

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 528

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Post-Disaster Refor-
3 estation and Restoration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. POST-DISASTER REFORESTATION AND RESTORA-**
5 **TION PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter,
8 the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the cov-
9 ered agencies, shall identify covered lands requiring refor-
10 estation and restoration following unplanned disturbances
11 that are unlikely to experience natural regeneration with-
12 out assistance.

13 (b) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—In consultation with the
14 heads of covered agencies, the Secretary—

15 (1) shall propose a list of priority projects for
16 reforestation and restoration for each fiscal year;

17 (2) may carry out priority projects through—

18 (A) competitively awarded grants;

19 (B) contracts;

20 (C) contracts established under the Indian
21 Self-Determination and Education Assistance
22 Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

23 (D) cooperative agreements, to be awarded
24 in accordance with applicable requirements es-
25 tablished by the Secretary; and

1 (3) may support any grant contract or coopera-
2 tive agreement that may be necessary to ensure ade-
3 quate and appropriate seed and seedling availability
4 to further the objectives of priority projects.

5 (c) OUTREACH.—To fulfill requirements of this sec-
6 tion the heads of covered agencies shall conduct outreach
7 to—

- 8 (1) Indian Tribes;
- 9 (2) States;
- 10 (3) territories;
- 11 (4) units of local government;
- 12 (5) Alaska Native organizations;
- 13 (6) Native Hawaiian organizations;
- 14 (7) institutions of higher education;
- 15 (8) Federal agencies with jurisdiction over Fed-
16 eral land adjoining or proximal to priority projects;
- 17 and
- 18 (9) other stakeholders as determined by the
19 Secretary.

20 (d) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
21 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
22 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
23 relevant Congressional Committees a report that includes
24 the following:

1 (1) An accounting of all covered lands requiring
2 reforestation and restoration.

3 (2) A list of priority projects and implementa-
4 tion progress to address reforestation and restora-
5 tion objectives identified.

6 (3) An accounting of grants, contracts, and co-
7 operative agreements established in furtherance of
8 priority projects.

9 (4) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to ad-
10 vance priority projects.

11 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
12 ing to seed, seedling, and implementation gaps to
13 advance priority projects and opportunities to estab-
14 lish dedicated funding necessary to address any
15 backlog of reforestation and restoration needs.

16 (e) SUNSET.—The authority provided under this sec-
17 tion shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the
18 date of enactment of this Act.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
21 agency” means the National Park Service, the
22 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau
23 of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation,
24 and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1 (2) COVERED LANDS.—The term “covered
2 lands” means—

3 (A) any Federal land or interest in land
4 administered by a covered agency; or

5 (B) Indian Forest Land or Rangeland.

6 (3) INDIAN FOREST LAND OR RANGELAND.—
7 The term “Indian Forest Land or Rangeland”
8 means land that—

9 (A) is held in trust by, or with a restriction
10 against alienation by, the United States for an
11 Indian Tribe or a member of an Indian Tribe;
12 and

13 (B)(i)(I) is Indian forest land (as defined
14 in section 304 of the National Indian Forest
15 Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103));
16 or

17 (II) has a cover of grasses,
18 brush, or any similar vegetation; or

19 (ii) formerly had a forest cover or veg-
20 etative cover that is capable of restoration.

21 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
22 means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, na-
23 tion, pueblo, village, or community individually iden-
24 tified (including parenthetically) in the list published
25 most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act

1 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized
2 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

3 (5) NATURAL REGENERATION.—The term “nat-
4 ural regeneration” has the meaning given the term
5 in section (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-
6 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36
7 1601).

8 (6) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
9 ation” has the meaning given the term in section
10 (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
11 sources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36 1601).

12 (7) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”
13 means assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that
14 has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, including
15 the reestablishment of appropriate plant species
16 composition and community structure.

17 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (9) UNPLANNED DISTURBANCE.—The term
20 “unplanned disturbance” means any unplanned dis-
21 turbance that disrupts ecosystem structure or com-

1 position and may include a wildfire, an infestation of
2 insects or disease, or a weather event.

Passed the House of Representatives March 16,
2026.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.