

H.R. 3857

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# 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”;

(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 “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD) and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3857, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3857, the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act.

In Colorado and in the West, we don’t measure water by what comes out of a faucet. We measure it by what falls on our mountains. Snowpack is our reservoir, our lifeline, and our future, but water managers are still forced to make major decisions with incomplete data and outdated tools.

This bill reauthorizes the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program so that we can use modern technology, lidar, satellite imagery, and other remote-sensing tools to build accurate 3D models of snowpack across entire watersheds. Better data means better reservoir planning, better support for agriculture, better protection for our cities and towns, and better management across every industry that depends upon water in the West.

We cannot manage what we can’t measure. H.R. 3857 gives Western communities what they need to plan ahead and protect the water resources that sustain our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in enthusiastic support of H.R. 3857, the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act, brought forward by my colleague and fellow freshman, JEFF HURD.

This legislation, as he described, would extend the Bureau of Reclamation’s Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program through 2031, ensuring that communities have accurate water supply forecasting.

This program plays a critical role in advancing new technologies, expanding snow monitoring areas, and improving the accuracy of water supply forecasts.

This work is extremely vital to supporting Western communities facing growing challenges of climate change, persistent drought, and growing demands from communities that are growing in our States.

Across the West, communities are experiencing changing precipitation patterns, diminished snowpack, earlier runoff, and changing water availability. I certainly look to the mountains, the Olympics and the Cascades, every time I drive around my district, using a very nontechnological approach to assessing the snowpack on the mountains.

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Mr. Speaker, there are definitely scientists using much better tools, but this legislation authorizes even better tools to allow us to plan for our communities’ safety and our access to clean water, agriculture, and a thriving economy.

Paired with the growing demand for water, these changes we have seen create uncertainty for water managers and users who rely on accurate data for planning.

By reauthorizing the Snow Water Supply Forecasting program, we ensure water managers and users have the information that they need to make informed decisions and support the continued collaboration between agencies and expanding snowpack data collection and forecasting capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this bill reauthorizes a vital program that helps water managers promptly and effectively plan for and respond to drought.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3857, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## MAKE STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS EFFICIENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1676) to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to

approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of a State within a certain period of time, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1676

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Make SWAPs Efficient Act of 2025” or the “Make State Wildlife Action Plans Efficient Act of 2025”.*

**SEC. 2. TIMING OF APPROVAL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

*Section 4(e)(3) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c(e)(3)) is amended—*

*(1) by inserting “, not later than 180 days after the date on which the State submitted the comprehensive plan,” after “, the Secretary”;*

*(2) by striking “, as redesignated”;*

*(3) by striking “If the Secretary” and inserting “(A) If the Secretary”;* and

*(4) by adding at the end the following:*

*“(B) Upon submission of a comprehensive plan by a State under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conditionally authorize the implementation of the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State and shall set aside amounts as described in subparagraph (A).*

*“(C) The Secretary, in consultation with the States, shall develop a process to ensure sufficient and timely review of comprehensive plans submitted by States under paragraph (1) and final approval of the wildlife conservation and restoration program of such States not later than 180 days after the date on which a State submits such a comprehensive plan.*

*“(D) It is the intent of Congress that the Secretary prioritize the—*

*“(i) timely review of comprehensive plans submitted by States under paragraph (1); and*

*“(ii) approval of the wildlife conservation and restoration programs of such States.*

*“(E) Not later than June 1 of the year immediately following the year in which a State submits a comprehensive plan under paragraph (1), if the Secretary does not approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of the State under subparagraph (A) within the time described in that subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Environment and Public Works Committee of the Senate a report regarding the status of such comprehensive plan and including the reason why the wildlife conservation and restoration program was not so approved.”.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1676, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1676, the Make SWAPs Efficient Act of

2025, sponsored by Representative DONALDS from Florida.

This bill advances a goal shared by both House Republicans and the Trump administration to promote government efficiency by holding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accountable when reviewing State Wildlife Action Plans, or SWAPs.

SWAPs serve as blueprints for identifying each State's and territory's unique conservation needs. By law, States must have an updated SWAP to receive funding through the State Wildlife Grants program, and SWAPs must be updated every 10 years.

The SWAPs of 44 States, the District of Columbia, and three territories are up for renewal in 2025. In the past, the approval process for SWAPs has taken as long as 18 months due to bureaucratic delays at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Last year, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered into a memorandum of understanding to simplify the review process for these plans. This bill is intended to complement that work by directing the Secretary of the Interior to approve SWAPs within 180 days of submission.

I commend Representative DONALDS for his continued leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1676.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1676 will improve the State-led conservation of priority fish and wildlife resources by improving the efficiency of the State Wildlife Action Plan review process.

State wildlife managers in every U.S. State are facing increasing challenges. Nationwide, more than one-third of all plant and animal species face heightened risks of extinction.

State Wildlife Action Plans are essential to proactively conserving fish and wildlife, rather than waiting for populations to decline to a point where they need Endangered Species Act protections. These plans provide a comprehensive assessment of the status of States' wildlife populations, key habitats, and strategies to keep the populations strong.

Each year, these funds provide States with upwards of \$54.4 million to conserve species and critical habitats. These funds have enabled numerous success stories, including research and conservation for the rare Sierra Nevada red fox in California and the Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska.

States must update and resubmit their action plans every 10 years to qualify for annual State wildlife funds. This year, dozens of States are going through their annual process. They are concerned that an already thin Fish and Wildlife workforce will have a difficult time processing these plans in a timely fashion.

