

**AMENDMENT TO**  
**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-57**  
**OFFERED BY MR. MCCARTHY OF CALIFORNIA**

Page 558, after line 22, insert the following:

1                   **DIVISION E—SAVE OUR**  
2                                   **SEQUOIAS**

3 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

4           This division may be cited as the “Save Our Sequoias  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

7           In this division:

8                   (1) **ASSESSMENT.**—The term “Assessment”  
9           means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-  
10           sessment required by section 105.

11                   (2) **COALITION.**—The term “Coalition” means  
12           the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition established under  
13           section 104.

14                   (3) **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.**—The term “col-  
15           laborative process” means a process relating to the  
16           management of National Forest System lands or  
17           public lands by which a project or forest manage-  
18           ment activity is developed and implemented by the  
19           Secretary concerned through collaboration with mul-

1       tiple interested persons representing diverse inter-  
2       ests.

3           (4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM  
4       LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System  
5       lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-  
6       tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-  
7       main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-  
8       tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-  
9       ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National  
10      Forest.

11          (5) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-  
12      quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*  
13      *giganteum*.

14          (6) GROVE-SPECIFIC HAZARDOUS FUELS RE-  
15      DUCTION PLAN.—The term “grove-specific haz-  
16      ardous fuels reduction plan” means a plan developed  
17      by the applicable land management agency prior to  
18      conducting an analysis under the National Environ-  
19      mental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to ad-  
20      dress hazardous fuels in 1 or more giant sequoia  
21      groves.

22          (7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-  
23      tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection  
24      Project carried out under section 106.

1           (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
2 means—

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

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

10          (9) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-  
11 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover by es-  
12 tablishing young trees through natural regeneration,  
13 artificial or natural regeneration with site prepara-  
14 tion, planting or direct seeding, or vegetation com-  
15 petition control following artificial or natural regen-  
16 eration.

17          (10) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-  
18 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-  
19 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to  
20 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-  
21 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

22          (11) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
23 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-  
24 tees” means—

1 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,  
2 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of  
3 Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-  
5 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
6 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

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

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

14 (14) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term  
15 “Secretary concerned” means—

16 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
17 spect to covered National Forest System lands,  
18 or their designee; and

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
20 spect to public lands, or their designee.

21 (15) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means  
22 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation  
23 Strategy established under section 107.

1           (16) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”  
2           means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established  
3           under section 108.

4           (17) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the  
5           Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-  
6           tion, California.

7   **SEC. 103. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT**  
8                                   **SEQUOIAS.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-  
10          ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-  
11          fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into an  
12          agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor  
13          of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry  
14          out the following:

15               (1) Not later than 30 days after entering into  
16               the agreement, establish the Giant Sequoia Lands  
17               Coalition or certify an existing group meeting the re-  
18               quirements of section 104(b) as the Giant Sequoia  
19               Lands Coalition.

20               (2) Not later than 120 days after the Giant Se-  
21               quoia Lands Coalition submits the Assessment under  
22               section 105, conduct Protection Projects under sec-  
23               tion 106.

24               (3) Not later than 120 days after entering into  
25               the agreement, begin implementing the Giant Se-

1        quia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy  
2        under section 107.

3        (b) PARTICIPATION.—

4            (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-  
5        ceived a request from the Governor of the State of  
6        California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before  
7        the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment  
8        of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-  
9        ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement  
10       such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

11           (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary  
12       receives a request from the Governor of the State of  
13       California or the Tribe any time after entering into  
14       the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture  
15       under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the  
16       Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as  
17       a party to such agreement.

18       **SEC. 104. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.**

19        (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20            (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the  
21       timeline and agreement established in section  
22       103(a)(1), the Secretary, in consultation with the  
23       parties to such agreement, shall establish, and ap-  
24       point members to, the Giant Sequoia Lands Coali-  
25       tion.

1           (2) EXISTING COALITION.—A previously estab-  
2           lished group that meets the membership require-  
3           ments under subsection (b) may be designated by  
4           the Secretary as the Coalition under paragraph (1)  
5           if the parties to the agreement established under  
6           section 103 approve such designation.

