

Union Calendar No. 466

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2709

[Report No. 119–542, Part I]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mr. FONG (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. KIM, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Ms. LEE of Nevada) 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

MARCH 12, 2026

Additional sponsors: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. GRAY

MARCH 12, 2026

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

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

MARCH 12, 2026

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 8, 2025]

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.*—*The table of contents for*
 7 *this Act is as follows:*

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. Giant sequoia insect monitoring and technology.

Sec. 11. Stewardship contracting for giant sequoias.

Sec. 12. Giant sequoia emergency protection program and fund.

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9 *In this Act:*

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

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

16 (3) *COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.*—*The term “col-*
 17 *laborative process” means a collaborative process as*
 18 *described in section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Public*
 19 *Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.*
 20 *7303(b)(2)).*

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 4 *lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain*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

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

10 (A) *the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-*
 11 *ation Management Area in California managed*
 12 *by the Bureau of Land Management; and*

13 (B) *Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia*
 14 *National Park, and Yosemite National Park in*
 15 *California managed by the National Park Serv-*
 16 *ice.*

17 (6) *GIANT SEQUOIA.*—*The term “giant sequoia”*
 18 *means a tree of the species Sequoiadendron*
 19 *giganteum.*

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

23 (8) *REFORESTATION.*—*The term “reforestation”*
 24 *means the act of renewing tree cover, taking into con-*

1 *sideration species composition and resilience, by es-*
 2 *tablishing young trees through—*

3 *(A) natural regeneration;*

4 *(B) natural regeneration with site prepara-*
 5 *tion and vegetation competition control; or*

6 *(C) planting or direct seeding.*

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

12 *(10) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—*
 13 *The term “relevant Congressional Committees”*
 14 *means—*

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

18 *(B) the Committees on Energy and Natural*
 19 *Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry,*
 20 *and Appropriations of the Senate.*

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

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

3 (13) *SECRETARY CONCERNED*.—The term “Sec-
4 retary concerned” means—

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

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

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
20 **QUOIAS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 90 days after receiv-
22 ing a request from the Governor of the State of California
23 or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or expand an
24 existing shared stewardship agreement or enter into a simi-
25 lar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Gov-

1 *ernor of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly*
2 *carry out the short-term and long-term management and*
3 *conservation of giant sequoias.*

4 *(b) PARTICIPATION.—*

5 *(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-*
6 *ceived a request from the Governor of the State of*
7 *California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before the*
8 *date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of*
9 *this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agreement*
10 *under subsection (a) and jointly implement such*
11 *agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.*

12 *(2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary*
13 *receives a request from the Governor of the State of*
14 *California or the Tribe any time after entering into*
15 *the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture under*
16 *paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the Gov-*
17 *ernor of the State of California or the Tribe as a*
18 *party to such agreement.*

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

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

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

3 (2) *The National Park Service, representing Yo-*
4 *osemite National Park.*

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

7 (4) *The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-*
8 *tional Forest.*

9 (5) *The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-*
10 *tional Forest.*

11 (6) *The Bureau of Land Management, rep-*
12 *resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-*
13 *agement Area.*

14 (7) *The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-*
15 *dian Reservation.*

16 (8) *The State of California, representing*
17 *Calaveras Big Trees State Park.*

18 (9) *The State of California, representing Moun-*
19 *tain Home Demonstration State Forest.*

20 (10) *The University of California, Berkeley, rep-*
21 *resenting Whitaker's Research Forest.*

22 (11) *The County of Tulare, California, rep-*
23 *resenting Balch Park.*

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

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

2 (2) *observe implementation, and provide policy*
3 *recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with re-*
4 *spect to—*

5 (A) *Protection Projects carried out under*
6 *section 6; and*

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

8 (3) *facilitate collaboration and coordination on*
9 *Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross*
10 *jurisdictional boundaries;*

11 (4) *facilitate information sharing, including best*
12 *available science as described in section 5(d) and*
13 *mapping resources; and*

14 (5) *support the development and dissemination*
15 *of educational materials and programs that inform*
16 *the public about the threats to the health and resil-*
17 *ency of giant sequoia groves and actions being taken*
18 *to reduce the risk to such groves from high-severity*
19 *wildfire, insects, and drought.*

20 (c) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES,*
21 *AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make personnel*
22 *of the Department of the Interior available to the Coalition*
23 *for administrative support, technical services, development*
24 *and dissemination of educational materials, and staff sup-*

1 port that the Secretary determines necessary to carry out
2 this section.

