

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3329

To provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2025

Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN) 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 provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, 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 “Wildlife Corridors and
5 USDA Conservation Programs Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AREA DESIGNATION.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) AMERICAN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The term
4 “American wildlife corridor” means a habitat
5 connectivity area, including any adjacent lands to
6 such habitat connectivity area that is designated
7 under subsection (c)(2).

8 (2) DIRECTORS.—The term “Directors” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior acting through—

10 (A) the Director of the United States Geo-
11 logical Survey; and

12 (B) the Director of the United States Fish
13 and Wildlife Service.

14 (3) HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—The term “habi-
15 tat connectivity” means the degree to which land-
16 scapes, waterscapes, and seascapes allow species to
17 move freely, including during seasonal migration and
18 in response to changing environmental conditions,
19 and ecological processes to function unimpeded.

20 (4) HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AREA.—The term
21 “habitat connectivity area” means an area of intact
22 habitat or a distinct component of the landscape,
23 waterscape, or seascape the designation of which,
24 under subsection (c)(2), may provide habitat
25 connectivity.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture.

3 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
4 AREAS.—

5 (1) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodi-
7 cally thereafter, the Secretary, in collaboration with
8 the Directors, shall identify habitat connectivity
9 areas, including any lands adjacent to such identi-
10 fied habitat connectivity areas, that may improve
11 habitat connectivity in such areas.

12 (2) MAPS.—Subject to section 1244(b) of the
13 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(b)), as
14 amended by section 3 of this Act, and section 1619
15 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008,
16 upon identifying habitat connectivity areas under
17 paragraph (1), the Secretary, in collaboration with
18 the Directors, shall—

19 (A) develop maps of the identified habitat
20 connectivity areas, including any adjacent lands
21 described in paragraph (1); and

22 (B) expand and build upon any existing ef-
23 forts by the Department of Agriculture in devel-
24 oping such maps.

1 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date on which the Secretary identifies habitat
3 connectivity areas, including any adjacent lands,
4 under paragraph (1), and periodically thereafter
5 upon any new identifications under such paragraph,
6 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
7 that—

8 (A) includes a description of habitat
9 connectivity areas identified under paragraph
10 (1);

11 (B) includes a review of any associated
12 data or surveys relating to activities carried out
13 under paragraph (1);

14 (C) includes the maps developed under
15 paragraph (2) in aggregate form; and

16 (D) identifies gaps in information with re-
17 spect to carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2),
18 including—

19 (i) information relating to whether the
20 identified habitat connectivity areas are
21 being used as a wildlife corridor;

22 (ii) additional information required to
23 identify additional habitat connectivity
24 areas; and

1 (iii) any other information the Sec-
2 retary, in collaboration with the Directors,
3 determines necessary.

4 (c) DESIGNATION OF AMERICAN WILDLIFE COR-
5 RIDORS.—

6 (1) CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
8 issue regulations to establish criteria, for the pur-
9 pose of designating habitat connectivity areas under
10 paragraph (2), that—

11 (A) considers whether a designation is in
12 concert with existing land and resource man-
13 agement plans; and

14 (B) determines, using the best-available
15 science, whether a habitat connectivity area
16 identified under subsection (b)(1), including any
17 adjacent lands as described in that subsection—

18 (i) supports the persistence, resilience,
19 adaptability, and movement of fish and
20 wildlife;

21 (ii) has the potential to benefit more
22 than 1 species of fish and wildlife; or

23 (iii) has the potential to benefit fish
24 or wildlife species that are listed as threat-
25 ened or endangered under the Endangered

1 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
2 seq.).

3 (2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 3 years
4 after the date on which the Secretary establishes cri-
5 teria pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
6 designate habitat connectivity areas identified under
7 subsection (b)(1), including any adjacent lands that
8 may provide additional habitat connectivity, using
9 the criteria established pursuant to paragraph (1) of
10 this subsection, as an American wildlife corridor for
11 the purposes of encouraging the long-term mainte-
12 nance and conservation of the American wildlife cor-
13 ridor.

14 (d) CONSERVATION OF AMERICAN WILDLIFE COR-
15 RIDORS.—

16 (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in col-
18 laboration with the Directors, shall develop and
19 establish technical standards and requirements,
20 including best practices for the long-term con-
21 servation of an American wildlife corridor, to
22 provide technical assistance, outreach, and edu-
23 cation with respect to the conservation of the
24 applicable American wildlife corridor.

1 (B) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS OF SEC-
2 RETARY.—In providing technical assistance
3 under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary may en-
4 courage producers to—

5 (i) implement strategies and activities
6 that will promote sustainable production
7 and conservation of wildlife habitats con-
8 currently;

9 (ii) maintain or improve habitats and
10 habitat connectivity in American wildlife
11 corridors;

12 (iii) establish wildlife monitoring
13 plans; and

14 (iv) implement strategies and activi-
15 ties that enhance the ability of fish and
16 wildlife to respond to changing environ-
17 mental conditions.

18 (2) CONTRACT MODIFICATION.—In furthering
19 the purposes of an American wildlife corridor des-
20 ignation under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary
21 may—

22 (A) give priority for enrollment or reenroll-
23 ment in a conservation program administered
24 by the Secretary; and

1 (B) terminate or modify an existing con-
2 tract entered into with the Secretary under
3 such a conservation program if—

4 (i) the producer agrees to the termi-
5 nation or modification of such contract;
6 and

7 (ii) land subject to such contract will
8 be enrolled in—

9 (I) the agricultural conservation
10 easement program under subtitle H of
11 title XII of the Food Security Act of
12 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.); or

13 (II) the healthy forests reserve
14 program under title V of the Healthy
15 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.).

17 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out this
18 section, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
19 ments with—

- 20 (1) Federal agencies;
21 (2) State, Tribal, and local governments;
22 (3) nongovernmental organizations; or
23 (4) institutions of higher education.

1 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) **PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION RELATING**
3 **TO NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—**
4 Section 1244(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (16 U.S.C. 3844(b)(1)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “,
6 including the Wildlife Corridors and USDA Conservation
7 Programs Act of 2025” after “Farm Service Agency”.

8 (b) **REGULATORY CERTAINTY.—**Section 1244(p) of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(p)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, or an
12 American wildlife corridor (as such term is defined
13 by section 2(a) of the Wildlife Corridors and USDA
14 Conservation Programs Act of 2025),” after “wild-
15 life resource concern”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “, or an
17 American wildlife corridor,” after “wildlife resource
18 concern”.

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