7           (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8           (1) MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint to  
9           the Coalition 1 member from each of—

10                   (A) the National Park Service, rep-  
11                   resenting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National  
12                   Parks;

13                   (B) the National Park Service, rep-  
14                   resenting Yosemite National Park;

15                   (C) the Forest Service, representing Se-  
16                   quoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia Na-  
17                   tional Monument;

18                   (D) the Forest Service, representing Sierra  
19                   National Forest;

20                   (E) the Forest Service, representing Tahoe  
21                   National Forest;

22                   (F) the Bureau of Land Management, rep-  
23                   resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation  
24                   Management Area;

1 (G) the Tribe, representing the Black  
2 Mountain Grove;

3 (H) the State of California, representing  
4 Calaveras Big Trees State Park;

5 (I) the State of California, representing  
6 Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest;

7 (J) an academic institution with dem-  
8 onstrated experience managing and owning a  
9 giant sequoia grove, representing Whitaker's  
10 Research Forest; and

11 (K) the County of Tulare, California, rep-  
12 resenting Balch Park.

13 (2) AFFILIATE PARTNERS.—The Coalition may  
14 designate organizations or agencies with dem-  
15 onstrated experience and knowledge on giant sequoia  
16 management and resiliency as affiliate partners of  
17 the Coalition to enhance the work of the Coalition  
18 under subsection (c).

19 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.—  
20 Upon the written request of a local government in  
21 California whose jurisdictional boundaries encompass  
22 at least 1 giant sequoia grove, the Secretary shall  
23 appoint 1 member from such government to serve as  
24 a member of the Coalition, subject to the same re-  
25 quirements outlined in this section.



1 (4) TERM.—

2 (A) LENGTH.—The term of an appoint-  
3 ment as a member of the Coalition shall be 5  
4 years.

5 (B) LIMIT.—Members of the Coalition may  
6 serve no more than 2 terms.

7 (5) VACANCY.—The Secretary shall appoint a  
8 new member to fill a vacancy on the Coalition not  
9 later than 6 months after the date on which such va-  
10 cancy occurs.

11 (6) DECISIONS.—Decisions of the Coalition  
12 shall be made by majority vote, a quorum of 6 mem-  
13 bers of the Coalition being present.

14 (7) MEETINGS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
16 after all members of the Coalition are appointed  
17 under subsection (a), the Coalition shall hold its  
18 first meeting.

19 (B) REGULAR MEETINGS.—The Coalition  
20 shall meet not less than twice per year.

21 (8) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall appoint  
22 members under subsection (b)(1) who have a dem-  
23 onstrated experience and knowledge on managing  
24 giant sequoia groves.

25 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Coalition are to—

1 (1) carry out the Assessment under section  
2 105;

3 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy  
4 recommendations to the Secretary, with respect to—

5 (A) Protection Projects carried out under  
6 section 106; and

7 (B) the Strategy established under section  
8 107;

9 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on  
10 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross  
11 jurisdictional boundaries;

12 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best  
13 available science as described in section 105(c) and  
14 mapping resources; and

15 (5) support the development and dissemination  
16 of educational materials and programs that inform  
17 the public about the threats to the health and resil-  
18 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being  
19 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-  
20 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

21 (d) PAY AND EXPENSES.—

22 (1) COMPENSATION.—

23 (A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEMBERS.—All  
24 members of the Coalition who are officers or  
25 employees of the United States shall serve with-

1 out compensation in addition to that received  
2 for their services as officers or employees of the  
3 United States.

4 (B) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEM-  
5 BERS.—All members of the Coalition not de-  
6 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall serve without  
7 compensation.

8 (2) REIMBURSEMENT.—A member of the Coali-  
9 tion may be reimbursed for travel and lodging ex-  
10 penses incurred while attending a meeting of the Co-  
11 alition or any other meeting of members approved  
12 for reimbursement by the Coalition in the same  
13 amounts and under the same conditions as Federal  
14 employees under section 5703 of title 5, United  
15 States Code.

16 (3) EXPENSES.—The Secretary may pay the  
17 expenses of the Coalition that the Secretary deter-  
18 mines to be reasonable and appropriate.

