

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 297

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, 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. NURSERIES.**

4 Title VI of the Federal Land Policy and Management
5 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1781 et seq.) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 604. NURSERIES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available
9 under section 40804(b)(8) of the Infrastructure Invest-
10 ment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592a(b)(8))—

1 “(1) the Secretary shall carry out a pilot pro-
 2 gram to establish and operate nurseries on public
 3 lands and other Federal land under the jurisdiction
 4 of the Secretary; and

5 “(2) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
 6 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall carry
 7 out a pilot program to establish and operate nurs-
 8 eries on National Forest System land.

9 “(b) LOCATIONS.—

10 “(1) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—The
 11 Secretary shall carry out the pilot program estab-
 12 lished under subsection (a)(1) in—

13 “(A) 4 of the eleven contiguous Western
 14 States; and

15 “(B) 1 State that is not 1 of the eleven
 16 contiguous Western States.

17 “(2) FOREST SERVICE.—The Secretary of Agri-
 18 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
 19 ice, shall carry out the pilot program established
 20 under subsection (a)(2) in—

21 “(A) 4 of the eleven contiguous Western
 22 States; and

23 “(B) 1 State, including the State of
 24 Vermont, that is not 1 of the eleven contiguous
 25 Western States.

1 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—

2 “(1) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY CON-
3 CERNED.—In this subsection, the term ‘Secretary
4 concerned’ means—

5 “(A) the Secretary, with respect to public
6 lands and other Federal land under the juris-
7 diction of the Secretary; and

8 “(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
9 through the Chief of the Forest Service, with
10 respect to National Forest System land.

11 “(2) AUTHORIZATIONS.—In carrying out a pilot
12 program established under subsection (a), the Sec-
13 retary concerned may—

14 “(A) establish a tree nursery on Federal
15 land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
16 concerned, and develop the infrastructure nec-
17 essary to support that nursery, to address Fed-
18 eral and regional conservation tree planting
19 needs, consistent with the Bureau of Land
20 Management National Seed Strategy;

21 “(B) purchase necessary equipment and
22 machinery and construct the necessary facilities
23 on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the
24 Secretary concerned to store material, equip-

1 ment, and machinery authorized under this sec-
2 tion;

3 “(C) enter into cooperative agreements
4 with non-Federal entities to use trees produced
5 in nurseries established under the pilot pro-
6 gram;

7 “(D) conduct necessary research on graz-
8 ing and forest management on Federal land
9 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-
10 cerned, ensuring the long-term sustainability of
11 such grazing and forest management, to maxi-
12 mize the ability—

13 “(i) to sequester carbon;

14 “(ii) to prevent soil erosion; and

15 “(iii) to improve air and water qual-
16 ity; and

17 “(E) hire and train personnel to carry out
18 the activities described in this section.”.

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