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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST 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 certified 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20 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-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, certify the Giant Sequoia Lands Coa-
6 lition in accordance with section 4(a).

7 (2) Not later than 30 days after entering into
8 the agreement, conduct Protection Projects under
9 section 6.

10 (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into
11 the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-
12 quoa Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy
13 under section 7.

14 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

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

22 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
23 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
24 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
25 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture

1 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
2 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
3 a party to such agreement.

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

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
6 tion with the parties to such agreement, shall certify the
7 Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition in accordance with the
8 charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter”
9 (or successor charter) signed during the period beginning
10 June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022 by each of the
11 following:

12 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
13 quoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

14 (2) The National Park Service, representing
15 Yosemite National Park.

16 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
17 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
18 ment.

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

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

23 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
24 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
25 agement Area.

1 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
2 dian Reservation.

3 (8) The State of California, representing
4 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

5 (9) The State of California, representing Moun-
6 tain Home Demonstration State Forest.

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

9 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
10 resenting Balch Park.

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

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

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

17 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
18 section 6; and

19 (B) the Strategy established under section
20 7;

21 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
22 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
23 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 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
11 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
12 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
13 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
14 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
15 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
16 essary to carry out this section.

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

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 first meeting of the Coalition, 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 ex-
2 perienceed 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
10 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
11 turbance;

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 ex-
17 perienceed 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, pro-
25 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to

1 be carried out under section 6, giving priority to
2 projects located on lands identified under subpara-
3 graphs (B) 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 quoa 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 ad-
2 dressed to improve the best available science on
3 the giant sequoias.

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

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

12 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

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

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

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

24 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to
25 initiate at least 7 Protection Projects in the

1 previous year, a written explanation that in-
2 cludes—

3 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
4 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at
5 least 7 Protection Projects;

6 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
7 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to
8 ensure that at least 7 Protection Projects
9 are initiated the following year; and

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

14 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
15 tion of giant sequoias—

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

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

24 (c) DASHBOARD.—

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

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

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

8 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
9 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
10 subsection (a);

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

14 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
15 activities that have been proposed, initi-
16 ated, or completed in such groves; and

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

19 (i) the status of Federal environ-
20 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
21 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
22 and rehabilitation activities; and

23 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
24 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
25 tion activities.

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

5 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

6 (B) the status of the compliance of each
7 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
8 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

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

13 (D) information about project-related pub-
14 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
15 ment periods, which shall be presented in
16 English and the predominant language of the
17 community or communities most affected by the
18 project, as that information becomes available.

19 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
20 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
21 include—

22 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
23 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
24 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-

1 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
2 giant sequoia resiliency;

3 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
4 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
5 of giant sequoia groves; and

6 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
7 governments or agencies.

8 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
9 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
10 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
11 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
12 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
13 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
14 gration of—

15 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
16 technologies;

17 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

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

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

24 (1) State of California's Wildfire and Forest
25 Resilience Action Plan;

1 (2) Forest Service's 10-year Wildfire Crisis
2 Strategy (or successor plan); and

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

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

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

12 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
13 QUOIAS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—

15 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
16 gress determines that—

17 (i) an emergency exists on public
18 lands and covered National Forest System
19 lands that makes it necessary to carry out
20 Protection Projects that take needed ac-
21 tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,
22 insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

23 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
24 to control the immediate impacts of the
25 emergency described in clause (i) and are

1 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
2 or important natural or cultural resources
3 on public lands and covered National For-
4 est System lands.

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

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

13 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
14 determination established under subsection (a) is in
15 effect—

16 (A) a responsible official may carry out a
17 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
18 before initiating—

19 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
20 the National Environmental Policy Act of
21 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

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

1 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
2 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
3 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

4 (B) the rules established under subsections
5 (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure
6 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)
7 and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection
8 Projects by substituting “Protection Projects”
9 for “authorized emergency action under this
10 section” each place it appears in such sub-
11 sections; and

12 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to
13 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the
14 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
15 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

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

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

22 (B) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
23 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
24 tion, and prescribed burning.

1 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
2 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
3 mined by the responsible official.

4 (D) Removing trees to address over-
5 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
6 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
7 forest stand as determined by the responsible
8 official.

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

11 (F) Using chemical treatments to address
12 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
13 petition.

14 (G) Any combination of activities described
15 in this paragraph.

16 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
18 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
19 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
20 under this Act that are described by subpara-
21 graph (D) are a category of actions hereby des-
22 ignated as being categorically excluded from the
23 preparation of an environmental assessment or
24 an environmental impact statement under sec-

1 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy
2 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

3 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
4 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
5 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
6 with this section.

7 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

8 (i) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that
9 Protection Projects carried out under this
10 section are consistent with improving the
11 health and resiliency of critical habitat for
12 threatened and endangered species, includ-
13 ing the pacific fisher and California spot-
14 ted owl.

15 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal
16 consultation requirements in sections
17 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,
18 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
19 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-
20 tion Projects.

