

# Union Calendar No. 757

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 2989

**[Report No. 118–927, Part I]**

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. MOORE of Utah) 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

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. FONG

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the  
Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 28, 2023]

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# **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.*

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this Act:*

9 (1) *ASSESSMENT.*—*The term “Assessment”*  
 10 *means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-*  
 11 *essment required by section 5.*

12 (2) *COALITION.*—*The term “Coalition” means*  
 13 *the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under*  
 14 *section 4(a).*

15 (3) *COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.*—*The term “col-*  
 16 *laborative process” means a process relating to the*  
 17 *management of covered National Forest system lands*  
 18 *or covered public lands by which a project or forest*  
 19 *management activity is developed and implemented*

1 *by the Secretary concerned through collaboration with*  
2 *multiple interested persons representing diverse inter-*  
3 *ests.*

4 (4) *COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*  
5 *LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System*  
6 *lands” means the proclaimed National Forest System*  
7 *lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain*  
8 *of the United States covering the Sequoia National*  
9 *Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, Si-*  
10 *erra National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest.*

11 (5) *COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “cov-*  
12 *ered public lands” means—*

13 (A) *the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-*  
14 *ation Management Area in California managed*  
15 *by the Bureau of Land Management; and*

16 (B) *Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia*  
17 *National Park, and Yosemite National Park in*  
18 *California managed by the National Park Serv-*  
19 *ice.*

20 (6) *GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant sequoia”*  
21 *means a tree of the species Sequoiadendron*  
22 *giganteum.*

23 (7) *GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUC-*  
24 *TION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific hazardous fuels*  
25 *reduction plan” means a plan developed by the appli-*

1     *cable land management agency prior to conducting*  
2     *an analysis under the National Environmental Policy*  
3     *Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to address hazardous*  
4     *fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia groves.*

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

8             (9) *REFORESTATION.*—*The term “reforestation”*  
9     *means the act of renewing tree cover, taking into con-*  
10    *sideration species composition and resilience, by es-*  
11    *tablishing young trees through natural regeneration,*  
12    *artificial or natural regeneration with site prepara-*  
13    *tion, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation com-*  
14    *petition control following artificial or natural regen-*  
15    *eration.*

16            (10) *REHABILITATION.*—*The term “rehabilita-*  
17    *tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-*  
18    *riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to*  
19    *repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-*  
20    *likely to recover to management-approved conditions.*

21            (11) *RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.*—  
22    *The term “relevant Congressional Committees”*  
23    *means—*

1           (A) *the Committees on Natural Resources,*  
2           *Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of*  
3           *Representatives; and*

4           (B) *the Committees on Energy and Natural*  
5           *Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry,*  
6           *and Appropriations of the Senate.*

7           (12) *RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.*—*The term “re-*  
8           *sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-*  
9           *ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the au-*  
10          *thority to make and implement a decision on a pro-*  
11          *posed action.*

12          (13) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*  
13          *the Secretary of the Interior.*

14          (14) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.*—*The term “Sec-*  
15          *retary concerned” means—*

16               (A) *the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-*  
17               *spect to covered National Forest System lands, or*  
18               *their designee; and*

19               (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, with re-*  
20               *spect to covered public lands, or their designee.*

21          (15) *STRATEGY.*—*The term “Strategy” means*  
22          *the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation*  
23          *Strategy established under section 7.*

1           (16) *STRIKE TEAM*.—The term “Strike Team”  
2           means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established  
3           under section 8.

4           (17) *TRIBE*.—The term “Tribe” means the Tule  
5           River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation,  
6           California.

7   **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**  
8                                   **QUOIAS.**

9           (a) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 90 days after receiv-  
10          ing a request from the Governor of the State of California  
11          or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or expand an  
12          existing shared stewardship agreement or enter into a simi-  
13          lar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Gov-  
14          ernor of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly  
15          carry out the short-term and long-term management and  
16          conservation of giant sequoias.