3 (d) *PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENT.*—

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
5 *graph (2), the Coalition shall hold not less than one*
6 *meeting annually, which shall be open to the public.*

7 (2) *CLOSED SESSIONS.*—*The Coalition may close*
8 *portions of a meeting to the public only when discus-*
9 *sion will involve—*

10 (A) *sensitive law enforcement, security, or*
11 *emergency response matters, the public disclosure*
12 *of which would compromise public safety; or*

13 (B) *confidential commercial information,*
14 *private property information, or landowner in-*
15 *formation.*

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

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

23 (1) *identifies—*

24 (A) *each giant sequoia grove that has expe-*
25 *rienced a—*

1 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or
2 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
3 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
4 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
5 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
6 grove;

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

10 (C) lands—

11 (i) contiguous or adjacent to giant se-
12 quoia groves that are at risk of experiencing
13 high-severity wildfires that could adversely
14 impact such giant sequoia groves; or

15 (ii) in which the placement of fuel
16 breaks could reduce the risk of high-severity
17 wildfires that could adversely impact giant
18 sequoia groves; and

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

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

24 (A) high-severity wildfire;

25 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

1 (C) drought;

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

7 (A) high-severity wildfires;

8 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

9 (C) drought; and

10 (4) includes program and policy recommenda-
11 tions that address—

12 (A) options to enhance communication, co-
13 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
14 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
15 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

16 (B) research gaps that should be addressed
17 to improve the best available science on the giant
18 sequoias.

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

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

1 (2) *with respect to Protection Projects—*

2 (A) *includes information on the number of*
3 *Protection Projects initiated the previous year*
4 *and the estimated timeline for completing those*
5 *projects;*

6 (B) *includes information on the number of*
7 *Protection Projects planned in the upcoming*
8 *year and the estimated timeline for completing*
9 *those projects;*

10 (C) *provides status updates and long-term*
11 *monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves after*
12 *the completion of Protection Projects; and*

13 (D) *if the Secretary concerned failed to re-*
14 *duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia*
15 *groves in the previous year, a written expla-*
16 *nation that includes—*

17 (i) *a detailed explanation of what im-*
18 *pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-*
19 *ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia*
20 *groves; and*

21 (ii) *a detailed explanation of what ac-*
22 *tions the Secretary concerned is taking to*
23 *ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in*
24 *at least 3 giant sequoia groves the following*
25 *year; and*

1 (3) *with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-*
2 *tion of giant sequoias—*

3 (A) *contains updates on the implementation*
4 *of the Strategy under section 7, including grove-*
5 *level data on reforestation and rehabilitation ac-*
6 *tivities; and*

7 (B) *provides status updates and monitoring*
8 *reports on giant sequoia groves that have experi-*
9 *enced reforestation or rehabilitation as part of*
10 *the Strategy under section 7.*

11 (c) *DASHBOARD.—*

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

14 (A) *publishes the Assessment, annual up-*
15 *dates to the Assessment, and other educational*
16 *materials developed by the Coalition;*

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

19 (i) *resiliency of such groves to threats*
20 *described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-*
21 *section (a);*

22 (ii) *Protection Projects that have been*
23 *proposed, initiated, or completed in such*
24 *groves; and*

1 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
2 activities that have been proposed, initiated,
3 or completed in such groves; and

4 (C) maintains a searchable database to
5 track—

6 (i) the status of Federal environmental
7 reviews and authorizations for specific Pro-
8 tection Projects and reforestation and reha-
9 bilitation activities; and

10 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
11 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
12 tion activities.

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

17 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

18 (B) the status of the compliance of each lead
19 agency, cooperating agency, and participating
20 agency with the permitting timetable;

21 (C) any modifications of the permitting
22 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
23 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
24 timetable was modified; and

1 (D) *information about project-related public*
2 *meetings, public hearings, and public comment*
3 *periods, which shall be presented in English and*
4 *the predominant language of the community or*
5 *communities most affected by the project, as that*
6 *information becomes available.*

7 (d) *BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best*
8 *available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall in-*
9 *clude—*

10 (1) *data and peer-reviewed research from aca-*
11 *demie institutions with a demonstrated history of*
12 *studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-*
13 *lyzing distinct management strategies to improve*
14 *giant sequoia resiliency;*

15 (2) *traditional ecological knowledge from the*
16 *Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency*
17 *of giant sequoia groves; and*

18 (3) *data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local*
19 *governments or agencies, and other interested stake-*
20 *holders with a demonstrated history of studying giant*
21 *sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct man-*
22 *agement strategies to improve giant sequoia resil-*
23 *iency.*

24 (e) *TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out*
25 *this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums*

