

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2709

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mr. FONG (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. KIM, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Ms. LEE of Nevada) 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,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

6 (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.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

6 (2) COALITION.—The term “Coalition” means
 7 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under
 8 section 4(a).

9 (3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
 10 laborative process” means a process relating to the
 11 management of covered National Forest system
 12 lands or covered public lands by which a project or
 13 forest management activity is developed and imple-
 14 mented by the Secretary concerned through collabo-
 15 ration with multiple interested persons representing
 16 diverse interests.

17 (4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
 18 LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System
 19 lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-

tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States covering the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest.

(5) COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “covered public lands” means—

(A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area in California managed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park in California managed by the National Park Service.

(6) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant sequoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron giganteum*.

(7) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed by the applicable land management agency prior to conducting an analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to address hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia groves.

1 (8) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
2 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
3 Project carried out under section 6.

4 (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
5 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover, taking
6 into consideration species composition and resilience,
7 by establishing young trees through natural regen-
8 eration, artificial or natural regeneration with site
9 preparation, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation
10 competition control following artificial or natural re-
11 generation.

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

17 (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
18 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
19 tees” means—

20 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
21 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
22 Representatives; and

23 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
24 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
25 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

1 (12) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
2 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
3 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
4 authority to make and implement a decision on a
5 proposed action.

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

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

10 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
11 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
12 or their designee; and

13 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
14 spect to covered public lands, or their designee.

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

18 (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
19 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
20 under section 8.

21 (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
22 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
23 tion, California.

1 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
2 **QUOIAS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
4 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
5 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or ex-
6 pand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter
7 into a similar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture,
8 the Governor of the State of California, and the Tribe to
9 jointly carry out the short-term and long-term manage-
10 ment and conservation of giant sequoias.

11 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
13 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
14 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
15 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
17 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
18 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
20 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
21 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
22 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
23 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
24 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
25 a party to such agreement.

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

2 (a) CODIFICATION.—The Coalition is the entity es-
3 tablished under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands
4 Coalition Charter” (or successor charter) signed during
5 the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2,
6 2022 by each of the following:

7 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
8 quoya and Kings Canyon National Parks.

9 (2) The National Park Service, representing
10 Yosemite National Park.

11 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
12 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
13 ment.

14 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
15 tional Forest.

16 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
17 tional Forest.

18 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
19 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
20 agement Area.

21 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
22 dian Reservation.

23 (8) The State of California, representing
24 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

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

1 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
2 representing Whitaker’s Research Forest.

3 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
4 resenting Balch Park.

5 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
6 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
7 shall—

8 (1) produce the Assessment under section 5;

9 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
10 recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with
11 respect to—

12 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
13 section 6; and

14 (B) the Strategy established under section
15 7;

16 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
17 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
18 jurisdictional boundaries;

19 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
20 available science as described in section 5(c) and
21 mapping resources; and

22 (5) support the development and dissemination
23 of educational materials and programs that inform
24 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
25 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being

1 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
2 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
4 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
5 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
6 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
7 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
8 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
9 essary to carry out this section.

10 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**
11 **MENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall sub-
14 mit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Se-
15 quoya Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on
16 the best available science—

17 (1) identifies—

18 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
19 perience a—

20 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

21 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
22 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
23 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
24 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
25 grove;

1 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
2 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
3 turbance;

4 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves
5 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity
6 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant
7 sequoia groves; and

8 (D) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
9 perienceed a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-
10 rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

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

13 (A) high-severity wildfire;

14 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

15 (C) drought;

16 (3) with respect to Protection Projects, pro-
17 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to
18 be carried out under section 6, giving priority to
19 projects located on lands identified under subpara-
20 graphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(1);

21 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
22 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
23 management activities across various jurisdictions
24 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
25 quoya groves with respect to—

1 (A) high-severity wildfires;

2 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

3 (C) drought; and

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

6 (A) Federal and State policies that impede
7 activities to improve the health and resiliency of
8 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to
9 address such impediments;

10 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-
11 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-
12 ments that improve the health and resiliency of
13 giant sequoias;

14 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
15 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
16 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
17 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

18 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
19 dressed to improve the best available science on
20 the giant sequoias.