17          (b) *PARTICIPATION*.—

18                 (1) *IN GENERAL*.—If the Secretary has not re-  
19          ceived a request from the Governor of the State of  
20          California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before the  
21          date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of  
22          this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agreement  
23          under subsection (a) and jointly implement such  
24          agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

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

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

9           (a) *CODIFICATION.*—*The Coalition is the entity estab-*  
10          *lished under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands Coali-*  
11          *tion Charter” (or successor charter) signed during the pe-*  
12          *riod beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022*  
13          *by each of the following:*

14                 (1) *The National Park Service, representing Se-*  
15                 *quoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.*

16                 (2) *The National Park Service, representing Yo-*  
17                 *osemite National Park.*

18                 (3) *The Forest Service, representing Sequoia Na-*  
19                 *tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument.*

20                 (4) *The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-*  
21                 *tional Forest.*

22                 (5) *The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-*  
23                 *tional Forest.*



1           (6) *The Bureau of Land Management, representing Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area.*

2  
3  
4           (7) *The Tribe, representing the Tule River Indian Reservation.*

5  
6           (8) *The State of California, representing Calaveras Big Trees State Park.*

7  
8           (9) *The State of California, representing Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.*

9  
10          (10) *The University of California, Berkeley, representing Whitaker's Research Forest.*

11  
12          (11) *The County of Tulare, California, representing Balch Park.*

13  
14          (b) *DUTIES.*—*In addition to the duties specified in the*  
15 *charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition shall—*

16           (1) *produce the Assessment under section 5;*

17           (2) *observe implementation, and provide policy*  
18 *recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with respect to—*

19  
20           (A) *Protection Projects carried out under*  
21 *section 6; and*

22           (B) *the Strategy established under section 7;*

23           (3) *facilitate collaboration and coordination on*  
24 *Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross*  
25 *jurisdictional boundaries;*

1           (4) *facilitate information sharing, including best*  
2           *available science as described in section 5(c) and*  
3           *mapping resources; and*

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

10          (c) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES,*  
11 *AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make personnel*  
12 *of the Department of the Interior available to the Coalition*  
13 *for administrative support, technical services, development*  
14 *and dissemination of educational materials, and staff sup-*  
15 *port that the Secretary determines necessary to carry out*  
16 *this section.*

17 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**  
18 **MENT.**

19          (a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the*  
20 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall submit*  
21 *to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia*  
22 *Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best*  
23 *available science—*

24           (1) *identifies—*

1           (A) each giant sequoia grove that has expe-  
2           rienced a—

3                   (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

4                   (ii) disturbance but continues to have  
5           living giant sequoias within the grove, in-  
6           cluding identifying the tree mortality and  
7           regeneration of giant sequoias within such  
8           grove;

9           (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at high  
10          risk of experiencing a stand-replacing disturb-  
11          ance;

12          (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves  
13          that are at risk of experiencing high-severity  
14          wildfires that could adversely impact such giant  
15          sequoia groves; and

16          (D) each giant sequoia grove that has expe-  
17          rienced a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-  
18          rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

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

21                   (A) high-severity wildfire;

22                   (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

23                   (C) drought;

24          (3) with respect to Protection Projects, proposes  
25          a list of highest priority Protection Projects to be car-

1 *ried out under section 6, giving priority to projects*  
2 *located on lands identified under subparagraphs (B)*  
3 *and (C) of subsection (a)(1);*

4 *(4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current*  
5 *approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest*  
6 *management activities across various jurisdictions*  
7 *have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-*  
8 *quoia groves with respect to—*

9 *(A) high-severity wildfires;*

10 *(B) insects, including beetle kill; and*

11 *(C) drought; and*

12 *(5) includes program and policy recommenda-*  
13 *tions that address—*

14 *(A) Federal and State policies that impede*  
15 *activities to improve the health and resiliency of*  
16 *giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to*  
17 *address such impediments;*

18 *(B) new Federal and State policies nec-*  
19 *essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-*  
20 *ments that improve the health and resiliency of*  
21 *giant sequoias;*

22 *(C) options to enhance communication, co-*  
23 *ordination, and collaboration, particularly for*  
24 *cross-boundary projects, to improve the health*  
25 *and resiliency of giant sequoias; and*

1           (D) research gaps that should be addressed  
2           to improve the best available science on the giant  
3           sequoias.

