION.—In the case of a National
14	Wildlife Corridor that intersects, adjoins, or crosses a new
15	or existing State, Tribal, or local road or highway, the rel-
16	evant Secretaries shall coordinate with the Secretary of
17	Transportation and State, Tribal, and local transportation
18	agencies, as appropriate, to identify and implement vol-
19	untary environmental mitigation measures—
20	(1) to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-
21	caused native species mortality while maintaining
22	habitat connectivity; and
23	(2) to mitigate damage to the natural movements
24	of native species through strategies such as—

1	(A) the construction, maintenance, or re-
2	placement of native species underpasses, over-
3	passes, and culverts; and
4	(B) the maintenance, replacement, or re-
5	moval of dams, bridges, culverts, and other
6	$hydrological\ obstructions.$
7	(d) Compatible Uses.—A use of Federal land or
8	water that was authorized before the date on which the Fed-
9	eral land or water is designated as a National Wildlife Cor-
10	ridor may continue if the applicable Secretaries determine
11	that the use is compatible with the wildlife movements of
12	the species for which the National Wildlife Corridor was
13	designated, consistent with applicable Federal laws and reg-
14	ulations.
15	SEC. 104. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.
16	(a) Collaboration.—The Secretaries may partner
17	with and provide funds to States, local governments, Indian
18	tribes, the National Coordination Committee, voluntary
19	private landowners, and the regional wildlife movement
20	councils to support the purposes described in section 2(b).
21	(b) Coordination.—To the maximum extent prac-
22	ticable and consistent with applicable law, the Secretary
23	or Secretaries, as applicable, shall develop the strategy

 $24\ \ under\ section\ 101 (b),\ designate\ National\ Wildlife\ Corridors$

1	under section 102, and manage National Wildlife Corridors
2	under section 103—
3	(1) in consultation and coordination with—
4	(A) other relevant Federal agencies;
5	(B) States, including—
6	(i) State fish and wildlife agencies;
7	and
8	(ii) other State agencies responsible for
9	managing the natural resources and wild-
10	$\it life;$
11	(C) Indian tribes;
12	(D) units of local government;
13	(E) other interested stakeholders identified
14	by the Secretary, including applicable voluntary
15	$private\ landowners;$
16	(F) landscape- and seascape-scale partner-
17	ships, including—
18	(i) the National Fish Habitat Partner-
19	ship;
20	(ii) the National Marine Fisheries
21	Service;
22	(iii) regional fishery management
23	councils established under section 302(a) of
24	the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
25	and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a));

1	(iv) relevant regional ocean partner-
2	ships;
3	(v) the Climate Science Centers of the
4	Department of the Interior; and
5	(vi) the Landscape Conservation Coop-
6	$erative\ Network;$
7	(G) the National Coordination Committee;
8	and
9	(H) the regional wildlife movement councils.
10	SEC. 105. EFFECT.
11	(a) Relationship to Other Conservation
12	Laws.—Nothing in this Act amends or otherwise affects
13	any other law (including regulations) relating to the con-
14	servation of native species.
15	(b) Jurisdiction of States and Indian Tribes.—
16	Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act
17	affects the jurisdiction of a State or an Indian tribe with
18	respect to fish and wildlife management, including the regu-
19	lation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in a National
20	Wildlife Corridor or a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.
21	TITLE II—TRIBAL WILDLIFE
22	CORRIDORS
23	SEC. 201. TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.
24	(a) Establishment.—
25	(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 Wildlife Corridor, which shall include a map and legal description of the land designated as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.
- 24 (2) Criteria.—

1	(A) In general.—Not later than 18
2	months after the date of enactment of this Act,
3	the Secretary shall establish criteria for deter-
4	mining whether a corridor nominated by an In-
5	dian tribe under paragraph (1)(A) qualifies as a
6	Tribal Wildlife Corridor.
7	(B) Inclusions.—The criteria established
8	under subparagraph (A) shall include, at a min-
9	imum, the following:
10	(i) The restoration of historical habitat
11	for the purposes of facilitating connectivity.
12	(ii) The management of land for the
13	purposes of facilitating connectivity.
14	(iii) The management of land to pre-
15	vent the imposition of barriers that may
16	hinder current or future connectivity.
17	(3) Removal.—
18	(A) In General.—An Indian tribe may
19	elect to remove the designation of a Tribal Wild-
20	life Corridor on the Indian land of the Indian
21	tribe by notifying the Secretary.
22	(B) Effect of removal.—An Indian tribe
23	that elects to remove a designation under sub-
24	paragraph (A) may not receive assistance under
25	subsection (c) or $(d)(1)$ or section 301.