21 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
23 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
24 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
25 tees that—

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

4 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

5 (A) includes information on the number of
6 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
7 and the estimated timeline for completing those
8 projects;

9 (B) includes information on the number of
10 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
11 year and the estimated timeline for completing
12 those projects;

13 (C) provides status updates and long-term
14 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
15 after the completion of Protection Projects; and

16 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to re-
17 duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
18 groves in the previous year, a written expla-
19 nation that includes—

20 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
21 pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-
22 ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
23 groves;

24 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
25 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to

1 ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in
2 at least 3 giant sequoia groves the fol-
3 lowing year; and

4 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
5 any policies that need to be changed to as-
6 sist the Secretary concerned in reducing
7 hazardous fuels in giant sequoia groves;
8 and

9 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
10 tion of giant sequoias—

11 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
12 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
13 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
14 tion activities; and

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

19 (c) DASHBOARD.—

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

22 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
23 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
24 materials developed by the Coalition;

1 (B) contains searchable information about
2 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

3 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
4 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
5 subsection (a);

6 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
7 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
8 groves; and

9 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
10 activities that have been proposed, initi-
11 ated, or completed in such groves; and

12 (C) maintains a searchable database to
13 track—

14 (i) the status of Federal environ-
15 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
16 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
17 and rehabilitation activities; and

18 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
19 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
20 tion activities.

21 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
22 shall include information on the status of Protection
23 Projects in the searchable database created under
24 paragraph (1)(C), including—

25 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

1 (B) the status of the compliance of each
2 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
3 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

4 (C) any modifications of the permitting
5 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
6 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
7 timetable was modified; and

8 (D) information about project-related pub-
9 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
10 ment periods, which shall be presented in
11 English and the predominant language of the
12 community or communities most affected by the
13 project, as that information becomes available.

14 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
15 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
16 include—

17 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
18 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
19 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
20 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
21 giant sequoia resiliency;

22 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
23 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
24 of giant sequoia groves; and

1 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
2 governments or agencies.

3 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
4 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
5 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
6 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
7 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
8 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
9 gration of—

10 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
11 technologies;

12 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

13 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
14 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
15 the Assessment.

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

19 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
20 Resilience Action Plan;

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

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

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

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

7 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
8 QUOIAS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—

10 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
11 gress determines that—

12 (i) an emergency exists on covered
13 public lands and covered National Forest
14 System lands that makes it necessary to
15 carry out Protection Projects that take
16 needed actions to respond to the threat of
17 wildfires, insects, and drought to giant se-
18 quoias; and

19 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
20 to control the immediate impacts of the
21 emergency described in clause (i) and are
22 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
23 or important natural or cultural resources
24 on covered public lands and covered Na-
25 tional Forest System lands.

1 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
2 mination established under subparagraph (A)
3 shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-
4 ered National Forest System lands.

5 (C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
6 mination established under subparagraph (A)
7 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
10 determination established under subsection (a) is in
11 effect, the following shall apply:

12 (A) The following shall have the force and
13 effect of law:

14 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code
15 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
16 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
17 tional Forest System lands.

18 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of
19 Federal Regulations (as in effect October
20 12, 2022), with respect to covered public
21 lands.

22 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code
23 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
24 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-

1 tional Forest System lands and covered
2 public lands.

3 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code
4 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
5 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
6 tional Forest System lands and covered
7 public lands.

8 (B) A responsible official may carry out a
9 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
10 before initiating—

11 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
12 the National Environmental Policy Act of
13 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

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

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

20 (C) The rules established under sub-
21 sections (d) and (e), section 40807 of the Infra-
22 structure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.
23 6592c(d) and (e)) shall apply with respect to
24 Protection Projects by substituting “Protection
25 Projects” for “authorized emergency action

1 under this section” each place it appears in
2 such subsections.

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

7 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
8 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
9 ment activities, consistent with applicable grove-spe-
10 cific hazardous fuels reduction plans or activities
11 recommend by the Assessment under section 5, as
12 Protection Projects under the emergency determina-
13 tion under this section:

14 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
15 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
16 tion, and prescribed burning.

