

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8438

To provide for the conservation of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Armed Services, 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 provide for the conservation of wildlife corridors and
habitat connectivity, 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 and Habitat Connectivity Conserva-
6 tion Act of 2026”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Findings; purposes.
 Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—SCIENCE AND MAPPING OF WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND
HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

- Sec. 101. Program establishment.

TITLE II—COLLABORATION, PARTNERSHIP, AND CONSERVATION
OF AMERICAN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

- Sec. 201. Establishment of National Wildlife Corridors System on Federal land and water.
 Sec. 202. Nominations of National Wildlife Corridors and prioritization criteria.
 Sec. 203. Management of National Wildlife Corridors.
 Sec. 204. Resource sharing and coordination.
 Sec. 205. Coordinating committee.
 Sec. 206. Effect.
 Sec. 207. Regulations.

TITLE III—WILDLIFE CORRIDOR GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-
FEDERAL LAND AND WATER

- Sec. 301. Wildlife corridor grant program.

TITLE IV—FUNDING

- Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the native fish, wildlife, and plant species in
 4 the United States are part of a rich natural heritage
 5 and an important legacy to pass on to future genera-
 6 tions;

7 (2) the populations of many native fish, wildlife,
 8 and plant species in the United States are in decline;

9 (3) scientists estimate that, in the United
 10 States, 34 percent of plants and 40 percent of ani-
 11 mals are at risk of extinction and 41 percent of eco-
 12 systems are at risk of range-wide collapse;

1 (4) threats to the survival and diversity of
2 many native fish, wildlife, and plant species in the
3 United States include the loss, degradation, frag-
4 mentation, and obstruction of natural habitats;

5 (5) habitat fragmentation reduces native bio-
6 diversity and impairs key ecosystem functions;

7 (6) climate change threatens native fish, wild-
8 life, and plant species;

9 (7) the document published by the Intergovern-
10 mental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and
11 Ecosystem Services titled “Global assessment report
12 on biodiversity and ecosystem services” (2019)
13 found that—

14 (A) 1,000,000 wildlife and plant species
15 worldwide are now threatened with extinction;
16 and

17 (B) 75 percent of the land-based environ-
18 ment, and approximately 66 percent of the ma-
19 rine environment, have been significantly al-
20 tered by human actions;

21 (8) the conservation of new and existing land-
22 scape and seascape corridors, through which native
23 species can transition from one habitat to another,
24 plays an important role in helping—

25 (A) to conserve native biodiversity; and

1 (B) to ensure resiliency against impacts
2 from a range of biotic and abiotic stressors;

3 (9) the conservation, restoration, and establish-
4 ment of new ecological connections to facilitate the
5 movement of species into more suitable habitats is a
6 key climate change adaptation strategy;

7 (10) the protection of new and existing cor-
8 ridors is often one of the first steps in restoration
9 and recovery planning;

10 (11) States have recognized the importance of
11 habitat connectivity, including through—

12 (A) at least 83 pieces of State legislation
13 passed in 20 States since 2019, which have
14 supported actions including identification of
15 wildlife corridors and coordination of State
16 agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organiza-
17 tions, and other partners to address habitat
18 connectivity issues; and

19 (B) a New England Governors and East-
20 ern Canadian Premiers' Conference on the im-
21 portance of connectivity for ecosystem adapt-
22 ability and resilience, biodiversity, and human
23 communities; and

24 (12) Federal policies consistently recognize the
25 importance of voluntary improvement projects by

1 private landowners to habitat conservation and res-
2 toration for native species.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

4 (1) to support a natural diversity of native spe-
5 cies, including species protected under Federal,
6 State, and Tribal law, that have experienced or may
7 experience diminished habitat connectivity due to
8 habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, or obstruc-
9 tion;

10 (2) to provide long-term habitat connectivity for
11 native species migration, dispersal, adaptation to cli-
12 mate and other environmental change, and genetic
13 exchange;

14 (3) to restore wildlife movements that have
15 been disrupted by habitat loss, degradation, frag-
16 mentation, or obstruction;