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1
        (b) Coordination of Land Use Plans.—Section
   202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
    1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended—
 3
 4
             (1) in subsection (b)—
                  (A) by striking "Indian tribes by" and in-
 5
             serting the following: "Indian tribes—
 6
 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 the
13
        land use plans for land in the National Forest Sys-
14
        tem would provide additional connectivity to benefit
15
        the purposes of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor established
16
        under section 10(a)(1) of the Wildlife Corridors Con-
17
        servation Act of 2019."; and
18
             (2) by adding at the end the following:
19
        "(g) Tribal Wildlife Corridors.—On the estab-
    lishment of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor under section
20
21
    10(a)(1) of the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019,
    the Secretary shall conduct a meaningful consultation with
    the Indian tribe that administers the Tribal Wildlife Cor-
    ridor to determine whether, through the revision of 1 or
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1	more existing land use plans, the Tribal Wildlife Corridor
2	can—
3	"(1) be expanded into public lands; or
4	"(2) otherwise benefit connectivity (as defined in
5	section 3 of that Act) between public lands and the
6	Tribal Wildlife Corridor.".
7	(c) Technical Assistance.—The Secretary shall
8	provide to Indian tribes technical assistance relating to the
9	establishment, management, and expansion of a Tribal
10	Wildlife Corridor, including assistance with accessing wild-
11	life data and working with voluntary private landowners
12	to access Federal and State programs to improve wildlife
13	habitat and connectivity on non-Federal land.
14	(d) Availability of Assistance.—
15	(1) Conservation programs consider-
16	ATION.—
17	(A) In General.—In evaluating applica-
18	tions under conservation programs described in
19	subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture
20	may consider whether a project would enhance
21	connectivity through the expansion of a Tribal
22	Wildlife Corridor.
23	(B) Programs described.—The conserva-
24	tion programs referred to in subparagraph (A)

1	are any of the following conservation programs
2	administered by the Secretary of Agriculture:
3	(i) The conservation reserve program
4	$established\ under\ subchapter\ B\ of\ chapter\ 1$
5	of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
6	rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).
7	(ii) The environmental quality incen-
8	tives program established under subchapter
9	A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of
10	the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
11	3839aa et seq.).
12	(iii) The conservation stewardship pro-
13	$gram\ established\ under\ subchapter\ B\ of$
14	chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the
15	Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
16	3839aa-21 et seq.).
17	(iv) The agricultural conservation ease-
18	ment program established under subtitle H
19	of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985
20	(16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.).
21	(2) Wildlife movement grant program.—An
22	Indian tribe that has a Tribal Wildlife Corridor es-
23	tablished on the Indian land of the Indian tribe shall
24	be eligible for a grant under the wildlife movements

1	grant program under section 301, subject to other ap-
2	plicable requirements of that grant program.
3	(e) Savings Clause.—Nothing in this section author-
4	izes or affects the use of private property or Indian land.
5	SEC. 202. PROTECTION OF INDIAN TRIBES.
6	(a) Federal Trust Responsibility.—Nothing in
7	this Act amends, alters, or waives the Federal trust respon-
8	sibility to Indian tribes.
9	(b) Freedom of Information Act.—
10	(1) Exemption.—Information described in
11	paragraph (2) shall not be subject to disclosure under
12	section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly
13	known as the "Freedom of Information Act"), if the
14	head of the agency that receives the information, in
15	consultation with the Secretary and the affected In-
16	dian tribe, determines that disclosure may—
17	(A) cause a significant invasion of privacy;
18	(B) risk harm to human remains or re-
19	sources, cultural items, uses, or activities; or
20	(C) impede the use of a traditional religious
21	site by practitioners.
22	(2) Information described.—Information re-
23	ferred to in paragraph (1) is information received by
24	a Federal agency—
25	(A) pursuant to this Act relating to—

