

## TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS ACT OF 2019

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OCTOBER 9, 2020.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed  
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Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

### R E P O R T

together with

### DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 5179]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5179) to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 5179 is to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Tribal Wildlife Corridors program, allowing for greater habitat connectivity on tribal lands nominated by Indian tribes.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Migration and habitat connectivity are key to the survival of many North American species. Some species must travel across large areas to find food or a mate;<sup>1</sup> other species complete annual migrations to breeding or feeding grounds. For example, each spring, thousands of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem elk move from their lower altitude winter ranges to their higher altitude summer

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<sup>1</sup>See, e.g., U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERV., GRAY WOLF, *CANIS LUPUS* (2013), <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/graywolf/wolfbio.pdf>.

ranges.<sup>2</sup> The recovery of some endangered species also depends upon migrations: for example, the endangered Florida panther's distribution must push north in order for the population to reestablish across its historic range.<sup>3</sup> Wildlife migration and distribution are also essential to species survival under human-induced climate change. For example, one meta-analysis study has estimated that terrestrial species are already moving to higher latitudes at a median rate of 16.9 kilometers per decade.<sup>4</sup>

However, much wildlife migration in North America is impeded by human-made infrastructure. Roads, fences, energy infrastructure, agricultural fields, pastures, and residential development all can block or detour migrating wildlife. Such habitat fragmentation hinders the movement of individual animals, the migration of populations, the search for food, and reproduction.<sup>5</sup> If barriers exist that prevent species from reaching suitable habitat, species may be forced to live in unsuitable habitat, increasing their risk of extinction.<sup>6</sup> In certain cases where highways cross commonly-used wildlife migration routes, public safety is threatened by an increased risk of vehicle-wildlife collisions.<sup>7</sup>

Developing and restoring wildlife corridors can allow species to complete their migrations and decrease wildlife collisions and related human injuries.<sup>8</sup> Corridors vary widely in size and shape, and include natural corridors such as riparian zones and streams that naturally connect wetlands and watersheds, and artificially constructed ones such as overpasses and underpasses on highways.<sup>9</sup>

Many tribes are already integrating wildlife corridors in their planning and infrastructure. Tribes, including the Navajo, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and the Jicarilla Apache, have already taken actions to promote and study wildlife corridors, including conducting connectivity analyses, modeling habitat suitability data, conducting studies using GPS collars to track mule deer movements, and even creating systems of corridors for species like elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and pronghorn.

<sup>2</sup> *Elk Migrations of the Greater Yellowstone*, UNIV. OF WYO., WYO. MIGRATION INITIATIVE, <https://migrationinitiative.org/content/elk-migrations-greater-yellowstone> (last visited June 10, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> See U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERV., FLORIDA PANTHER MULTI-SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN FOR SOUTH FLORIDA 4–120 (1999), <https://www.fws.gov/verobeach/MSRPPDFs/FloridaPanther.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> I-Ching Chen, Jane K. Hill, Ralf Ohlemüller, David B. Roy & Chris D. Thomas, *Rapid Range Shifts of Species Associated with High Levels of Climate Warming*, 333 (6045) SCIENCE 1024 (2011), DOI: 10.1126/science.1206432, <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/333/6045/1024>.

<sup>5</sup> USDA, NAT. RES. CONSERVATION SERV., NATIONAL BIOLOGY HANDBOOK AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL HABITAT RESOURCES, pt. 614.4, CONSERVATION CORRIDOR PLANNING AT THE LANDSCAPE LEVEL MANAGING FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT (1999), ch.2, HABITAT FRAGMENTATION, [https://prod.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2\\_015259.pdf](https://prod.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015259.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., Gretta T. Pecl et al., *Biodiversity Redistribution Under Climate Change: Impacts on Ecosystems and Human Well-Being* 2, 3, 335 SCIENCE (2017), DOI: 10.1126/science.aai9214, <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6332/eaai9214>.

<sup>7</sup> W. ASS'N OF FISH & WILDLIFE, MULE DEER WORKING GRP., UNDERSTANDING MULE DEER MIGRATION FACT SHEET #12 (2014), <https://www.wafwa.org/Documents%20and%20Settings/37/Site%20Documents/Working%20Groups/Mule%20Deer/FactSheets/MDWG%20Fact%20Sheet%2012%20Migration.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., *Large-Scale Networks*, CONSERVATION CORRIDOR, <http://conservationcorridor.org/corridors-in-conservation/large-scale-networks/> (last visited July 1, 2020); KELLEY M STEWART, U. OF NEV. RENO DEPT OF NAT. RES. & ENVTL. SCI. (Prepared for NEV. DEPT OF TRANSP.), EFFECTIVENESS OF WILDLIFE CROSSING STRUCTURES TO MINIMIZE TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH MULE DEER AND OTHER WILDLIFE IN NEVADA (2015), <https://www.nevadadot.com/home/showdocument?id=6485>.