17 (4) to facilitate coordinated landscape and
18 seascape-scale connectivity planning and manage-
19 ment across jurisdictions; and

20 (5) to support State, Tribal, local, voluntary
21 private landowner, and Federal agency decision-
22 makers in the planning and development of National
23 Wildlife Corridors.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Environment and
7 Public Works of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
9 the Senate;

10 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
11 merce of the House of Representatives;

12 (E) the Committee on Natural Resources
13 of the House of Representatives; and

14 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (2) CONNECTIVITY.—The term “connectivity”
17 means the degree to which the landscape or seascape
18 facilitates wildlife movement to achieve—

19 (A) dispersal and genetic exchange between
20 populations;

21 (B) range shifting, range expansion, or
22 range restoration, such as in response to cli-
23 mate change;

24 (C) seasonal movement or migration; or

1 (D) succession, movement, or recoloniza-
2 tion following—

3 (i) a disturbance, such as fire, flood,
4 drought, or infestation; or

5 (ii) population decline or previous ex-
6 tirpation.

7 (3) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The term
8 “Coordinating Committee” means the Coordinating
9 Committee established under section 205(a).

10 (4) CORRIDOR.—The term “corridor” means a
11 feature of the landscape or seascape that provides
12 habitat connectivity.

13 (5) FEDERAL LAND OR WATER.—The term
14 “Federal land or water” means any land or water,
15 or interest in land or water, owned by the United
16 States.

17 (6) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term “grant pro-
18 gram” means the wildlife movement grant program
19 established by section 301(a).

20 (7) HABITAT.—The term “habitat” means
21 land, water, and substrate that supports or may sup-
22 port in the future the life cycle of a native species
23 that facilitates, with respect to the native species,
24 spawning, breeding, feeding, growth to maturity, or
25 migration.

1 (8) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land”
2 means land of an Indian Tribe, or an Indian indi-
3 vidual, that is—

4 (A) held in trust by the United States; or

5 (B) subject to a restriction against alien-
6 ation imposed by the United States.

7 (9) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (10) LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The
12 term “land use management plan” means a land use
13 management plan developed pursuant to—

14 (A) section 100502 of title 54, United
15 States Code;

16 (B) section 202 of the Federal Land Policy
17 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
18 1712);

19 (C) section 4(e) of the National Wildlife
20 Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16
21 U.S.C. 668dd(e));

22 (D) section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland
23 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
24 U.S.C. 1604); or

1 (E) section 202 of the Sikes Act (16
2 U.S.C. 670h).

3 (11) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The
4 term “National Wildlife Corridor” means any Fed-
5 eral land or water designated as a National Wildlife
6 Corridor pursuant to section 201(a).

7 (12) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR SYS-
8 TEM.—The term “National Wildlife Corridor Sys-
9 tem” means the system of National Wildlife Cor-
10 ridors established by section 201(a).

11 (13) NATIVE SPECIES.—The term “native spe-
12 cies” means—

13 (A) a fish, wildlife, aquatic organism, or
14 plant species that is or was historically present
15 in a particular ecosystem as a result of behav-
16 ioral or evolutionary processes, including sub-
17 species and plant varieties; and

18 (B) a migratory bird species that is native
19 to the United States or its territories (as that
20 term is defined in section 2(b)(2)(A) of the Mi-
21 gratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C.
22 703(b)(2)(A))).

23 (14) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP.—The
24 term “regional ocean partnership” means a regional
25 organization of coastal or Great Lakes States, terri-

1 tories, or possessions voluntarily convened by Gov-
2 ernors to address cross-jurisdictional ocean matters,
3 or the functional equivalent of such a regional ocean
4 organization designated by the Governor or Gov-
5 ernors of a State or States.

6 (15) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
7 means—

8 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

9 (B) the Secretary of Commerce;

10 (C) the Secretary of Defense;

11 (D) the Secretary of the Interior; and

12 (E) the Secretary of Transportation.

13 (16) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
14 means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through
15 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
16 Service.

17 (17) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
18 “Secretary concerned” means each of the Secretaries
19 with administrative jurisdiction over the Federal
20 land or water at issue.