19 (4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL  
20 SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary  
21 shall make personnel of the Department of the Inte-  
22 rior available to the Coalition for administrative sup-  
23 port, technical services, development and dissemina-  
24 tion of educational materials, and staff support that

1 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this  
2 section.

3 (e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The  
4 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not  
5 apply to the Coalition.

6 **SEC. 105. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY AS-**  
7 **SESSMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
9 first meeting of the Coalition, the Coalition shall submit  
10 to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia  
11 Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best  
12 available science—

13 (1) identifies—

14 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-  
15 perience a—

16 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

17 (ii) disturbance but continues to have  
18 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-  
19 cluding identifying the tree mortality and  
20 regeneration of giant sequoias within such  
21 grove;

22 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at  
23 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-  
24 turbance;

1 (C) lands located near giant sequoia groves  
2 that are at risk of experiencing high-severity  
3 wildfires that could adversely impact such giant  
4 sequoia groves; and

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

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

10 (A) high-severity wildfire;

11 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

12 (C) drought;

13 (3) with respect to Protection Projects, pro-  
14 poses a list of highest priority Protection Projects to  
15 be carried out under section 106, giving priority to  
16 projects located on lands identified under subpara-  
17 graphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(1);

18 (4) examines how historical, Tribal, or current  
19 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest  
20 management activities across various jurisdictions  
21 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-  
22 quoia groves with respect to—

23 (A) high-severity wildfires;

24 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

25 (C) drought; and

1 (5) includes program and policy recommenda-  
2 tions that address—

3 (A) Federal and State policies that impede  
4 activities to improve the health and resiliency of  
5 giant sequoias and proposed policy changes to  
6 address such impediments;

7 (B) new Federal and State policies nec-  
8 essary to increase the pace and scale of treat-  
9 ments that improve the health and resiliency of  
10 giant sequoias;

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

15 (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
16 dressed to improve the best available science on  
17 the giant sequoias.

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

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

1 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

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

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

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

13 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to  
14 initiate at least 1 Protection Project each in the  
15 previous year, a written explanation that in-  
16 cludes—

17 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-  
18 pediments resulted in failing to initiate at  
19 least 1 Protection Project;

20 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-  
21 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to  
22 ensure that at least 1 Protection Project is  
23 initiated the following year; and

24 (iii) recommendations to Congress on  
25 any policies that need to be changed to as-

1                   sist the Secretary concerned in initiating  
2                   Protection Projects; and

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

5                   (A) contains updates on the implementa-  
6                   tion of the Strategy under section 107, includ-  
7                   ing grove-level data on reforestation and reha-  
8                   bilitation activities; and

9                   (B) provides status updates and moni-  
10                  toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have  
11                  experienced natural or artificial regeneration as  
12                  part of the Strategy under section 107.

13                  (c) DASHBOARD.—

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

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

19                  (B) contains searchable information about  
20                  individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

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



1 (ii) Protection Projects that have been  
2 proposed, initiated, or completed in such  
3 groves; and

4 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation  
5 activities that have been proposed, initi-  
6 ated, or completed in such groves; and

7 (C) maintains a searchable database to  
8 track—

9 (i) the status of Federal environ-  
10 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-  
11 cific Protection Projects and reforestation  
12 and rehabilitation activities; and

13 (ii) the projected cost of Protection  
14 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-  
15 tion activities.

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

20 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

21 (B) the status of the compliance of each  
22 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-  
23 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

24 (C) any modifications of the permitting  
25 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-

1 including an explanation as to why the permitting  
2 timetable was modified; and

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

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

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

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

20 (3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local  
21 governments or agencies.

22 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out  
23 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums  
24 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-  
25 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal

1 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to  
2 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-  
3 gration of—

4 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial  
5 technologies;

6 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

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

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

13 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest  
14 Resilience Action Plan; and

15 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis  
16 Strategy (or successor plan).

