

Union Calendar No. 672

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4219

[Report No. 119-771]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2025

Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

AUGUST 27, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 27, 2025]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Refuge*
 5 *System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025”.*

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE**
 7 **SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.**

8 *(a) INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—*

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

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

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

23 *(i) conserve, manage, and, where ap-*
 24 *propriate, restore, habitat conditions that*
 25 *help native biological communities flourish*

1 *within or adjacent to National Wildlife Ref-*
2 *uge System lands and waters;*

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

6 *(iii) use integrated pest management*
7 *techniques and tools;*

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

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

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

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

21 *(ii) nongovernmental institutions;*

22 *(iii) nonprofit organizations; and*

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

1 (C) collaborate in the development of a set
2 of consistent taxonomy standards and work with
3 others to implement such standards among all
4 Department of the Interior databases; and

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

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

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

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

13 (iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species
14 Database of the United States Geological
15 Survey;

16 (v) iMapInvasives; and

17 (vi) State databases.

18 (3) *PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.*—In carrying out
19 the Program, the Secretary is authorized to—

20 (A) conduct outreach as appropriate to Fed-
21 eral, State, local, and Tribal governments and
22 institutions, as well as private individuals and
23 organizations, to address the management of
24 invasive species within or adjacent to National

Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters, including providing or entering, upon request—

(i) financial assistance, including direct expenditures;

(ii) technical assistance;

(iii) contracts; or

(iv) grants or cooperative agreements;

and

(B) upon request of an entity described in subparagraph (A) and as appropriate, enter into an agreement to provide the expertise and use of Invasive Species Strike Teams established under paragraph (2) to respond to existing or newly detected invasive species.

(4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.—

The Secretary shall encourage the National Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate invasive species management actions of each Invasive Species Strike Team with adjacent landowners and the State or Tribal agencies within the State or Tribal lands on which Invasive Species Strike Team activities may occur.

(5) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of

1 *Representatives and the Committee on Appro-*
2 *priations and the Committee on Environment*
3 *and Public Works of the Senate, and make avail-*
4 *able to the public on the website of the United*
5 *States Fish and Wildlife Service, a report re-*
6 *garding the Program 2 years after enactment*
7 *and 5 years after enactment.*

8 (B) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report*
9 *submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-*
10 *clude—*

11 (i) *a summary of each Invasive Species*
12 *Strike Team’s work to address priority*
13 *invasive species within the National Wild-*
14 *life Refuge System; and*

15 (ii) *progress made by the Program to-*
16 *ward the prevention, detection, control, or*
17 *eradication of each priority invasive spe-*
18 *cies.*

19 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
20 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out*
21 *this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027*
22 *through 2033.*

23 (c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

24 (1) *EARLY DETECTION.—The term “early detec-*
25 *tion” means a process of surveying for, reporting, and*

1 *verifying the presence of an invasive species before the*
2 *founding population becomes established or spreads so*
3 *widely that eradication is no longer feasible.*

4 (2) *ERADICATION.*—*The term “eradication”*
5 *means the removal or destruction of an entire popu-*
6 *lation of specific invasive species, or removal of a*
7 *group of invasive species at a pre-defined geographic*
8 *scale, confirmed through species-specific post-treat-*
9 *ment monitoring with no or little chance of reinva-*
10 *sion.*

11 (3) *INVASIVE SPECIES.*—*The term “invasive spe-*
12 *cies” means, with regard to a particular ecosystem, a*
13 *non-native organism whose introduction causes or is*
14 *likely to cause economic or environmental harm or*
15 *harm to human, animal, or plant health.*

16 (4) *PREVENTION.*—*The term “prevention” means*
17 *actions, such as outreach, education, or inspection*
18 *stations, associated with stopping invasive species*
19 *from being introduced or spreading into a new loca-*
20 *tion or ecosystem through various pathways.*

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

1 (A) *Potential impact on other native spe-*
2 cies.

3 (B) *Ability to alter habitats.*

4 (C) *Ability to harm human health.*

5 (D) *Severity of economic impact.*

6 (6) *PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the*
7 *National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species*
8 *Strike Team Program authorized under subsection*
9 *(a)(1).*

10 (7) *RAPID RESPONSE.—The term “rapid re-*
11 *sponse” means a process that is employed to eradicate*
12 *or contain the founding or incipient population of an*
13 *invasive species from a specific location.*

14 (8) *SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means*
15 *the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-*
16 *rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

17 (9) *STATE.—The term “State” means each of the*
18 *several States, the District of Columbia, and each ter-*
19 *ritory and possession of the United States.*

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