

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2989
OFFERED BY MR. TIFFANY OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Shared stewardship agreement for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 4. Giant sequoia lands coalition.
- Sec. 5. Giant sequoia health and resiliency assessment.
- Sec. 6. Giant sequoia emergency response.
- Sec. 7. Giant sequoia reforestation and rehabilitation strategy.
- Sec. 8. Giant sequoia strike teams.
- Sec. 9. Giant sequoia collaborative restoration grants.
- Sec. 10. Good neighbor authority for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 11. Stewardship contracting for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 12. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.
- Sec. 13. Authorization of appropriations.

5 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

6 In this Act:

7 (1) ASSESSMENT.—The term “Assessment”
8 means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-
9 sessment required by section 5.

1 (2) COALITION.—The term “Coalition” means
2 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition certified under
3 section 4.

4 (3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
5 laborative process” means a process relating to the
6 management of National Forest System lands or
7 public lands by which a project or forest manage-
8 ment activity is developed and implemented by the
9 Secretary concerned through collaboration with mul-
10 tiple interested persons representing diverse inter-
11 ests.

12 (4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
13 LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System
14 lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-
15 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
16 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
17 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
18 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
19 Forest.

20 (5) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
21 quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
22 *giganteum*.

23 (6) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS RE-
24 DUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific haz-
25 ardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed

1 by the applicable land management agency prior to
2 conducting an analysis under the National Environ-
3 mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to ad-
4 dress hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia
5 groves.

6 (7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
7 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
8 Project carried out under section 6.

9 (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
10 means—

11 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
12 ation Management Area in California managed
13 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

14 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
15 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
16 California managed by the National Park Serv-
17 ice.

18 (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
19 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover by es-
20 tablishing young trees through natural regeneration,
21 artificial or natural regeneration with site prepara-
22 tion, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation com-
23 petition control following artificial or natural regen-
24 eration.

1 (10) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-
2 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-
3 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to
4 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-
5 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

6 (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
7 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
8 tees” means—

9 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
10 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
11 Representatives; and

12 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
13 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
14 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

15 (12) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
16 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
17 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
18 authority to make and implement a decision on a
19 proposed action.

20 (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
21 means the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (14) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
23 “Secretary concerned” means—

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
2 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
3 or their designee; and

4 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
5 spect to public lands, or their designee.

6 (15) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
7 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
8 Strategy established under section 7.

9 (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
10 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
11 under section 8.

12 (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
13 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
14 tion, California.

15 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
16 **QUOIAS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
18 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
19 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into an
20 agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor
21 of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry
22 out the following:

23 (1) Not later than 30 days after entering into
24 the agreement, certify the Giant Sequoia Lands Coa-
25 lition in accordance with section 4(a).

1 (2) Not later than 30 days after entering into
2 the agreement, conduct Protection Projects under
3 section 6.

4 (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into
5 the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-
6 quoaia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy
7 under section 7.

8 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
10 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
11 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
12 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
14 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
15 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
17 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
18 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
19 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
21 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
22 a party to such agreement.

23 **SEC. 4. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
25 tion with the parties to such agreement, shall certify the

1 Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition in accordance with the
2 charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter”
3 (or successor charter) signed during the period beginning
4 June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022 by each of the
5 following:

6 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
7 quoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

8 (2) The National Park Service, representing
9 Yosemite National Park.

10 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
11 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
12 ment.

13 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
14 tional Forest.

15 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
16 tional Forest.

17 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
18 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
19 agement Area.

20 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
21 dian Reservation.

22 (8) The State of California, representing
23 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

24 (9) The State of California, representing Moun-
25 tain Home Demonstration State Forest.

1 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
2 representing Whitaker’s Research Forest.

3 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
4 resenting Balch Park.

5 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
6 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
7 shall—

8 (1) carry out the Assessment under section 5;

9 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
10 recommendations to the Secretary, with respect to—

11 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
12 section 6; and

13 (B) the Strategy established under section
14 7;

15 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
16 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
17 jurisdictional boundaries;

18 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
19 available science as described in section 5(e) and
20 mapping resources; and

21 (5) support the development and dissemination
22 of educational materials and programs that inform
23 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
24 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being

1 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
2 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

3 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
4 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
5 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
6 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
7 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
8 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
9 essary to carry out this section.

