

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4219

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Program.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Ref-
3 uge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE**
5 **SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.**

6 (a) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE
7 SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
9 out a program to identify and respond to priority
10 invasive species threats within or adjacent to Na-
11 tional Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters in
12 coordination with partners, to be known as the “Na-
13 tional Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species
14 Strike Team Program”.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Pro-
16 gram, the Secretary shall—

17 (A) establish at least 1 invasive species
18 strike team within each region of the United
19 States Fish and Wildlife Service trained in
20 early detection and rapid response for multiple
21 invasive species taxa to—

22 (i) conserve, manage, and, where ap-
23 propriate, restore, habitat conditions that
24 help native biological communities flourish
25 within or adjacent to National Wildlife
26 Refuge System lands and waters;

1 (ii) conduct appropriate prevention,
2 early detection, rapid response, and man-
3 agement of invasive species;

4 (iii) use integrated pest management
5 techniques and tools;

6 (iv) conduct inreach and outreach, in-
7 cluding trainings and table-top exercises,
8 including on the use of the Incident Com-
9 mand System, as part of their planning
10 and operations; and

11 (v) use risk assessments, research, in-
12 novations, management outcomes, moni-
13 toring, and evaluation to improve the effec-
14 tiveness of detection and response activi-
15 ties;

16 (B) engage in partnerships and collabora-
17 tions with—

18 (i) Federal, State, Tribal, and local
19 governments;

20 (ii) nongovernmental institutions;

21 (iii) nonprofit organizations; and

22 (iv) private individuals and entities to
23 advance mutual priorities and promote effi-
24 ciency and cost-savings;

1 (C) collaborate in the development of a set
2 of consistent taxonomy standards and work
3 with others to implement such standards among
4 each database of the Department of the Inte-
5 rior;

6 (D) utilize national and regional standard-
7 ized reporting platforms, such as—

8 (i) the National Agricultural Pest In-
9 formation System;

10 (ii) the National Data Repository of
11 the National Plant Diagnostic Network;

12 (iii) the Early Detection and Distribu-
13 tion Mapping System;

14 (iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Spe-
15 cies Database of the United States Geo-
16 logical Survey;

17 (v) iMapInvasives; and

18 (vi) State databases; and

19 (E) ensure that both identification of and
20 response to priority invasive species threats on
21 lands and waters adjacent to the National Wild-
22 life Refuge System are carried out only at the
23 request of the owner of such lands or waters.

24 (3) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—In carrying
25 out the Program, the Secretary may—

1 (A) conduct outreach as appropriate to
2 Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments
3 and institutions, as well as private individuals
4 and organizations, to address the management
5 of invasive species within or adjacent to Na-
6 tional Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters,
7 including providing or entering into, upon re-
8 quest—

9 (i) financial assistance, including di-
10 rect expenditures;

11 (ii) technical assistance;

12 (iii) contracts; or

13 (iv) grants or cooperative agreements;

14 and

15 (B) upon the request of an entity described
16 in subparagraph (A) and as appropriate, enter
17 into an agreement to provide the expertise and
18 use of an Invasive Species Strike Team estab-
19 lished under paragraph (2) to respond to exist-
20 ing or newly detected invasive species.

21 (4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT AC-
22 TIONS.—The Secretary shall encourage the National
23 Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate the invasive
24 species management actions of each Invasive Species
25 Strike Team with adjacent landowners and the State

1 or Tribal agencies within the State or Tribal lands
2 on which Invasive Species Strike Team activities
3 may occur.

4 (5) REPORT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 submit to the Committee on Appropriations and
7 the Committee on Natural Resources of the
8 House of Representatives and the Committee
9 on Appropriations and the Committee on Envi-
10 ronment and Public Works of the Senate, and
11 make available to the public on the website of
12 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a
13 report regarding the Program 2 years after the
14 date of the enactment of this section and 5
15 years after the date of the enactment of this
16 section.

17 (B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report
18 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
19 clude—

20 (i) a summary of the work of each
21 Invasive Species Strike Team to address
22 priority invasive species within the Na-
23 tional Wildlife Refuge System; and

24 (ii) progress made by the Program to-
25 ward the prevention, detection, control, or

1 eradication of each priority invasive spe-
2 cies.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
6 through 2033.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) EARLY DETECTION.—The term “early de-
9 tection” means a process of surveying for, reporting,
10 and verifying the presence of an invasive species be-
11 fore the founding population of such invasive species
12 becomes established or spreads so widely that eradi-
13 cation is no longer feasible.

14 (2) ERADICATION.—The term “eradication”
15 means the removal or destruction of an entire popu-
16 lation of specific invasive species, or removal of a
17 group of invasive species at a pre-defined geographic
18 scale, confirmed through species-specific post-treat-
19 ment monitoring with no or little chance of reinva-
20 sion.

21 (3) INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term “invasive
22 species” means, with respect to a given ecosystem,
23 a non-native organism the introduction of which
24 causes or is likely to cause—

25 (A) economic or environmental harm; or

1 (B) harm to human, animal, or plant
2 health.

3 (4) PREVENTION.—The term “prevention”
4 means actions, such as outreach, education, or in-
5 spection stations, associated with stopping invasive
6 species from being introduced or spreading into a
7 new location or ecosystem through various pathways.

8 (5) PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term
9 “priority invasive species” means an invasive species
10 that is a major concern and necessary to map, mon-
11 itor, and manage based on the following factors:

12 (A) Potential impact on other native spe-
13 cies.

14 (B) Ability to alter habitats.

15 (C) Ability to harm human health.

16 (D) Severity of economic impact.

17 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
18 the National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Spe-
19 cies Strike Team Program authorized under sub-
20 section (a)(1).

21 (7) RAPID RESPONSE.—The term “rapid re-
22 sponse” means a process that is employed to eradi-
23 cate or contain the founding or incipient population
24 of an invasive species from a specific location.

1 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
4 ice.

5 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means—

6 (A) each of the several States;

7 (B) the District of Columbia; and

8 (C) each territory and possession of the
9 United States.

Passed the House of Representatives September 14,
2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

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