

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10037

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Invasive Species Rapid Response Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2024

Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Invasive Species Rapid Response 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 “Invasive Species Re-
5 sponse Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to legisla-
8 tively authorize programs within the Department of the
9 Interior to control and eradicate invasive species impact-

1 ing Federal lands through prevention, early detection, and
2 rapid response.

3 (b) INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
5 a program to identify and respond to priority
6 invasive species threats within the National Wildlife
7 Refuge System in collaboration with Federal, State,
8 local, and Tribal governments, nongovernmental in-
9 stitutions, nonprofit organizations, and private indi-
10 viduals and entities with expertise in invasive species
11 management, to be known as the “Invasive Species
12 Strike Team Program”.

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

15 (A) establish species response teams
16 trained in rapid response and invasive species
17 management for multiple taxa, including Inci-
18 dent Command System trainings and table-top
19 exercises, to assist with priority invasive species
20 response;

21 (B) establish at least 1 species response
22 team within each region of the United States
23 Fish and Wildlife Service;

24 (C) develop a set of consistent taxonomy
25 standards and implement such standards

1 among all Department of Interior databases;
2 and

3 (D) develop and utilize unified reporting
4 platforms, including—

5 (i) the National Agricultural Pest In-
6 formation System;

7 (ii) the National Data Repository of
8 the National Plant Diagnostic Network;

9 (iii) the Early Detection and Distribu-
10 tion Mapping System (EDDMapS);

11 (iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Spe-
12 cies Database of the United States Geo-
13 logical Survey;

14 (v) iMapInvasives; and

15 (vi) State databases.

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

18 (A) conduct outreach to Federal, State,
19 local, and Tribal governments, nongovernmental
20 institutions, nonprofit organizations, and pri-
21 vate individuals and entities to address the
22 management of property in the vicinity of, or
23 ecologically related to, a unit of the National
24 Wildlife Refuge System, including providing or
25 entering into, upon request—

- 1 (i) financial assistance, including di-
2 rect expenditures and grants;
3 (ii) technical assistance;
4 (iii) contracts; and
5 (iv) cooperative agreements; and

6 (B) upon the request of another Federal
7 department or agency, enter into an agreement
8 with such department or agency to provide to
9 such department or agency the expertise and
10 use of species response teams established under
11 paragraph (2) to respond to invasive species
12 under the jurisdiction of such department or
13 agency.

14 (4) COORDINATION OF MANAGEMENT AC-
15 TIONS.—The Secretary shall encourage each unit of
16 the National Wildlife Refuge System to coordinate
17 the management actions of each such unit with each
18 State within which each such unit is located.

19 (5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of the enactment of this section,
22 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
23 submit to the Committees on Appropriations
24 and Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives and the Committees on Appropria-

1 tions and Energy and Natural Resources of the
2 Senate, and make available to the public on the
3 website of the United States Fish and Wildlife
4 Service, a report regarding the Program.

5 (B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report
6 submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
7 clude—

8 (i) an assessment of each priority
9 invasive species within the National Wild-
10 life Refuge System; and

11 (ii) progress made by the Program to-
12 ward the eradication of each priority
13 invasive species.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
16 out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
17 through 2029.

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term “invasive
20 species” means a non-native species to the ecosystem
21 whose introduction causes or is likely to cause eco-
22 nomic harm, environmental harm or harm to human
23 health.

24 (2) PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES.—The term
25 “priority invasive species” means an invasive species

1 that is a major concern and necessary to map, mon-
2 itor and manage based on the following factors: po-
3 tential impact on other native species, ability to alter
4 habitats, ability to harm human health and severity
5 of economic impact.

6 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
7 the Invasive Species Strike Team Program estab-
8 lished under subsection (b)(1).

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

13 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
14 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
15 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth
16 of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa,
17 Guam, the Virgin Islands, and any other territory or
18 possession of the United States.

○