17 (B) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
18 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
19 mined by the responsible official.

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

1 (D) Activities included in the applicable
2 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

3 (E) Using chemical treatments to address
4 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
5 petition.

6 (F) Any combination of activities described
7 in this paragraph.

8 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

23 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—Con-
24 gress finds that Protection Projects carried out
25 under this section are consistent with improving

1 the health and resiliency of critical habitat for
2 threatened and endangered species, including
3 the Pacific fisher and California spotted owl.

4 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
5 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
6 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
7 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
8 activity—

9 (i) covers an area of no more than—

10 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
11 quia groves where a grove-specific
12 hazardous fuels reduction plan has
13 been developed by the relevant land
14 management agency or on lands iden-
15 tified under section 5(a)(1)(B); and

16 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
17 fied under section 5(a)(1)(C);

18 (ii) was—

19 (I) proposed by the Assessment
20 under section 5(a)(3);

21 (II) developed through a collabo-
22 rative process; or

23 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
24 sory committee (as defined in section
25 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and

1 Community Self-Determination Act of
2 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

3 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
4 Federal land with the consent of the non-
5 Federal landowner.

6 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
7 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
8 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
9 this section in combination with other authori-
10 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
11 ing—

12 (i) good neighbor agreements entered
13 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
14 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

15 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
16 entered into under section 604 of the
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
18 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

19 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
20 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
21 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
22 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
23 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
24 Tribe.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce haz-
3 ardous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each
4 year.

5 **SEC. 7. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHABILITA-**
6 **TION STRATEGY.**

7 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
8 EGY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary, in consultation with the Coalition, shall de-
12 velop and implement a strategy, to be known as the
13 Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
14 Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabili-
15 tation of giant sequoia groves that—

16 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
17 of natural or artificial regeneration, giving
18 highest priority to groves identified under sec-
19 tion 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

20 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
21 and rehabilitation activities;

22 (C) identifies and addresses—

23 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
24 bilitation including—

1 (I) regulatory and funding bar-
2 riers;

3 (II) seedling shortages or related
4 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
5 straints;

6 (III) labor and workforce short-
7 ages;

8 (IV) technology and science gaps;
9 and

10 (V) site preparation challenges;

11 (ii) potential public-private partner-
12 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
13 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

14 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
15 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
16 in the 10-year period after the agreement
17 is entered into under section 3; and

18 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
19 sity across giant sequoia groves; and

20 (D) includes program and policy rec-
21 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
22 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

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

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

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

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

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

9 “(dd) shall include reforest-
 10 ation and rehabilitation activities
 11 conducted under section 7 of the
 12 Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

13 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
 14 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
 15 “Nothing in this Act precludes reforestation (as defined
 16 in section 2 of the Save our Sequoias Act) activities to
 17 reestablish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the
 18 period at the end.

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

20 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
 22 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
 23 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
 24 plementation of—

25 (A) primarily, section 6; and

1 (B) secondarily, section 7.

2 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

3 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
4 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
5 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
6 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
7 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16
8 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under
9 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
10 1531 et seq.);

11 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
12 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
13 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity;

15 (C) implement Protection Projects under
16 section 6; and

17 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
18 tion activities under section 7.

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

22 (A) employees of the Department of the
23 Interior;

24 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

1 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
2 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
3 ment, local government, academic institution, or
4 private organization; and

5 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
6 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
7 local government, academic institution, or pri-
8 vate organization.

9 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
10 **GRANTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
12 with the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall
13 establish a program to award grants to eligible entities
14 to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and
15 resiliency.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
17 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
18 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
19 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
20 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

1 (2) secondarily—

2 (A) are small businesses or tribal entities,
3 particularly in rural areas; and

4 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
5 rural areas.

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

8 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
9 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
10 markets for biomass and biochar;

11 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
12 tion 6, including by reducing the cost of trans-
13 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
14 tion Project;

15 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities
16 or land that can store or process hazardous fuels re-
17 moved under section 6;

18 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
19 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
20 facilitate the Strategy established under section 7; or

21 (5) support tribal management and conserva-
22 tion of giant sequoias, including funding for tribal
23 historic preservation officers.