4           (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after  
5           the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a), and  
6           annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an updated  
7           Assessment to the relevant Congressional Committees that—

8                   (1) includes any new data, information, or best  
9                   available science that has changed or become available  
10                  since the previous Assessment was submitted;

11                  (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

12                           (A) includes information on the number of  
13                           Protection Projects initiated the previous year  
14                           and the estimated timeline for completing those  
15                           projects;

16                           (B) includes information on the number of  
17                           Protection Projects planned in the upcoming  
18                           year and the estimated timeline for completing  
19                           those projects;

20                           (C) provides status updates and long-term  
21                           monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves after  
22                           the completion of Protection Projects;

23                           (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to re-  
24                           duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia

1 groves in the previous year, a written expla-  
2 nation that includes—

3 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-  
4 pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-  
5 ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia  
6 groves;

7 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-  
8 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to  
9 ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in  
10 at least 3 giant sequoia groves the following  
11 year; and

12 (iii) recommendations to Congress on  
13 any policies that need to be changed to as-  
14 sist the Secretary concerned in reducing  
15 hazardous fuels in giant sequoia groves; and

16 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-  
17 tion of giant sequoias—

18 (A) contains updates on the implementation  
19 of the Strategy under section 7, including grove-  
20 level data on reforestation and rehabilitation ac-  
21 tivities; and

22 (B) provides status updates and monitoring  
23 reports on giant sequoia groves that have experi-  
24 enced natural or artificial regeneration as part  
25 of the Strategy under section 7.

1       (c) *DASHBOARD.*—

2               (1) *REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.*—*The Coalition*  
3       *shall create and maintain a website that—*

4                       (A) *publishes the Assessment, annual up-*  
5       *dates to the Assessment, and other educational*  
6       *materials developed by the Coalition;*

7                       (B) *contains searchable information about*  
8       *individual giant sequoia groves, including the—*

9                               (i) *resiliency of such groves to threats*  
10       *described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-*  
11       *section (a);*

12                              (ii) *Protection Projects that have been*  
13       *proposed, initiated, or completed in such*  
14       *groves; and*

15                              (iii) *reforestation and rehabilitation*  
16       *activities that have been proposed, initiated,*  
17       *or completed in such groves; and*

18                       (C) *maintains a searchable database to*  
19       *track—*

20                              (i) *the status of Federal environmental*  
21       *reviews and authorizations for specific Pro-*  
22       *tection Projects and reforestation and reha-*  
23       *ilitation activities; and*

1                   (ii) the projected cost of Protection  
2                   Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-  
3                   tion activities.

4                   (2) *SEARCHABLE DATABASE.*—The Coalition  
5                   shall include information on the status of Protection  
6                   Projects in the searchable database created under  
7                   paragraph (1)(C), including—

8                   (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

9                   (B) the status of the compliance of each lead  
10                  agency, cooperating agency, and participating  
11                  agency with the permitting timetable;

12                  (C) any modifications of the permitting  
13                  timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-  
14                  cluding an explanation as to why the permitting  
15                  timetable was modified; and

16                  (D) information about project-related public  
17                  meetings, public hearings, and public comment  
18                  periods, which shall be presented in English and  
19                  the predominant language of the community or  
20                  communities most affected by the project, as that  
21                  information becomes available.

22                  (d) *BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.*—In utilizing the best  
23                  available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall in-  
24                  clude—



1           (1) *data and peer-reviewed research from aca-*  
2           *demie institutions with a demonstrated history of*  
3           *studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-*  
4           *lyzing distinct management strategies to improve*  
5           *giant sequoia resiliency;*

6           (2) *traditional ecological knowledge from the*  
7           *Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency*  
8           *of giant sequoia groves; and*

9           (3) *data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local*  
10          *governments or agencies.*

11          (e) *TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out*  
12          *this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums*  
13          *of understanding or agreements with other Federal agencies*  
14          *or departments, State or local governments, Tribal govern-*  
15          *ments, private entities, or academic institutions to improve,*  
16          *with respect to the Assessment, the use and integration of—*

17               (1) *advanced remote sensing and geospatial tech-*  
18               *nologies;*

19               (2) *statistical modeling and analysis; or*

20               (3) *any other technology the Secretary deter-*  
21               *mines will benefit the quality of information used in*  
22               *the Assessment.*

23          (f) *PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make information*  
24          *from this Assessment available to the Secretary concerned*  
25          *and State of California to integrate into the—*

1           (1) *State of California’s Wildfire and Forest Re-*  
2           *silience Action Plan;*

3           (2) *Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis*  
4           *Strategy (or successor plan); and*

