

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish a National Wildlife Corridors Program to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. UDALL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a National Wildlife Corridors Program to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, 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 “Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2018”.

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. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. National Wildlife Corridors Program.

- Sec. 5. National Wildlife Corridors Database.
- Sec. 6. National Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 7. National Coordination Committee and regional wildlife movement councils.
- Sec. 8. Protection and management of National Wildlife Corridors.
- Sec. 9. Wildlife Corridors Stewardship and Protection Fund.
- Sec. 10. Protection of Indian tribes.
- Sec. 11. Relationship to other conservation laws.
- Sec. 12. Collaboration.
- Sec. 13. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the native fish, wildlife, and plant species in
4 the United States are part of a rich natural heritage
5 and an important legacy to pass on to future genera-
6 tions;

7 (2) the populations of many native fish, wildlife,
8 and plant species in the United States are declining;

9 (3) scientists estimate that 1 in 5 animal and
10 plant species in the United States is at risk of ex-
11 tinction, and many species are declining in numbers;

12 (4) one of the greatest threats to the survival
13 and diversity of many native fish, wildlife, and plant
14 species in the United States is the loss, degradation,
15 fragmentation, and obstruction of natural habitats;

16 (5) the conservation of landscape corridors and
17 hydrological connectivity, through which native fish,
18 wildlife, and plant species and ecological processes
19 can transition from 1 habitat to another, plays an
20 important role in helping—

1 (A) to conserve native biodiversity; and

2 (B) to ensure resiliency against impacts

3 from a range of stressors;

4 (6) climate change threatens native fish, wild-
5 life, and plant species;

6 (7) the conservation, restoration, and establish-
7 ment of new ecological connections to facilitate the
8 shift of species into more suitable habitats is a key
9 climate change adaptation strategy;

10 (8) protecting landscape-scale corridors and
11 hydrological connectivity is—

12 (A) a broadly accepted strategy—

13 (i) to conserve native fish, wildlife,
14 and plant species; and

15 (ii) to ensure ecosystem resilience; and

16 (B) often 1 of the first steps in restoration
17 and recovery planning;

18 (9) in the policy resolution of the Western Gov-
19 ernors' Association entitled "Protecting Wildlife Mi-
20 gration Corridors and Crucial Wildlife Habitat in
21 the West" and the resolution of the New England
22 Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Con-
23 ference, which recognizes the importance of ecologi-
24 cal connectivity for the adaptability and resilience of
25 the ecosystems of participating regions, biodiversity,

1 and human communities in the face of climate
2 change, States have recognized the importance of
3 connectivity;

4 (10) the strategic plan of the United States
5 Fish and Wildlife Service to respond to accelerating
6 climate change entitled “Rising to the Urgent Chal-
7 lenge” acknowledges that “processes such as polli-
8 nation, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, natural dis-
9 turbance cycles, predator-prey relations, and others
10 must be part of the natural landscapes we seek to
11 maintain or restore . . . and are likely to function
12 more optimally in landscapes composed of large
13 habitat blocks connected by well-placed corridors”;
14 and

15 (11) Federal and State agencies continue to de-
16 velop policies to address—

17 (A) the importance of conserving fish,
18 wildlife, and plant corridors;

19 (B) the gap between science and manage-
20 ment for at-risk species; and

21 (C) ecological connectivity.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources of the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Environment and
7 Public Works of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
9 the Senate;

10 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
11 merce of the House of Representatives;

12 (E) the Committee on Natural Resources
13 of the House of Representatives; and

14 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (2) CONNECTIVITY.—The term “connectivity”
17 means the degree to which the landscape or seascape
18 facilitates or impedes native species movement.

19 (3) CORRIDOR.—The term “corridor” means a
20 distinct component of the landscape or seascape
21 that—

22 (A) provides habitat or ecological
23 connectivity; and

24 (B) allows for fish, wildlife, or plant move-
25 ment.

1 (4) DATABASE.—The term “Database” means
2 the National Wildlife Corridors Database established
3 under section 5(a).

4 (5) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Wild-
5 life Corridors Stewardship and Protection Fund es-
6 tablished by section 9(a).

7 (6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

11 (7) NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—
12 The term “National Coordination Committee”
13 means the National Coordination Committee estab-
14 lished under section 7(b).

15 (8) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The term
16 “National Wildlife Corridor” means any land or
17 water designated as a National Wildlife Corridor
18 under section 6(a).

19 (9) NATIVE SPECIES.—The term “native spe-
20 cies” means—

21 (A) an indigenous fish, wildlife, or plant
22 species of the United States (including terri-
23 tories and freely associated states of the United
24 States), including subspecies and plant vari-
25 eties; and

1 (B) a noninvasive fish, wildlife, or plant
2 species of the United States (including terri-
3 tories and freely associated states of the United
4 States) that—

5 (i) are not indigenous to the United
6 States (or territories and freely associated
7 states of the United States); but

8 (ii) are valued for—

9 (I) the contribution of the species
10 to species diversity; or

11 (II) the social, cultural, or eco-
12 nomic value of the species.