1 *of understanding or agreements with other Federal agencies*
 2 *or departments, State or local governments, Tribal govern-*
 3 *ments, private entities, or academic institutions to improve,*
 4 *with respect to the Assessment, the use and integration of—*

5 (1) *advanced remote sensing and geospatial tech-*
 6 *nologies;*

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

8 (3) *any other technology the Secretary deter-*
 9 *mines will benefit the quality of information used in*
 10 *the Assessment.*

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

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

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

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

21 (g) *RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL*
 22 *POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission of*
 23 *the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be subject to*
 24 *the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*
 25 *4321 et seq.).*

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

2 (a) *EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-*
3 *QUOIAS.*—

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—

5 (A) *EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.*—*Con-*
6 *gress determines that—*

7 (i) *an emergency exists on covered pub-*
8 *lic lands and covered National Forest Sys-*
9 *tem lands that makes it necessary to carry*
10 *out Protection Projects that take needed ac-*
11 *tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,*
12 *insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and*

13 (ii) *Protection Projects are necessary to*
14 *control the immediate impacts of the emer-*
15 *gency described in clause (i) and are needed*
16 *to mitigate harm to life, property, or im-*
17 *portant natural or cultural resources on*
18 *covered public lands and covered National*
19 *Forest System lands.*

20 (B) *APPLICATION.*—*The emergency deter-*
21 *mination established under subparagraph (A)*
22 *shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-*
23 *ered National Forest System lands.*

24 (C) *EXPIRATION.*—*The emergency deter-*
25 *mination established under subparagraph (A)*

1 *shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the*
2 *date of the enactment of this Act.*

3 (2) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—*While the emergency de-*
4 *termination established under paragraph (1) is in ef-*
5 *fect, the following shall apply:*

6 (A) *The Secretary concerned, acting through*
7 *a responsible official, shall carry out Protection*
8 *Projects on covered public lands and covered Na-*
9 *tional Forest System lands in accordance with*
10 *this section, all applicable land management*
11 *plans, and the laws (including regulations) ap-*
12 *plicable to the Secretary concerned.*

13 (B) *A responsible official shall carry out*
14 *Protection Projects in accordance with the fol-*
15 *lowing, as applicable:*

16 (i) *Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of*
17 *Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,*
18 *2022), with respect to covered National For-*
19 *est System lands.*

20 (ii) *Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of*
21 *Federal Regulations (as in effect October 12,*
22 *2022), with respect to covered public lands.*

23 (iii) *Section 402.05 of title 50, Code of*
24 *Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,*

1 2022), with respect to covered National For-
 2 est System lands and covered public lands.

3 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code of
 4 Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21,
 5 2022), with respect to covered National For-
 6 est System lands and covered public lands.

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

14 (D) Protection Projects shall be subject to
 15 the requirements of section 106 of the Healthy
 16 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
 17 6516).

18 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible of-
 19 ficial shall carry out the following forest management
 20 activities as Protection Projects under the emergency
 21 determination under this section:

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

1 (B) *Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or*
2 *dying trees, as determined by the responsible of-*
3 *ficial.*

4 (C) *Removing trees to address overstocking*
5 *or crowding in a forest stand, consistent with the*
6 *appropriate basal area of the forest stand and*
7 *the best available science, as determined by the*
8 *responsible official.*

9 (D) *Activities to address insects, disease,*
10 *invasive species, and vegetative encroachment of*
11 *a giant sequoia grove.*

12 (E) *Any combination of activities described*
13 *in this paragraph.*

14 (4) *REQUIREMENTS.—*

15 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects car-*
16 *ried out under paragraph (3) and reforestation*
17 *and rehabilitation activities carried out under*
18 *this Act that are described by subparagraph (C)*
19 *are categorically excluded from the preparation*
20 *of an environmental assessment or an environ-*
21 *mental impact statement under section 102 of*
22 *the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*
23 *(42 U.S.C. 4332).*

24 (B) *AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-*
25 *cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-*

lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance with this section.

(C) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity is described by this subparagraph if such Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity—

(i) covers an area of no more than—

(I) 2,000 acres within giant sequoia groves; and

(II) 3,000 acres on lands identified under section 5(a)(1)(C); and

(ii) occurs on Federal land or non-Federal land with the consent of the non-Federal landowner.

(D) *EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.*—The extraordinary circumstances procedures under provisions (e) through (g) of section 1b.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, shall apply to a Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity that is categorically excluded under subparagraph (A).