5           (3) *Department of the Interior’s Wildfire Risk*  
6           *Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment*  
7           *Plan (or successor plan).*

8           (g) *RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL*  
9           *POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission of*  
10          *the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be subject to*  
11          *the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*  
12          *4321 et seq.).*

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

14          (a) *EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-*  
15          *QUOIAS.—*

16                 (1) *IN GENERAL.—*

17                         (A) *EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-*  
18                         *gress determines that—*

19                                 (i) *an emergency exists on covered pub-*  
20                                 *lic lands and covered National Forest Sys-*  
21                                 *tem lands that makes it necessary to carry*  
22                                 *out Protection Projects that take needed ac-*  
23                                 *tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,*  
24                                 *insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and*

1           (ii) *Protection Projects* are necessary to  
2           control the immediate impacts of the emer-  
3           gency described in clause (i) and are needed  
4           to mitigate harm to life, property, or im-  
5           portant natural or cultural resources on  
6           covered public lands and covered National  
7           Forest System lands.

8           (B) *APPLICATION*.—The emergency deter-  
9           mination established under subparagraph (A)  
10          shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-  
11          ered National Forest System lands.

12          (C) *EXPIRATION*.—The emergency deter-  
13          mination established under subparagraph (A)  
14          shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the  
15          date of the enactment of this Act.

16          (2) *IMPLEMENTATION*.—While the emergency de-  
17          termination established under subsection (a) is in ef-  
18          fect, the following shall apply:

19                  (A) The following shall have the force and  
20                  effect of law:

21                          (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of  
22                          Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,  
23                          2022), with respect to covered National For-  
24                          est System lands.

1                   (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of  
2                   Federal Regulations (as in effect October 12,  
3                   2022), with respect to covered public lands.

4                   (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code of  
5                   Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,  
6                   2022), with respect to covered National For-  
7                   est System lands and covered public lands.

8                   (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code of  
9                   Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,  
10                  2022), with respect to covered National For-  
11                  est System lands and covered public lands.

12                  (B) A responsible official may carry out a  
13                  Protection Project described by paragraph (4) be-  
14                  fore initiating—

15                       (i) an analysis under section 102 of  
16                       the National Environmental Policy Act of  
17                       1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

18                       (ii) consultation under section 7 of the  
19                       Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
20                       1536); and

21                       (iii) consultation under section 106 of  
22                       the National Historic Preservation Act (16  
23                       U.S.C. 470(f)).

24                  (C) The rules established under subsections

25                  (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure

1           *Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)*  
2           *and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection*  
3           *Projects by substituting “Protection Projects” for*  
4           *“authorized emergency action under this section”*  
5           *each place it appears in such subsections.*

6           (D) *Protection Projects shall be subject to*  
7           *the requirements of section 106 of title I of the*  
8           *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16*  
9           *U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).*

10          (3) *PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible of-*  
11          *ficial shall carry out the following forest management*  
12          *activities, consistent with applicable grove-specific*  
13          *hazardous fuels reduction plans or activities rec-*  
14          *ommend by the Assessment under section 5, as Protec-*  
15          *tion Projects under the emergency determination*  
16          *under this section:*

17               (A) *Conducting hazardous fuels manage-*  
18               *ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-*  
19               *tion, and prescribed burning.*

20               (B) *Removing hazard trees, dead trees,*  
21               *dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-*  
22               *mined by the responsible official.*

23               (C) *Removing trees to address overstocking*  
24               *or crowding in a forest stand, consistent with the*

1           *appropriate basal area of the forest stand as de-*  
2           *termined by the responsible official.*

3           *(D) Activities included in the applicable*  
4           *grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.*

5           *(E) Using chemical treatments to address*  
6           *insects and disease and control vegetation com-*  
7           *petition.*

8           *(F) Any combination of activities described*  
9           *in this paragraph.*

10          (4) *REQUIREMENTS.—*

11           *(A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects car-*  
12           *ried out under paragraph (3) and reforestation*  
13           *and rehabilitation activities carried out under*  
14           *this Act that are described by subparagraph (D)*  
15           *are a category of actions hereby designated as*  
16           *being categorically excluded from the prepara-*  
17           *tion of an environmental assessment or an envi-*  
18           *ronmental impact statement under section 102 of*  
19           *the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*  
20           *(42 U.S.C. 4332).*

21           *(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-*  
22           *cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-*  
23           *lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance*  
24           *with this section.*