13 (10) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
14 the National Wildlife Corridors Program established
15 under section 4(a).

16 (11) REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP.—The
17 term “regional ocean partnership” means—

18 (A) a regional organization of 2 or more
19 coastal States, Great Lakes States (as defined
20 in section 118(a)(3) of the Federal Water Pol-
21 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(a)(3)), ter-
22 ritories, or freely associated states voluntarily
23 convened by the Governors of those coastal
24 States, Great Lakes States, territories, or freely
25 associated states, as applicable, to address

1 crossjurisdictional ocean or Great Lakes mat-
2 ters; or

3 (B) the functional equivalent of a regional
4 organization described in subparagraph (A) des-
5 ignated by 2 or more governors of a State, ter-
6 ritory, or freely associated state.

7 (12) REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUN-
8 CIL.—The term “regional wildlife movement council”
9 means a regional wildlife movement council estab-
10 lished under section 7(c).

11 (13) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
12 means—

13 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

14 (B) the Secretary of Commerce;

15 (C) the Secretary of Defense;

16 (D) the Secretary of the Interior; and

17 (E) the Secretary of Transportation.

18 (14) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
19 means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through
20 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife
21 Service.

22 (15) TERRITORY; FREELY ASSOCIATED
23 STATE.—The terms “territory” and “freely associ-
24 ated state” mean any of the following territories of
25 the United States or freely associated states:

1 (A) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

2 (B) Guam.

3 (C) American Samoa.

4 (D) The Commonwealth of the Northern
5 Mariana Islands.

6 (E) The Federated States of Micronesia.

7 (F) The Republic of the Marshall Islands.

8 (G) The Republic of Palau.

9 (H) The United States Virgin Islands.

10 (16) WILDLIFE MOVEMENT.—The term “wild-
11 life movement” means the passage of individual
12 members or populations of a fish, wildlife, or plant
13 species across a landscape or seascape.

14 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS PROGRAM.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
17 consultation with the Secretaries, shall establish a pro-
18 gram, to be known as the “National Wildlife Corridors
19 Program”.

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

21 (1) to provide for the conservation and restora-
22 tion of habitats that—

23 (A) support a diverse array of native spe-
24 cies, including at-risk species protected under
25 Federal, State, and Tribal law, as applicable,

1 that have experienced or may experience habitat
2 loss, degradation, fragmentation, or obstruction
3 to connectivity;

4 (B) provide long-term habitat connectivity
5 for native species for migration, dispersal, adap-
6 tation to climate and other environmental
7 change, and genetic exchange; and

8 (C) help restore ecological processes that
9 have been disrupted by habitat loss, degrada-
10 tion, fragmentation, or obstruction;

11 (2) to support State, Tribal, local, private land-
12 owner, and Federal agency decisionmakers in the
13 collaborative development of the Database and Na-
14 tional Wildlife Corridors that would inform planning
15 and development decisions within the respective ju-
16 risdiction of each decisionmaker;

17 (3) to provide mechanisms to support collabo-
18 rative research, mapping, and planning of habitats
19 and National Wildlife Corridors; and

20 (4) to facilitate coordinated landscape- and
21 seascape-scale connectivity planning and manage-
22 ment across jurisdictions through—

23 (A) the establishment of a National Co-
24 ordination Committee and regional wildlife
25 movement councils; and

1 (B) the use of the Database by State,
2 Tribal, local, private landowner, and Federal
3 agency decisionmakers to incorporate informa-
4 tion on native species habitats and National
5 Wildlife Corridors.

6 (c) COMPONENTS.—The Program shall consist of—

7 (1) the Database;

8 (2) National Wildlife Corridors;

9 (3) the National Coordination Committee and
10 the wildlife movements grant program established
11 under subsection (d);

12 (4) regional wildlife movement councils; and

13 (5) the Fund.

14 (d) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
16 a wildlife movements grant program (referred to in
17 this subsection as the “grant program”) to encour-
18 age wildlife movement in accordance with this sub-
19 section.

20 (2) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 3 years
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary, based on recommendations from the National
23 Coordination Committee under section
24 7(b)(5)(E)(iii), shall make grants to 1 or more
25 projects that—

1 (A) are a priority project identified by a
2 regional wildlife movement council;

3 (B) satisfy the purposes of the Program
4 described in subsection (b); and

5 (C) increase connectivity for native species.

6 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—In administering the
7 grant program, the Secretary shall use the criteria,
8 guidelines, contracts, reporting requirements, and
9 evaluation metrics developed by the National Coordi-
10 nation Committee under clauses (i) and (ii) of sec-
11 tion 7(b)(5)(E).