(E) *USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.*—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall use the authorities provided under

1 *this section in combination with other authori-*
 2 *ties to carry out Protection Projects, including—*

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

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

10 *(F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to joint*
 11 *Protection Projects and reforestation and reha-*
 12 *bilitation activities involving the Tribe, nothing*
 13 *in this section shall be construed to add any ad-*
 14 *ditional regulatory requirements onto the Tribe.*

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

18 *(c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary concerned shall*
 19 *provide notice of each Protection Project on a publicly*
 20 *available website maintained by the Secretary concerned.*

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

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

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

8 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
9 of reforestation or rehabilitation, giving highest
10 priority to groves identified under section
11 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

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

14 (C) identifies and addresses—

15 (i) barriers to reforestation or rehabili-
16 tation, including—

17 (I) regulatory and funding bar-
18 riers;

19 (II) seedling shortages or related
20 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
21 straints;

22 (III) labor and workforce short-
23 ages;

24 (IV) technology and science gaps;
25 and

- 1 (V) *site preparation challenges;*
 2 (ii) *potential public-private partner-*
 3 *ship opportunities to complete high-priority*
 4 *reforestation or rehabilitation projects;*
 5 (iii) *a timeline for addressing the*
 6 *backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias in*
 7 *the 10-year period after the agreement is*
 8 *entered into under section 3; and*
 9 (iv) *strategies to ensure genetic diver-*
 10 *sity across giant sequoia groves; and*
 11 (D) *includes program and policy rec-*
 12 *ommendations needed to improve the efficiency*
 13 *or effectiveness of the Strategy.*
 14 (2) *ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-*
 15 *porate the Strategy into the Assessment under section*
 16 *5.*
 17 (b) *PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-*
 18 *MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and Range-*
 19 *land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*
 20 *1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—*
 21 *(1) in item (bb), by striking “and”;*
 22 *(2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-*
 23 *serting “; and”; and*
 24 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(dd) shall include reforest-
 2 ation and rehabilitation activities
 3 conducted under section 7 of the
 4 Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

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

6 (a) *GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.*—

7 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary concerned*
 8 *shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike Team to*
 9 *assist the Secretary concerned with the implementa-*
 10 *tion of—*

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

12 (B) *secondarily, section 7.*

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

14 (A) *assist the Secretary concerned with any*
 15 *reviews, including analysis under the National*
 16 *Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*
 17 *4321 et seq.), consultations under division A of*
 18 *subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (com-*
 19 *monly referred to as the National Historic Pres-*
 20 *ervation Act), and consultations under the En-*
 21 *dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et*
 22 *seq.);*

23 (B) *implement any necessary site prepara-*
 24 *tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-*

1 *tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation ac-*
 2 *tivity;*

3 *(C) implement Protection Projects under*
 4 *section 6; and*

5 *(D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-*
 6 *tion activities under section 7.*

7 *(3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may*
 8 *appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve on*
 9 *a Strike Team comprised of—*

10 *(A) employees of the Department of the In-*
 11 *terior;*

12 *(B) employees of the Forest Service;*

13 *(C) private contractors from any nonprofit*
 14 *organization, State government, Tribal Govern-*
 15 *ment, local government, academic institution, or*
 16 *private organization; and*

17 *(D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-*
 18 *zation, State government, Tribal Government,*
 19 *local government, academic institution, or pri-*
 20 *vate organization.*

21 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
 22 **GRANTS.**

23 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with*
 24 *the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall establish*
 25 *a program or expand an existing program to award grants*

1 *to eligible entities to advance, facilitate, or improve giant*
 2 *sequoia health and resiliency.*

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

8 (c) *PRIORITY.*—*In awarding grants under this section,*
 9 *the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—*
 10 (1) *primarily, are likely to have the greatest im-*
 11 *act on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and*

12 (2) *secondarily—*
 13 (A) *are small businesses or Tribal entities,*
 14 *particularly in rural areas; and*

15 (B) *create or support jobs, particularly in*
 16 *rural areas.*

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

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

22 (2) *facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-*
 23 *tion 6, including by reducing the cost of transporting*
 24 *hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protection*
 25 *Project;*

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

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

7 (5) *support Tribal management and conserva-*
 8 *tion of giant sequoias, including funding for Tribal*
 9 *historic preservation officers.*

10 **SEC. 10. GIANT SEQUOIA INSECT MONITORING AND TECH-**
 11 **NOLOGY.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
 13 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall—*

14 (1) *develop and implement a strategy for moni-*
 15 *toring insects in giant sequoia groves with a high-risk*
 16 *or previous history of insect infestations; and*

17 (2) *seek to enter into public-private partnerships*
 18 *to deploy technology to assist in the short-term and*
 19 *long-term monitoring of giant sequoia groves with*
 20 *current or potential insect infestations.*

