

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8790, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY**

At the end of the bill insert the following:

**TITLE IV—WHITE OAK  
RESILIENCE**

**SEC. 401. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition shall be established—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and private and non-governmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter titled “White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local, private, and non-governmental restoration of white oak in the United States; and

1           (2) to make program and policy recommenda-  
2           tions, consistent with applicable forest management  
3           plans, with respect to—

4                   (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
5                   and State policies that impede activities to im-  
6                   prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
7                   eration of white oak;

8                   (B) adopting or modifying Federal and  
9                   State policies to increase the pace and scale of  
10                  white oak regeneration and resiliency of white  
11                  oak;

12                  (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
13                  ordination, and collaboration between forest  
14                  land owners, particularly for cross-boundary  
15                  projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and  
16                  natural regeneration of white oak;

17                  (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
18                  dressed to improve the best available science on  
19                  white oak;

20                  (E) outreach to forest landowners with  
21                  white oak or white oak regeneration potential;  
22                  and

23                  (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
24                  prove the quality and quantity of white oak in  
25                  tree nurseries.

1 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
2 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
3 rior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make such per-  
4 sonnel available to the White Oak Restoration Initiative  
5 Coalition for administrative support, technical services,  
6 and development and dissemination of educational mate-  
7 rials as the Secretaries determine necessary to carry out  
8 this section.

9 (d) PRIVATE FUNDING OF WHITE OAK RESTORA-  
10 TION PROJECTS.—Subject to the availability of appropria-  
11 tions made in advance for such purpose, the Secretary of  
12 Agriculture may make funds available to the White Oak  
13 Restoration Initiative Coalition to carry out this section  
14 from the account established pursuant to section 1241(f)  
15 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

16 **SEC. 402. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-  
18 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish  
19 and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore  
20 white oak in such forests through white oak restoration  
21 and natural regeneration practices that are consistent with  
22 applicable forest management plans.

23 (b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN  
24 FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects re-  
25 quired under subsection (a) shall be carried out on na-

1 tional forests reserved or withdrawn from the public do-  
2 main.

3 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
4 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter  
5 into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects  
6 required under subsection (a).

7 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
8 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
9 the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 403. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK RE-**  
11 **VIEW AND RESTORATION.**

12 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
14 rior shall carry out an assessment of land under the  
15 administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the  
16 Interior, including fish and wildlife refuges and  
17 abandoned mine land, to evaluate—

18 (A) whether white oak is present on such  
19 land; and

20 (B) the potential to restore white oak for-  
21 ests on such land.

22 (2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the  
23 assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may  
24 use information from sources other than the Depart-

1       ment of the Interior, including from the White Oak  
2       Initiative and the Forest Service.

3           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the  
4       date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary  
5       shall submit to Congress, and make publicly avail-  
6       able on the website of the Department of the Inte-  
7       rior, a report regarding the results of the assessment  
8       carried out under this subsection.

9           (b) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the date on which the  
10      report required under subsection (a)(3) is submitted, the  
11      Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in  
12      different areas of land described in subsection (a)(1) to  
13      restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

14          (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
15      AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter  
16      into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects  
17      required under subsection (b).

18          (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
19      terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
20      the enactment of this Act.

21      **SEC. 404. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**  
22                                      **HABITAT.**

23          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
24      the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
25      Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”)

1 shall establish a non-regulatory program to be known as  
2 the “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration  
3 Program” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

4 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-  
5 retary shall—

6 (1) draw upon the best available science and  
7 management plans for species of white oak to iden-  
8 tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-  
9 servation activities that will improve the growth of  
10 white oak within the United States;

11 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
12 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize  
13 white oak restoration initiatives;

14 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
15 that—

16 (A) supports the implementation of a  
17 shared set of science-based restoration and con-  
18 servation activities developed in accordance with  
19 paragraph (1);

20 (B) targets cost effective projects with  
21 measurable results; and

22 (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with  
23 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
24 ployees; and

1           (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical  
2       assistance programs in accordance with subsection  
3       (e).