1	(i) the location, character, or owner-
2	ship of human remains of a person of In-
3	dian ancestry; or
4	(ii) resources, cultural items, uses, or
5	activities identified by an Indian tribe as
6	traditional or cultural because of the long-
7	established significance or ceremonial na-
8	ture to the Indian tribe; or
9	(B) pursuant to the Native American
10	Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25
	U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).
11	
	TITLE III—WILDLIFE MOVEMENT
	TITLE III—WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-
12	
12 13 14	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-
12 13 14	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON- FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.
12 13 14 15 16	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON- FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.
12 13 14 15 16	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 13 14 15 16 17	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a wildlife movement grant program (referred to in this sec-
12 13 14 15 16 17	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a wildlife movement grant program (referred to in this section as the "grant program") to encourage wildlife move-
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a wildlife movement grant program (referred to in this section as the "grant program") to encourage wildlife movement in accordance with this subsection.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a wildlife movement grant program (referred to in this section as the "grant program") to encourage wildlife movement in accordance with this subsection. (b) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 2 years after
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND WATER SEC. 301. WILDLIFE MOVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a wildlife movement grant program (referred to in this section as the "grant program") to encourage wildlife movement in accordance with this subsection. (b) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, based on

1	(1) are a regional priority project identified by
2	a regional wildlife movement council;
3	(2) satisfy the purposes described in section 2(b);
4	and
5	(3) increase connectivity for native species.
6	(c) Eligible Recipients.—A person that is eligible
7	to receive a grant under the grant program is—
8	(1) a voluntary private landowner or group of
9	landowners;
10	(2) a State fish and wildlife agency or other
11	State agency responsible for managing natural re-
12	sources and wildlife;
13	(3) an Indian tribe;
14	(4) a unit of local government;
15	(5) an agricultural cooperative;
16	(6) water, irrigation, or rural water districts or
17	associations, or other organizations with water deliv-
18	ery authority (including acequias and land grant
19	communities in the State of New Mexico);
20	(7) institutions of higher education;
21	(8) an entity approved for a grant by a regional
22	wildlife movement council; and
23	(9) any group of entities described in para-
24	graphs (1) through (8).

1	(d) Requirements.—In administering the grant pro-
2	gram, the Secretary shall use the criteria, guidelines, con-
3	tracts, reporting requirements, and evaluation metrics de-
4	veloped by the National Coordination Committee under sub-
5	paragraphs (A) and (B) of section 302(e)(2).
6	SEC. 302. NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.
7	(a) Establishment.—Not later than 18 months after
8	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall estab-
9	lish a committee, to be known as the "National Coordina-
10	tion Committee".
11	(b) Administrative Support.—The Secretary shall
12	provide administrative support for the National Coordina-
13	$tion\ Committee.$
14	(c) Membership.—The National Coordination Com-
15	mittee shall be composed of—
16	(1) the Secretary (or a designee);
17	(2) the Secretary of Transportation (or a des-
18	ignee);
19	(3) the Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee);
20	(4) the Secretary of Commerce (or a designee);
21	(5) the Secretary of Defense (or a designee);
22	(6) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
23	(or a designee);
24	(7) the Executive Director of the Association of
25	Fish and Wildlife Agencies (or a designee);