12 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS DATABASE.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the
15 United States Geological Survey (referred to in this sec-
16 tion as the “Director”), in consultation with the National
17 Coordination Committee and the regional wildlife move-
18 ment councils, shall establish a database, to be known as
19 the “National Wildlife Corridors Database”.

20 (b) CONTENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Database shall—

22 (A) include maps, data, models, surveys,
23 and descriptions of native species habitats and
24 corridors that have been developed by Federal
25 agencies, State fish and wildlife agencies and

1 natural heritage programs, Indian tribes, local
2 governments, nongovernmental organizations,
3 and industry; and

4 (B) include maps, models, analyses, and
5 descriptions of projected shifts in habitats and
6 corridors of native species in response to cli-
7 mate change or other environmental factors.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (A) DATA QUALITY.—In establishing the
10 Database, the Director shall ensure—

11 (i) the quality of the data in the
12 Database; and

13 (ii) that the data in the database—

14 (I) reflects the best scientific
15 data available; and

16 (II) meets accepted geospatial
17 and metadata protocols and stand-
18 ards.

19 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall
20 make the data, models, and analyses included
21 in the Database available at scales useful to
22 State, Tribal, local, private landowner, and
23 Federal agency decisionmakers and the public.

24 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—Subject to subsection (d), the
25 Director, in collaboration with the National Coordination

1 Committee and the regional wildlife movement councils,
2 shall—

3 (1) design the Database to support State, Trib-
4 al, local, private landowner, and Federal agency de-
5 cisionmakers and the public with data that will allow
6 those entities—

7 (A) to prioritize and target natural re-
8 source adaptation strategies;

9 (B) to assess the impacts of proposed en-
10 ergy, water, transportation, and transmission
11 projects, and other development activities, and
12 to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of
13 those projects and activities on habitats and
14 National Wildlife Corridors;

15 (C) to assess the impact of existing devel-
16 opment on native species habitats and National
17 Wildlife Corridors; and

18 (D) to develop strategies that promote
19 landscape and aquatic connectivity to allow na-
20 tive species to move—

21 (i) to meet biological and ecological
22 needs;

23 (ii) to adjust to shifts in habitat; and

24 (iii) to adapt to climate change; and

25 (2) establish a coordination process—

1 (A) to establish geospatial data and
2 metadata protocols and standards that enhance
3 capabilities for integrating geographical infor-
4 mation systems, databases, and analytical tools
5 that have been developed by Federal agencies,
6 State fish and wildlife agencies and natural her-
7 itage programs, Indian tribes, local govern-
8 ments, nongovernmental organizations, and in-
9 dustry;

10 (B) to ensure consistent data collection
11 and monitoring system protocols of maps, mod-
12 els, high-quality data, surveys, and other
13 geospatial information with respect to native
14 species connectivity;

15 (C) to update maps and other information
16 with respect to landscapes, native species habi-
17 tats and ranges, National Wildlife Corridors,
18 native species populations, and wildlife move-
19 ment changes as information becomes available;

20 (D) to design useful and relevant search
21 tools and methods for relevant stakeholders;

22 (E) not later than 2 years after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, to develop and submit
24 to the Secretary and the appropriate commit-
25 tees of Congress a report that—

1 (i) provides an assessment of existing
2 maps, data, models, surveys, and descrip-
3 tions of native species habitats and cor-
4 ridors that have been developed by Federal
5 agencies, State fish and wildlife agencies
6 and natural heritage programs, Indian
7 tribes, local governments, nongovernmental
8 organizations, and industry; and

9 (ii) identifies gaps in native species
10 habitat and corridor information; and

11 (F) not less frequently than once every 5
12 years, to develop and submit a report to the
13 Secretary and the appropriate committees of
14 Congress, to be made publicly available, that—

15 (i) outlines the categories for data
16 that may be included in the Database;

17 (ii) outlines the data protocols and
18 standards for each category of data in the
19 Database;

20 (iii) identifies gaps in native species
21 habitat and National Wildlife Corridor in-
22 formation, mapping, and research in the
23 Database that should be addressed to fully
24 understand and assess current data;

1 (iv) prioritizes research and future
2 data collection activities for use in updat-
3 ing the Database; and

4 (v) evaluates and quantifies the effi-
5 cacy of the Database to meet the needs of
6 the entities described in paragraph (1).

7 (d) **PROPRIETARY INTERESTS AND PROTECTED IN-**
8 **FORMATION.**—In developing the Database, the Director
9 shall—

10 (1) as applicable, protect proprietary interests
11 with respect to any licensed information, licensed
12 data, and other items contained in the Database;
13 and

14 (2) protect information in the Database with
15 respect to the habitats and ranges of specific native
16 species to prevent poaching, illegal taking and trap-
17 ping, and other related threats to native species.

18 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

19 (a) **DESIGNATION.**—The Secretaries shall designate
20 connectivity corridors, to be known as “National Wildlife
21 Corridors”, on the land or water under the respective ju-
22 risdictions of the Secretaries in accordance with regula-
23 tions promulgated by the Secretary under subsection
24 (c)(1).