1           (C) *INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.*—Congress  
2           *finds that Protection Projects carried out under*  
3           *this section are consistent with improving the*  
4           *health and resiliency of critical habitat for*  
5           *threatened and endangered species, including the*  
6           *Pacific fisher and California spotted owl.*

7           (D) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A *Protection Project*  
8           *or reforestation or rehabilitation activity is de-*  
9           *scribed by this subparagraph if such Protection*  
10           *Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activ-*  
11           *ity—*

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, including—

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

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

21                  (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to joint  
22                  Protection Projects and reforestation and reha-  
23                  bilitation activities involving the Tribe, nothing  
24                  in this section shall be construed to add any ad-  
25                  ditional regulatory requirements onto the Tribe.



1           (b) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—*To the maximum extent prac-*  
2 *ticable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce hazardous fuels*  
3 *in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each year.*

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

6           (a) *REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-*  
7 *EGY.*—

8                   (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 6 months after*  
9 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary,*  
10 *in consultation with the Coalition, shall develop and*  
11 *implement a strategy, to be known as the Giant Se-*  
12 *quoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to*  
13 *enhance the reforestation and rehabilitation of giant*  
14 *sequoia groves that—*

15                           (A) *identifies giant sequoia groves in need*  
16 *of natural or artificial regeneration, giving high-*  
17 *est priority to groves identified under section*  
18 *5(a)(1)(A)(i);*

19                           (B) *creates a priority list of reforestation*  
20 *and rehabilitation activities;*

21                           (C) *identifies and addresses—*

22                                   (i) *barriers to reforestation or rehabili-*  
23 *tation including—*

24   (I) *regulatory and funding bar-*  
25 *riers;*

1                   (II) seedling shortages or related  
2                   nursery infrastructure capacity con-  
3                   straints;

4                   (III) labor and workforce short-  
5                   ages;

6                   (IV) technology and science gaps;  
7                   and

8                   (V) site preparation challenges;

9                   (ii) potential public-private partner-  
10                  ship opportunities to complete high-priority  
11                  reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

12                  (iii) a timeline for addressing the  
13                  backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias in  
14                  the 10-year period after the agreement is  
15                  entered into under section 3; and

16                  (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-  
17                  sity across giant sequoia groves; and

18                  (D) includes program and policy rec-  
19                  ommendations needed to improve the efficiency  
20                  or effectiveness of the Strategy.

21                  (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-  
22                  porate the Strategy into the Assessment under section  
23                  5.

24                  (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-  
25                  MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and Range-

1 *land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*

2 *1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—*

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

4 *(2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-*  
5 *serting “; and”; and*

6 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

7 *“(dd) shall include reforest-*  
8 *ation and rehabilitation activities*  
9 *conducted under section 7 of the*  
10 *Save Our Sequoias Act.”.*

11 *(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wilder-*  
12 *ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting*  
13 *“Nothing in this Act precludes reforestation (as defined in*  
14 *section 2 of the Save our Sequoias Act) activities to reestab-*  
15 *lish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the period*  
16 *at the end.*

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

18 *(a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—*

19 *(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned*  
20 *shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike Team to*  
21 *assist the Secretary concerned with the implementa-*  
22 *tion of—*

23 *(A) primarily, section 6; and*

24 *(B) secondarily, section 7.*

25 *(2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—*

1           (A) assist the Secretary concerned with any  
2 reviews, including analysis under the National  
3 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
4 4321 et seq.), consultations under the National  
5 Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C.  
6 470 et seq.), and consultations under the Endan-  
7 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et  
8 seq.);

9           (B) implement any necessary site prepara-  
10 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-  
11 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation ac-  
12 tivity;

13           (C) implement Protection Projects under  
14 section 6; and

15           (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-  
16 tion activities under section 7.

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

20           (A) employees of the Department of the In-  
21 terior;

22           (B) employees of the Forest Service;

23           (C) private contractors from any nonprofit  
24 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-

1           *ment, local government, academic institution, or*  
2           *private organization; and*

3                     *(D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-*  
4           *zation, State government, Tribal Government,*  
5           *local government, academic institution, or pri-*  
6           *vate organization.*

7 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**  
8                     **GRANTS.**

9           *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with*  
10          *the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall establish*  
11          *a program to award grants to eligible entities to advance,*  
12          *facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.*

13           *(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award*  
14          *grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,*  
15          *Tribal Government, local government, academic institution,*  
16          *or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or im-*  
17          *prove giant sequoia health and resiliency.*

18           *(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section,*  
19          *the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—*

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

22                     *(2) secondarily—*

23                             *(A) are small businesses or tribal entities,*  
24           *particularly in rural areas; and*

1                   (B) create or support jobs, particularly in  
2                   rural areas.