21 (b) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*
 22 *of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall sub-*
 23 *mit a report to the relevant Congressional Committees that*
 24 *contains—*

25 (1) *the strategy required under subsection (a)(1);*

1 (2) *an update on the effectiveness of the moni-*
 2 *toring program in preventing or addressing insect in-*
 3 *festations in giant sequoia groves; and*

4 (3) *program and policy recommendations to fur-*
 5 *ther address—*

6 (A) *research gaps regarding giant sequoia*
 7 *resiliency to insects; and*

8 (B) *opportunities to improve the resiliency*
 9 *of giant sequoias to insects.*

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

12 (a) *NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604 of the*
 13 *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c)*
 14 *is amended—*

15 (1) *by amending subsection (a)(2) to read as fol-*
 16 *lows:*

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

23 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “national for-*
 24 *ests and the public lands” and inserting “national*
 25 *forests, public lands, and lands within Kings Canyon*

1 *National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite*
 2 *National Park”.*

3 **(b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.**—*Sec-*
 4 *tion 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003*
 5 *(16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the end the*
 6 *following:*

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

9 **(c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING IN CERTAIN NA-**
 10 *TIONAL PARKS.*—*Stewardship contracting projects occur-*
 11 *ring in Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National*
 12 *Park, and Yosemite National Park shall be carried out in*
 13 *accordance with the laws (including regulations) applicable*
 14 *to the National Park Service, including section 100753 of*
 15 *title 54, United States Code.*

16 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
 17 **GRAM AND FUND.**

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

21 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
 22 **gram and Fund**

23 **“(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
 24 **GRAM.**—*The National Park Foundation, in coordination*
 25 *with the National Forest Foundation and the Foundation*

1 *for America’s Public Lands, shall design and implement a*
 2 *comprehensive program to assist and promote philanthropic*
 3 *programs of support that benefit—*

4 “(1) *primarily, the management and conserva-*
 5 *tion of giant sequoias on covered public lands 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 covered public lands and covered National*
 10 *Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.*

11 “(b) *GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION*
 12 *FUND.—*

13 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The National Park Founda-*
 14 *tion, in coordination with the National Forest Foun-*
 15 *dation and the Foundation for America’s Public*
 16 *Lands, shall establish a joint special account to be*
 17 *known as the Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection*
 18 *Fund (referred to in this section as ‘the Fund’), to be*
 19 *administered in support of the program established*
 20 *under subsection (a).*

21 “(2) *FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY*
 22 *PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,*
 23 *devises, or bequests that are provided to the National*
 24 *Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, or*

1 *Foundation for America’s Public Lands for the pur-*
2 *pose described in paragraph (1).*

3 “(3) *USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available*
4 *to the National Park Foundation, National Forest*
5 *Foundation, and Foundation for America’s Public*
6 *Lands without further appropriation, subject to the*
7 *provisions in paragraph (4), for projects and activi-*
8 *ties approved by the Director of the National Park*
9 *Service, Chief of the Forest Service, or Director of the*
10 *Bureau of Land Management as appropriate, or their*
11 *designees, to—*

12 “(A) *primarily, support the management*
13 *and conservation of giant sequoias on covered*
14 *public lands and covered National Forest System*
15 *lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, insects,*
16 *and drought; and*

17 “(B) *secondarily, support the reforestation*
18 *of giant sequoias on covered public lands and*
19 *covered National Forest System lands impacted*
20 *by wildfire.*

21 “(4) *TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided*
22 *to the National Park Foundation, National Forest*
23 *Foundation, and Foundation for America’s Public*
24 *Lands under paragraph (3), not less than 15 percent*
25 *of such funds shall be used to support Tribal manage-*

1 *ment and conservation of giant sequoias including*
 2 *funding for Tribal historic preservation officers.*

3 “(c) *SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of*
 4 *the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation,*
 5 *National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for America’s*
 6 *Public Lands shall include with their annual reports a*
 7 *summary of the status of the program and Fund created*
 8 *under this section that includes—*

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

11 *“(2) the amount of the balance remaining in the*
 12 *Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and*

13 *“(3) a description of the program and projects*
 14 *funded during the fiscal year.*

15 “(d) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘covered*
 16 *public lands’ and ‘covered National Forest System lands’*
 17 *have the meaning given such terms in section 2 of the Save*
 18 *Our Sequoias Act.*

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

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

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

Union Calendar No. 466

119TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 2709

[Report No. 119-542, Part I]

A BILL

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

MARCH 12, 2026

Reported with an amendment

MARCH 12, 2026

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