

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- 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. Giant sequoia insect monitoring and technology.
- Sec. 11. Stewardship contracting for giant sequoias.
- Sec. 12. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

6 (2) COALITION.—The term “Coalition” means
7 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under
8 section 4(a).

9 (3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
10 laborative process” means a collaborative process as
11 described in section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Pub-
12 lic Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.
13 7303(b)(2)).

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17 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-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

22 (5) COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “cov-
23 ered public lands” means—

1 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
2 ation Management Area in California managed
3 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

4 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
5 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
6 California managed by the National Park Serv-
7 ice.

8 (6) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
9 quoa” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
10 *giganteum*.

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

14 (8) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
15 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover, taking
16 into consideration species composition and resilience,
17 by establishing young trees through—

18 (A) natural regeneration;

19 (B) natural regeneration with site prepara-
20 tion and vegetation competition control; or

21 (C) planting or direct seeding.

22 (9) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-
23 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-
24 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to

1 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-
2 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

3 (10) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
5 tees” means—

6 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
7 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
8 Representatives; and

9 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
10 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
11 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

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

17 (12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
18 means the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (13) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
20 “Secretary concerned” means—

21 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
22 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
23 or their designee; and

24 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
25 spect to covered public lands, or their designee.

1 (14) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
2 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
3 Strategy established under section 7.

4 (15) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
5 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
6 under section 8.

7 (16) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
8 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
9 tion, California.

10 **SEC. 3. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SE-**
11 **QUOIAS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
13 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
14 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or ex-
15 pand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter
16 into a similar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture,
17 the Governor of the State of California, and the Tribe to
18 jointly carry out the short-term and long-term manage-
19 ment and conservation of giant sequoias.

20 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
22 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
23 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before
24 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
25 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-

1 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
2 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

3 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
4 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
5 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
6 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
7 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
8 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
9 a party to such agreement.

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

11 (a) CODIFICATION.—The Coalition is the entity es-
12 tablished under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands
13 Coalition Charter” (or successor charter) signed during
14 the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2,
15 2022 by each of the following:

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

18 (2) The National Park Service, representing
19 Yosemite National Park.

20 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
21 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
22 ment.

23 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
24 tional Forest.

1 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
2 tional Forest.

3 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
4 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
5 agement Area.

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

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

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

12 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
13 representing Whitaker's Research Forest.

14 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
15 resenting Balch Park.

16 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
17 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
18 shall—

19 (1) produce the Assessment under section 5;

20 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
21 recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with
22 respect to—

23 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
24 section 6; and

1 (B) the Strategy established under section
2 7;

3 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
4 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
5 jurisdictional boundaries;

6 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
7 available science as described in section 5(d) and
8 mapping resources; and

9 (5) support the development and dissemination
10 of educational materials and programs that inform
11 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
12 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being
13 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
14 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

15 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
16 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
17 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
18 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
19 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
20 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
21 essary to carry out this section.

22 (d) PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (2), the Coalition shall provide for public ob-
25 servation at no less than one meeting annually.

1 (2) CLOSED SESSIONS.—The Coalition may
2 close portions of a meeting as provided in paragraph
3 (1) to the public only when discussion will involve—

4 (A) sensitive law enforcement, security, or
5 emergency response matters, the public disclo-
6 sure of which would compromise public safety;
7 or

8 (B) confidential commercial information,
9 private property information, or landowner in-
10 formation.

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

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall sub-
15 mit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Se-
16 quoa Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on
17 the best available science—

18 (1) identifies—

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

21 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

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

1 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
2 grove;

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

6 (C) lands—

7 (i) contiguous or adjacent to giant se-
8 quoa groves that are at risk of experi-
9 encing high-severity wildfires that could
10 adversely impact such giant sequoia
11 groves; or

12 (ii) in which the placement of fuel
13 breaks could reduce the risk of high-sever-
14 ity wildfires that could adversely impact
15 giant sequoia groves; and

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

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

21 (A) high-severity wildfire;

22 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

23 (C) drought;

24 (3) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
25 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest

1 management activities across various jurisdictions
2 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
3 quoa groves with respect to—

4 (A) high-severity wildfires;

5 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

6 (C) drought; and

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

9 (A) options to enhance communication, co-
10 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
11 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
12 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

13 (B) research gaps that should be addressed
14 to improve the best available science on the
15 giant sequoias.

