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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCARTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

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-
20 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
21 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
22 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-

1 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
2 Forest.

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

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

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

17 (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
18 means—

19 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
20 ation Management Area in California managed
21 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

22 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
23 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
24 California managed by the National Park Serv-
25 ice.

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

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

13 (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
15 tees” means—

16 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
17 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
18 Representatives; and

19 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
20 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
21 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

22 (12) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
23 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
24 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the

1 authority to make and implement a decision on a
2 proposed action.

3 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
4 means the Secretary of the Interior.

5 (14) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
6 “Secretary concerned” means—

7 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
8 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
9 or their designee; and

10 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
11 spect to public lands, or their designee.

12 (15) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
13 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
14 Strategy established under section 7.

15 (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
16 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
17 under section 8.

18 (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
19 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
20 tion, California.

21 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
22 **QUOIAS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
24 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
25 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into an

1 agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor
2 of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry
3 out the following:

4 (1) Not later than 30 days after entering into
5 the agreement, establish the Giant Sequoia Lands
6 Coalition or certify an existing group meeting the re-
7 quirements of section 4(b) as the Giant Sequoia
8 Lands Coalition.

9 (2) Not later than 120 days after the Giant Se-
10 quoia Lands Coalition submits the Assessment under
11 section 5, conduct Protection Projects under section
12 6.

13 (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into
14 the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-
15 quoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy
16 under section 7.

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
21 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
22 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
23 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
24 such 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
5 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
6 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
7 a party to such agreement.

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

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
11 timeline and agreement established in section
12 3(a)(1), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
13 ties to such agreement, shall establish, and appoint
14 members to, the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition.

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

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

4 (B) the National Park Service, rep-
5 resenting Yosemite National Park;

6 (C) the Forest Service, representing Se-
7 quoaia National Forest and Giant Sequoia Na-
8 tional Monument;

9 (D) the Forest Service, representing Sierra
10 National Forest;

11 (E) the Forest Service, representing Tahoe
12 National Forest;

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

16 (G) the Tribe, representing the Black
17 Mountain Grove;

18 (H) the State of California, representing
19 Calaveras Big Trees State Park;

20 (I) the State of California, representing
21 Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest;

22 (J) an academic institution with dem-
23 onstrated experience managing and owning a
24 giant sequoia grove, representing Whitaker's
25 Research Forest; and

1 (K) the County of Tulare, California, rep-
2 resenting Balch Park.

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

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

16 (4) TERM.—

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

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

22 (5) VACANCY.—The Secretary shall appoint a
23 new member to fill a vacancy on the Coalition not
24 later than 6 months after the date on which such va-
25 cancy occurs.

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

4 (7) MEETINGS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (B) the Strategy established under section
22 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(e) 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
8 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
9 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

10 (d) PAY AND EXPENSES.—

11 (1) COMPENSATION.—

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

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

22 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—A member of the Coali-
23 tion may be reimbursed for travel and lodging ex-
24 penses incurred while attending a meeting of the Co-
25 alition or any other meeting of members approved

1 for reimbursement by the Coalition in the same
2 amounts and under the same conditions as Federal
3 employees under section 5703 of title 5, United
4 States Code.

5 (3) EXPENSES.—The Secretary may pay the
6 expenses of the Coalition that the Secretary deter-
7 mines to be reasonable and appropriate.

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

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

19 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**
20 **MENT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
22 first meeting of the Coalition, the Coalition shall submit
23 to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia
24 Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best
25 available science—

1 (1) identifies—

2 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
3 perienceed a—

4 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

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

10 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
11 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
12 turbance;

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

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

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

22 (A) high-severity wildfire;

23 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

24 (C) drought;

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

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

11 (A) high-severity wildfires;

12 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

13 (C) drought; and

14 (5) includes program and policy recommenda-
15 tions that address—

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

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

24 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
25 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for

1 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
2 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

3 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
4 dressed to improve the best available science on
5 the giant sequoias.

6 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
8 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
9 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
10 tees that—

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

14 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

15 (A) includes information on the number of
16 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
17 and the estimated timeline for completing those
18 projects;

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

23 (C) provides status updates and long-term
24 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
25 after the completion of Protection Projects;

1 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to
2 initiate at least 1 Protection Project each in the
3 previous year, a written explanation that in-
4 cludes—

5 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
6 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at
7 least 1 Protection Project;

8 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
9 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to
10 ensure that at least 1 Protection Project is
11 initiated the following year; and

12 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
13 any policies that need to be changed to as-
14 sist the Secretary concerned in initiating
15 Protection Projects; and

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

18 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
19 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
20 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
21 tion activities; and

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

1 (c) DASHBOARD.—

2 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coali-
3 tion 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
11 subsection (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, initi-
17 ated, or completed in such groves; and

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

20 (i) the status of Federal environ-
21 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
22 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
23 and rehabilitation 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
10 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
11 pating 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 pub-
17 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
18 ment periods, which shall be presented in
19 English and the predominant language of the
20 community or communities most affected by the
21 project, as that information becomes available.

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

1 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
2 demic 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 agen-
14 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
15 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
16 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
17 gration of—

18 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
19 technologies;

20 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

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

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

4 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
5 Resilience Action Plan; and

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

8 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
9 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission
10 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-
11 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
12 U.S.C. 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 public
20 lands and covered National Forest System
21 lands that makes it necessary to carry out
22 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
2 to control the immediate impacts of the
3 emergency described in subparagraph (i)
4 and are needed to mitigate harm to life,
5 property, or important natural or cultural
6 resources on public lands and covered Na-
7 tional Forest System lands.