17 (g) **RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL**  
18 **POLICY ACT OF 1969.**—The development and submission  
19 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-  
20 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
21 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

22 **SEC. 106. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

23 (a) **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-**  
24 **QUOIAS.**—

25 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—

1 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-  
2 gress determines that—

3 (i) an emergency exists on public  
4 lands and covered National Forest System  
5 lands that makes it necessary to carry out  
6 Protection Projects that take needed ac-  
7 tions to respond to the threat of wildfires,  
8 insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

9 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary  
10 to control the immediate impacts of the  
11 emergency described in subparagraph (i)  
12 and are needed to mitigate harm to life,  
13 property, or important natural or cultural  
14 resources on public lands and covered Na-  
15 tional Forest System lands.

16 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-  
17 mination established under subparagraph (A)  
18 shall apply to all public lands and covered Na-  
19 tional Forest System lands.

20 (C) EFFECT.—The emergency determina-  
21 tion established under subparagraph (A) shall  
22 go into effect on the date the Giant Sequoia  
23 Lands Coalition submits the Assessment under  
24 section 105.

1 (D) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-  
2 mination established under subparagraph (A)  
3 shall expire on the date that is 10 years after  
4 the effective date of the emergency determina-  
5 tion established in paragraph (C).

6 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency  
7 determination established under subsection (a) is in  
8 effect—

9 (A) a responsible official may carry out a  
10 Protection Project described by paragraph (4)  
11 before initiating—

12 (i) an analysis under section 102 of  
13 the National Environmental Policy Act of  
14 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332);

15 (ii) consultation under section 7 of the  
16 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
17 U.S.C. 1536); and

18 (iii) consultation under section 106 of  
19 the National Historic Preservation Act (16  
20 U.S.C. 470(f)); and

21 (B) the rules established under subsections  
22 (d) and (e) section 40807 of the Infrastructure  
23 Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d)  
24 and (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection  
25 Projects by substituting “Protection Projects”

1 for “authorized emergency action under this  
2 section” each place it appears in such sub-  
3 sections; and

4 (C) Protection Projects shall be subject to  
5 the requirements of section 106 of title I of the  
6 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16  
7 U.S.C. 6511 et seq.).

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

12 (A) Activities recommended by the Assess-  
13 ment under section 105.

14 (B) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-  
15 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-  
16 tion, and prescribed burning.

17 (C) Removing hazard trees, dead trees,  
18 dying trees, or trees at risk of dying, as deter-  
19 mined by the responsible official.

20 (D) Removing trees to address over-  
21 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-  
22 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the  
23 forest stand as determined by the responsible  
24 official.

1 (E) Activities included in the applicable  
2 grove-specific hazardous fuels reduction plan.

3 (F) Using chemical treatments to address  
4 insects and disease and control vegetation com-  
5 petition.

6 (G) Any combination of activities described  
7 in this paragraph.

8 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects  
10 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-  
11 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out  
12 under this division that are described by sub-  
13 paragraph (D) are a category of actions hereby  
14 designated as being categorically excluded from  
15 the preparation of an environmental assessment  
16 or an environmental impact statement under  
17 section 102 of the National Environmental Pol-  
18 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

19 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-  
20 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-  
21 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance  
22 with this section.

23 (C) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

24 (i) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that  
25 Protection Projects carried out under this

1 section are consistent with improving the  
2 health and resiliency of critical habitat for  
3 threatened and endangered species, includ-  
4 ing the pacific fisher and California spot-  
5 ted owl.

6 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The informal  
7 consultation requirements in sections  
8 402.05 of title 50 and 800.12 of title 36,  
9 Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
10 cessor regulation), shall apply to Protec-  
11 tion Projects.

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

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

18 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-  
19 quoa groves where a grove-specific  
20 hazardous fuels reduction plan has  
21 been developed by the relevant land  
22 management agency or on lands iden-  
23 tified under section 105(a)(1)(B); and

24 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-  
25 fied under section 105(a)(1)(C); and



1 (ii) was—

2 (I) proposed by the Assessment  
3 under section 105(a)(3);

4 (II) developed through a collabo-  
5 rative process; or

6 (III) proposed by a resource advi-  
7 sory committee (as defined in section  
8 201 of the Secure Rural Schools and  
9 Community Self-Determination Act of  
10 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7121)); and

11 (iii) occurs on Federal land or non-  
12 Federal land with the consent of the non-  
13 Federal landowner.

