

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 528

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. PETTERSEN (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

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”.

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

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

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

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

14 (2) may carry out priority projects through—

15 (A) competitively awarded grants;

16 (B) contracts;

17 (C) contracts established under the Indian
18 Self-Determination and Education Assistance
19 Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

20 (D) cooperative agreements, to be awarded
21 in accordance with applicable requirements es-
22 tablished by the Secretary; and

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

1 (c) OUTREACH.—To fulfill requirements of this sec-
2 tion the heads of covered agencies shall conduct outreach
3 to—

- 4 (1) Indian Tribes;
- 5 (2) States;
- 6 (3) territories;
- 7 (4) units of local government;
- 8 (5) Alaska Native organizations;
- 9 (6) Native Hawaiian organizations;
- 10 (7) institutions of higher education;
- 11 (8) Federal agencies with jurisdiction over Fed-
12 eral land adjoining or proximal to priority projects;
13 and
- 14 (9) other stakeholders as determined by the
15 Secretary.

16 (d) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
17 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
19 relevant Congressional Committees a report that includes
20 the following:

- 21 (1) An accounting of all covered lands requiring
22 reforestation and restoration.
- 23 (2) A list of priority projects and implementa-
24 tion progress to address reforestation and restora-
25 tion objectives identified.

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

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

6 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
7 ing to seed, seedling, and implementation gaps to
8 advance priority projects and opportunities to estab-
9 lish dedicated funding necessary to address any
10 backlog of reforestation and restoration needs.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
13 agency” means—

14 (A) each Federal land management agency
15 (as such term is defined in the Federal Lands
16 Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
17 6801)); and

18 (B) the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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

23 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
24 means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, na-
25 tion, pueblo, village, or community individually iden-

1 tified (including parenthetically) in the list published
2 most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act
3 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized
4 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

5 (4) NATURAL REGENERATION.—The term “nat-
6 ural regeneration” has the meaning given the term
7 in section (e)(4) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-
8 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 36
9 1601).

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

14 (6) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”
15 means assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that
16 has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, including
17 the reestablishment of appropriate plant species
18 composition and community structure.

19 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Interior.

21 (8) UNPLANNED DISTURBANCE.—The term
22 “unplanned disturbance” means any unplanned dis-
23 turbance that disrupts ecosystem structure or com-

- 1 position and may include a wildfire, an infestation of
- 2 insects or disease, or a weather event.