21 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
22 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
23 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
24 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
25 activity—

1 (i) covers an area of no more than—

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

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

10 (ii) was—

11 (I) proposed by the Assessment
12 under section 5(a)(3);

13 (II) developed through a collabo-
14 rative process; or

15 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
16 sory committee (as defined in section
17 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and
18 Community Self-Determination Act of
19 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

20 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
21 Federal land with the consent of the non-
22 Federal landowner.

23 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
24 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
25 cerned shall use the authorities provided under

1 this section in combination with other authori-
2 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
3 ing—

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

7 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
8 entered into under section 604 of the
9 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
10 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

11 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
12 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
13 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
14 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
15 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
16 Tribe.

17 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
18 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer
19 than 7 Protection Projects each year.

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

22 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
23 EGY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
25 timeline and agreement established in section

1 3(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
2 ties to such agreement, shall develop and implement
3 a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Refore-
4 estation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the
5 reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia
6 groves that—

7 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
8 of natural or artificial regeneration, giving
9 highest priority to groves identified under sec-
10 tion 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

11 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
12 and rehabilitation activities;

13 (C) identifies and addresses—

14 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
15 bilitation including—

16 (I) regulatory barriers;

17 (II) seedling shortages or related
18 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
19 straints;

20 (III) labor and workforce short-
21 ages;

22 (IV) technology and science gaps;

23 and

24 (V) site preparation challenges;

1 (ii) potential public-private partner-
2 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
3 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

4 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
5 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
6 in the 10-year period after the agreement
7 is entered into under section 3; and

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

10 (D) includes program and policy rec-
11 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
12 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

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

16 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
17 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
18 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
19 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

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

21 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
22 sserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(dd) shall include reforestation and rehabilitation
2 activities conducted under section 7 of the Save Our Se-
3 quoiias Act.”.

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

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

13 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
15 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
16 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
17 plementation of—

18 (A) primarily, section 6; and

19 (B) secondarily, section 7.

20 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

21 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
22 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
23 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
24 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
25 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16

1 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under
2 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
3 1531 et seq.);

4 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
5 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
6 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
7 activity;

8 (C) implement Protection Projects under
9 section 6; and

10 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
11 tion activities under section 7.

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

15 (A) employees of the Department of the
16 Interior;

17 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

18 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
19 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
20 ment, local government, academic institution, or
21 private organization; and

22 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
23 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
24 local government, academic institution, or pri-
25 vate organization.

1 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
2 **GRANTS.**

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

8 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
9 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
10 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
11 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
12 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

18 (2) secondarily—

19 (A) are small businesses, particularly in
20 rural areas; and

21 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
22 rural areas.

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

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

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

8 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-
9 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or
10 process hazardous fuels removed under section 6;
11 and

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

15 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
16 **QUOIAS.**

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

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—

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

23 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
24 clause (iv);

1 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
2 following:

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

5 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
6 by striking the period at the end and in-
7 serting “; or”; and

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

9 “(v) any combination of activities
10 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”;

11 and

12 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-
13 dian tribe”; and

14 (C) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
15 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
16 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
17 semite National Park.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
20 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

21 (B) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read
22 as follows:

23 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds
24 received from the sale of timber by a Governor,
25 an Indian tribe, or a county under a good

1 neighbor agreement shall be retained and used
2 by the Governor, Indian tribe, or county, as ap-
3 plicable—

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

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

12 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
13 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

14 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

15 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
16 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
17 2113a(a)) is amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “,
19 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, In-
21 dian 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(e)) is amended to read—

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

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

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

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

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

1 **“§ 101123. Giant sequoia emergency protection pro-**
2 **gram and fund**

3 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
4 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
5 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
6 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
7 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

8 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
9 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
10 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
11 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

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

15 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
16 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination
17 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
18 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia
19 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
20 this section), to be administered in support of the program
21 established under subsection (a).

22 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
23 PROTECTION.—The following shall apply to the
24 Fund:

25 “(A) The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
26 devises, or bequests that are provided to the

1 National Park Foundation or National Forest
2 Foundation for such purpose.

3 “(B) The National Park Foundation and
4 National Forest Foundation shall deposit any
5 funds received for the Fund in a federally in-
6 sured interest-bearing account or may invest
7 funds in appropriate security obligations, as
8 mutually agreed upon.

9 “(C) Any accrued interest or dividends
10 earned on funds received for the Fund shall be
11 added to the principal and form a part of the
12 Fund.

13 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
14 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
15 est Foundation without further appropriation, sub-
16 ject to the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects
17 and activities approved by the Chief of the Forest
18 Service or the Director of the National Park Service
19 as appropriate, or their designees, to—

20 “(A) primarily, support the management
21 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
22 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-
23 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
24 sects, and drought; and

1 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
2 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
3 covered National Forest System lands impacted
4 by wildfire.

5 “(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
6 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
7 est Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than
8 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support
9 tribal management and conservation of giant se-
10 quoias.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
6 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
7 retary concerned shall allocate up to—

8 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

9 (2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

10 (3) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
11 through 2028; and

12 (4) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2029
13 through 2030.

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