10 **SEC. 5. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESS-**
11 **MENT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
13 first meeting of the Coalition, the Coalition shall submit
14 to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia
15 Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best
16 available science—

17 (1) identifies—

18 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
19 perience a—

20 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

21 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
22 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
23 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
24 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
25 grove;

1 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
2 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
3 turbance;

4 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves
5 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity
6 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant
7 sequoia groves; and

8 (D) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
9 perienceed a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-
10 rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

11 (2) analyzes the resiliency of each giant sequoia
12 grove to threats, such as—

13 (A) high-severity wildfire;

14 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

15 (C) drought;

16 (3) with respect to Protection Projects, pro-
17 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to
18 be carried out under section 6, giving priority to
19 projects located on lands identified under subpara-
20 graphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(1);

21 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
22 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
23 management activities across various jurisdictions
24 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
25 quoya groves with respect to—

1 (A) high-severity wildfires;

2 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

3 (C) drought; and

4 (5) includes program and policy recommenda-
5 tions that address—

6 (A) Federal and State policies that impede
7 activities to improve the health and resiliency of
8 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to
9 address such impediments;

10 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-
11 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-
12 ments that improve the health and resiliency of
13 giant sequoias;

14 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
15 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
16 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
17 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

18 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
19 dressed to improve the best available science on
20 the giant sequoias.

21 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
23 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
24 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
25 tees that—

1 (1) includes any new data, information, or best
2 available science that has changed or become avail-
3 able since the previous Assessment was submitted;

4 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

5 (A) includes information on the number of
6 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
7 and the estimated timeline for completing those
8 projects;

9 (B) includes information on the number of
10 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
11 year and the estimated timeline for completing
12 those projects;

13 (C) provides status updates and long-term
14 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
15 after the completion of Protection Projects;

16 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to
17 initiate at least 7 Protection Projects in the
18 previous year, a written explanation that in-
19 cludes—

20 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
21 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at
22 least 7 Protection Projects;

23 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
24 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to

1 ensure that at least 7 Protection Projects
2 are initiated the following year; and

3 (iii) recommendations to Congress on
4 any policies that need to be changed to as-
5 sist the Secretary concerned in initiating
6 Protection Projects; and

7 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
8 tion of giant sequoias—

9 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
10 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
11 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
12 tion activities; and

13 (B) provides status updates and moni-
14 toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have
15 experienced natural or artificial regeneration as
16 part of the Strategy under section 7.

17 (c) DASHBOARD.—

18 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coali-
19 tion shall create and maintain a website that—

20 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
21 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
22 materials developed by the Coalition;

23 (B) contains searchable information about
24 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

1 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
2 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
3 subsection (a);

4 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
5 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
6 groves; and

7 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
8 activities that have been proposed, initi-
9 ated, or completed in such groves; and

10 (C) maintains a searchable database to
11 track—

12 (i) the status of Federal environ-
13 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
14 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
15 and rehabilitation activities; and

16 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
17 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
18 tion activities.

19 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
20 shall include information on the status of Protection
21 Projects in the searchable database created under
22 paragraph (1)(C), including—

23 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

1 (B) the status of the compliance of each
2 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
3 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

4 (C) any modifications of the permitting
5 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
6 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
7 timetable was modified; and

8 (D) information about project-related pub-
9 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
10 ment periods, which shall be presented in
11 English and the predominant language of the
12 community or communities most affected by the
13 project, as that information becomes available.

14 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
15 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
16 include—

17 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
18 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
19 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
20 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
21 giant sequoia resiliency;

22 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
23 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
24 of giant sequoia groves; and

1 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
2 governments or agencies.

3 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
4 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
5 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
6 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
7 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
8 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
9 gration of—

10 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
11 technologies;

12 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

13 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
14 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
15 the Assessment.

16 (f) PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make informa-
17 tion from this Assessment available to the Secretary con-
18 cerned and State of California to integrate into the—

19 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
20 Resilience Action Plan;

21 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis
22 Strategy (or successor plan); and

23 (3) Department of the Interior’s Wildfire Risk
24 Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment
25 Plan (or successor plan).

1 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
2 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission
3 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-
4 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
5 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

6 **SEC. 6. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

7 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
8 QUOIAS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—

10 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
11 gress determines that—

12 (i) an emergency exists on public
13 lands and covered National Forest System
14 lands that makes it necessary to carry out
15 Protection Projects that take needed ac-
16 tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,
17 insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

18 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
19 to control the immediate impacts of the
20 emergency described in clause (i) and are
21 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
22 or important natural or cultural resources
23 on public lands and covered National For-
24 est System lands.

1 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
2 mination established under subparagraph (A)
3 shall apply to all public lands and covered Na-
4 tional Forest System lands.