16 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
18 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
19 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
20 tees that—

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

24 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

1 (A) includes information on the number of
2 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
3 and the estimated timeline for completing those
4 projects;

5 (B) includes information on the number of
6 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
7 year and the estimated timeline for completing
8 those projects;

9 (C) provides status updates and long-term
10 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
11 after the completion of Protection Projects; and

12 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to re-
13 duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
14 groves in the previous year, a written expla-
15 nation that includes—

16 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
17 pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-
18 ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
19 groves; and

20 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
21 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to
22 ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in
23 at least 3 giant sequoia groves the fol-
24 lowing year; and

1 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
2 tion of giant sequoias—

3 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
4 tion of the Strategy under section 7, including
5 grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilita-
6 tion activities; and

7 (B) provides status updates and moni-
8 toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have
9 experienced reforestation or rehabilitation as
10 part of the Strategy under section 7.

11 (c) DASHBOARD.—

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

14 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
15 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
16 materials developed by the Coalition;

17 (B) contains searchable information about
18 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

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

22 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
23 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
24 groves; and

1 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
2 activities that have been proposed, initi-
3 ated, or completed in such groves; and

4 (C) maintains a searchable database to
5 track—

6 (i) the status of Federal environ-
7 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
8 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
9 and rehabilitation activities; and

10 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
11 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
12 tion activities.

13 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
14 shall include information on the status of Protection
15 Projects in the searchable database created under
16 paragraph (1)(C), including—

17 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

18 (B) the status of the compliance of each
19 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
20 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

21 (C) any modifications of the permitting
22 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-
23 cluding an explanation as to why the permitting
24 timetable was modified; and

1 (D) information about project-related pub-
2 lic meetings, public hearings, and public com-
3 ment periods, which shall be presented in
4 English and the predominant language of the
5 community or communities most affected by the
6 project, as that information becomes available.

7 (d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best
8 available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall
9 include—

10 (1) data and peer-reviewed research from aca-
11 demic institutions with a demonstrated history of
12 studying giant sequoias and with experience ana-
13 lyzing distinct management strategies to improve
14 giant sequoia resiliency;

15 (2) traditional ecological knowledge from the
16 Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency
17 of giant sequoia groves; and

18 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local
19 governments or agencies, and other interested stake-
20 holders with a demonstrated history of studying
21 giant sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct
22 management strategies to improve giant sequoia re-
23 siliency.

24 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
25 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums

1 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
2 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
3 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
4 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
5 gration of—

6 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
7 technologies;

8 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

9 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
10 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
11 the Assessment.

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

15 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
16 Resilience Action Plan;

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

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

22 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
23 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission
24 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-

1 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
2 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

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

4 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
5 QUOIAS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—

7 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
8 gress determines that—

9 (i) an emergency exists on covered
10 public lands and covered National Forest
11 System lands that makes it necessary to
12 carry out Protection Projects that take
13 needed actions to respond to the threat of
14 wildfires, insects, and drought to giant se-
15 quoias; and

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

23 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
24 mination established under subparagraph (A)

1 shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-
2 ered National Forest System lands.

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

7 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
8 determination established under paragraph (1) is in
9 effect, the following shall apply:

10 (A) The Secretary concerned, acting
11 through a responsible official, shall carry out
12 Protection Projects on covered public lands and
13 covered National Forest System lands in ac-
14 cordance with this section, all applicable land
15 management plans, and the laws (including reg-
16 ulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

17 (B) A responsible official shall carry out
18 Protection Projects in accordance with the fol-
19 lowing, as applicable:

20 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code
21 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
22 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
23 tional Forest System lands.

24 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of
25 Federal Regulations (as in effect October

1 12, 2022), with respect to covered public
2 lands.

3 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code
4 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
5 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
6 tional Forest System lands and covered
7 public lands.

8 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code
9 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
10 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
11 tional Forest System lands and covered
12 public lands.

13 (C) The rules established under sub-
14 sections (d) and (e) of section 40807 of the In-
15 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16
16 U.S.C. 6592c(d), (e)) shall apply with respect
17 to Protection Projects by substituting “Protec-
18 tion Projects” for “authorized emergency action
19 under this section” each place it appears in
20 such subsections.