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

5                   (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-  
6                   ardous fuels removed under section 6, including mar-  
7                   kets for biomass and biochar;

8                   (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-  
9                   tion 6, including by reducing the cost of transporting  
10                  hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protection  
11                  Project;

12                  (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities  
13                  or land that can store or process hazardous fuels re-  
14                  moved under section 6;

15                  (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-  
16                  prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to  
17                  facilitate the Strategy established under section 7; or

18                  (5) support tribal management and conservation  
19                  of giant sequoias, including funding for tribal historic  
20                  preservation officers.

21 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**  
22 **QUOIAS.**

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

25                   (1) in subsection (a)—

1                   (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

2                   (i) in clause (i), by striking “or” at  
3                   the end;

4                   (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as  
5                   clause (iii);

6                   (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the  
7                   following:

8                   “(ii) Kings Canyon National Park, Se-  
9                   quoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-  
10                  tional Park; or”;

11                  (B) in paragraph (4)(A)—

12                  (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at  
13                  the end;

14                  (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as  
15                  clause (iv);

16                  (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the  
17                  following:

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

20                  (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,  
21                  by striking the period at the end and insert-  
22                  ing “; or”; and

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

24                  “(v) any combination of activities  
25                  specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”.

1           (C) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-  
2           dian tribe”; and

3           (D) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking  
4           “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-  
5           tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosem-  
6           ite National Park.”; and

7           (2) in subsection (b)—

8           (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, In-  
9           dian tribe,” after “Governor”;

10          (B) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read  
11          as follows:

12          “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—

13                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received  
14                 from the sale of timber by a Governor, an  
15                 Indian tribe, or a county under a good  
16                 neighbor agreement shall be retained and  
17                 used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or coun-  
18                 ty, as applicable—

19                         “(I) to carry out authorized res-  
20                         toration services under such good  
21                         neighbor agreement; and

22                         “(II) if there are funds remaining  
23                         after carrying out the services under  
24                         clause (i), to carry out authorized res-



1                    *toration services within the State*  
2                    *under other good neighbor agreements.*

3                    “(ii) *SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN NA-*  
4                    *TIONAL PARKS.—Funds received from the*  
5                    *sale of timber by a Governor, an Indian*  
6                    *tribe, or a county under a good neighbor*  
7                    *agreement carried out within the bound-*  
8                    *aries of Kings Canyon National Park, Se-*  
9                    *quoia National Park, or Yosemite National*  
10                   *Park shall be retained and used by the Gov-*  
11                   *ernor, Indian tribe, or county, as applica-*  
12                   *ble—*

13                    “(I) *to carry out authorized res-*  
14                    *toration services under such good*  
15                    *neighbor agreement;*

16                    “(II) *if there are funds remaining*  
17                    *after carrying out the services under*  
18                    *clause (i), to carry out authorized res-*  
19                    *toration services under other good*  
20                    *neighbor agreements within the bound-*  
21                    *aries of the park unit in which the ini-*  
22                    *tial good neighbor agreement occurred;*  
23                    *and*

24                    “(III) *if there are no further good*  
25                    *neighbor agreements to carry out under*

1                   *clause (ii), to transfer to the park unit*  
2                   *in which the initial good neighbor*  
3                   *agreement occurred to be used for giant*  
4                   *sequoia conservation and management.*

5                   “(iii) *TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVE-*  
6                   *NESS.—The authority provided by this sub-*  
7                   *paragraph terminates effective October 1,*  
8                   *2028.”;*

9                   (C) *in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-*  
10                  *Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and*

11                  (D) *by amending paragraph (4) to read as*  
12                  *follows:*

13                  “(4) *AUTHORIZED RESTORATION SERVICES IN*  
14                  *CERTAIN NATIONAL PARKS.—Authorized restoration*  
15                  *services occurring in Kings Canyon National Park,*  
16                  *Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park*  
17                  *shall be carried out in accordance with section*  
18                  *100753 of title 54, United States Code.”.*

