

SNOW WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2025

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3857]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3857) to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. SNOW WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING PROGRAM.

The Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act (43 U.S.C. 1477) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “culminating in the report required under subsection (d)(3)” and inserting “with an emphasis on deployment of technologies that provide integration of snowpack measuring and modeling”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “after submitting the report required by subsection (d)(3),”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by adding “WITH INTEGRATED MODELING” after “DATA”;

(ii) by striking “emerging technologies for snowpack measurement, such as” and inserting “technologies that provide complete integration of accurate, timely, and spatially complete snowpack measurements and models, including the integration of”; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

“(A) airborne laser altimetry;

- “ (B) imaging spectroscopy;
- “ (C) integrated physics-based snowpack and hydrologic modeling; and
- “ (D) other technologies that the Secretary determines are likely to provide more accurate or timely snowpack measurement data commensurate with operational water management needs.”;
- (B) in paragraph (2) by inserting “, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service,” after “other Federal agencies”; and
- (C) by striking paragraph (3);
- (3) in subsection (e)—
 - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “After submitting the report required under subsection (d)(3), the” and inserting “The”; and
 - (B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) FOCUS.—The program shall focus on activities that will maintain, establish, expand, or advance snowpack measurement and integrated modeling, with an emphasis on—

 - “ (A) enhancing activities to achieve improved snow and water supply forecasting results that are more responsive to changing weather and watershed conditions;
 - “ (B) real-time integration of activities described in this section with water supply forecasts;
 - “ (C) activities in river basins where activities described in this section can produce snow and water supply data to inform water management decisions, including interstate water management decisions; and
 - “ (D) building program partners’ capacity to implement and adapt to the new measurement and forecast capabilities enabled under this program.”;
- (4) in subsection (f)—
 - (A) by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025”;
 - (B) in paragraph (1)—
 - (i) by striking “and sub-basins”;
 - (ii) by striking “technologies” and inserting “and integrated modeling technologies”; and
 - (iii) by striking “technology used” and inserting “application, outcome, and data resources used”; and
 - (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “or sub-basin”; and
- (5) in subsection (g), by striking “\$15,000,000, in the aggregate, for fiscal years 2022 through 2026” and inserting “\$6,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031”.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 3857 is to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 3857, introduced by Representative Jeff Hurd (R-CO), would reauthorize and modernize the existing Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program (Program). Established in 2020 by the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act,¹ the Program encourages the use of technologies to enhance snow monitoring and subsequent water supply forecasts. It is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and provides cost-sharing on a competitive basis for a broad range of participants to conduct snow monitoring and water supply forecasting projects. Technologies such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and the Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS) provide up-to-date, accurate information for conducting snow monitoring and water supply forecasting. This enables water managers to make effective decisions and provides greater certainty to end-users.

¹ H.R. 8041, 116th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8041>.

An amendment was adopted to provide technical changes, following discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation, and to keep the authorization of appropriations at the current funding level of \$6.5 million per year through fiscal year (FY) 2031.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3857 was introduced on June 10, 2025, by Representative Jeff Hurd (R-CO). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. On June 24, 2025, the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on the bill. On July 23, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3857 by unanimous consent. Representative Jeff Hurd (R-CO) offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated Hurd 026 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held on June 24, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 establishes the short title of this act as the “Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025.”

Section 2. Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program

Section 2 reauthorizes the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program at \$6.5 million per year through FY 2031. Section 2 also encourages the use of technologies that were studied under the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program. The original authorization for this program included a 2021 report to Congress detailing emerging technologies that, at the time of publication, were not widely used but were predicted to mature enough to be usable in water supply forecasts within five years. This section authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to continue the development and implementation of these technologies.

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.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the

Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act.

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

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of 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 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

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):

SNOW WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT

SEC. 1111. SNOW WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act”.

(b) **DEFINITION OF PROGRAM.**—In this Act, the term “program” means the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program established by subsection (c).

(c) **SNOW WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING PROGRAM.**—

(1) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program is hereby established within the Department of the Interior.

