

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

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OFFERED BY MR. WHITESIDES OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 28** ____. **IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO INTE-**
2 **GRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGE-**
3 **MENT PLANS FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101 of the Sikes Act (16
5 U.S.C. 670a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
7 following new paragraphs:

8 “(5) **STANDARDIZED METRICS.**—The Secretary
9 of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the
10 Interior, the Administrator of the National Oceanic
11 and Atmospheric Administration, and appropriate
12 State agencies, shall develop and maintain a stand-
13 ardized set of goals, metrics and data standards for
14 using sophisticated technologies and artificial intel-
15 ligence for the assessment of natural resources and
16 ecosystem services on military installations. Such
17 metrics shall, at a minimum, allow for comparison of

1 conditions and trends on and across installations
2 and shall address—

3 “(A) biodiversity, including populations
4 and habitat condition for threatened and endan-
5 gered species and other species of concern;

6 “(B) habitat extent, quality, and
7 connectivity;

8 “(C) water quality and quantity;

9 “(D) wildfire risk and fuels conditions;

10 “(E) ecosystem condition, including soil
11 health and vegetation condition;

12 “(F) flood risk and watershed condition,
13 including on adjacent lands measurably affected
14 by watersheds originating or passing through
15 military lands; and

16 “(G) other ecosystem services identified by
17 the Secretary of Defense as relevant to mission
18 readiness, climate resilience, or community safe-
19 ty.

20 “(6) TECHNOLOGY AND METHODOLOGIES.—

21 The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secre-
22 taries of the military departments, shall, to the max-
23 imum extent practicable and consistent with national
24 security, utilize state-of-the-art technologies and
25 methodologies, including but not limited to remote

1 sensing, automated environmental monitoring net-
2 works, geographic information systems, artificial in-
3 telligence and other advanced data analytics tools, to
4 collect, process, and analyze data on natural re-
5 sources and ecosystem services on military installa-
6 tions.

7 “(7) UPDATES TO COLLECTED DATA.—The Sec-
8 retary of Defense shall ensure that, to the extent
9 practicable, data collected pursuant to paragraphs
10 (5) and (6) are updated on a near real-time or other
11 frequent and consistent basis appropriate to the re-
12 source being monitored and are incorporated into in-
13 stallation-level and enterprise-level decisionmaking,
14 including planning and budgeting for natural re-
15 sources management, infrastructure resilience, and
16 mission sustainment.

17 “(8) USE OF ADVANCED DATA AND NET CONDI-
18 TION OBJECTIVES.—In preparing, reviewing, and
19 implementing each integrated natural resources
20 management plan under this subsection, the Sec-
21 retary concerned shall, to the extent practicable and
22 consistent with military mission requirements—

23 “(A) shall use standardized metrics estab-
24 lished under paragraph (5) and the data gen-
25 erated by the monitoring technologies described

1 in paragraph (6) to assess baseline conditions,
2 trends, and projected future conditions of key
3 natural resources and ecosystem services on the
4 installation;

5 “(B) establish quantitative or otherwise
6 measurable net condition objectives, as appro-
7 priate, for maintaining or improving the condi-
8 tion of such resources and services, including
9 biodiversity, habitat condition, conservation of
10 endangered and threatened species, wildfire
11 risk, watershed and flood risk, and overall eco-
12 system condition;

13 “(C) identify and implement management
14 actions that are designed, over time, to main-
15 tain or improve the net condition of natural re-
16 sources and ecosystem services at the installa-
17 tion scale, recognizing that some areas may ex-
18 perience degradation as a result of mission-es-
19 sential activities; and

20 “(D) where degradation of natural re-
21 sources due to mission-essential activities is un-
22 avoidable, consider, to the maximum extent
23 practicable, conservation, restoration, or en-
24 hancement actions in other areas on or associ-
25 ated with the installation, or in ecologically con-

1 needed locations, that improve natural resource
2 conditions in a manner that contributes to
3 maintaining or improving the net condition of
4 such resources and services.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (g)—

6 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
7 paragraph (3); and

8 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
9 following new paragraph:

10 “(2) USE OF STANDARDIZED METRICS IN PLAN
11 REVIEWS.—In conducting the review of each inte-
12 grated natural resources management plan required
13 under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the ex-
14 tent practicable, use the metrics and technologies de-
15 scribed under subsection (a)(5) and (6) to—

16 “(A) assess trends in key natural resources
17 and ecosystem services, including biodiversity,
18 habitat condition, wildfire risk, watershed con-
19 dition, and other relevant ecosystem services, on
20 each installation covered by the plan;

21 “(B) evaluate whether the plan is contrib-
22 uting to the maintenance or improvement of the
23 net condition of such resources and services at
24 the installation; and

1 “(C) inform any revisions to the plan, in-
2 cluding adjustments to management actions de-
3 signed to improve conditions in some areas to
4 offset or compensate for degradation related to
5 mission-essential activities in other areas.”.

6 (b) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.—Not later than
7 two years after the date of enactment of this section, and
8 five years thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
9 to the congressional defense committees a report that in-
10 cludes a summary of—

11 (1) implementation status of the technological
12 and data requirements in section 101(a)(5) through
13 (7) of the Sikes Act, as added by subsection (a);

14 (2) progress in deploying standardized metrics
15 and comparing natural resource trends across mili-
16 tary installations;

17 (3) progress toward maintaining or improving
18 the net condition objectives of natural resources and
19 ecosystem services on military installations and af-
20 fected adjacent lands;

21 (4) benefits of these provisions in accelerating,
22 simplifying and otherwise streamlining environ-
23 mental permitting, environmental review and other
24 similar interagency processes; and

1 (5) recommendations regarding opportunities to
2 improve the efficiency, coordination, and timeliness
3 of interagency environmental review and permitting
4 processes applicable to military installations, where
5 installation-level net-condition objectives supported
6 by standardized metrics and advanced monitoring
7 demonstrate maintenance or improvement of rel-
8 evant natural resources and ecosystem services.