This bill would redirect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the States to

work together to speed up State Wildlife Action Plan review processes, and it would codify the Fish and Wildlife Service's current practice of automatic implementation, while a plan is in review, to ensure that States don't lose access to these critical conservation funds while the service reviews their plans.

At the same time, this bill would maintain the standards by which these plans are reviewed, ensuring that these Federal dollars are used responsibly and as Congress intended.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1676, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1676, the Make SWAPs Efficient Act.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of State Wildlife Action Plans, a major milestone for fish and wildlife conservation. Statewide action plans serve as a vital blueprint for identifying the unique conservation needs of each State and territory and are required for States to take part in the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program.

These plans play a leading role in helping to prevent and recover endangered species and guide the conservation of over 12,000 species in the greatest conservation need.

Currently, there is no deadline for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to approve a State-submitted wildlife action plan, with most taking over 18 months to simply get an approval. This is something that is unacceptable, and my legislation seeks to change that.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to approve a State's SWAP within 180 days, once the Secretary determines the SWAP complies with the requirements of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. If the Department of the Interior fails to authorize the SWAP within 180 days, the SWAP is deemed approved.

It is time to take a real swipe to unnecessary red tape, minimize self-induced delays, and streamline the regulatory process for the allocation of much-needed conservation funding to our States.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good piece of legislation. It was my pleasure to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this. I recommend that the body approve this legislation.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, this bill will help make the Federal Government more efficient and ensure our conservation programs work as they were intended.

Once again, I thank Mr. DONALDS for his diligent work and attention to this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1676, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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# LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE PROJECT LANDS RESTORATION ACT

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2388) to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2388

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act”.

## SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation” means the Lower Elwha Indian Reservation, also known as the Lower Elwha Reservation, located in the State of Washington.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Lower Elwha Tribal Community, also known as the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, located in the State of Washington.

(b) LAND HELD IN TRUST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to all valid existing rights of the United States, the approximately 1,082.63 acres of Federal land generally depicted as “NPS Parcels to be Transferred to Tribe” on the map entitled “Olympic National Park Proposed Transfer of Elwha Lands”, numbered 149/178020, and dated December 2021 is hereby taken into and held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(2) INCLUSION IN RESERVATION.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall be part of the Reservation.

(3) LAW APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN LAND.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to any requirements for valuation, appraisal, or equalization under any Federal law.

(c) LAND MANAGEMENT.—Of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1), the portion of the Elwha River subject to section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102–495; 106 Stat. 3175) shall be managed in accordance with subsection (b) of the first section of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271), except for necessary modifica-

tions under section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102–495; 106 Stat. 3175).

(d) MAP AND SURVEY.—

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; SURVEY.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a survey to define the boundaries of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1).

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) make minor boundary adjustments to the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1); and

(B) correct any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of that land.

(e) GAMING PROHIBITION.—No land taken into and held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe under this section shall be considered Indian lands for the purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

## SEC. 3. NO IMPACT ON TREATY RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act affects treaty rights under the Treaty between the United States of America and the S’Klallams Indians, concluded at Point no Point, Washington Territory, January 26, 1855 (12 Stat. 933) (commonly known as the “Treaty of Point No Point”).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2388, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2388, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act, sponsored by Congresswoman RANDALL. H.R. 2388 would take approximately 1,083 acres of National Park Service land into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

The Tribe is located within the Olympic Peninsula in northwest Washington and has approximately 984 enrolled members.

The Tribe signed the Treaty of Point No Point in 1855, which entitled them to share a small reservation not on their traditional lands. After signing the treaty, most Tribal members opted not to live on their reservation, instead choosing rivers, shorelines, and sites of their ancestral burial grounds.

Through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Federal Government acquired 372 acres of land and assigned it to 14 families in the Tribe. In 1968, the Tribe received Federal recognition, which included the acres given to the families. As a result of Federal recognition, the Lower Elwha Reservation was formally established for the Tribe.

The approximately 1,083 acres of National Park Service land in this legis-

lation were acquired in the 1990s through the Elwha River Ecosystems and Fisheries Restoration Act. The act required the National Park Service to identify lands to be transferred to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for housing, cultural, or economic development purposes and place them into trust.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Subcommittee Chairman HURD for their partnership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I am deeply honored to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. I am proud to represent a district that is home to 12 federally recognized Tribes, Tribes that led the Nation in co-stewardship, climate resilience, and ecosystem restoration.

Each time this Congress gathers to address land restoration and treaty reserved rights, we are doing incredibly meaningful work, not only alongside the Tribes that we serve, but in service of the integrity of our Federal Government’s commitments.

I also want to extend a special thank you to Chairwoman Frances Charles of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for testifying before the committee earlier this year on this bill. Chairwoman Charles has spent her career protecting the Lower Elwha’s culture, preserving their language, and ensuring that treaty reserved hunting and fishing rights remain.

It strengthens the restoration of the Elwha watershed, which is one of the most iconic examples of climate resilience and ecological recovery anywhere in the country. This bill recognizes that the Lower Elwha people have lived on and cared for this land since time immemorial.

Transferring land into trust is one of the most impactful actions the United States can take to deliver on trust and treaty obligations. It is one of the clearest ways we can demonstrate respect for Tribal sovereignty and return land to the stewardship of the people who know it best.

This bill is straightforward, and it is long overdue. It aligns our policies with our values, and it honors the community that has spent decades repairing the damage caused by a Federal infrastructure that was built without Tribal consent.

As someone who has the honor of representing the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, I am proud to lead this legislation alongside Senators CANTWELL and MURRAY. I recognize the dedication and work of my predecessor, Representative Derek Kilmer, who championed this bill in past Congresses prior to his retirement last year.