(8) 2 representatives of intertribal organizations,
to be appointed by the Secretary;
(9) the chairperson of each regional wildlife
movement council (or a designee); and
(10) not more than 3 representatives of non-
governmental, science, or academic organizations with
expertise in wildlife conservation and habitat
connectivity, to be appointed by the Secretary in a
manner that ensures that the membership of the Na-
tional Coordination Committee is fair and balanced.
(d) Duties.—The National Coordination Com-
mittee—
(1) shall establish standards for regional wildlife
movement plans to allow for better cross-regional col-
laboration; and
(2) shall, with respect to the wildlife movement
grant program under section 301—
(A) establish criteria and develop guidelines
for the solicitation of applications for grants by
regional wildlife movement councils;
(B) develop standardized contracts, report-
ing requirements, and evaluation metrics for
grant recipients; and
(C) make recommendations annually to the
Secretary for the selection of grant recipients on

1	the basis of the ranked lists of regional priority
2	projects received from the regional wildlife move-
3	ment councils under section $303(c)(4)$ that are
4	consistent with the purposes described in section
5	2(b).
6	(e) Applicability of FACA.—Except as otherwise
7	provided in this section, the Federal Advisory Committee
8	Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the National Coordina-
9	tion Committee.
10	SEC. 303. REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.
11	(a) Establishment.—Not later than 1 year after the
12	date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish
13	not less than 4 regional wildlife movement councils with
14	separate geographic jurisdictions that encompass the entire
15	United States.
16	(b) Membership.—
17	(1) In general.—Each regional wildlife move-
18	ment council shall be composed of—
19	(A) the director of each State fish and wild-
20	life agency within the jurisdiction of the regional
21	wildlife movement council (or a designee);
22	(B) balanced representation from Tribal
23	governments within the jurisdiction of the re-
24	gional wildlife movement council;

1	(C) to serve as a Federal agency liaison and
2	nonvoting, ex officio member—
3	(i) the Director of the United States
4	Fish and Wildlife Service (or a designee); or
5	(ii) the director of any applicable re-
6	gional office of the United States Fish and
7	Wildlife Service (or a designee);
8	(D) not more than 3 representatives of non-
9	governmental, science, or academic organizations
10	with expertise in native species conservation and
11	the habitat connectivity needs of the region cov-
12	ered by the regional wildlife movement council,
13	and
14	(E) not more than 3 voluntary representa-
15	tives of private landowners with property in the
16	applicable region, not less than 1 of whom shall
17	be a farmer or rancher.
18	(2) Requirements.—
19	(A) Membership.—The Secretary shall en-
20	sure that the membership of each regional wild-
21	life movement council is fair and balanced in
22	terms of expertise and perspectives represented.
23	(B) Expertise.—Each regional wildlife
24	movement council shall include experts in eco-

1	logical connectivity, native species ecology, and
2	$ecological\ adaptation.$
3	(c) Duties.—Each regional wildlife movement council
4	shall—
5	(1) not later than 2 years after the date of estab-
6	lishment of the regional wildlife movement council
7	and in accordance with any standards established by
8	the National Coordination Committee, prepare and
9	submit to the Secretary and the National Coordina-
10	tion Committee a regional wildlife movement plan
11	that maintains natural wildlife movement by identi-
12	fying research priorities and data needs for the Data-
13	base that is revised, amended, or updated not less fre-
14	quently than once every 5 years;
15	(2) provide for public engagement, including en-
16	gagement of Indian tribes, at appropriate times and
17	in appropriate locations in the region covered by the
18	regional wildlife movement council, to allow all inter-
19	ested persons an opportunity to be heard in the devel-
20	opment and implementation of a regional wildlife
21	movement plan under paragraph (1);
22	(3) solicit applications for wildlife movement
23	grants under section 301 in accordance with the cri-
24	teria and guidelines established by the National Co-