<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., *Corridor FAQ*, CONSERVATION CORRIDOR, <https://conservationcorridor.org/the-science-of-corridors/> (last visited June 10, 2020).

On October 17, 2019, in a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, Gloria Tom of the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife testified in support of H.R. 2795, the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act, in which there is a title (Title II) nearly identical to H.R. 5179. In her testimony, she stated that federal recognition of Tribal Wildlife Corridors will support tribes “in their efforts to allow fish and wildlife to continue to move through tribal and adjacent lands and waters.”<sup>10</sup> She also testified that funding is essential to maintenance and restoration of a successful corridors program, and that the Title II would increase cooperation and coordination with federal land managers and private landowners.<sup>11</sup> Enabling such coordination is “one of the main challenges facing migratory corridors,” which necessarily span across borders and jurisdictions.<sup>12</sup>

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 5179 was introduced on November 19, 2019, by Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture. Within the Natural Resources Committee, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife and to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States. On January 29, 2020, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittees were discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered, and the bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 22 yeas and 15 nays, as follows:

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<sup>10</sup>*Hearing on H.R. 2795 and H.R. 3742 Before the H. Subcomm. on Waters, Oceans, & Wildlife*, 116th Cong. (2019) (not printed), <https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=110088> (written testimony of Gloria Tom, Dir., Navajo Nation Dep’t of Fish & Wildlife), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/II/II13/20191017/110088/HHRG-116-II13-Wstate-TomG-20191017.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup>*Id.*

<sup>12</sup>*Id.*

Date: January 29, 2020

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
116<sup>th</sup> Congress - Roll Call

Bill / Motion: H.R. 5179

Amendment:

Disposition: Final Passage: H.R. 5179 was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by a roll call vote of 22 yeas and 15 nays.

	DEM. MEMBERS (25)	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
1	Mr. Brown, MD	X		
2	Mr. Cartwright, PA	X		
3	Mr. Case, HI	X		
4	Mr. Clay, MO			
5	Mr. Costa, CA	X		
6	Mr. Cox, CA	X		
7	Mr. Cunningham, SC	X		
8	Ms. DeGette, CO	X		
9	Mrs. Dingell, MI	X		
10	Mr. Gallego, AZ	X		
11	Mr. Grijalva, AZ ( <i>Chair</i> )	X		
12	Mr. Garcia, IL	X		
13	Ms. Haaland, NM	X		
14	Mr. Horsford, NV	X		
15	Mr. Huffman, CA	X		
16	Mr. Levin, CA	X		
17	Mr. Lowenthal, CA	X		
18	Mr. McEachin, VA			
19	Ms. Napolitano, CA	X		
20	Mr. Neguse, CO	X		
21	Mr. Sabian, CNMI	X		
22	Mr. San Nicolas, GU	X		
23	Mr. Soto, FL	X		
24	Mr. Tonko, NY	X		
25	Ms. Velázquez, NY			
26				
	REP. MEMBERS (19)	Y	N	P
1	Mr. Bishop, UT ( <i>Ranking</i> )		X	
2	Ms. Cheney, WY			
3	Mr. Cook, CA		X	
4	Mr. Curtis, UT		X	
5	Mr. Fulcher, ID		X	
6	Mr. Gohmert, TX		X	
7	Ms. González-Colón, PR			
8	Mr. Gosar, AZ		X	
9	Mr. Graves, LA		X	
10	Mr. Hern, OK		X	
11	Mr. Hice, GA		X	
12	Mr. Johnson, LA			
13	Mr. Lamborn, CO		X	
14	Mr. McClintock, CA		X	
15	Mrs. Radewagen, AS		X	
16	Mr. Webster, FL		X	
17	Mr. Westerman, AR		X	
18	Mr. Wittman, VA		X	
19	Mr. Young, AK			
	<b>TOTALS</b>	22	15	
	Total: 44 / Quorum: 16 / Report: 23	<b>YEAS</b>	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

On July 1, 2020, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, which included the text of H.R. 5179 with minor changes.<sup>13</sup>

#### HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress—the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 5179: legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held on October 17, 2019.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

*Section 1. Short title.* “Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019.”

*Section 2. Definitions.* This section defines relevant terms.

*Section 3. Establishment of Tribal Wildlife Corridors.* This section establishes a framework through which tribes may nominate and the Secretary of the Interior may designate a Tribal Wildlife Corridor, including a timeline for consideration by the Secretary and process for removal of a corridor designation by a tribe. This section also develops minimum criteria for recognition of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor, including: the restoration of historical habitat to facilitate connectivity; the management of the land to facilitate connectivity; and management of the land to prevent barriers that inhibit future connectivity.