(2) **PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**—To implement the program, the Secretary shall—

(A) develop the program framework in coordination with other Federal agencies pursuant to subsection (d), **【culminating in the report required under subsection (d)(3)】** *with an emphasis on deployment of technologies that provide integration of snowpack measuring and modeling*; and

(B) **【after submitting the report required by subsection (d)(3),】** implement activities to improve snowpack measurement in particular watersheds pursuant to subsection (e).

(d) **DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM FRAMEWORK IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **SNOWPACK MEASUREMENT DATA WITH INTEGRATED MODELING.**—When determining water supply forecasts or allocations to Federal water contractors, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, shall incorporate, to the greatest extent practicable, information from **【emerging technologies for snowpack measurement, such as】** *technologies that provide complete integration of accurate, timely, and spatially complete snowpack measurements and models, including the integration of—*

【(A) synthetic aperture radar;

【(B) laser altimetry; and

【(C) other emerging technologies that the Secretary determines are likely to provide more accurate or timely snowpack measurement data.】

(A) airborne laser altimetry;

(B) imaging spectroscopy;

(C) integrated physics-based snowpack and hydrologic modeling; and

(D) other technologies that the Secretary determines are likely to provide more accurate or timely snowpack measurement data commensurate with operational water management needs.

(2) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate data use and collection efforts with other Federal agencies, *including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Natural Resources Conserva-*

tion Service, that use or may benefit from the use of emerging technologies for snowpack measurement.

[(3) EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2021, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

[(A) summarizes the use of emerging technologies pursuant to this Act;

[(B) describes benefits derived from the use of technologies summarized under subparagraph (A) related to the environment and increased water supply reliability; and

[(C) describes how Federal agencies will coordinate to implement emerging technologies.]

(e) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTING FRAMEWORK.—[After submitting the report required under subsection (d)(3), the] *The* Secretary shall participate with program partners in implementing activities to improve snowpack measurement in particular watersheds.

[(2) FOCUS.—The program shall focus on activities that will maintain, establish, expand, or advance snowpack measurement consistent with the report required by subsection (d)(3), with an emphasis on—

[(A) enhancing activities in river basins to achieve improved snow and water supply forecasting results;

[(B) activities in river basins where snow water supply forecasting related activities described in this Act are not occurring on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

[(C) demonstrating or testing new, or improving existing, snow and water supply forecasting technology.]

(2) *FOCUS.—The program shall focus on activities that will maintain, establish, expand, or advance snowpack measurement and integrated modeling, with an emphasis on—*

(A) enhancing activities to achieve improved snow and water supply forecasting results that are more responsive to changing weather and watershed conditions;

(B) real-time integration of activities described in this section with water supply forecasts;

(C) activities in river basins where activities described in this section can produce snow and water supply data to inform water management decisions, including interstate water management decisions; and

(D) building program partners' capacity to implement and adapt to the new measurement and forecast capabilities enabled under this program.

(3) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary may provide information collected and analyzed under this Act to program partners through appropriate mechanisms, including interagency agreements with Federal agencies, States, State agencies, or a combination thereof, leases, contracts, cooperative agreements, grants, loans, and memoranda of understanding.

(4) PROGRAM PARTNERS.—Program partners with whom the Secretary enters into cooperative agreements pursuant to paragraph (5) may include water districts, irrigation districts, water associations, universities, State agencies, other Federal

agencies, private sector entities, non-governmental organizations, and other entities, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into cooperative agreements with program partners to allow the program to be administered efficiently and cost effectively through cost-sharing or by providing additional in-kind resources necessary for program implementation; and

(B) provide nonreimbursable matching funding for programmatic and operational activities under this Act in consultation with program partners.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act shall modify any obligation of the Secretary to comply with applicable Federal and State environmental laws in carrying out this Act.

(f) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment [of this Act] *of the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025*, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, that includes—

(1) a list of basins [and sub-basins] for which snowpack measurement [technologies] *and integrated modeling technologies* are being used under the program, including a description of each [technology used] *application, outcome, and data resources used*; and

(2) a list of Federal agencies and program partners participating in each basin [or sub-basin] listed in paragraph (1).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act [\$15,000,000, in the aggregate, for fiscal years 2022 through 2026] *\$6,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.*