19                  (3)    *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section*  
20                  *8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.*  
21                  *2113a(a)) is amended—*

22                  (A) *in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “,*  
23                  *Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and*

24                  (B) *in paragraph (5), by inserting “, In-*  
25                  *Indian tribe,” after “Governor”.*

1 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**  
 2 **QUOIAS.**

3 (a) *NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.*—Section 604(a)(2) of  
 4 *the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.*  
 5 *6591c(c)) is amended to read—*

6 “(2) *DIRECTOR.*—*The term ‘Director’ means the*  
 7 *Director of the Bureau of Land Management with re-*  
 8 *spect to Bureau of Land Management lands and the*  
 9 *Director of the National Park Service with respect to*  
 10 *lands within Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia*  
 11 *National Park, and Yosemite National Park.”.*

12 (b) *GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.*—Sec-  
 13 *tion 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003*  
 14 *(16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the end the*  
 15 *following:*

16 “(8) *Promoting the health and resiliency of giant*  
 17 *sequoias.”.*

18 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**  
 19 **GRAM AND FUND.**

20 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United  
 21 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-  
 22 lowing:

23 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**  
 24 **gram and Fund**

25 “(a) *GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-*  
 26 *GRAM.*—*The National Park Foundation, in coordination*

1 *with the National Forest Foundation, shall design and im-*  
2 *plement a comprehensive program to assist and promote*  
3 *philanthropic programs of support that benefit—*

4           “(1) *primarily, the management and conserva-*  
5 *tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and*  
6 *covered National Forest System lands to promote re-*  
7 *siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and*

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

11       “(b) *GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION*  
12 *FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination*  
13 *with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a joint*  
14 *special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia Emer-*  
15 *gency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in this*  
16 *section), to be administered in support of the program es-*  
17 *tablished under subsection (a).*

18           “(1) *FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY*  
19 *PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,*  
20 *devises, or bequests that are provided to the National*  
21 *Park Foundation or National Forest Foundation for*  
22 *such purpose.*

23           “(2) *USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available*  
24 *to the National Park Foundation and National Forest*  
25 *Foundation without further appropriation, subject to*

1 *the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects and ac-*  
2 *tivities approved by the Chief of the Forest Service or*  
3 *the Director of the National Park Service as appro-*  
4 *priate, or their designees, to—*

5 *“(A) primarily, support the management*  
6 *and conservation of giant sequoias on National*  
7 *Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-*  
8 *tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-*  
9 *sects, and drought; and*

10 *“(B) secondarily, support the reforestation*  
11 *of giant sequoias on National Park Service and*  
12 *covered National Forest System lands impacted*  
13 *by wildfire.*

14 *“(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided*  
15 *to the National Park Foundation and National Forest*  
16 *Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than 15*  
17 *percent of such funds shall be used to support tribal*  
18 *management and conservation of giant sequoias in-*  
19 *cluding funding for tribal historic preservation offi-*  
20 *cers.*

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

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

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

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

7           “(d) *COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS DE-*  
8 *FINED.*—*In this section, the term ‘covered National Forest*  
9 *System lands’ has the meaning given such term in section*  
10 *2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.*

11          “(e) *TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.*—*The author-*  
12 *ity provided by this section shall terminate 7 years after*  
13 *the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.*

14          “(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections*  
15 *for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended*  
16 *by inserting at the end the following:*

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

17 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18          “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the availability of appro-*  
19 *priations made in advance for such purposes, the Secretary*  
20 *concerned shall allocate up to—*

21                 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

22                 (2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

23                 (3) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
24                 through 2028; and

1           (4) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2029  
2           through 2030.

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

6           (c) *SAVINGS CLAUSE.*—Nothing in this Act affects—

7           (1) the allocation of previously appropriated  
8 funds from prior fiscal years, consistent with applica-  
9 ble laws and regulations; and

10           (2) the prerogative of the Secretary concerned to  
11 establish Departmental funding priorities, consistent  
12 with applicable laws and regulations.

Union Calendar No. 757

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 2989**

[Report No. 118-927, Part I]

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## **A BILL**

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

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DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with  
an amendment

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the  
Committee of the Whole House on the State of the  
Union and ordered to be printed