*Section 4. Coordination of land use plans.* This section amends the Federal Land Policy and Management Act by requiring the Secretary to conduct meaningful consultation with the tribe that administers a Tribal Wildlife Corridor to determine whether the corridor can be expanded into public lands or can otherwise benefit connectivity between public lands and the corridor. This section also requires coordination with the U.S. Forest Service to determine whether land use plans in the National Forest System would provide additional connectivity.

*Section 5. Technical assistance.* This section requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance to tribes for the establishment, management, and expansion of Tribal Wildlife Corridors, including with data and research.

*Section 6. Availability of assistance.* This section allows the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize conservation project applications that would enhance connectivity through the expansion of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor. These projects include conservation reserve programs, environmental quality incentives, conservation stewardship programs, and agricultural conservation easement programs established under the Food Security Act. This section also requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Tribal Wildlife Corridor grant program within three years of enactment.

*Section 7. Savings clause.* This section ensures that nothing in this Act authorizes or affects the use of private property or Indian land.

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<sup>13</sup>H.R. 2, 116th Cong. tit. III, subtitle B, ch.2, subchapter B (as passed by and engrossed in the House, July 1, 2020).

## COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following estimate for the bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, May 29, 2020.*

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5179, the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
*Director.*

Enclosure.

<b>H.R. 5179, Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019</b>			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on January 29, 2020			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	6	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 5179 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish a program to designate wildlife corridors on tribal land and to provide related grants to tribes beginning no later than three years after enactment.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in late 2020. Under that assumption, the agency could incur some costs in 2020, but CBO expects that most of the costs would be incurred in 2021 and later.

Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that USFWS would require two additional employees at an average annual cost of \$125,000 each to manage the program. In 2019, USFWS awarded \$2 million to states to conserve habitat corridors for several species. On that basis, CBO estimates that the agency would award similar amounts under H.R. 5179. Assuming USFWS takes three years to implement the grant program, we expect that the agency would begin to obligate funds late in 2023. H.R. 5179 also would direct the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to coordinate land use planning with tribes. CBO estimates that annual costs for that provision would be insignificant and would be incurred when those plans are updated. In total, we estimate that implementing H.R. 5179 would cost \$6 million over the 2020–2025 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Tribal Wildlife Corridors program, allowing for greater habitat connectivity on tribal lands nominated by Indian tribes.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139. The Wildlife Movements Grant Program required by section 6(b) of the bill is related and complementary to, but not duplicative of, the following programs identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 6104: Conservation Reserve Program (CFDA No. 10.069), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (CFDA No. 10.912), Conservation Stewardship Program (CFDA No. 10.924), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (CFDA No. 10.931), Fish, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Resource Management (CFDA No. 15.231), Plant Conservation and Restoration Management (CFDA No. 15.245), Threatened and Endangered Species (CFDA No.

15.246), Wildlife Resource Management (CFDA No. 15.247), and Partners for Fish and Wildlife (CFDA No. 15.631).

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

### FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976

\* \* \* \* \*

#### TITLE II—LAND USE PLANNING; LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LAND USE PLANNING

SEC. 202. (a) The Secretary shall, with public involvement and consistent with the terms and conditions of this Act, develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands. Land use plans shall be developed for the public lands regardless of whether such lands previously have been classified, withdrawn, set aside, or otherwise designated for one or more uses.

(b) In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary of Agriculture shall coordinate land use plans for lands in the National Forest System with the land use planning and management programs of and for **[Indian tribes by]** *Indian tribes*—

(1) *by among other things, considering the policies of approved tribal land resource management programs[.]; and*

(2) *for the purposes of determining whether the land use plans for land in the National Forest System would provide additional connectivity to benefit the purposes of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor established under section 3(a) of the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019.*

(c) In the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall—

(1) use and observe the principles of multiple use and sustained yield set forth in this and other applicable law;

(2) use a systematic interdisciplinary approach to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences;

(3) give priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern;

(4) rely, to the extent it is available, on the inventory of the public lands, their resources, and other values;

(5) consider present and potential uses of the public lands;

(6) consider the relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means (including recycling) and sites for realization of those values;

(7) weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits;

(8) provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including State and Federal air, water, noise, or other pollution standards or implementation plans; and

(9) to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public lands, coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies and of the States and local governments within which the lands are located, including, but not limited to, the statewide outdoor recreation plans developed under chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, and of or for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved State and tribal land resource management programs. In implementing this directive, the Secretary shall, to the extent he finds practical, keep apprised of State, local, and tribal land use plans; assure that consideration is given to those State, local, and tribal plans that are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands; assist in resolving, to the extent practical, inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Governmental plans, and shall provide for meaningful public involvement of State and local government officials, both elected and appointed, in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public lands, including early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-Federal lands. Such officials in each State are authorized to furnish advice to the Secretary with respect to the development and revision of land use plans, land use guidelines, land use rules, and land use regulations for the public lands within such State and with respect to such other land use matters as may be referred to them by him. Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act.