4       (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program  
5       the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
6       ice, shall consult with—

7           (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

8                (A) the Director of the United States Fish  
9                and Wildlife Service; and

10               (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources  
11                Conservation Service; and

12           (2) the Governor of each State in which res-  
13       toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the  
14       Program.

15       (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-  
16       clude—

17           (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
18       activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal en-  
19       tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
20       restoration priorities;

21           (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
22       upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
23       ests provide;

24           (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
25       conservation activities that lead to the increased

1 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
2 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

3 (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
4 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
5 under changing climate conditions;

6 (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
7 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity  
8 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
9 servation activities for species of white oak; and

10 (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
11 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
12 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
13 conservation activities.

14 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are  
16 available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
17 shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-  
18 sistance program (in this section referred to as the  
19 “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the  
20 Program described in subsection (d).

21 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
23 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-  
24 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this



1 subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to  
2 manage and administer the grant program.

3 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
4 of appropriations made in advance for such  
5 purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-  
6 erative agreement with the Foundation under  
7 subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall for  
8 each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out  
9 this subsection in an advance payment of the  
10 entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-  
11 ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

12 (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND  
13 WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—  
14 Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out  
15 the grant program shall be subject to the National  
16 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16  
17 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that  
18 Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

19 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
20 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
21 the enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 405. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
24 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Ag-

1 riculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,  
2 shall—

3 (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
4 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
5 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
6 shortage of tree seedlings; and

7 (2) coordinate such strategy with—

8 (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
9 the Forest Service; and

10 (B) each regional implementation plan for  
11 National Forests.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
13 section (a) shall—

14 (1) be based on the best available science and  
15 data; and

16 (2) identify and address—

17 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
18 and container tree seedlings;

19 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
20 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such  
21 opportunities;

22 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-  
23 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

1 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
2 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
3 capacity.

4 **SEC. 406. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may  
6 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a Tribe  
7 or institution, including a covered land grant college, to  
8 collaboratively conduct research on—

9 (1) white oak genes with resistance or tolerance  
10 to stress;

11 (2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the  
12 purpose of increasing survival and growth;

13 (3) establishing a genetically diverse white oak  
14 seeds bank capable of responding to stressors;

15 (4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak  
16 seedlings and genetic resources;

17 (5) improved methods for aligning seed sources  
18 with the future climate at planting sites;

19 (6) reforestation of white oak through natural  
20 and artificial regeneration;

21 (7) improved methods for retaining and increas-  
22 ing white oak trees in forests;

23 (8) improved methods for reforesting aban-  
24 doned mine land sites; and

1           (9) economic and social aspects of white oak  
2       forest management across land ownerships.

3       (b) CONSULT.—In carrying out the research under  
4 subsection (a), the Tribe or institution, including a cov-  
5 ered land grant college, that enters into the memorandum  
6 of understanding under such subsection may consult with  
7 such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher  
8 education, and other scientific bodies, as the entity subject  
9 to such memorandum determines appropriate.

10       (c) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
12 the enactment of this Act.

13       (d) COVERED LAND GRANT COLLEGE DEFINED.—  
14 In this section, the term “covered land grant college”  
15 means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994  
16 Institution (as such terms are defined, respectively, in sec-  
17 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-  
18 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

19 **SEC. 407. USDA FORMAL INITIATIVE.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-  
21 ing through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-  
22 tion Service and in coordination with the Chief of the For-  
23 est Service, shall establish a formal initiative on white oak  
24 to—

1 (1) re-establish white oak forests where appro-  
2 priate;

3 (2) improve management of existing white oak  
4 forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

5 (3) provide technical assistance to private land-  
6 owners to re-establish, improve management of, and  
7 naturally regenerate white oak;

8 (4) improve and expand white oak nursery  
9 stock; and

10 (5) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

11 (b) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
12 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
13 the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 408. AUTHORITIES.**

15 To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of  
16 the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall use the  
17 authorities provided under this title in combination with  
18 other authorities to carry out projects, including—

19 (1) good neighbor agreements entered into  
20 under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
21 (16 U.S.C. 2113); and

22 (2) stewardship contracting projects entered  
23 into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Res-  
24 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591).