21 (D) Protection Projects shall be subject to
22 the requirements of section 106 of the Healthy
23 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
24 6516).

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

5 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
6 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
7 tion, and prescribed burning.

8 (B) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or
9 dying trees, as determined by the responsible
10 official.

11 (C) Removing trees to address over-
12 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
13 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
14 forest stand and the best available science, as
15 determined by the responsible official.

16 (D) Activities to address insects, disease,
17 invasive species, and vegetative encroachment of
18 a giant sequoia grove.

19 (E) Any combination of activities described
20 in this paragraph.

21 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
23 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
24 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
25 under this Act that are described by subpara-

1 graph (C) are categorically excluded from the
2 preparation of an environmental assessment or
3 an environmental impact statement under sec-
4 tion 102 of the National Environmental Policy
5 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

6 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
7 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
8 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
9 with this section.

10 (C) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
11 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
12 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
13 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity—

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

16 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
17 quia groves; and

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

20 (ii) occurs on Federal land or non-
21 Federal land with the consent of the non-
22 Federal landowner.

23 (D) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—
24 The extraordinary circumstances procedures
25 under provisions (e) through (g) of section 1b.3

1 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, shall
2 apply to a Protection Project or reforestation or
3 rehabilitation activity that is categorically ex-
4 cluded under subparagraph (A).

5 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
6 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
7 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
8 this section in combination with other authori-
9 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
10 ing—

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

14 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
15 entered into under section 604 of the
16 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
17 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

18 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
19 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
20 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
21 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
22 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
23 Tribe.

24 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
25 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce haz-

1 arduous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each
2 year.

3 (c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary concerned shall
4 provide notice of each Protection Project on a publicly
5 available website maintained by the Secretary concerned.

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

8 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
9 EGY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary, in consultation with the Coalition, shall de-
13 velop and implement a strategy, to be known as the
14 Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
15 Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabili-
16 tation of giant sequoia groves that—

17 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
18 of reforestation or rehabilitation, giving highest
19 priority to groves identified under section
20 5(a)(1)(A)(i);

21 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
22 and rehabilitation activities;

23 (C) identifies and addresses—

24 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
25 bilitation, including—

1 (I) regulatory and funding bar-
2 riers;

3 (II) seedling shortages or related
4 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
5 straints;

6 (III) labor and workforce short-
7 ages;

8 (IV) technology and science gaps;
9 and

10 (V) site preparation challenges;

11 (ii) potential public-private partner-
12 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
13 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

14 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
15 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
16 in the 10-year period after the agreement
17 is entered into under section 3; and

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

20 (D) includes program and policy rec-
21 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
22 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

23 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-
24 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-
25 tion 5.

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

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

6 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
7 serting “; and”; and

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

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

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

13 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
15 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
16 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
17 plementation of—

18 (A) primarily, section 6; and

19 (B) secondarily, section 7.

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

21 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
22 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
23 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
24 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under divi-
25 sion A of subtitle III of title 54, United States

1 Code (commonly referred to as the “National
2 Historic Preservation Act”), and consultations
3 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
4 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

5 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
6 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
7 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
8 activity;

9 (C) implement Protection Projects under
10 section 6; and

11 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
12 tion activities under section 7.

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

16 (A) employees of the Department of the
17 Interior;

18 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

19 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
20 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-
21 ment, local government, academic institution, or
22 private organization; and

23 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
24 zation, State government, Tribal Government,

1 local government, academic institution, or pri-
2 vate organization.

3 **SEC. 9. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
4 **GRANTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
6 with the parties to the agreement under section 3, shall
7 establish a program or expand an existing program to
8 award grants to eligible entities to advance, facilitate, or
9 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

10 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
11 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
12 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
13 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
14 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

20 (2) secondarily—

21 (A) are small businesses or Tribal entities,
22 particularly in rural areas; and

23 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
24 rural areas.

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

3 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
4 ardous fuels removed under section 6, including
5 markets for biomass and biochar;

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

10 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities
11 or land that can store or process hazardous fuels re-
12 moved under section 6;

13 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
14 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
15 facilitate the Strategy established under section 7; or

16 (5) support Tribal management and conserva-
17 tion of giant sequoias, including funding for Tribal
18 historic preservation officers.