14 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the  
15 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-  
16 cerned shall use the authorities provided under  
17 this section in combination with other authori-  
18 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-  
19 ing—

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

23 (ii) stewardship contracting projects  
24 entered into under section 604 of the

1                   Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
2                   (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

3                   (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to  
4                   joint Protection Projects and reforestation and  
5                   rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,  
6                   nothing in this section shall be construed to add  
7                   any additional regulatory requirements onto the  
8                   Tribe.

9                   (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent  
10                  practicable, the Secretary concerned shall initiate no fewer  
11                  than 1 Protection Project each year.

12                  **SEC. 107. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHABILI-**  
13                  **TATION STRATEGY.**

14                  (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-  
15                  EGY.—

16                  (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the  
17                  timeline and agreement established in section  
18                  103(a)(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the  
19                  parties to such agreement, shall develop and imple-  
20                  ment a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia  
21                  Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to en-  
22                  hance the reforestation and rehabilitation of giant  
23                  sequoia groves that—

24                  (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need  
25                  of natural or artificial regeneration, giving

1 highest priority to groves identified under sec-  
2 tion 105(a)(1)(A)(i);

3 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation  
4 and rehabilitation activities;

5 (C) identifies and addresses—

6 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-  
7 bilitation including—

8 (I) regulatory barriers;

9 (II) seedling shortages or related  
10 nursery infrastructure capacity con-  
11 straints;

12 (III) labor and workforce short-  
13 ages;

14 (IV) technology and science gaps;  
15 and

16 (V) site preparation challenges;

17 (ii) potential public-private partner-  
18 ship opportunities to complete high-priority  
19 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

20 (iii) a timeline for addressing the  
21 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias  
22 in the 10-year period after the agreement  
23 is entered into under section 103; and

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

1 (D) includes program and policy rec-  
2 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency  
3 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

4 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-  
5 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-  
6 tion 105.

7 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-  
8 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and  
9 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974  
10 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

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

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

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

15 “(dd) shall include reforest-  
16 ation and rehabilitation activities  
17 conducted under section 107 of  
18 the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

19 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-  
20 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) is amended by inserting  
21 “Nothing in this Act shall restrict or prohibit the Sec-  
22 retary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture from  
23 conducting reforestation (as such term is defined in sec-  
24 tion 102 of the Save Our Sequoias Act) activities to rees-

1 tablish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” after the pe-  
2 riod at the end.

3 **SEC. 108. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.**

4 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-  
6 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike  
7 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-  
8 plementation of—

9 (A) primarily, section 106; and

10 (B) secondarily, section 107.

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

12 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with  
13 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-  
14 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
15 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under the  
16 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16  
17 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and consultations under  
18 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
19 1531 et seq.);

20 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-  
21 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-  
22 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation  
23 activity;

24 (C) implement Protection Projects under  
25 section 106; and

1 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-  
2 tion activities under section 107.

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

6 (A) employees of the Department of the  
7 Interior;

8 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

9 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit  
10 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-  
11 ment, local government, academic institution, or  
12 private organization; and

13 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-  
14 zation, State government, Tribal Government,  
15 local government, academic institution, or pri-  
16 vate organization.

17 **SEC. 109. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**  
18 **GRANTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
20 with the parties to the agreement under section 103, shall  
21 establish a program to award grants to eligible entities  
22 to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and  
23 resiliency.

24 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award  
25 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,

1 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-  
2 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or  
3 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

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

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

9 (2) secondarily—

10 (A) are small businesses, particularly in  
11 rural areas; and

12 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in  
13 rural areas.

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

16 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-  
17 ardous fuels removed under section 106, including  
18 markets for biomass and biochar;

19 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-  
20 tion 106, including by reducing the cost of trans-  
21 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-  
22 tion Project;

23 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create perma-  
24 nent or temporary facilities or land that can store or

1 process hazardous fuels removed under section 106;  
2 and

3 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-  
4 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to  
5 facilitate the Strategy established under section 107.