 $ordination\ Council\ under\ section\ 302(e)(2)(A);$

25

1	(4) in accordance with the criteria and guide-
2	lines established under section $302(e)(2)(A)$, submit to
3	the National Coordination Committee an annual list
4	of regional priority projects, in ranked order, for
5	wildlife movement grants under section 301 to main-
6	tain wildlife movements in the area under the juris-
7	diction of the regional wildlife movement council; and
8	(5) submit to the Secretary and the National Co-
9	ordination Committee, and make publicly available,
10	an annual report describing the activities of the re-
11	gional wildlife movement council.
12	(d) Coordination.—If applicable, to increase habitat
13	connectivity between designated Federal land and water
14	and non-Federal land and water, a regional wildlife move-
15	ment council shall coordinate with—
16	(1) Federal agencies;
17	(2) Indian tribes;
18	(3) regional fishery management councils estab-
19	lished under section 302(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens
20	Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
21	$U.S.C.\ 1852(a));$
22	(4) migratory bird joint ventures partnerships
23	recognized by the United States Fish and Wildlife
24	Service with respect to migratory bird species;
25	(5) State fish and wildlife agencies;

1	(6) regional associations of fish and wildlife
2	agencies;
3	(7) nongovernmental organizations;
4	(8) applicable voluntary private landowners;
5	(9) the National Coordination Committee;
6	(10) fish habitat partnerships;
7	(11) other regional wildlife movement councils
8	with respect to crossregional projects;
9	(12) international wildlife management entities
10	with respect to transboundary species in accordance
11	with trade policies of the United States; and
12	(13) Federal and State transportation agencies.
13	(e) Applicability of FACA.—Except as otherwise
14	provided in this section, the Federal Advisory Committee
15	Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the regional wildlife
16	movement councils.
17	TITLE IV—NATIONAL WILDLIFE
18	CORRIDORS DATABASE
19	SEC. 401. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DATABASE.
20	(a) In General.—Not later than 18 months after the
21	date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United
22	States Geological Survey (referred to in this section as the
23	"Director"), in consultation with the National Coordina-
24	tion Committee and the regional wildlife movement coun-

1	cils, shall establish a database, to be known as the "National
2	Wildlife Corridors Database".
3	(b) Contents.—
4	(1) In general.—The Database shall—
5	(A) include maps, data, models, surveys,
6	and descriptions of native species habitats, wild-
7	life movements, and corridors that have been de-
8	veloped by Federal agencies that pertain to Fed-
9	eral land and water;
10	(B) include maps, models, analyses, and de-
11	scriptions of projected shifts in habitats, wildlife
12	movements, and corridors of native species in re-
13	sponse to climate change or other environmental
14	factors;
15	(C) reflect the best scientific data and infor-
16	mation available; and
17	(D) in accordance with the requirements of
18	the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (Public Law
19	115–254), have the data, models, and analyses
20	included in the Database available at scales use-
21	ful to State, Tribal, local, and Federal agency
22	decisionmakers and the public.
23	(c) Requirements.—Subject to subsection (d), the Di-
24	$rector, \ in \ collaboration \ with \ the \ National \ Coordination$
25	Committee, the regional wildlife movement councils, and the

1	Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
2	Administration, shall—
3	(1) design the Database to support State, Tribal,
4	local, voluntary private landowner, and Federal agen-
5	cy decisionmakers and the public with data that will
6	allow those entities—
7	(A) to prioritize and target natural resource
8	adaptation strategies and enhance existing State
9	and Tribal corridor protections;
10	(B) to assess the impacts of proposed en-
11	ergy, water, transportation, and transmission
12	projects, and other development activities, and to
13	avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of
14	those projects and activities on National Wildlife
15	Corridors;
16	(C) to assess the impact of new and existing
17	development on native species habitats and Na-
18	tional Wildlife Corridors; and
19	(D) to develop strategies that promote habi-
20	tat connectivity to allow native species to
21	move—
22	(i) to meet biological and ecological
23	needs;
24	(ii) to adjust to shifts in habitat; and
25	(iii) to adapt to climate change;

1	(2) establish a coordination process among Fed-
2	eral agencies to update maps and other information
3	with respect to landscapes, seascapes, native species
4	habitats and ranges, habitat connectivity, National
5	Wildlife Corridors, and wildlife movement changes as
6	information based on new scientific data becomes
7	available; and
8	(3) not later than 5 years after the date of enact-
9	ment of this Act, and not less frequently than once
10	every 5 years thereafter, develop, submit a report to
11	the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Con-
12	gress, and make publicly available a report, that,
13	with respect to the Database—
14	(A) outlines the categories for data that
15	may be included in the Database;
16	(B) outlines the data protocols and stand-
17	ards for each category of data in the Database;
18	(C) identifies gaps in native species habitat
19	and National Wildlife Corridor information;
20	(D) prioritizes research and future data col-
21	lection activities for use in updating the Data-
22	base; and
23	(E) evaluates and quantifies the efficacy of
24	the Database to meet the needs of the entities de-
25	scribed in paragraph (1).

