

[~118H10037]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the National Wildlife
Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Na-
tional Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike
Team Program.

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.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM INVASIVE**
2 **SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.**

3 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to legisla-
4 tively authorize the National Wildlife Refuge System
5 Invasive Species Strike Team Program within the United
6 States Fish and Wildlife Service to eradicate, control, and
7 reduce the adverse effects of invasive species on and adja-
8 cent to National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters,
9 primarily through prevention, biosecurity, early detection,
10 and rapid response.

11 (b) INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—

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

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

21 (A) establish at least 1 invasive species
22 strike team within each region of the United
23 States Fish and Wildlife Service trained in
24 early detection and rapid response for multiple
25 invasive species taxa to—

1 (i) conserve, manage, and, where ap-
2 propriate, restore, habitat conditions that
3 help native biological communities flourish
4 on and adjacent to National Wildlife Ref-
5 uge System lands and waters;

6 (ii) conduct prevention, early detection
7 surveillance, eradication, containment,
8 mapping, monitoring, and active manage-
9 ment of invasive species;

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

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

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

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

24 (i) Federal, State, Tribal, and local
25 governments;

- 1 (ii) nongovernmental institutions;
- 2 (iii) nonprofit organizations; and
- 3 (iv) private individuals and entities to
- 4 advance mutual priorities and promote effi-
- 5 ciency and cost-savings;

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

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

12 (i) the National Agricultural Pest In-
13 formation System;

14 (ii) the National Data Repository of
15 the National Plant Diagnostic Network;

16 (iii) the Early Detection and Distribu-
17 tion Mapping System;

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

21 (v) iMapInvasives; and

22 (vi) State databases.

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

1 (A) conduct outreach to Federal, State,
2 Territorial, local, and Tribal governments, non-
3 governmental institutions, nonprofit organiza-
4 tions, and private individuals and entities to ad-
5 dress the management of property adjacent to
6 a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System,
7 including providing or entering into, upon re-
8 quest—

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

11 (ii) technical assistance;

12 (iii) contracts; or

13 (iv) grants or cooperative agreements;

14 and

15 (B) upon the request of another Federal
16 department or agency or a State, Tribal, or
17 Territorial agency, enter into an agreement
18 within the mission and authorities of the United
19 States Fish and Wildlife Service with such de-
20 partment or agency to provide the expertise and
21 use of invasive species strike teams established
22 under paragraph (2) to respond to invasive spe-
23 cies under the jurisdiction of such department
24 or agency, or to rapidly respond to a newly de-
25 tected invasive species.

1 (4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT AC-
2 TIONS.—The Secretary shall encourage the National
3 Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate invasive spe-
4 cies management actions of each Invasive Species
5 Strike Team with adjacent landowners and the State
6 agencies within the State of which Invasive Species
7 Strike Team activities may occur.

8 (5) REPORT.—

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

19 (B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report
20 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
21 clude—

22 (i) a summary of each Invasive Spe-
23 cies Strike Team's work to address priority
24 invasive species within the National Wild-
25 life Refuge System; and

1 (ii) progress made by the Program to-
2 ward the prevention, detection, control, or
3 eradication of each priority invasive spe-
4 cies.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
7 out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
8 through 2030.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term “invasive
11 species” means, with regard to a particular eco-
12 system, a non-native organism whose introduction
13 causes or is likely to cause economic or environ-
14 mental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant
15 health.

16 (2) EARLY DETECTION.—The term “early de-
17 tection” means a process of surveying for, reporting,
18 and verifying the presence of a non-native species
19 before the founding population becomes established
20 or spreads so widely that eradication is no longer
21 feasible.

22 (3) PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term
23 “priority invasive species” means an invasive species
24 that is a major concern and necessary to map, mon-
25 itor, and manage based on the following factors:

1 (A) Potential impact on other native spe-
2 cies.

3 (B) Ability to alter habitats.

4 (C) Ability to harm human health.

5 (D) Severity of economic impact.

6 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
7 the National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Spe-
8 cies Strike Team Program authorized under sub-
9 section (b)(1).

10 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
12 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
13 ice.

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