1 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
2 **QUOIAS.**

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

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

7 (i) in clause (i), by striking “or” at
8 the end;

9 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
10 clause (iii); and

11 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
12 following:

13 “(ii) Kings Canyon National Park,
14 Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
15 tional Park; or”;

16 (B) in paragraph (4)(A)—

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

19 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
20 clause (iv);

21 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
22 following:

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

1 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
2 by striking the period at the end and in-
3 serting “; or”; and

4 (v) by adding at the end the following:
5 “(v) any combination of activities
6 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”.

7 (C) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-
8 dian tribe”; and

9 (D) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
10 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
11 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
12 semite National Park.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

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

16 (B) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read
17 as follows:

18 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received
20 from the sale of timber by a Governor, an
21 Indian tribe, or a county under a good
22 neighbor agreement shall be retained and
23 used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or
24 county, as applicable—

1 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
2 toration services under such good
3 neighbor agreement; and

4 “(II) if there are funds remain-
5 ing after carrying out the services
6 under clause (i), to carry out author-
7 ized restoration services within the
8 State under other good neighbor
9 agreements.

10 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN NA-
11 TIONAL PARKS.—Funds received from the
12 sale of timber by a Governor, an Indian
13 tribe, or a county under a good neighbor
14 agreement carried out within the bound-
15 aries of Kings Canyon National Park, Se-
16 quoia National Park, or Yosemite National
17 Park shall be retained and used by the
18 Governor, Indian tribe, or county, as appli-
19 cable—

20 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
21 toration services under such good
22 neighbor agreement;

23 “(II) if there are funds remain-
24 ing after carrying out the services
25 under clause (i), to carry out author-

1 ized restoration services under other
2 good neighbor agreements within the
3 boundaries of the park unit in which
4 the initial good neighbor agreement
5 occurred; and

6 “(III) if there are no further
7 good neighbor agreements to carry
8 out under clause (ii), to transfer to
9 the park unit in which the initial good
10 neighbor agreement occurred to be
11 used for giant sequoia conservation
12 and management.

13 “(iii) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVE-
14 NESS.—The authority provided by this
15 subparagraph terminates effective October
16 1, 2030.”;

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

19 (D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as
20 follows:

21 “(4) AUTHORIZED RESTORATION SERVICES IN
22 CERTAIN NATIONAL PARKS.—Authorized restoration
23 services occurring in Kings Canyon National Park,
24 Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park

1 shall be carried out in accordance with section
 2 100753 of title 54, United States Code.”.

3 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
 4 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
 5 2113a(a)) is amended—

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

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

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

12 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
 13 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
 14 6591c(c)) is amended to read—

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

22 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
 23 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
 24 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
 25 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 Fund shall consist of any gifts,
6 devises, or bequests that are provided to the Na-
7 tional Park Foundation or National Forest Founda-
8 tion for such purpose.

9 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
10 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
11 est Foundation without further appropriation, sub-
12 ject to the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects
13 and activities approved by the Chief of the Forest
14 Service or the Director of the National Park Service
15 as appropriate, or their designees, to—

16 “(A) primarily, support the management
17 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
18 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-
19 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
20 sects, and drought; and

21 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
22 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
23 covered National Forest System lands impacted
24 by wildfire.

1 “(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
2 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
3 est Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than
4 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support
5 tribal management and conservation of giant se-
6 quoias including funding for tribal historic preserva-
7 tion officers.

8 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
10 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
11 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
12 and Fund created under this section that includes—

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

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

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

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

23 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
24 thority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years

1 after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias
2 Act.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code,
5 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

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

6 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

10 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

11 (2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

12 (3) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028
13 through 2030; and

14 (4) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2031
15 through 2032.

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

19 (c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act affects—

20 (1) the allocation of previously appropriated
21 funds from prior fiscal years, consistent with appli-
22 cable laws and regulations; and

1 (2) the prerogative of the Secretary concerned
2 to establish Departmental funding priorities, con-
3 sistent with applicable laws and regulations.

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