21 (18) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
22 States”, when used in a geographical sense,
23 means—

24 (A) a State;

25 (B) the District of Columbia;

- 1 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
2 (D) Guam;
3 (E) American Samoa;
4 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
5 Mariana Islands;
6 (G) the Federated States of Micronesia;
7 (H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
8 (I) the Republic of Palau;
9 (J) the United States Virgin Islands; and
10 (K) the territorial sea (within the meaning
11 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
12 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.))
13 and the exclusive economic zone (as that term
14 is defined in section 3 of that Act (16 U.S.C.
15 1802)) within the jurisdiction or sovereignty of
16 the Federal Government.
- 17 (19) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT.—The term “wild-
18 life movement” means the passage of individual
19 members or populations of native species across a
20 landscape or seascape.

1 **TITLE I—SCIENCE AND MAPPING**
2 **OF WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**
3 **AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**

4 **SEC. 101. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish
6 and maintain a habitat connectivity mapping and science
7 program to carry out this section.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to de-
9 velop mapping and science to support Federal, State,
10 local, and Tribal governments and the public in efforts to
11 protect habitat connectivity.

12 (c) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND HABITAT
13 CONNECTIVITY MAPPING.—

14 (1) MAPPING EFFORTS.—The Director shall ex-
15 pand and build upon existing agency efforts to map
16 habitat connectivity for native species. Such efforts
17 shall include working with, incorporating data from,
18 and sharing data between—

- 19 (A) Federal agencies;
20 (B) State, Tribal, and local governments;
21 (C) nongovernmental organizations; and
22 (D) academic institutions.

23 (2) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—The Director
24 shall—

1 (A) use new data management, visualiza-
2 tion, and analysis capabilities to analyze wildlife
3 movements and delineate habitat connectivity;
4 and

5 (B) share these capabilities with Federal,
6 State, local, and Tribal wildlife managers.

7 (3) DISTRIBUTION OF MAPS.—The Director
8 shall develop and make available to the public—

9 (A) a database of corridors and habitat
10 connectivity; and

11 (B) maps of habitat connectivity and Na-
12 tional Wildlife Corridors to guide land-use plan-
13 ning and on-the-ground management of native
14 species.

15 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of the enactment of this section, the Director
17 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources
18 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
19 on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a
20 report that—

21 (A) provides an assessment of existing
22 maps, data, models, surveys, and descriptions of
23 habitat connectivity that have been developed
24 by—

1 (i) Federal, State, Tribal, and local
2 fish and wildlife agencies and natural her-
3 itage programs;

4 (ii) nongovernmental organizations;
5 and

6 (iii) industry; and

7 (B) identifies gaps in information about
8 corridors and habitat connectivity.

9 (5) PROPRIETARY INTERESTS AND PROTECTED
10 INFORMATION.—In carrying out this section, the Di-
11 rector shall—

12 (A) protect proprietary interests with re-
13 spect to confidential information and licensed
14 data; and

15 (B) protect such information relating to
16 the habitats and ranges of specific native fish
17 and wildlife as the Director determines appro-
18 priate to protect such fish and wildlife.

19 (d) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT AND HABITAT
20 CONNECTIVITY RESEARCH.—The Director shall conduct
21 research to help guide management of National Wildlife
22 Corridors, including—

23 (1) a study to evaluate the impacts of climate
24 change on habitat connectivity and forecast how Na-

1 tional Wildlife Corridors may need to shift to allow
2 native species to adapt;

3 (2) a study to quantify the effect of ongoing
4 and planned development on habitat connectivity
5 and National Wildlife Corridors;

6 (3) a study to develop new mapping methods to
7 prioritize critical corridors and habitat connectivity
8 areas; and

9 (4) a study to evaluate the effectiveness of ef-
10 forts to address habitat fragmentation and mitiga-
11 tion barriers to habitat connectivity.

12 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
14 the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

15 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
16 the habitat connectivity mapping and science pro-
17 gram established by the Director under subsection
18 (a).

1 **TITLE II—COLLABORATION,**
2 **PARTNERSHIP, AND CON-**
3 **SERVATION OF AMERICAN**
4 **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

5 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE COR-**
6 **RIDORS SYSTEM ON FEDERAL LAND AND**
7 **WATER.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a system
9 of corridors on Federal land and water, to be known as
10 the “National Wildlife Corridor System”, which shall con-
11 sist of National Wildlife Corridors designated as part of
12 the National Wildlife Corridor System by—

13 (1) statute;

14 (2) rulemaking; or

15 (3) a land use management plan developed or
16 revised by the Secretaries.

17 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the
18 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
19 develop a strategy for the effective development of the Na-
20 tional Wildlife Corridor System—

21 (1) to support the fulfillment of the purposes
22 described in section 2(b);

23 (2) to ensure coordination and consistency
24 across Federal agencies in the development, imple-

1 mentation, and management of National Wildlife
2 Corridors; and

3 (3) to develop a timeline for the implementation
4 of National Wildlife Corridors.

5 **SEC. 202. NOMINATIONS OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE COR-**
6 **RIDORS AND PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA.**

7 (a) PARTNER NOMINATIONS.—State, Tribal, and
8 local governments, non-governmental organizations, and
9 collaborative partnerships may nominate Federal lands
10 and waters as National Wildlife Corridors.

11 (b) COORDINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS.—
12 The Coordinating Committee shall, not later than 2 years
13 after the date on which the Coordinating Committee is es-
14 tablished and not less frequently than every 5 years there-
15 after, nominate habitat connectivity areas to be designated
16 as National Wildlife Corridors.

17 (c) NOMINATED AREAS.—With respect to any area
18 for which the Secretary concerned receives a nomination
19 under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary concerned shall
20 make a determination not later than 1 year after the date
21 on which the Secretary concerned receives such nomina-
22 tion.

23 (d) PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA.—The Secretaries
24 shall establish criteria to determine which habitat

1 connectivity areas to designate as National Wildlife Cor-
2 ridors. Such criteria shall include—

3 (1) support from the best available science re-
4 lating to—

5 (A) existing habitat connectivity; and

6 (B) potential future habitat connectivity;

7 (2) whether the Federal land or water merits
8 inclusion within the National Wildlife Corridor Sys-
9 tem because it—

10 (A) provides habitat connectivity and sup-
11 ports wildlife movement;

12 (B) has the potential to benefit more than
13 1 species of fish and wildlife; or

14 (C) has the potential to benefit a fish or
15 wildlife species that is listed as a threatened
16 species or an endangered species under the En-
17 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531
18 et seq.); and

19 (3) the consideration of recommendations from
20 the Coordinating Committee under section 205(c).

21 **SEC. 203. MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE COR-**
22 **RIDORS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall manage Na-
24 tional Wildlife Corridors in a manner that contributes to

1 the long-term persistence, resilience, adaptability, and
2 movement of native species through—

3 (1) the maintenance, restoration, or improve-
4 ment of habitat connectivity, including establishment
5 of goals and monitoring plans;

6 (2) the prohibition of human infrastructure, de-
7 velopment, and activities that impede wildlife move-
8 ment, except where required to meet the minimum
9 requirements for the purposes of this Act;

10 (3) the implementation of strategies and activi-
11 ties that enhance the ability of native species to
12 adapt to changing environmental conditions;

13 (4) the use of existing conservation programs
14 managed by the Secretary concerned to contribute to
15 the persistence, resilience, adaptability, and wildlife
16 movement of native species; and

17 (5) providing education and outreach regarding
18 the benefits of National Wildlife Corridors and habi-
19 tat connectivity.

20 (b) COORDINATED MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 2
21 years after the date of the enactment of this section, each
22 of the Secretaries shall update all relevant regulations, or-
23 ders, guidance documents, policies, instructions, manuals,
24 directives, notices, implementing actions, and other rel-
25 evant documents and procedures to support the manage-

1 ment and long-term conservation of National Wildlife Cor-
2 ridors.

3 (c) LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLANNING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
5 after a designation under section 201, the Secretary
6 concerned shall, in consultation with each of the Sec-
7 retaries, make such land use management plans (or
8 revisions of existing such plans) to carry out the
9 purposes of this Act.

10 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall,
11 during each land use management plan review,
12 amend or revise each such plan to—

13 (A) conserve, restore, and manage Na-
14 tional Wildlife Corridors; and

15 (B) consider designating land or water as
16 a National Wildlife Corridor under section
17 201(a).

18 (3) REMOVAL.—Corridors established pursuant
19 to land use management plans may only be removed
20 from the National Wildlife Corridor System through
21 an amendment or revision to said plans if the cor-
22 ridor no longer provides effective habitat
23 connectivity or 1 or more additional corridors have
24 been designated that fully replace the habitat
25 connectivity of the original corridor.

1 (d) PREEXISTING DESIGNATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any portion of a component
3 of the National Wildlife Corridor System that is
4 within the national wilderness preservation system,
5 as established by or pursuant to the Wilderness Act
6 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), shall be subject to the pro-
7 visions of both the that Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)
8 and this Act and in case of conflict between the pro-
9 visions of these Acts the more restrictive provisions
10 shall apply.

11 (2) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—Any component
12 of the National Wildlife Corridor System that is ad-
13 ministered by the Secretary of the Interior through
14 the National Park Service shall be a part of the Na-
15 tional Park System, and any such component that is
16 administered by the Secretary through the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service shall be a part of the National Wild-
18 life Refuge System. The lands involved shall be sub-
19 ject to the provisions of this Act and the Acts under
20 which the National Park System or National Wild-
21 life Refuge System, as the case may be, is adminis-
22 tered, and in case of conflict between the provisions
23 of these Acts, the more restrictive provisions shall
24 apply.

1 (e) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights,
2 all Federal lands and interests in lands within a des-
3 ignated National Wildlife Corridor are withdrawn from—

4 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-
5 posal under the public land laws;

6 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
7 laws; and

8 (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral
9 materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

10 (f) MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS.—The Secretaries
11 shall carry out conservation and restoration activities in
12 National Wildlife Corridors that are subject to the juris-
13 diction of more than 1 of the Secretaries in consultation
14 with each of the Secretaries concerned.

15 (g) ROAD MITIGATION.—In the case of National
16 Wildlife Corridors that intersect, adjoin, or cross a new
17 or existing State, Tribal, or local road or highway, the Sec-
18 retaries shall consult with State, Tribal, and local trans-
19 portation agencies, as appropriate, to identify and imple-
20 ment voluntary environmental mitigation measures—

21 (1) to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-
22 caused fish and wildlife mortality while conserving or
23 restoring habitat connectivity; and

24 (2) to mitigate damage to wildlife movement
25 through strategies including—

1 (A) the construction, maintenance, or re-
2 placement of native species underpasses, over-
3 passes, culverts, fences, and other mitigation
4 measures; and

5 (B) the maintenance, replacement, or re-
6 moval of dams, bridges, culverts, and other
7 hydrological obstructions.

8 (h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of the enactment of this section, and not
10 less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the Coordi-
11 nating Committee shall submit to Congress a report re-
12 garding the efforts of the Secretaries to carry out this Act
13 and the effect of such efforts on the conservation and
14 management of habitat connectivity, seasonal habitat,
15 wildlife movement, and migration routes on Federal land
16 and water, including the following with respect to Federal
17 land and waters:

18 (1) A description of existing management prac-
19 tices relating to the purposes of this Act.

20 (2) An inventory of known wildlife movement
21 structures and fish passage projects.

22 (3) A description of short- and long-term
23 threats to National Wildlife Corridors or habitat
24 connectivity.

1 (4) A description of opportunities to conserve
2 and improve the quality and condition of habitat
3 connectivity and wildlife movement.

4 (5) A description of opportunities to coordinate
5 State, Tribal, and local governments and collabora-
6 tive partnership efforts to carry out this Act with
7 other landscape-scale conservation plans.

8 (6) Strategies for climate adaptation and resil-
9 ience with respect to habitat connectivity and wildlife
10 movement.

11 (7) A description of opportunities to expand
12 partnerships with State, Tribal, and local govern-
13 ments, collaborative partnerships, and the public to
14 carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 (8) A description of current transportation pro-
16 grams, funding mechanisms, and other authorities
17 that could be used to conserve and improve habitat
18 connectivity and wildlife movement.

19 **SEC. 204. RESOURCE SHARING AND COORDINATION.**

20 (a) COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries may estab-
22 lish collaborative partnerships with entities described
23 in paragraph (3) that are balanced, multi-stake-
24 holder groups that are transparent, nonexclusive,

1 and reasonably representative of affected interests to
2 further the purposes of this Act that—

3 (A) establish agreement on—

4 (i) the role of Federal, State, Tribal,
5 and local government agencies; and

6 (ii) how the Secretary concerned will
7 coordinate efforts to conserve, restore, and
8 manage habitat connectivity; and

9 (B) identify regional liaisons to represent
10 the collective Federal agencies in working with
11 State, Tribal, and local governments, collabora-
12 tive partnerships, and the public to carry out
13 such conservation, restoration, and manage-
14 ment.

15 (2) COORDINATORS.—The Secretaries shall
16 each appoint a national-level coordinator to work
17 with the regional liaisons identified under paragraph
18 (1)(B) and monitor implementation of the efforts of
19 collaborative partnerships.

20 (3) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities de-
21 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

22 (A) Voluntary private landowners.

23 (B) Nonprofit organizations.

24 (C) Federal, State, Tribal, and local agen-
25 cies.

1 (D) Elected officials.

2 (E) Stakeholder groups.

3 (b) RESOURCE SHARING.—The Secretaries shall
4 partner with, and provide technical assistance and other
5 resources to, State, Tribal, and local governments, collabo-
6 rative partnerships, and voluntary private landowners to
7 support the purposes of this Act.

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretaries shall imple-
9 ment this title in consultation with—

10 (1) other relevant Federal agencies through the
11 Coordinating Committee;

12 (2) State, Tribal, and local governments, in-
13 cluding fish and wildlife, natural resource manage-
14 ment, and transportation agencies;

15 (3) with respect to any action that directly af-
16 fects a private landowner, such private landowner;

17 (4) such other stakeholders as the Secretaries
18 determine appropriate; and

19 (5) landscape- and seascape-scale partnerships,
20 including—

21 (A) National Fish Habitat Partnerships;

22 (B) the Regional Fishery Management
23 Councils established under section 302(a) of the
24 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
25 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a));

- 1 (C) relevant regional ocean partnerships;
- 2 (D) the Climate Science Centers of the De-
- 3 partment of the Interior; and
- 4 (E) Migratory Bird Joint Ventures.

5 **SEC. 205. COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

6 (a) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—Not later than
7 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section,
8 the Secretaries shall establish a coordinating committee.

9 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Coordinating Committee
10 shall be composed of—

- 11 (1) the Secretary (or a designee);
- 12 (2) the Secretary of Transportation (or a des-
- 13 ignee);
- 14 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture (or a designee);
- 15 (4) the Secretary of Commerce (or a designee);
- 16 (5) the Secretary of Defense (or a designee);
- 17 (6) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 18 (or a designee);
- 19 (7) the Director of the National Park Service
- 20 (or a designee);
- 21 (8) the Director of the Bureau of Land Man-
- 22 agement (or a designee);
- 23 (9) the Executive Director of the Association of
- 24 Fish and Wildlife Agencies (or a designee);

1 (10) 2 representatives of intertribal organiza-
2 tions representing Indian Tribes, to be appointed by
3 the Secretary; and

4 (11) not more than 3 representatives of non-
5 governmental, science, or academic organizations
6 with expertise in wildlife conservation and habitat
7 connectivity, to be appointed by the Secretary in a
8 manner that ensures that the membership of the Co-
9 ordinating Committee is fair and balanced.

10 (c) STRATEGY FOR PRIORITIZATION.—Not later than
11 1 year after the date on which the Coordinating Com-
12 mittee is established, the Coordinating Committee shall
13 develop a strategy—

14 (1) for nominating national wildlife corridors
15 for designation under section 202;

16 (2) to support the fulfillment of the purposes of
17 this Act;

18 (3) to ensure coordination with Federal, State,
19 Tribal, and local governments and collaborative part-
20 nerships in conserving National Wildlife Corridors or
21 habitat connectivity;

22 (4) to provide education or outreach regarding
23 the benefits of National Wildlife Corridors and habi-
24 tat connectivity; and

1 (5) such other measures as the Coordinating
2 Committee determines necessary for implementation
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 206. EFFECT.**

5 (a) JURISDICTION OF STATES AND INDIAN
6 TRIBES.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of
7 a State or an Indian Tribe with respect to fish and wildlife
8 management, including the regulation of hunting, fishing,
9 and trapping, in a National Wildlife Corridor.

10 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section au-
11 thorizes—

12 (1) any seizure of private property through emi-
13 nent domain; or

14 (2) the imposition of any restriction on the use
15 of private land without the consent of the landowner.

16 (c) DEFENSE WAIVERS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
18 may waive any requirement of this title with respect
19 to a military installation if such Secretary deter-
20 mines that such waiver is necessary—

21 (A) to ensure the preparedness of the
22 Armed Forces; or

23 (B) to support the military mission of the
24 military installation.

1 (2) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary of Defense
 2 shall publish each waiver issued under paragraph (1)
 3 unless such Secretary determines that such publica-
 4 tion will have a negative effect on national security.

5 **SEC. 207. REGULATIONS.**

6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
 7 ment of this section, the Secretaries shall issue such regu-
 8 lations as the Secretaries determine necessary to carry out
 9 this title.

10 **TITLE III—WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**
 11 **GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-**
 12 **FEDERAL LAND AND WATER**

13 **SEC. 301. WILDLIFE CORRIDOR GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 15 wildlife movement grant program to encourage wildlife
 16 movement in accordance with this subsection.

17 (b) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 2 years after
 18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, based
 19 on recommendations from the Coordinating Committee,
 20 shall make annual grants to 1 or more projects that—

21 (2) satisfy the purposes described in section
 22 2(b); and

23 (3) increase habitat connectivity.

24 (c) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—A person or entity that
 25 is eligible to receive a grant under the grant program is—

1 (1) a voluntary private landowner or group of
2 landowners;

3 (2) a State fish and wildlife agency or other
4 State agency responsible for managing natural re-
5 sources and wildlife;

6 (3) an Indian Tribe;

7 (4) a unit of local government;

8 (5) an agricultural cooperative;

9 (6) a water, irrigation, or rural water district or
10 association, or other organization with water delivery
11 authority (including acequias and land grant com-
12 munities in the State of New Mexico);

13 (7) an institution of higher education;

14 (8) a Federal agency; and

15 (9) any group of entities described in para-
16 graphs (1) through (8).

17 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In administering the grant
18 program, the Secretary shall use criteria, guidelines, con-
19 tracts, reporting requirements, and evaluation metrics de-
20 veloped by the Coordinating Committee.

21 **TITLE IV—FUNDING**

22 **SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 (a) SCIENCE AND MAPPING OF WILDLIFE COR-
24 RIDORS AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—There is author-
25 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior

1 to carry out title I \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and
2 each fiscal year thereafter.

3 (b) COLLABORATION, PARTNERSHIP, AND CON-
4 SERVATION OF WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND HABITAT
5 CONNECTIVITY ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out title II for
7 fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter—

8 (1) to the Secretary of the Interior,
9 \$20,000,000;

10 (2) to the Secretary of Transportation,
11 \$18,000,000;

12 (3) to the Secretary of Agriculture,
13 \$10,000,000;

14 (4) to the Secretary of Commerce, \$9,000,000;
15 and

16 (5) to the Secretary of Defense, \$3,000,000.

17 (c) WILDLIFE CORRIDOR GRANT PROGRAM ON NON-
18 FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.—There is authorized to be
19 appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out
20 title III \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal
21 year thereafter. Each fiscal year, not less than 10 percent
22 of the total funds shall be reserved for projects that di-
23 rectly conserve, restore, or enhance big game migration
24 corridors or seasonal habitat.