19 **SEC. 10. GIANT SEQUOIA INSECT MONITORING AND TECH-**
20 **NOLOGY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
23 shall—

1 (1) develop and implement a strategy for moni-
2 toring insects in giant sequoia groves with a high-
3 risk or previous history of insect infestations; and

4 (2) seek to enter into public-private partner-
5 ships to deploy technology to assist in the short-term
6 and long-term monitoring of giant sequoia groves
7 with current or potential insect infestations.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
10 submit a report to the relevant Congressional Committees
11 that contains—

12 (1) the strategy required under subsection
13 (a)(1);

14 (2) an update on the effectiveness of the moni-
15 toring program in preventing or addressing insect
16 infestations in giant sequoia groves; and

17 (3) program and policy recommendations to
18 further address—

19 (A) research gaps regarding giant sequoia
20 resiliency to insects; and

21 (B) opportunities to improve the resiliency
22 of giant sequoias to insects.

1 **SEC. 11. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
2 **QUOIAS.**

3 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604 of the
4 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
5 6591c) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (a)(2) to read as
7 follows:

8 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
9 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
10 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
11 and the Director of the National Park Service with
12 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
13 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
14 tional Park.”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “national for-
16 ests and the public lands” and inserting “national
17 forests, public lands, and lands within Kings Canyon
18 National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosem-
19 ite National Park”.

20 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
21 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
22 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

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

1 (c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING IN CERTAIN NA-
2 TIONAL PARKS.—Stewardship contracting projects occur-
3 ring in Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National
4 Park, and Yosemite National Park shall be carried out
5 in accordance with the laws (including regulations) appli-
6 cable to the National Park Service, including section
7 100753 of title 54, United States Code.

8 **SEC. 12. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
9 **GRAM AND FUND.**

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

13 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
14 **gram and Fund**

15 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
16 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
17 tion with the National Forest Foundation and the Foun-
18 dation for America’s Public Lands, shall design and imple-
19 ment a comprehensive program to assist and promote phil-
20 anthropic programs of support that benefit—

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

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

4 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
5 FUND.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Park Foun-
7 dation, in coordination with the National Forest
8 Foundation and the Foundation for America’s Pub-
9 lic Lands, shall establish a joint special account to
10 be known as the Giant Sequoia Emergency Protec-
11 tion Fund (referred to in this section as the ‘Fund’),
12 to be administered in support of the program estab-
13 lished under subsection (a).

14 “(2) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
15 PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
16 devises, or bequests that are provided to the Na-
17 tional Park Foundation, National Forest Founda-
18 tion, or Foundation for America’s Public Lands for
19 the purpose described in paragraph (1).

20 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available
21 to the National Park Foundation, National Forest
22 Foundation, and Foundation for America’s Public
23 Lands without further appropriation, subject to the
24 provisions in paragraph (4), for projects and activi-
25 ties approved by the Director of the National Park

1 Service, Chief of the Forest Service, or Director of
2 the Bureau of Land Management, as appropriate, or
3 their designees, to—

4 “(A) primarily, support the management
5 and conservation of giant sequoias on covered
6 public lands and covered National Forest Sys-
7 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
8 sects, and drought; and

9 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
10 of giant sequoias on covered public lands and
11 covered National Forest System lands impacted
12 by wildfire.

13 “(4) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
14 to the National Park Foundation, National Forest
15 Foundation, and Foundation for America’s Public
16 Lands under paragraph (3), not less than 15 per-
17 cent of such funds shall be used to support Tribal
18 management and conservation of giant sequoias, in-
19 cluding funding for Tribal historic preservation offi-
20 cers.

21 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
22 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation,
23 National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for Amer-
24 ica’s Public Lands shall include with their annual reports

1 a summary of the status of the program and Fund created
2 under this section that includes—

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

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

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

9 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘cov-
10 ered public lands’ and ‘covered National Forest System
11 lands’ have the meaning given such terms in section 2 of
12 the Save Our Sequoias Act.

13 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
14 thority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years
15 after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias
16 Act.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
18 tions for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code,
19 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

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