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

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

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

22 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
23 determination established under subsection (a) is in
24 effect—

1 (A) a responsible official may carry out a
2 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
3 before initiating—

4 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
5 the National Environmental Policy Act of
6 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

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

10 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
11 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
12 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

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

21 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to
22 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the
23 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
24 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (G) Any combination of activities described
24 in this paragraph.

25 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

15 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

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

23 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal
24 consultation requirements in sections
25 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,

1 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
2 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-
3 tion Projects.

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

9 (i) covers an area of no more than—

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

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

18 (ii) was—

19 (I) proposed by the Assessment
20 under section 5(a)(3);

21 (II) developed through a collabo-
22 rative process; or

23 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
24 sory committee (as defined in section
25 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and

1 Community Self-Determination Act of
2 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

3 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
4 Federal land with the consent of the non-
5 Federal landowner.

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

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

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

19 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
20 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
21 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
22 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
23 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
24 Tribe.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer
3 than 1 Protection Project 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.—In accordance with the
9 timeline and agreement established in section
10 3(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
11 ties to such agreement, shall develop and implement
12 a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Refor-
13 estation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the
14 reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia
15 groves that—

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

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

22 (C) identifies and addresses—

23 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
24 bilitation including—

25 (I) regulatory barriers;

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
14 in the 10-year period after the agreement
15 is 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 sec-
23 tion 5.

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

1 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
2 (16 U.S.C. 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 Wil-
12 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
13 “Nothing in this Act shall restrict or prohibit the Sec-
14 retary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture from
15 conducting reforestation (as such term is defined in sec-
16 tion 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act) activities to reestab-
17 lish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the period
18 at the end.

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

20 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
22 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
23 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
24 plementation of—

25 (A) primarily, section 6; and

1 (B) secondarily, section 7.

2 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

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

11 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
12 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
13 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity;

15 (C) implement Protection Projects under
16 section 6; and

17 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
18 tion activities under section 7.

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

22 (A) employees of the Department of the
23 Interior;

24 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

1 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
2 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
3 ment, local government, academic institution, or
4 private organization; and

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

9 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
10 **GRANTS.**

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

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
17 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
18 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
19 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
20 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

1 (2) secondarily—

2 (A) are small businesses, particularly in
3 rural areas; and

4 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
5 rural areas.

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

8 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
9 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
10 markets for biomass and biochar;

11 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
12 tion 6, including by reducing the cost of trans-
13 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
14 tion Project;

15 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-
16 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or
17 process hazardous fuels removed under section 6;
18 and

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

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

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

- 1 (1) in subsection (a)—
- 2 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—
- 3 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at
- 4 the end;
- 5 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
- 6 clause (iv);
- 7 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
- 8 following:
- 9 “(iii) activities conducted under sec-
- 10 tion 6 of the Save Our Sequoias Act;”;
- 11 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
- 12 by striking the period at the end and in-
- 13 serting “; or”; and
- 14 (v) by adding at the end the following:
- 15 “(v) any combination of activities
- 16 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”; and
- 17 (B) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
- 18 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
- 19 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
- 20 semite National Park.”; and
- 21 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by amending subpara-
- 22 graph (C) to read as follows—
- 23 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds
- 24 received from the sale of timber by a Governor

1 of a State under a good neighbor agreement
2 shall be retained and used by the Governor—

3 “(i) to carry out authorized restora-
4 tion services under such good neighbor
5 agreement; and

6 “(ii) if there are funds remaining
7 after carrying out the services under clause
8 (i), to carry out authorized restoration
9 services within the State under other good
10 neighbor agreements.”.

11 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
12 **QUOIAS.**

13 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
14 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
15 6591c(e)) is amended to read—

16 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
17 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
18 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
19 and the Director of the National Park Service with
20 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
21 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
22 tional Park.”.

23 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
24 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of

1 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
2 end the following:

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

5 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
6 **GRAM AND FUND.**

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

10 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
11 **gram and Fund**

12 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
13 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
14 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
15 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
16 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

17 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
18 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
19 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
20 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

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

24 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
25 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination

1 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
2 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia
3 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
4 this section), to be administered in support of the program
5 established under subsection (a).

6 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
7 PROTECTION.—The following shall apply to the
8 Fund:

9 “(A) The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
10 devises, or bequests that are provided to the
11 National Park Foundation or National Forest
12 Foundation for such purpose.

13 “(B) The National Park Foundation and
14 National Forest Foundation shall deposit any
15 funds received for the Fund in a federally in-
16 sured interest-bearing account or may invest
17 funds in appropriate security obligations, as
18 mutually agreed upon.

19 “(C) Any accrued interest or dividends
20 earned on funds received for the Fund shall be
21 added to the principal and form a part of the
22 Fund.

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
24 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
25 est Foundation without further appropriation for

1 projects and activities approved by the Chief of the
2 Forest Service or the Director of the National Park
3 Service as appropriate, or their designees, to—

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

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

13 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
15 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
16 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
17 and Fund created under this section that includes—

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

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

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

24 “(d) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
25 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered National

1 Forest System lands’ has the meaning given such term
2 in section 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

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

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

6 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

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

11 (3) for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028,
12 \$30,000,000; and

13 (4) for each of fiscal years 2029 through 2033,
14 \$40,000,000.

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