



1 Director of the United States Geological Survey and the  
2 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
3 shall establish a grant program to award amounts and  
4 provide technical assistance to covered entities to carry out  
5 youth biodiversity monitoring projects that use and edu-  
6 cate students about advanced technologies.

7 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under  
8 this section, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretary  
9 an application in such form, at such time, and containing  
10 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

11 (c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—A covered entity that is  
12 awarded a grant under this section may use such grant  
13 to carry out the following activities as part of a youth bio-  
14 diversity monitoring project:

15 (1) The purchase of supplies.

16 (2) Transportation of participants to and from  
17 a youth biodiversity monitoring project.

18 (3) Outreach with respect to a youth biodiver-  
19 sity monitoring project to promote participation in  
20 such project.

21 (4) The purchase of scientific collection licenses  
22 and permits.

23 (5) Other expenses related to carrying out a  
24 youth biodiversity monitoring project the Secretary  
25 determines appropriate.

1 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
2 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from  
3 covered entities that include a proposal for a youth bio-  
4 diversity monitoring project focused on an underserved  
5 community.

6 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
7 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall sub-  
8 mit to Congress a report regarding the grant program,  
9 including the following information:

10 (1) Each eligible entity awarded a grant under  
11 this section.

12 (2) The amount awarded to each such eligible  
13 entity.

14 (3) How each such eligible entity used such  
15 grant.

16 (4) The number of participants in youth bio-  
17 diversity monitoring projects carried out using  
18 grants awarded under this section.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
21 out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
22 through 2032.

23 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.—The term  
25 “advanced technologies” means—

1 (A) environmental DNA collection and  
2 analysis procedures;

3 (B) remote sensing;

4 (C) drones;

5 (D) camera traps;

6 (E) acoustic monitoring;

7 (F) advanced sensors and sensor networks;

8 (G) AI, machine learning, or advanced  
9 modeling; or

10 (H) any other technology or method the  
11 Secretary determines appropriate.

12 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
13 tity” means—

14 (A) a nonprofit organization;

15 (B) an elementary school or secondary  
16 school (as those terms are defined in section  
17 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

19 (C) an institution of higher education (as  
20 that term is defined in section 101 of the High-  
21 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); or

22 (D) a State, local, or Tribal government.

23 (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-  
24 gram” means the grant program established pursu-  
25 ant to subsection (a).

1           (4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
2 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
3 is—

4           (A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the  
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

6           (B) exempt from taxation under section  
7 501(a) of that Code.

8           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the  
10 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and At-  
11 mosphere.

12           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means—

13           (A) each of the several States;

14           (B) the District of Columbia;

15           (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

16           (D) American Samoa;

17           (E) Guam;

18           (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern  
19 Mariana Islands;

20           (G) the Virgin Islands of the United  
21 States; and

22           (H) any other territory or possession of the  
23 United States.

24           (7) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal  
25 government” means the recognized governing body

1 of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation,  
2 pueblo, village, community, component band, or com-  
3 ponent reservation individually identified (including  
4 parenthetically) in the list published pursuant to sec-  
5 tion 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe  
6 List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

7 (8) **UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.**—The term  
8 “underserved community” means a population of in-  
9 dividuals sharing a particular characteristic, or a ge-  
10 ographic community, that has been systematically  
11 denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of  
12 economic, social, or civic life, such as—

13 (A) racial and ethnic minorities;

14 (B) individuals with access and functional  
15 needs; or

16 (C) individuals otherwise adversely affected  
17 by persistent poverty or inequality.

18 (9) **YOUTH BIODIVERSITY MONITORING**  
19 **PROJECT.**—The term “youth biodiversity monitoring  
20 project” means a project that provides youth with—

21 (A) hands-on experience collecting, ana-  
22 lyzing, or interpreting biological data about  
23 wildlife populations and the ecosystems associ-  
24 ated with such populations; and

25 (B) education regarding—

- 1 (i) wildlife science;
- 2 (ii) marine science;
- 3 (iii) conservation; or
- 4 (iv) biodiversity.

○