

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10000

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Mountain Pine Beetle Response Program under which the Secretary may issue competitive grants for use carrying out emergency mountain pine beetle response projects on National Forest Service lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Mountain Pine Beetle Response Program under which the Secretary may issue competitive grants for use carrying out emergency mountain pine beetle response projects on National Forest Service lands, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Mountain
5 Pine Beetle Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RESPONSE PROGRAM.**

2 (a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of
3 Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
4 ice, shall establish a competitive grant program to be
5 known as the “Mountain Pine Beetle Response Program”
6 (referred to in this section as the “Program”) under which
7 the Secretary may issue a grant to sponsor for use car-
8 rying out an emergency mountain pine beetle response
9 project described in subsection (c).

10 (b) SELECTION.—

11 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
12 grant under the Program, a sponsor shall submit to
13 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
14 form, and containing such information as the Sec-
15 retary may require, including a description of the
16 emergency mountain pine beetle response project
17 proposed to be carried out with grant funds.

18 (2) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting an ap-
19 plicant to receive a grant under the Program, the
20 Secretary shall give priority to applicants that pro-
21 pose to carrying out emergency mountain pine beetle
22 response project—

23 (A) designed to protect municipal water
24 supplies and critical infrastructure;

25 (B) designed to reduce wildfire risk to
26 communities in the wildland-urban interface;

1 (C) focused on an area that has experi-
2 enced, or is experiencing, a mountain pine bee-
3 tle outbreak resulting in high tree mortality or
4 low natural ecological regeneration; and

5 (D) that aligns with a State forest action
6 plan or watershed strategy.

7 (c) EMERGENCY MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RE-
8 SPONSE PROJECT.—An emergency mountain pine beetle
9 response project described in this subsection is a project
10 carried out on National Forest System lands for purposes
11 of restoring forest health in an area that experienced, or
12 is experiencing, a mountain pine beetle outbreak resulting
13 in significant tree mortality, that may include the fol-
14 lowing activities:

15 (1) Removal of beetle-killed or beetle infested
16 hazard trees.

17 (2) Processing of beetle-killed or beetle infested
18 hazard trees.

19 (3) Forest thinning and other fuels reduction of
20 plant debris associated with mountain pine beetle
21 mortality to alter or clear fuels created by the out-
22 break and address a public safety, critical infrastruc-
23 ture, or watershed health need.

24 (4) Reforestation, including tree planting.

1 (5) Ecological restoration designed to promote
2 biodiversity.

3 (6) Watershed protection and stabilization
4 measures, including—

5 (A) slope stabilization;

6 (B) sediment and runoff control;

7 (C) flood and erosion mitigation; and

8 (D) planning, monitoring, and technical as-
9 sistance for purposes of maintaining watershed
10 health.

11 (d) DISBURSEMENT.—In disbursing grant funds
12 awarded to a grant recipient under the Program, the Sec-
13 retary—

14 (1) may disburse all or part of such grant funds
15 to the recipient at any time during the period begin-
16 ning on the date on which the grant is awarded and
17 ending 30 days after the date described in para-
18 graph (2); and

19 (2) shall ensure that all such grant funds are
20 disbursed not later than 30 days after the date on
21 which the Secretary receives written notification
22 from the recipient attesting that the emergency
23 mountain pine beetle response project for which the
24 grant was awarded is complete.

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
2 has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the
3 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
4 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
6 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
7 such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
8 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
9 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

10 (3) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means—
11 (A) a State or local government;
12 (B) an Indian Tribe;
13 (C) a water management district, water
14 conservation district, special district, or a public
15 water, wastewater, and stormwater utility; and
16 (D) an electric utility, transmitting utility,
17 or transmission organization (as such terms are
18 defined, respectively, in section 3 of the Federal
19 Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796) or electrical trans-
20 mission provider.

21 (4) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
22 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
23 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
24 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

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