

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 528

[Report No. 119-]

To require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER --, 2025

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

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 “Post-Disaster Refor-
5 estation and Restoration Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. POST-DISASTER REFORESTATION AND RESTORA-**
7 **TION PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter,
10 the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the cov-
11 ered agencies, shall identify covered lands requiring refor-
12 estation and restoration following unplanned disturbances
13 that are unlikely to experience natural regeneration with-
14 out assistance.

15 (b) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—In consultation with the
16 heads of covered agencies, the Secretary—

17 (1) shall propose a list of priority projects for
18 reforestation and restoration for each fiscal year;

19 (2) may carry out priority projects through—

20 (A) competitively awarded grants;

21 (B) contracts;

22 (C) contracts established under the Indian
23 Self-Determination and Education Assistance
24 Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

1 (D) cooperative agreements, to be awarded
2 in accordance with applicable requirements es-
3 tablished by the Secretary; and

4 (3) may support any grant contract or coopera-
5 tive agreement that may be necessary to ensure ade-
6 quate and appropriate seed and seedling availability
7 to further the objectives of priority projects.

8 (c) OUTREACH.—To fulfill requirements of this sec-
9 tion the heads of covered agencies shall conduct outreach
10 to—

11 (1) Indian Tribes;

12 (2) States;

13 (3) territories;

14 (4) units of local government;

15 (5) Alaska Native organizations;

16 (6) Native Hawaiian organizations;

17 (7) institutions of higher education;

18 (8) Federal agencies with jurisdiction over Fed-
19 eral land adjoining or proximal to priority projects;
20 and

21 (9) other stakeholders as determined by the
22 Secretary.

23 (d) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
24 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
25 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the

1 relevant Congressional Committees a report that includes
2 the following:

3 (1) An accounting of all covered lands requiring
4 reforestation and restoration.

5 (2) A list of priority projects and implementa-
6 tion progress to address reforestation and restora-
7 tion objectives identified.

8 (3) An accounting of grants, contracts, and co-
9 operative agreements established in furtherance of
10 priority projects.

11 (4) Outreach efforts by covered agencies to ad-
12 vance priority projects.

13 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
14 ing to seed, seedling, and implementation gaps to
15 advance priority projects and opportunities to estab-
16 lish dedicated funding necessary to address any
17 backlog of reforestation and restoration needs.

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
20 agency” means—

21 (A) each Federal land management agency
22 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands
23 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
24 6801)); and

25 (B) the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1 (2) COVERED LANDS.—The term “covered
2 lands” means any Federal land or interest in land
3 administered by a covered agency and Indian Forest
4 Land or Rangeland.

5 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
6 means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, na-
7 tion, pueblo, village, or community individually iden-
8 tified (including parenthetically) in the list published
9 most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act
10 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized
11 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

12 (4) NATURAL REGENERATION.—The term “nat-
13 ural regeneration” has the meaning given the term
14 in section (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-
15 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36
16 1601).

17 (5) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
18 ation” has the meaning given the term in section
19 (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
20 sources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36 1601).

21 (6) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”
22 means assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that
23 has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, including
24 the reestablishment of appropriate plant species
25 composition and community structure.

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

3 (8) UNPLANNED DISTURBANCE.—The term
4 “unplanned disturbance” means any unplanned dis-
5 turbance that disrupts ecosystem structure or com-
6 position and may include a wildfire, an infestation of
7 insects or disease, or a weather event.