25 (b) **STRATEGY.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall develop a strategy for the effective devel-
4 opment of the National Wildlife Corridors de-
5 signed—

6 (A) to ensure the fulfillment of the pur-
7 poses of the Program described in section 4(b);
8 and

9 (B) to include—

10 (i) consideration of connectivity needs
11 with respect to non-Federal land and
12 water;

13 (ii) effective coordination of National
14 Wildlife Corridors that span across land
15 and water of Federal, State, Tribal, and
16 local jurisdictions and private land with
17 the National Coordination Committee and
18 the regional wildlife movement councils;
19 and

20 (iii) an approximate development
21 timeline for the implementation of Na-
22 tional Wildlife Corridors.

23 (2) SCOPE.—The scope of a National Wildlife
24 Corridor to be designated under subsection (a) may

1 vary according to the habitat needs of individual or
2 ecologically associated native species.

3 (3) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The
4 Secretary shall develop the strategy under paragraph
5 (1)—

6 (A) in consultation with the Secretaries;
7 and

8 (B) in coordination with—

9 (i) States, Indian tribes, and other in-
10 terested stakeholders, including relevant
11 private landowners;

12 (ii) landscape- and seascape-scale
13 partnerships, including—

14 (I) the National Fish Habitat
15 Partnership;

16 (II) the National Ocean Service
17 of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
18 pheric Administration;

19 (III) the National Marine Fish-
20 eries Service;

21 (IV) regional ocean partnerships;

22 (V) the Climate Science Centers
23 of the Department of the Interior; and

24 (VI) the Landscape Conservation
25 Cooperative Network; and

1 (iii) the National Coordination Com-
2 mittee; and

3 (iv) the regional wildlife movement
4 councils.

5 (c) RULEMAKING.—

6 (1) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Not
7 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of
8 this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
9 retaries, pursuant to the land, water, and resource
10 management planning authorities of the Secretaries,
11 shall establish a process, by regulation, for the des-
12 ignation and management of National Wildlife Cor-
13 ridors of land and water under the respective juris-
14 dictions of the Secretaries.

15 (2) FEDERAL LAND AND WATER MANAGE-
16 MENT.—The Secretaries shall consider the designa-
17 tion of National Wildlife Corridors in any process re-
18 lating to the issuance, revision, or modification of a
19 management plan for land or water under the re-
20 spective jurisdiction of the Secretaries.

21 (d) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—The regulations
22 promulgated by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)
23 shall ensure that, in designating a National Wildlife Cor-
24 ridor, the Secretaries—

1 (1) base the designation of the National Wild-
2 life Corridor on—

3 (A) the best available science; and

4 (B) historic, current, or likely future con-
5 tinuous, annual, or periodic use of the land or
6 water to be designated as a National Wildlife
7 Corridor by native species;

8 (2) may take into consideration recommenda-
9 tions from the National Coordination Committee
10 under subparagraph (F) of section 7(b)(5) and in-
11 formation from the North American Plan for Main-
12 taining Wildlife Movements under subparagraph (C)
13 of that section;

14 (3) may consider information contained in—

15 (A) governmental or nongovernmental as-
16 sessments, plans, monitoring reports, and stud-
17 ies; and

18 (B) other relevant sources of information,
19 such as—

20 (i) ecoregional assessments;

21 (ii) nongovernmental reports;

22 (iii) public transportation plans;

23 (iv) State native species data and
24 State wildlife action plans;

1 (v) traditional ecological knowledge,
2 including Tribal and indigenous ecological
3 knowledge; and

4 (vi) Federal agency reports;

5 (4) shall ensure that the National Wildlife Cor-
6 ridor supports the connectivity, persistence, resil-
7 ience, and adaptability of native species by providing
8 for—

9 (A) dispersal and genetic exchange between
10 populations;

11 (B) range shifting, range expansion, or
12 range restoration, such as in response to cli-
13 mate change;

14 (C) seasonal movement or migration; or

15 (D) succession, movement, or recoloniza-
16 tion following—

17 (i) a disturbance, such as fire, flood,
18 drought, or infestation; or

19 (ii) population decline due to disease
20 or previous extirpation; and

21 (5) shall be informed by the Database.

22 (e) DESIGNATION OF LAND OR WATER REQUIRING
23 RESTORATION OR CONNECTION OF HABITAT.—The Sec-
24 retaries may designate as a National Wildlife Corridor
25 land or water that—

- 1 (1) requires restoration, including—
2 (A) land or water that is degraded; and
3 (B) land or water from which a species is
4 currently absent—
5 (i) but may be colonized or recolo-
6 nized by the species; or
7 (ii) to which the species may be re-
8 introduced or restored; and
9 (2) is fragmented or consists of only a portion
10 of the habitat required for a native species.

11 (f) NOMINATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the process
13 for designation under subsection (c)(1), the Sec-
14 retary shall include procedures under which—

15 (A) any person or State, Tribal, or local
16 government may submit to the Secretaries a
17 nomination to designate as a National Wildlife
18 Corridor an area under the respective jurisdic-
19 tion of the Secretaries; and

20 (B) the Secretaries shall consider and, not
21 later than 2 years after the date on which the
22 nomination was submitted under subparagraph
23 (A), respond to any nomination submitted
24 under that subparagraph.

1 (2) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.—A nomina-
2 tion for designation under paragraph (1)(A) shall in-
3 clude supporting documentation, including—

4 (A) summaries and references of, with re-
5 spect to the designation of a National Wildlife
6 Corridor—

7 (i) the best science available at the
8 time of the submission of the nomination
9 for designation; and

10 (ii) the most current scientific reports
11 available at the time of the submission of
12 the nomination for designation;

13 (B) information with respect to how the
14 nomination was coordinated with potential part-
15 ners;

16 (C) a description of supporting stake-
17 holders, such as States, Indian tribes, local gov-
18 ernments, scientific organizations, nongovern-
19 mental organizations, and affected private land-
20 owners; and

21 (D) any additional information the Secre-
22 taries, in consultation with the National Coordi-
23 nation Committee, determine is relevant to the
24 nomination.

25 (g) DESIGNATION ON MILITARY LANDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any designation of a Na-
2 tional Wildlife Corridor on a military installation (as
3 defined in section 100(1) of the Sikes Act (16
4 U.S.C. 670(1))—

5 (A) shall be consistent with the use of mili-
6 tary installations and State-owned National
7 Guard installations to ensure the preparedness
8 of the Armed Forces; and

9 (B) may not result in a net loss in the ca-
10 pability of military installation lands to support
11 the military mission of the installation.

12 (2) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNA-
13 TION.—The Secretary of Defense may suspend or
14 terminate the designation of any National Wildlife
15 Corridor on a military installation if the Secretary of
16 Defense considers the suspension or termination to
17 be necessary for military purposes, after public no-
18 tice of—

19 (A) the suspension or termination; and

20 (B) any voluntary steps taken by the De-
21 partment of Defense to attempt to provide simi-
22 lar ecological connectivity elsewhere on the mili-
23 tary installation.

24 (h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable, consistent with applicable law, the Sec-
3 retaries shall coordinate the designation of a Na-
4 tional Wildlife Corridor with—

5 (A) other relevant Federal agencies;

6 (B) the National Coordination Committee;

7 (C) the regional wildlife movement coun-
8 cils; and

9 (D) affected—

10 (i) States, including State fish and
11 wildlife agencies and other State agencies
12 responsible for managing natural re-
13 sources;

14 (ii) local governments;

15 (iii) Indian tribes;

16 (iv) private landowners; and

17 (v) nongovernmental organizations en-
18 gaged in the conservation of native species.

19 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF SUPPORTING NON-FED-
20 ERAL LAND AND WATER.—In designating a National
21 Wildlife Corridor, the Secretaries may identify, in
22 consultation with affected States, Indian tribes, local
23 governments, private landowners, the applicable re-
24 gional wildlife movement council, and nongovern-
25 mental organizations engaged in the conservation of

1 native species, non-Federal land and water that sup-
2 port the purposes of the National Wildlife Corridor
3 by—

4 (A) maintaining habitat connectivity; or

5 (B) providing other essential functions for
6 native species and the habitats of native spe-
7 cies.

8 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND RE-**
9 **GIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.**

10 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

11 (1) to ensure the fulfillment of the purposes of
12 the Program described in section 4(b); and

13 (2) to support habitat connectivity and the
14 movement of native species on Federal and non-Fed-
15 eral land through coordination, collaboration, admin-
16 istrative, and financial support, including the shar-
17 ing of data contained in the Database.

18 (b) NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18
20 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known
22 as the “National Coordination Committee”.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary
24 shall provide administrative support for the National
25 Coordination Committee.

1 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The National Coordination
2 Committee shall be composed of—

3 (A) the Secretary (or a designee);

4 (B) the Secretary of Transportation (or a
5 designee);

6 (C) the Secretary of Agriculture (or a des-
7 ignee);

8 (D) the Secretary of Commerce (or a des-
9 ignee);

10 (E) the Secretary of Defense (or a des-
11 ignee);

12 (F) the Director of the Bureau of Indian
13 Affairs (or a designee);

14 (G) the Executive Director of the Associa-
15 tion of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (or a des-
16 ignee);

17 (H) a representative of an intertribal orga-
18 nization, to be appointed by the Secretary;

19 (I) the chairperson of each regional wildlife
20 movement council (or a designee); and

21 (J) not more than 3 representatives of
22 nongovernmental, science, or academic organi-
23 zations with expertise in wildlife conservation
24 and habitat connectivity, to be appointed by the
25 Secretary in a manner that ensures that the

1 membership of the National Coordination Com-
2 mittee is fair and balanced.

3 (4) CHAIRPERSON.—The National Coordination
4 Committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice
5 Chairperson from among the members of the Na-
6 tional Coordination Committee.

7 (5) DUTIES.—The National Coordination Com-
8 mittee—

9 (A) shall discuss issues of relevance to all
10 regional wildlife movement councils, including
11 issues and reports related to the purposes of
12 the Program described in section 4(b) and im-
13 plementation of this Act;

14 (B) shall establish standards for regional
15 wildlife movement plans to allow for better
16 cross-regional collaboration;

17 (C) shall, not later than 3 years after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, create a plan, to
19 be known as the “North American Plan for
20 Maintaining Wildlife Movements”—

21 (i) to incorporate the Federal strategy
22 for wildlife movement on land developed
23 under section 6(b) under the jurisdiction of
24 the Secretaries;

1 (ii) to incorporate regional wildlife
2 movement plans; and

3 (iii) to identify connectivity priorities;

4 (D) shall ensure consistency between Na-
5 tional Wildlife Corridors and the North Amer-
6 ican Plan for Maintaining Wildlife Movements;

7 (E) shall, with respect to the wildlife move-
8 ments grant program under section 4(d)—

9 (i) establish criteria and develop
10 guidelines for the solicitation of applica-
11 tions for grants by regional wildlife move-
12 ment councils;

13 (ii) develop standardized contracts, re-
14 porting requirements, and evaluation
15 metrics for grant recipients;

16 (iii) make recommendations to the
17 Secretary for the selection of grant recipi-
18 ents; and

19 (F) may make recommendations to the
20 Secretaries for designating National Wildlife
21 Corridors on Federal land—

22 (i) based on—

23 (I) regional wildlife movement
24 plans; and

1 (II) information from the Data-
2 base; and
3 (ii) that are consistent with the pur-
4 poses of the Program described in section
5 4(b).

6 (6) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Except as other-
7 wise provided in this subsection, the Federal Advi-
8 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to
9 the National Coordination Committee.

10 (c) REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18
12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
13 Secretary shall establish not less than 4 regional
14 wildlife movement councils with separate geographic
15 jurisdictions that encompass the entire United
16 States, including territories and freely associated
17 states.

18 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each regional wildlife
20 movement council shall be composed of—

21 (i) the director of each State fish and
22 wildlife agency within the jurisdiction of
23 the regional wildlife movement council (or
24 a designee);

1 (ii) representatives from Tribal gov-
2 ernments within the jurisdiction of the re-
3 gional wildlife movement council;

4 (iii) to serve as a Federal agency liai-
5 son and nonvoting, ex officio member—

6 (I) the Director of the United
7 States Fish and Wildlife Service (or a
8 designee); or

9 (II) the director of any applicable
10 regional office of the United States
11 Fish and Wildlife Service (or a des-
12 ignee); and

13 (iv) not more than 3 representatives
14 of nongovernmental, science, or academic
15 organizations with expertise in native spe-
16 cies conservation and the habitat
17 connectivity needs of the region covered by
18 the regional wildlife movement council.

19 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—

20 (i) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary
21 shall ensure that the membership of each
22 regional wildlife movement council is fair
23 and balanced in terms of expertise and
24 perspectives represented.

1 (ii) EXPERTISE.—Each regional wild-
2 life movement council shall include experts
3 in ecological connectivity, native species
4 ecology, and ecological adaptation.

5 (C) CHAIRPERSON.—Each regional wildlife
6 movement council shall select a Chairperson
7 and Vice Chairperson from among the members
8 of the regional wildlife movement council.

9 (3) DUTIES.—Each regional wildlife movement
10 council shall—

11 (A) not later than 2 years after the date
12 of enactment of this Act and in accordance with
13 any standards established by the National Co-
14 ordination Committee, prepare and submit to
15 the Secretary and the National Coordination
16 Committee a regional wildlife movement plan
17 that—

18 (i) maintains native species movement
19 by identifying—

20 (I) priority areas on non-Federal
21 land under the jurisdiction of the re-
22 gional wildlife movement council
23 where resources are needed to secure
24 biological movements by native spe-
25 cies; and

1 (II) research priorities and data
2 needs for the Database; and

3 (ii) not less frequently than once every
4 5 years, is revised, amended, or updated,
5 as determined necessary by the regional
6 wildlife movement council;

7 (B) provide for public engagement, at ap-
8 propriate times and in appropriate locations in
9 the region covered by the regional wildlife move-
10 ment council, to allow all interested persons an
11 opportunity to be heard in the development and
12 implementation of a regional wildlife movement
13 plan;

14 (C) establish criteria for soliciting project
15 proposals to be submitted to the Secretary for
16 a wildlife movements grant under section 4(d)
17 that are consistent with the purposes of the
18 Program described in section 4(b);

19 (D) recommend proposals to the National
20 Coordination Committee for recommendation to
21 the Secretary for priority projects for wildlife
22 movements grants under section 4(d) to main-
23 tain wildlife movements in the area under the
24 jurisdiction of the regional wildlife movement
25 council; and

1 (E) submit to the Secretary and the Na-
2 tional Coordination Committee, and make pub-
3 licly available, an annual report describing the
4 activities of the regional wildlife movement
5 council.

6 (4) COORDINATION.—If applicable, to increase
7 habitat connectivity between Federal and non-Fed-
8 eral land and water, a regional wildlife movement
9 council shall coordinate with—

10 (A) Federal agencies;

11 (B) Indian tribes;

12 (C) regional fishery management councils
13 established under section 302(a) of the Magnu-
14 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-
15 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a));

16 (D) migratory bird joint ventures partner-
17 ships recognized by the United States Fish and
18 Wildlife Service with respect to migratory bird
19 species;

20 (E) State fish and wildlife agencies;

21 (F) regional associations of fish and wild-
22 life agencies;

23 (G) nongovernmental organizations;

24 (H) the National Coordination Committee;

25 (I) fish habitat partnerships;

1 (J) other regional wildlife movement coun-
2 cils with respect to crossregional projects;

3 (K) international wildlife management en-
4 tities with respect to transboundary species;
5 and

6 (L) Federal and State transportation agen-
7 cies.

8 (5) APPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—Except as other-
9 wise provided in this subsection, the Federal Advi-
10 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to
11 the regional wildlife movement councils.

12 **SEC. 8. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL**
13 **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, consistent
15 with other applicable land and water management require-
16 ments, laws, and regulations, manage each National Wild-
17 life Corridor under the respective administrative jurisdic-
18 tion of the Secretaries in a manner that contributes to
19 the long-term connectivity, persistence, resilience, and
20 adaptability of native species, including through—

21 (1) the prevention of habitat loss, degradation,
22 fragmentation, and obstructions within the National
23 Wildlife Corridor;

24 (2) the implementation of strategies and activi-
25 ties that enhance the ability of native species to re-

1 spond to climate change and other environmental
2 factors;

3 (3) the maintenance or restoration of the integ-
4 rity and functionality of the National Wildlife Cor-
5 ridor and associated habitat;

6 (4) the mitigation or removal of human-caused
7 obstructions to native species movement, including—

8 (A) power lines;

9 (B) roads;

10 (C) fences;

11 (D) dams;

12 (E) bridges;

13 (F) railways;

14 (G) culverts; and

15 (H) other hydrological obstructions; and

16 (5) the use of existing conservation programs
17 under the respective jurisdiction of the Secretaries to
18 contribute to the connectivity, persistence, resilience,
19 and adaptability of native species.

20 (b) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS SPANNING
21 MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS.—In the case of a National
22 Wildlife Corridor that spans the administrative jurisdic-
23 tion of 2 or more of the Secretaries, the relevant Secre-
24 taries shall coordinate management of the National Wild-

1 life Corridor in accordance with section 6(c)(1) to advance
2 the purposes of the Program described in section 4(b).

3 (c) ROAD MITIGATION.—In the case of a National
4 Wildlife Corridor that intersects, adjoins, or crosses a new
5 or existing Federal, State, Tribal, or local road or high-
6 way, the relevant Secretaries shall coordinate with the
7 Secretary of Transportation and State, Tribal, and local
8 transportation agencies, as appropriate, to develop, imple-
9 ment, and fund environmental mitigation measures—

10 (1) to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-
11 caused native species mortality while maintaining
12 habitat connectivity; and

13 (2) to mitigate damage to native species, aquat-
14 ic species passage, flood resiliency, habitat, and eco-
15 system connectivity, including through—

16 (A) the construction, maintenance, or re-
17 placement of native species underpasses, over-
18 passes, and culverts; and

19 (B) the maintenance, replacement, or re-
20 moval of dams, bridges, culverts, and other
21 hydrological obstructions.

22 (d) WORKING LANDSCAPES.—The Secretary of Agri-
23 culture—

24 (1) may direct investment in working land-
25 scapes through conservation programs under the ju-

1 jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture to support
2 the purposes of the Program described in section
3 4(b); and

4 (2) acting through the Chief of the Natural Re-
5 sources Conservation Service, shall give priority
6 under the conservation programs under the jurisdic-
7 tion of the Chief, notwithstanding any provision of
8 law with respect to those programs, to non-Federal
9 land and water identified under section 6(h)(2) as
10 supportive of the purposes of a National Wildlife
11 Corridor.

12 (e) COORDINATION.—In managing a National Wild-
13 life Corridor, the Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent
14 practicable—

15 (1) coordinate with other applicable Federal
16 agencies; and

17 (2) take into consideration any State conserva-
18 tion plans for native species and the habitats of na-
19 tive species, including any—

20 (A) State comprehensive fish and wildlife
21 conservation strategy;

22 (B) State conservation strategy for a spe-
23 cies;

24 (C) Tribal conservation plan;

- 1 (D) local government land use and con-
2 servation plan;
- 3 (E) nongovernmental conservation plan;
4 and
- 5 (F) relevant private land conservation
6 plan.

7 **SEC. 9. WILDLIFE CORRIDORS STEWARDSHIP AND PROTEC-**
8 **TION FUND.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTENTS.—There is es-
10 tablished in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the
11 “Wildlife Corridors Stewardship and Protection Fund”,
12 that consists of donations of amounts accepted under sub-
13 section (c).

14 (b) USE.—The Fund—

15 (1) shall be administered by the National Fish
16 and Wildlife Foundation; and

17 (2) may be used by the National Fish and
18 Wildlife Foundation to enhance the management
19 and protection of National Wildlife Corridors and
20 non-Federal land and water identified under section
21 6(h)(2)—

22 (A) to provide financial assistance to the
23 Federal Government, States, Indian tribes, local
24 governments, and nongovernmental, science,
25 and academic organizations; and

1 (B) to support the voluntary efforts of pri-
2 vate landowners.

3 (c) DONATIONS.—The National Fish and Wildlife
4 Foundation may accept donations of amounts for deposit
5 into the Fund.

6 (d) COORDINATION.—In administering the Fund, the
7 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation may coordinate
8 with regional wildlife movement councils and the National
9 Coordination Committee to the maximum extent prac-
10 ticable.

11 (e) DISCLOSURE OF USE.—Not later than 1 year
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
13 thereafter, the Secretary shall ensure that the National
14 Fish and Wildlife Foundation makes publicly available a
15 description of usage of the Fund during the preceding cal-
16 endar year.

17 **SEC. 10. PROTECTION OF INDIAN TRIBES.**

18 (a) FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in
19 this Act amends, alters, or waives the Federal trust re-
20 sponsibility to Indian tribes.

21 (b) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.—

22 (1) EXEMPTION.—Information described in
23 paragraph (2) shall not be subject to disclosure
24 under section 552 of title 5, United States Code
25 (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information

1 Act’), if the head of the agency that receives the in-
2 formation, in consultation with the Secretary and
3 the affected Indian tribe, determines that disclosure
4 may—

5 (A) cause a significant invasion of privacy;

6 (B) risk harm to human remains or re-
7 sources, cultural items, uses, or activities; or

8 (C) impede the use of a traditional reli-
9 gious site by practitioners.

10 (2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information
11 referred to in paragraph (1) is information received
12 by a Federal agency—

13 (A) pursuant to this Act relating to—

14 (i) the location, character, or owner-
15 ship of human remains of a person of In-
16 dian ancestry; or

17 (ii) resources, cultural items, uses, or
18 activities identified by an Indian tribe as
19 traditional or cultural because of the long-
20 established significance or ceremonial na-
21 ture to the Indian tribe; or

22 (B) pursuant to the Native American
23 Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25
24 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 11. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CONSERVATION LAWS.**

2 Nothing in this Act amends or otherwise affects any
3 other law (including regulations) relating to the conserva-
4 tion of native species.

5 **SEC. 12. COLLABORATION.**

6 The Secretaries may partner with and provide funds
7 to States, local governments, Indian tribes, the National
8 Coordination Committee, and the regional wildlife move-
9 ment councils to support the purposes of this Act.

10 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
13 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the grant
14 program under section 4(e) \$50,000,000 for fiscal
15 year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.

16 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appropriated
17 under paragraph (1) may be used to complement or
18 match other Federal or non-Federal funding re-
19 ceived by the projects funded by those grants.

20 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Not more
21 than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under para-
22 graph (1) may be used for administrative support.

23 (b) REGIONAL WILDLIFE MOVEMENT COUNCILS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
25 appropriated to the Secretary to provide support for
26 the regional wildlife movement councils to carry out

1 section 7(c) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and
2 each fiscal year thereafter.

3 (2) EQUAL DIVISION.—Amounts appropriated
4 under paragraph (1) shall be proportionally divided
5 between each regional wildlife movement council.

6 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Not more
7 than 10 percent of amounts appropriated under
8 paragraph (1) may be used for administrative sup-
9 port.

10 (c) NATIONAL WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY DATA-
11 BASE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the
12 Secretary of the Interior to carry out section 5—

13 (1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

14 (2) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each
15 fiscal year thereafter.

16 (d) DESIGNATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF NA-
17 TIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—There are authorized to
18 be appropriated to carry out sections 6 and 8 for fiscal
19 year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter—

20 (1) to the Secretary of the Interior, \$7,500,000;

21 (2) to the Secretary of Agriculture, \$3,000,000;

22 (3) to the Secretary of Defense, \$1,500,000;

23 (4) to the Secretary of Commerce, \$3,000,000;

24 and

1 (5) to the Secretary of Transportation,
2 \$3,000,000.