5 (C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
6 mination established under subparagraph (A)
7 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
10 determination established under subsection (a) is in
11 effect—

12 (A) a responsible official may carry out a
13 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)
14 before initiating—

15 (i) an analysis under section 102 of
16 the National Environmental Policy Act of
17 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

18 (ii) consultation under section 7 of the
19 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
20 U.S.C. 1536); and

21 (iii) consultation under section 106 of
22 the National Historic Preservation Act (16
23 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

24 (B) the rules established under subsections
25 (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure

1 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)
2 and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection
3 Projects by substituting “Protection Projects”
4 for “authorized emergency action under this
5 section” each place it appears in such sub-
6 sections; and

7 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to
8 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the
9 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16
10 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

11 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
12 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
13 ment activities as Protection Projects under the
14 emergency determination under this section:

15 (A) Activities recommended by the Assess-
16 ment under section 5.

17 (B) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
18 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastication,
19 and prescribed burning.

20 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,
21 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-
22 mined by the responsible official.

23 (D) Removing trees to address over-
24 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
25 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the

1 forest stand as determined by the responsible
2 official.

3 (E) Activities included in the applicable
4 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

5 (F) Using chemical treatments to address
6 insects and disease and control vegetation com-
7 petition.

8 (G) Any combination of activities described
9 in this paragraph.

10 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
12 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
13 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
14 under this Act that are described by subpara-
15 graph (D) are a category of actions hereby des-
16 ignated as being categorically excluded from the
17 preparation of an environmental assessment or
18 an environmental impact statement under sec-
19 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy
20 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

21 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
22 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
23 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
24 with this section.

25 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

1 (i) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that
2 Protection Projects carried out under this
3 section are consistent with improving the
4 health and resiliency of critical habitat for
5 threatened and endangered species, includ-
6 ing the pacific fisher and California spot-
7 ted owl.

8 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal
9 consultation requirements in sections
10 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,
11 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
12 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-
13 tion Projects.

14 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
15 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
16 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
17 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
18 activity—

19 (i) covers an area of no more than—

20 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
21 quia groves where a grove-specific
22 hazardous fuels reduction plan has
23 been developed by the relevant land
24 management agency or on lands iden-
25 tified under section 5(a)(1)(B); and

1 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
2 fied under section 5(a)(1)(C); and

3 (ii) was—

4 (I) proposed by the Assessment
5 under section 5(a)(3);

6 (II) developed through a collabo-
7 rative process; or

8 (III) proposed by a resource advi-
9 sory committee (as defined in section
10 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and
11 Community Self-Determination Act of
12 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

13 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-
14 Federal land with the consent of the non-
15 Federal landowner.

16 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
17 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
18 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
19 this section in combination with other authori-
20 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
21 ing—

22 (i) good neighbor agreements entered
23 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
24 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

1 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
2 entered into under section 604 of the
3 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
4 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

5 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
6 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
7 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
8 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
9 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
10 Tribe.

11 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
12 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer
13 than 7 Protection Projects each year.

14 **SEC. 7. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHABILITA-**
15 **TION STRATEGY.**

16 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
17 EGY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the
19 timeline and agreement established in section
20 3(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the par-
21 ties to such agreement, shall develop and implement
22 a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Refore-
23 station and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the
24 reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia
25 groves that—

1 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
2 of natural or artificial regeneration, giving
3 highest priority to groves identified under sec-
4 tion 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

5 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
6 and rehabilitation activities;

7 (C) identifies and addresses—

8 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
9 bilitation including—

10 (I) regulatory barriers;

11 (II) seedling shortages or related
12 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
13 straints;

14 (III) labor and workforce short-
15 ages;

16 (IV) technology and science gaps;
17 and

18 (V) site preparation challenges;

19 (ii) potential public-private partner-
20 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
21 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

22 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
23 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
24 in the 10-year period after the agreement
25 is entered into under section 3; and

1 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
2 sity across giant sequoia groves; and

3 (D) includes program and policy rec-
4 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
5 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

6 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-
7 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-
8 tion 5.

9 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
10 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
11 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
12 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

13 (1) in item (bb), by striking “and”;

14 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
15 sserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(dd) shall include reforestation and rehabilitation
18 activities conducted under section 7 of the Save Our Se-
19 quoias Act.”.

20 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
21 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting
22 “Nothing in this Act shall restrict or prohibit the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture from
24 conducting reforestation (as such term is defined in sec-
25 tion 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act) activities to reestab-

1 lish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the period
2 at the end.

3 **SEC. 8. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.**

4 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
6 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
7 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
8 plementation of—

9 (A) primarily, section 6; and

10 (B) secondarily, section 7.

11 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

12 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
13 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
14 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
15 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the
16 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16
17 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under
18 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
19 1531 et seq.);

20 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
21 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
22 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
23 activity;

24 (C) implement Protection Projects under
25 section 6; and

1 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
2 tion activities under section 7.