(d) Any classification of public lands or any land use plan in effect on the date of enactment of this Act is subject to review in the land use planning process conducted under this section, and all public lands, regardless of classification, are subject to inclusion in any land use plan developed pursuant to this section. The Sec-

retary may modify or terminate any such classification consistent with such land use plans.

(e) The Secretary may issue management decisions to implement land use plans developed or revised under this section in accordance with the following:

(1) Such decisions, including but not limited to exclusions (that is, total elimination) of one or more of the principal or major uses made by a management decision shall remain subject to reconsideration, modification, and termination through revision by the Secretary or his delegate, under the provisions of this section, of the land use plan involved.

(2) Any management decision or action pursuant to a management decision that excludes (that is, totally eliminates) one or more of the principal or major uses for two or more years with respect to a tract of land of one hundred thousand acres or more shall be reported by the Secretary to the House of Representatives and the Senate. If within ninety days from the giving of such notice (exclusive of days on which either House has adjourned for more than three consecutive days), the Congress adopts a concurrent resolution of nonapproval of the management decision or action, then the management decision or action shall be promptly terminated by the Secretary. If the committee to which a resolution has been referred during the said ninety day period, has not reported it at the end of thirty calendar days after its referral, it shall be in order to either discharge the committee from further consideration of such resolution or to discharge the committee from consideration of any other resolution with respect to the management decision or action. A motion to discharge may be made only by an individual favoring the resolution, shall be highly privileged (except that it may not be made after the committee has reported such a resolution), and debate thereon shall be limited to not more than one hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, and it shall not be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to or disagreed to. If the motion to discharge is agreed to or disagreed to, the motion may not be made with respect to any other resolution with respect to the same management decision or action. When the committee has reprinted, or has been discharged from further consideration of a resolution, it shall at any time thereafter be in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the resolution. The motion shall be highly privileged and shall not be debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, and it shall not be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to or disagreed to.

(3) Withdrawals made pursuant to section 204 of this Act may be used in carrying out management decisions, but public lands shall be removed from or restored to the operation of the Mining Law of 1872, as amended (R.S. 2318–2352; 30 U.S.C. 21 et. seq.) or transferred to another department, bureau, or agency only by withdrawal action pursuant to section 204 or other action pursuant to applicable law: *Provided*, That noth-

ing in this section shall prevent a wholly owned Government corporation from acquiring and holding rights as a citizen under the Mining Law of 1872.

(f) The Secretary shall allow an opportunity for public involvement and by regulation shall establish procedures, including public hearings where appropriate, to give Federal, State, and local governments and the public, adequate notice and opportunity to comment upon and participate in the formulation of plans and programs relating to the management of the public lands.

(g) *TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—On the establishment of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor under section 3(a) of the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act of 2019, the Secretary shall conduct a meaningful consultation with the Indian tribe that administers the Tribal Wildlife Corridor to determine whether, through the revision of one or more existing land use plans, the Tribal Wildlife Corridor can—*

*(1) be expanded into public lands; or*

*(2) otherwise benefit connectivity (as defined in section 2 of that Act) between public lands and the Tribal Wildlife Corridor.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## DISSENTING VIEWS

This bill authorizes Indian tribes to nominate Tribal Wildlife Corridors on Indian lands.

Republican concerns with the bill include the rationale for establishing a new layer of federal bureaucracy for classification of tribal lands at a time when the Department of the Interior's existing land management agencies are already straining under the weight of a multi-billion dollar deferred maintenance backlog, and resources extended to tribal lands are already severely limited as a result.

Furthermore, the Trump Administration is already working to improve coordination between federal agencies and affected States and tribes in the West that have concerns with wildlife migration corridors. In November 2018, then-Interior Secretary Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362, which explicitly aims at identifying and restoring winter range and migration corridors for big game and other wildlife by greater coordination with States, tribes, private landowners, and other relevant stakeholders.

This legislation will encourage federal agencies to prioritize conservation projects above other lawful land uses through costly grant programs funded by taxpayer dollars.

Finally, this bill includes new additional environmental reviews of the potential impacts from energy, water, transportation, transmission and other development projects on newly established tribal wildlife corridors. These could further impose undue regulation on other forms of revenue streams tribes could consider exploring for future development.

For these many reasons, many Republicans oppose this legislation.

ROB BISHOP.  
LOUIE GOHMERT.  
TOM McCLINTOCK.

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