6 **SEC. 110. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR GIANT SE-**  
7 **QUOIAS.**

8 Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
9 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)—

12 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at  
13 the end;

14 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as  
15 clause (iv);

16 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the  
17 following:

18 “(iii) activities conducted under sec-  
19 tion 106 of the Save Our Sequoias Act;”;

20 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,  
21 by striking the period at the end and in-  
22 serting “; or”; and

23 (v) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(v) any combination of activities  
25 specified in clauses (i) through (iv).”; and



1 (B) in paragraph (10)(B) by striking  
2 “land.” and inserting “land, Kings Canyon Na-  
3 tional Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yo-  
4 semite National Park.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by amending subpara-  
6 graph (C) to read as follows—

7 “(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Funds  
8 received from the sale of timber by a Governor  
9 of a State under a good neighbor agreement  
10 shall be retained and used by the Governor—

11 “(i) to carry out authorized restora-  
12 tion services under such good neighbor  
13 agreement; and

14 “(ii) if there are funds remaining  
15 after carrying out the services under clause  
16 (i), to carry out authorized restoration  
17 services within the State under other good  
18 neighbor agreements.”.

19 **SEC. 111. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**  
20 **QUOIAS.**

21 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604(a)(2) of  
22 the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.  
23 6591c(c)) is amended to read—

24 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means  
25 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management

1 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands  
2 and the Director of the National Park Service with  
3 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National  
4 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-  
5 tional Park.”.

6 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—  
7 Section 604(e) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(c)) is amended by adding at the  
9 end the following:

10 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of  
11 giant sequoias.”.

12 **SEC. 112. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**  
13 **GRAM AND FUND.**

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

17 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**  
18 **gram and Fund**

19 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION  
20 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-  
21 tion with the National Forest Foundation, shall design  
22 and implement a comprehensive program to assist and  
23 promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

24 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-  
25 tion of giant sequoias on National Park Service and

1 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-  
2 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

3 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-  
4 quoias on National Park Service and covered Na-  
5 tional Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

6 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION  
7 FUND.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination  
8 with the National Forest Foundation, shall establish a  
9 joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia  
10 Emergency Protection Fund (referred to as ‘the Fund’ in  
11 this section), to be administered in support of the program  
12 established under subsection (a).

13 “(1) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY  
14 PROTECTION.—The following shall apply to the  
15 Fund:

16 “(A) The Fund shall consist of any gifts,  
17 devises, or bequests that are provided to the  
18 National Park Foundation or National Forest  
19 Foundation for such purpose.

20 “(B) The National Park Foundation and  
21 National Forest Foundation shall deposit any  
22 funds received for the Fund in a federally in-  
23 sured interest-bearing account or may invest  
24 funds in appropriate security obligations, as  
25 mutually agreed upon.

1           “(C) Any accrued interest or dividends  
2           earned on funds received for the Fund shall be  
3           added to the principal and form a part of the  
4           Fund.

5           “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds shall be available  
6           to the National Park Foundation and National For-  
7           est Foundation without further appropriation for  
8           projects and activities approved by the Chief of the  
9           Forest Service or the Director of the National Park  
10          Service as appropriate, or their designees, to—

11           “(A) primarily, support the management  
12           and conservation of giant sequoias on National  
13           Park Service and covered National Forest Sys-  
14           tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-  
15           sects, and drought; and

16           “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation  
17           of giant sequoias on National Park Service and  
18           covered National Forest System lands impacted  
19           by wildfire.

20          “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of  
21          the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation  
22          and National Forest Foundation shall include with their  
23          annual reports a summary of the status of the program  
24          and Fund created under this section that includes—

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

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

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

7           “(d) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS  
8           DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered National  
9           Forest System lands’ has the meaning given such term  
10          in section 102 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

11          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
12          tions for chapter of title 54, United States Code, is amend-  
13          ed by inserting at the end the following:

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

14          **SEC. 113. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
16          priated to carry out this division—

17                 (1) for fiscal year 2024, \$10,000,000;

18                 (2) for fiscal year 2025, \$25,000,000;

19                 (3) for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028,  
20                 \$30,000,000; and

21                 (4) for each of fiscal years 2029 through 2033,  
22                 \$40,000,000.

23          (b) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts authorized under  
24          subsection (a), not less than 90 percent of funds shall be

1 used to carry out section 106 and section 109 of this divi-  
2 sion.

