

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4219
OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Ref-
3 uge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025”.

4 SEC. 2. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE
5 SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.

6 (a) INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—

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

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

16 (A) establish at least 1 invasive species
17 strike team within each region of the United
18 States Fish and Wildlife Service trained in

1 early detection and rapid response for multiple
2 invasive species taxa to—

3 (i) conserve, manage, and, where ap-
4 propriate, restore, habitat conditions that
5 help native biological communities flourish
6 within or adjacent to National Wildlife
7 Refuge System lands and waters;

8 (ii) conduct appropriate prevention,
9 early detection, rapid response, and man-
10 agement of invasive species;

11 (iii) use integrated pest management
12 techniques and tools;

13 (iv) conduct inreach and outreach, in-
14 cluding trainings and table-top exercises,
15 including on the use of the Incident Com-
16 mand System, as part of their planning
17 and operations; and

18 (v) use risk assessments, research, in-
19 novations, management outcomes, moni-
20 toring, and evaluation to improve the effec-
21 tiveness of detection and response activi-
22 ties;

23 (B) engage in partnerships and collabora-
24 tions with—

1 (i) Federal, State, Tribal, and local
2 governments;

3 (ii) nongovernmental institutions;

4 (iii) nonprofit organizations; and

5 (iv) private individuals and entities to
6 advance mutual priorities and promote effi-
7 ciency and cost-savings;

8 (C) collaborate in the development of a set
9 of consistent taxonomy standards and work
10 with others to implement such standards among
11 all Department of the Interior databases; and

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

14 (i) the National Agricultural Pest In-
15 formation System;

16 (ii) the National Data Repository of
17 the National Plant Diagnostic Network;

18 (iii) the Early Detection and Distribu-
19 tion Mapping System;

20 (iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Spe-
21 cies Database of the United States Geo-
22 logical Survey;

23 (v) iMapInvasives; and

24 (vi) State databases.

1 (3) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—In carrying
2 out the Program, the Secretary is authorized to—

3 (A) conduct outreach as appropriate to
4 Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments
5 and institutions, as well as private individuals
6 and organizations, to address the management
7 of invasive species within or adjacent to Na-
8 tional Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters,
9 including providing or entering, upon request—

10 (i) financial assistance, including di-
11 rect expenditures;

12 (ii) technical assistance;

13 (iii) contracts; or

14 (iv) grants or cooperative agreements;

15 and

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

22 (4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT AC-
23 TIONS.—The Secretary shall encourage the National
24 Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate invasive spe-
25 cies management actions of each Invasive Species

1 Strike Team with adjacent landowners and the State
2 or Tribal agencies within the State or Tribal lands
3 on which Invasive Species Strike Team activities
4 may occur.

5 (5) REPORT.—

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

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

19 (i) a summary of each Invasive Spe-
20 cies Strike Team’s work to address priority
21 invasive species within the National Wild-
22 life Refuge System; and

23 (ii) progress made by the Program to-
24 ward the prevention, detection, control, or

1 eradication of each priority invasive spe-
2 cies.

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

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

21 (3) INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term “invasive
22 species” means, with regard to a particular eco-
23 system, a non-native organism whose introduction
24 causes or is likely to cause economic or environ-

1 mental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant
2 health.

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

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

12 (A) Potential impact on other native spe-
13 cies.

14 (B) Ability to alter habitats.

15 (C) Ability to harm human health.

16 (D) Severity of economic impact.

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

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

1 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
4 ice.

5 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, and
7 each territory and possession of the United States.

