

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 4219, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4219

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Na-
tional 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 Ref-
5 uge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025”.

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

3 (a) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE
4 SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

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

24 (ii) conduct appropriate prevention,
25 early detection, rapid response, and man-
26 agement of invasive species;

1 (iii) use integrated pest management
2 techniques and tools;

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

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

13 (B) engage in partnerships and collabora-
14 tions with—

15 (i) Federal, State, Tribal, and local
16 governments;

17 (ii) nongovernmental institutions;

18 (iii) nonprofit organizations; and

19 (iv) private individuals and entities to
20 advance mutual priorities and promote effi-
21 ciency and cost-savings;

22 (C) collaborate in the development of a set
23 of consistent taxonomy standards and work
24 with others to implement such standards among

1 each database of the Department of the Inte-
2 rior;

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

5 (i) the National Agricultural Pest In-
6 formation System;

7 (ii) the National Data Repository of
8 the National Plant Diagnostic Network;

9 (iii) the Early Detection and Distribu-
10 tion Mapping System;

11 (iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Spe-
12 cies Database of the United States Geo-
13 logical Survey;

14 (v) iMapInvasives; and

15 (vi) State databases; and

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

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

23 (A) conduct outreach as appropriate to
24 Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments
25 and institutions, as well as private individuals

1 and organizations, to address the management
2 of invasive species within or adjacent to Na-
3 tional Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters,
4 including providing or entering into, upon re-
5 quest—

6 (i) financial assistance, including di-
7 rect expenditures;

8 (ii) technical assistance;

9 (iii) contracts; or

10 (iv) grants or cooperative agreements;

11 and

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

18 (4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT AC-
19 TIONS.—The Secretary shall encourage the National
20 Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate the invasive
21 species management actions of each Invasive Species
22 Strike Team with adjacent landowners and the State
23 or Tribal agencies within the State or Tribal lands
24 on which Invasive Species Strike Team activities
25 may occur.

1 (5) REPORT.—

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

14 (B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report
15 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
16 clude—

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

21 (ii) progress made by the Program to-
22 ward the prevention, detection, control, or
23 eradication of each priority invasive spe-
24 cies.

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

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

23 (A) economic or environmental harm; or

24 (B) harm to human, animal, or plant
25 health.

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

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

10 (A) Potential impact on other native spe-
11 cies.

12 (B) Ability to alter habitats.

13 (C) Ability to harm human health.

14 (D) Severity of economic impact.

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

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

23 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-

1 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
2 ice.

3 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means—

4 (A) each of the several States;

5 (B) the District of Columbia; and

6 (C) each territory and possession of the
7 United States.