1	(d) Proprietary Interests and Protected Infor-
2	MATION.—In developing the Database, the Director shall—
3	(1) as applicable, protect proprietary interests
4	with respect to any licensed information, licensed
5	data, and other items contained in the Database; and
6	(2) protect information in the Database with re-
7	spect to the habitats and ranges of specific native spe-
8	cies to prevent poaching, illegal taking and trapping,
9	and other related threats to native species.
10	TITLE V—FUNDING
11	SEC. 501. WILDLIFE CORRIDORS STEWARDSHIP FUND.
12	(a) Establishment and Contents.—There is estab-
13	lished in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the "Wildlife
14	Corridors Stewardship Fund", that consists of donations of
15	amounts accepted under subsection (c).
16	(b) USE.—The Fund—
17	(1) shall be administered by the Secretary and
18	the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, acting
19	jointly; and
20	(2) may be used by the National Fish and Wild-
21	life Foundation to enhance the management and pro-
22	tection of National Wildlife Corridors by providing fi-
23	nancial assistance to the Federal Government, Indian
24	tribes, and nongovernmental, science, and academic
25	organizations.

1	(c) Donations.—The National Fish and Wildlife
2	Foundation may solicit and accept donations of amounts
3	for deposit into the Fund.
4	(d) Coordination.—In administering the Fund, the
5	Secretary and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
6	may coordinate with regional wildlife movement councils,
7	regional ocean partnerships, and the National Coordination
8	Committee to the maximum extent practicable.
9	(e) Disclosure of Use.—Not later than 1 year after
10	the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
11	the Secretary and the National Fish and Wildlife Founda-
12	tion shall make publicly available a description of usage
13	of the Fund during the preceding calendar year.
14	SEC. 502. WORKING LANDSCAPES.
15	The Secretary of Agriculture may—
16	(1) direct investments in working landscapes
17	through conservation programs under the jurisdiction
18	of the Secretary of Agriculture, including programs
19	under title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20	U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), to support the purposes described
21	in section 2(b); and
22	(2) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
23	give priority under the conservation programs de-
24	scribed in paragraph (1) to non-Federal land and
25	water for the purposes described in section 2(b).

1 SEC. 503. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

2	(a) National Wildlife Corridor System.—There
3	are authorized to be appropriated to carry out title I for
4	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 author-
13	ized to be appropriated to carry out title II \$5,000,000 for
14	fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.
15	(c) Wildlife Movement Grant Program and Re-
16	GIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.—
17	(1) Wildlife movement grant program.—
18	(A) In general.—There is authorized to be
19	appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the
20	wildlife movement grant program under section
21	301 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each
22	fiscal year thereafter.
23	(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appro-
24	priated under subparagraph (A) may be used to
25	complement or match other Federal or non-Fed-

1	eral funding received by the projects funded by
2	$those\ grants.$
3	(C) Administrative support.—Not more
4	than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under
5	subparagraph (A) may be used for administra-
6	tive support.
7	(2) Regional wildlife movement coun-
8	CILS.—
9	(A) In General.—There is authorized to be
10	appropriated to the Secretary to provide support
11	for the regional wildlife movement councils to
12	carry out section 303 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year
13	2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.
14	(B) Equal division.—Amounts appro-
15	priated under subparagraph (A) shall be propor-
16	tionally divided between each regional wildlife
17	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 fis-
23	cal year thereafter.

Union Calendar No. 456

116TH CONGRESS H. R. 2795

[Report No. 116-558, Part I]

BILL

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

OCTOBER 9, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

OCTOBER 9, 2020

Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed