

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8168

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BERA, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. CONWAY, and Mr. KAHELE) 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 established under
 8 section 4.

9 (3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
 10 laborative process” means a process relating to the
 11 management of National Forest System lands or
 12 public lands by which a project or forest manage-
 13 ment activity is developed and implemented by the
 14 Secretary concerned through collaboration with mul-
 15 tiple interested persons representing diverse inter-
 16 ests.

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

1 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
2 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
3 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
4 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
5 Forest.

6 (5) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
7 quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
8 *giganteum*.

9 (6) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS RE-
10 DUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific haz-
11 ardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed
12 by the applicable land management agency prior to
13 conducting an analysis under the National Environ-
14 mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to ad-
15 dress hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia
16 groves.

17 (7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
18 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
19 Project carried out under section 6.

20 (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
21 means—

22 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
23 ation Management Area in California managed
24 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

1 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
2 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
3 California managed by the National Park Serv-
4 ice.

5 (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
6 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover by es-
7 tablishing young trees through natural regeneration,
8 artificial or natural regeneration with site prepara-
9 tion, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation com-
10 petition control following artificial or natural regen-
11 eration.

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 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 an
6 agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor
7 of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry
8 out the following:

9 (1) Not later than 30 days after entering into
10 the agreement, establish the Giant Sequoia Lands
11 Coalition or certify an existing group meeting the re-
12 quirements of section 4(b) as the Giant Sequoia
13 Lands Coalition.

14 (2) Not later than 120 days after the Giant Se-
15 quoa Lands Coalition submits the Assessment under
16 section 5, conduct Protection Projects under section
17 6.

18 (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into
19 the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-
20 quoa Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy
21 under section 7.

22 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
24 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
25 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
26 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment

1 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
2 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
3 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

4 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
5 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
6 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
7 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
8 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
9 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
10 a party to such agreement.

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

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
14 timeline and agreement established in section
15 3(a)(1), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
16 ties to such agreement, shall establish, and appoint
17 members to, the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition.

18 (2) EXISTING COALITION.—A previously estab-
19 lished group that meets the membership require-
20 ments under subsection (b) may be designated by
21 the Secretary as the Coalition under paragraph (1)
22 if the parties to the agreement established under
23 section 3 approve such designation.

24 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (1) MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint to
2 the Coalition 1 member from each of—

3 (A) the National Park Service, rep-
4 resenting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National
5 Parks;

6 (B) the National Park Service, rep-
7 resenting Yosemite National Park;

8 (C) the Forest Service, representing Se-
9 quoya National Forest and Giant Sequoia Na-
10 tional Monument;

11 (D) the Forest Service, representing Sierra
12 National Forest;

13 (E) the Forest Service, representing Tahoe
14 National Forest;

15 (F) the Bureau of Land Management, rep-
16 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation
17 Management Area;

18 (G) the Tribe, representing the Black
19 Mountain Grove;

20 (H) the State of California, representing
21 Calaveras Big Trees State Park;

22 (I) the State of California, representing
23 Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest;

24 (J) an academic institution with dem-
25 onstrated experience managing and owning a

1 giant sequoia grove, representing Whitaker's
2 Research Forest; and

3 (K) the County of Tulare, California, rep-
4 resenting Balch Park.

5 (2) AFFILIATE PARTNERS.—The Coalition may
6 designate organizations or agencies with dem-
7 onstrated experience and knowledge on giant sequoia
8 management and resiliency as affiliate partners of
9 the Coalition to enhance the work of the Coalition
10 under subsection (c).

11 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—
12 Upon the written request of a local government in
13 California whose jurisdictional boundaries encompass
14 at least 1 giant sequoia grove, the Secretary shall
15 appoint 1 member from such government to serve as
16 a member of the Coalition, subject to the same re-
17 quirements outlined in this section.

18 (4) TERM.—

19 (A) LENGTH.—The term of an appoint-
20 ment as a member of the Coalition shall be 5
21 years.

22 (B) LIMIT.—Members of the Coalition may
23 serve no more than 2 terms.

24 (5) VACANCY.—The Secretary shall appoint a
25 new member to fill a vacancy on the Coalition not

1 later than 6 months after the date on which such va-
2 cancy occurs.

3 (6) DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Coalition
4 shall be made by majority vote, a quorum of 6 mem-
5 bers of the Coalition being present.

6 (7) MEETINGS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
8 after all members of the Coalition are appointed
9 under subsection (a), the Coalition shall hold its
10 first meeting.

11 (B) REGULAR MEETINGS.—The Coalition
12 shall meet not less than twice per year.

13 (8) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall appoint
14 members under subsection (b)(1) who have a dem-
15 onstrated experience and knowledge on managing
16 giant sequoia groves.

17 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Coalition are to—

18 (1) carry out the Assessment under section 5;

19 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
20 recommendations to the Secretary, with respect to—

21 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
22 section 6; and

23 (B) the Strategy established under section
24 7;

1 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
2 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
3 jurisdictional boundaries;

4 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
5 available science as described in section 5(e) and
6 mapping resources; and

7 (5) support the development and dissemination
8 of educational materials and programs that inform
9 the public about the threats to the health and resili-
10 ency of giant sequoia groves and actions being
11 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
12 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

13 (d) PAY AND EXPENSES.—

14 (1) COMPENSATION.—

15 (A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEMBERS.—All
16 members of the Coalition who are officers or
17 employees of the United States shall serve with-
18 out compensation in addition to that received
19 for their services as officers or employees of the
20 United States.

21 (B) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEM-
22 BERS.—All members of the Coalition not de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall serve without
24 compensation.

1 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—A member of the Coali-
2 tion may be reimbursed for travel and lodging ex-
3 penses incurred while attending a meeting of the Co-
4 alition or any other meeting of members approved
5 for reimbursement by the Coalition in the same
6 amounts and under the same conditions as Federal
7 employees under section 5703 of title 5, United
8 States Code.

9 (3) EXPENSES.—The Secretary may pay the
10 expenses of the Coalition that the Secretary deter-
11 mines to be reasonable and appropriate.

12 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL
13 SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary
14 shall make personnel of the Department of the Inte-
15 rior available to the Coalition for administrative sup-
16 port, technical services, development and dissemina-
17 tion of educational materials, and staff support that
18 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this
19 section.

20 (e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
21 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
22 apply to the Coalition.

1 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 first meeting of the Coalition, the Coalition shall submit
5 to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia
6 Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best
7 available science—

8 (1) identifies—

9 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
10 perienceed a—

11 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

12 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
13 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
14 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
15 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
16 grove;

17 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
18 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
19 turbance;

20 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves
21 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity
22 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant
23 sequoia groves; and

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

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

3 (A) high-severity wildfire;

4 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

5 (C) drought;

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

11 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
12 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
13 management activities across various jurisdictions
14 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
15 quonia groves with respect to—

16 (A) high-severity wildfires;

17 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

18 (C) drought; and

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

21 (A) Federal and State policies that impede
22 activities to improve the health and resiliency of
23 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to
24 address such impediments;

1 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-
2 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-
3 ments that improve the health and resiliency of
4 giant sequoias;

5 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
6 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
7 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
8 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

9 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
10 dressed to improve the best available science on
11 the giant sequoias.

12 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
13 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
14 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
15 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
16 tees that—

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

20 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

21 (A) includes information on the number of
22 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
23 and the estimated timeline for completing those
24 projects;

1 (B) includes information on the number of
2 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
3 year and the estimated timeline for completing
4 those projects;

5 (C) provides status updates and long-term
6 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
7 after the completion of Protection Projects;

8 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to
9 initiate at least 1 Protection Project each in the
10 previous year, a written explanation that in-
11 cludes—

12 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
13 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at
14 least 1 Protection Project;

15 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
16 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to
17 ensure that at least 1 Protection Project is
18 initiated the following year; and

19 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
20 any policies that need to be changed to as-
21 sist the Secretary concerned in initiating
22 Protection Projects; and

23 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
24 tion of giant sequoias—

1 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
2 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
3 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
4 tion activities; and

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

9 (c) DASHBOARD.—

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

12 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
13 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
14 materials developed by the Coalition;

15 (B) contains searchable information about
16 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

17 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
18 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
19 subsection (a);

20 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
21 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
22 groves; and

23 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
24 activities that have been proposed, initi-
25 ated, or completed in such groves; and

1 (C) maintains a searchable database to
2 track—

3 (i) the status of Federal environ-
4 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
5 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
6 and rehabilitation activities; and

7 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
8 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
9 tion activities.

10 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
11 shall include information on the status of Protection
12 Projects in the searchable database created under
13 paragraph (1)(C), including—

14 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

15 (B) the status of the compliance of each
16 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
17 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

18 (C) any modifications of the permitting
19 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
20 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
21 timetable was modified; and

22 (D) information about project-related pub-
23 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
24 ment periods, which shall be presented in
25 English and the predominant language of the

1 community or communities most affected by the
2 project, as that information becomes available.

3 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
4 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
5 include—

6 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
7 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
8 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
9 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
10 giant sequoia resiliency;

11 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
12 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
13 of giant sequoia groves; and

14 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
15 governments or agencies.

16 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
17 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
18 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
19 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
20 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
21 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
22 gration of—

23 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
24 technologies;

25 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

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

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

7 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
8 Resilience Action Plan; and

9 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis
10 Strategy (or successor plan).

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

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

17 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
18 QUOIAS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—

20 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
21 gress determines that—

22 (i) an emergency exists on public
23 lands and covered National Forest System
24 lands that makes it necessary to carry out
25 Protection Projects that take needed ac-

1 tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,
2 insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

3 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
4 to control the immediate impacts of the
5 emergency described in subparagraph (i)
6 and are needed to mitigate harm to life,
7 property, or important natural or cultural
8 resources on public lands and covered Na-
9 tional Forest System lands.

10 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
11 mination established under subparagraph (A)
12 shall apply to all public lands and covered Na-
13 tional Forest System lands.

14 (C) EFFECT.—The emergency determina-
15 tion established under subparagraph (A) shall
16 go into effect on the date the Giant Sequoia
17 Lands Coalition submits the Assessment under
18 section 5.

19 (D) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
20 mination established under subparagraph (A)
21 shall expire on the date that is 10 years after
22 the effective date of the emergency determina-
23 tion established in paragraph (C).

1 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
2 determination established under subsection (a) is in
3 effect—

4 (A) a responsible official may carry out a
5 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
6 before initiating—

7 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
8 the National Environmental Policy Act of
9 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

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

13 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
14 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
15 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

16 (B) the rules established under subsections
17 (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure
18 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)
19 and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection
20 Projects by substituting “Protection Projects”
21 for “authorized emergency action under this
22 section” each place it appears in such sub-
23 sections; and

24 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to
25 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the

1 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
2 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

3 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
4 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
5 ment activities as Protection Projects under the
6 emergency determination under this section:

7 (A) Activities recommended by the Assess-
8 ment under section 5.

9 (B) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
10 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
11 tion, and prescribed burning.

12 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
13 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
14 mined by the responsible official.

15 (D) Removing trees to address over-
16 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
17 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
18 forest stand as determined by the responsible
19 official.

20 (E) Activities included in the applicable
21 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

22 (F) Using chemical treatments to address
23 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
24 petition.

1 (G) Any combination of activities described
2 in this paragraph.

3 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

14 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
15 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
16 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
17 with this section.

18 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

19 (i) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that
20 Protection Projects carried out under this
21 section are consistent with improving the
22 health and resiliency of critical habitat for
23 threatened and endangered species, includ-
24 ing the pacific fisher and California spot-
25 ted owl.

1 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal
2 consultation requirements in sections
3 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,
4 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
5 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-
6 tion Projects.

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

12 (i) covers an area of no more than—

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

19 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
20 fied under section 5(a)(1)(C); and

21 (ii) was—

22 (I) proposed by the Assessment
23 under section 5(a)(3);

24 (II) developed through a collabo-
25 rative process; or

1 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
2 sory committee (as defined in section
3 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and
4 Community Self-Determination Act of
5 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

6 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
7 Federal land with the consent of the non-
8 Federal landowner.

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

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

18 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
19 entered into under section 604 of the
20 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
21 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

22 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
23 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
24 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
25 nothing in this section shall be construed to add

1 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
2 Tribe.

3 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
4 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer
5 than 1 Protection Project each year.

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

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

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
11 timeline and agreement established in section
12 3(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
13 ties to such agreement, shall develop and implement
14 a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Refor-
15 estation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the
16 reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia
17 groves that—

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

22 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
23 and rehabilitation activities;

24 (C) identifies and addresses—

- 1 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
2 bilitation including—
- 3 (I) regulatory barriers;
 - 4 (II) seedling shortages or related
5 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
6 straints;
 - 7 (III) labor and workforce short-
8 ages;
 - 9 (IV) technology and science gaps;
 - 10 and
 - 11 (V) site preparation challenges;
- 12 (ii) potential public-private partner-
13 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
14 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;
- 15 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
16 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
17 in the 10-year period after the agreement
18 is entered into under section 3; and
- 19 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
20 sity across giant sequoia groves; and
- 21 (D) includes program and policy rec-
22 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
23 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

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

4 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
5 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
6 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
7 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

16 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
17 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
18 “Nothing in this Act shall restrict or prohibit the Sec-
19 retary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture from
20 conducting reforestation (as such term is defined in sec-
21 tion 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act) activities to reestab-
22 lish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the period
23 at the end.

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

25 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
2 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
3 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
4 plementation of—

5 (A) primarily, section 6; and

6 (B) secondarily, section 7.

7 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

8 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
9 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
10 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
11 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
12 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16
13 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under
14 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
15 1531 et seq.);

16 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
17 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
18 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
19 activity;

20 (C) implement Protection Projects under
21 section 6; and

22 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
23 tion activities under section 7.

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

4 (A) employees of the Department of the
5 Interior;

6 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

7 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
8 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
9 ment, local government, academic institution, or
10 private organization; and

11 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
12 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
13 local government, academic institution, or pri-
14 vate organization.

15 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
16 **GRANTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
18 with the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall
19 establish a program to award grants to eligible entities
20 to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and
21 resiliency.

22 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
23 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
24 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-

1 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
2 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

8 (2) secondarily—

9 (A) are small businesses, particularly in
10 rural areas; and

11 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
12 rural areas.

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

15 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
16 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
17 markets for biomass and biochar;

18 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
19 tion 6, including by reducing the cost of trans-
20 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
21 tion Project;

22 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-
23 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or
24 process hazardous fuels removed under section 6;
25 and

1 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
2 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
3 facilitate the Strategy established under section 7.

4 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
5 **QUOIAS.**

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

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—

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

12 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
13 clause (iv);

14 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
15 following:

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

18 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
19 by striking the period at the end and in-
20 serting “; or”; and

21 (v) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(v) any combination of activities
23 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
25 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-

1 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
2 semite National Park.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by amending subpara-
4 graph (C) to read as follows—

5 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds
6 received from the sale of timber by a Governor
7 of a State under a good neighbor agreement
8 shall be retained and used by the Governor—

9 “(i) to carry out authorized restora-
10 tion services under such good neighbor
11 agreement; and

12 “(ii) if there are funds remaining
13 after carrying out the services under clause
14 (i), to carry out authorized restoration
15 services within the State under other good
16 neighbor agreements.”.

17 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
18 **QUOIAS.**

19 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
20 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
21 6591c(e)) is amended to read—

22 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
23 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
24 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
25 and the Director of the National Park Service with

1 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
2 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
3 tional Park.”.

4 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
5 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
6 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of
9 giant sequoias.”.

10 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
11 **GRAM AND FUND.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United
13 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
16 **gram and Fund**

17 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
18 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
19 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
20 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
21 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

22 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
23 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
24 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
25 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

1 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-
2 quoias on National Park Service and covered Na-
3 tional Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

4 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
5 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination
6 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
7 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia
8 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
9 this section), to be administered in support of the program
10 established under subsection (a).

11 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
12 PROTECTION.—The following shall apply to the
13 Fund:

14 “(A) The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
15 devises, or bequests that are provided to the
16 National Park Foundation or National Forest
17 Foundation for such purpose.

18 “(B) The National Park Foundation and
19 National Forest Foundation shall deposit any
20 funds received for the Fund in a federally in-
21 sured interest-bearing account or may invest
22 funds in appropriate security obligations, as
23 mutually agreed upon.

24 “(C) Any accrued interest or dividends
25 earned on funds received for the Fund shall be

1 added to the principal and form a part of the
2 Fund.

3 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
4 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
5 est Foundation without further appropriation for
6 projects and activities approved by the Chief of the
7 Forest Service or the Director of the National Park
8 Service as appropriate, or their designees, to—

9 “(A) primarily, support the management
10 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
11 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-
12 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
13 sects, and drought; and

14 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
15 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
16 covered National Forest System lands impacted
17 by wildfire.

18 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
19 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
20 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
21 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
22 and Fund created under this section that includes—

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

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

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

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

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
10 tions for chapter of title 54, United States Code, is amend-
11 ed by inserting at the end the following:

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

12 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
14 priated to carry out this Act—

15 (1) for fiscal year 2024, \$10,000,000;

16 (2) for fiscal year 2025, \$25,000,000;

17 (3) for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028,
18 \$30,000,000; and

19 (4) for each of fiscal years 2029 through 2033,
20 \$40,000,000.

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

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