3 (3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may
4 appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve
5 on a Strike Team comprised of—

6 (A) employees of the Department of the
7 Interior;

8 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

9 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
10 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
11 ment, local government, academic institution, or
12 private organization; and

13 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
14 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
15 local government, academic institution, or pri-
16 vate organization.

17 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
18 **GRANTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
20 with the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall
21 establish a program to award grants to eligible entities
22 to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and
23 resiliency.

24 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
25 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,

1 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
2 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
3 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

4 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
5 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
6 that—

7 (1) primarily, are likely to have the greatest im-
8 pact on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and

9 (2) secondarily—

10 (A) are small businesses, particularly in
11 rural areas; and

12 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
13 rural areas.

14 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Funds from grants
15 awarded under this section shall be used to—

16 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
17 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
18 markets for biomass and biochar;

19 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
20 tion 6, including by reducing the cost of trans-
21 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
22 tion Project;

23 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-
24 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or

1 process hazardous fuels removed under section 6;
2 and

3 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
4 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
5 facilitate the Strategy established under section 7.

6 **SEC. 10. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**
7 **QUOIAS.**

8 Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
9 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—

12 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at
13 the end;

14 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
15 clause (iv);

16 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
17 following:

18 “(iii) activities conducted under sec-
19 tion 6 of the Save Our Sequoias Act;”;

20 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
21 by striking the period at the end and in-
22 serting “; or”; and

23 (v) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(v) any combination of activities specified in clauses
25 (i) through (iv).”;

1 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-
2 dian tribe”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking
4 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-
5 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-
6 semite National Park.”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
9 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

10 (B) by amending paragraph (2)(C) to read
11 as follows:

12 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received
14 from the sale of timber by a Governor, an
15 Indian tribe, or a county under a good
16 neighbor agreement shall be retained and
17 used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or
18 county, as applicable—

19 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
20 toration services under such good
21 neighbor agreement; and

22 “(II) if there are funds remain-
23 ing after carrying out the services
24 under clause (i), to carry out author-
25 ized restoration services within the

1 State under other good neighbor
2 agreements.

3 “(ii) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVE-
4 NESS.—The authority provided by this
5 subparagraph terminates effective October
6 1, 2028.”;

7 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
8 dian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

9 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

10 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section
11 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
12 2113a(a)) is amended—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “,
14 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, In-
16 dian tribe,” after “Governor”.

17 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
18 **QUOIAS.**

19 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of
20 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
21 6591c(e)) is amended to read—

22 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
23 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
24 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
25 and the Director of the National Park Service with

1 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
2 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
3 tional Park.”.

4 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
5 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
6 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

8 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of
9 giant sequoias.”.

10 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
11 **GRAM AND FUND.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United
13 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
16 **gram and Fund**

17 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
18 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
19 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design
20 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and
21 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

22 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
23 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
24 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
25 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

1 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-
2 quoias on National Park Service and covered Na-
3 tional Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

4 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
5 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination
6 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a
7 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia
8 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in
9 this section), to be administered in support of the program
10 established under subsection (a).

11 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
12 PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
13 devises, or bequests that are provided to the Na-
14 tional Park Foundation or National Forest Founda-
15 tion for such purpose.

16 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
17 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
18 est Foundation without further appropriation, sub-
19 ject to the provisions in paragraph (3), for projects
20 and activities approved by the Chief of the Forest
21 Service or the Director of the National Park Service
22 as appropriate, or their designees, to—

23 “(A) primarily, support the management
24 and conservation of giant sequoias on National
25 Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-

1 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
2 sects, and drought; and

3 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
4 of giant sequoias on National Park Service and
5 covered National Forest System lands impacted
6 by wildfire.

7 “(3) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
8 to the National Park Foundation and National For-
9 est Foundation under paragraph (2), not less than
10 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support
11 tribal management and conservation of giant se-
12 quoias.

13 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation
15 and National Forest Foundation shall include with their
16 annual reports a summary of the status of the program
17 and Fund created under this section that includes—

18 “(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in
19 the Fund during the fiscal year;

20 “(2) the amount of the balance remaining in
21 the Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

22 “(3) a description of the program and projects
23 funded during the fiscal year.

24 “(d) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
25 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered National

1 Forest System lands’ has the meaning given such term
2 in section 2 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

3 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
4 thority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years
5 after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias
6 Act.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions for chapter of title 54, United States Code, is amend-
9 ed by inserting at the end the following:

“Sec. 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.”.

10 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
12 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
13 retary concerned shall allocate up to—

14 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

15 (2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

16 (3) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
17 through 2028; and

18 (4) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2029
19 through 2030.

20 (b) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts authorized under
21 subsection (a), not less than 90 percent of funds shall be
22 used to carry out section 6 and section 9 of this Act.

