

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2707

To direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the U.S. Forest Service, to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on forests and public lands administered by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2003

Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. McINNIS, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. RENZI, Mr. CANNON, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Mr. OSBORNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the U.S. Forest Service, to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on forests and public lands administered by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Salt Cedar and Rus-
3 sian Olive Control Demonstration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 (a) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary
6 concerned” means the Secretary of Agriculture with re-
7 spect to National Forest System lands; and the Secretary
8 of the Interior with respect to Federal lands under the
9 jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and Indian
10 lands.

11 (b) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term “Federal lands”
12 means the lands managed, administered, or owned by the
13 Department of the Interior and the Department of Agri-
14 culture, National Forest System.

15 (c) WESTERN UNITED STATES.—As defined by the
16 1902 Reclamation Act (43 U.S.C. Chapter 12), which in-
17 cludes Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Mon-
18 tana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico,
19 Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

20 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR ASSESSMENT AND**
21 **CONTROL OF SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN**
22 **OLIVE IN WESTERN STATES.**

23 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date when funds are made available to carry out this sec-
25 tion, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the
26 Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest

1 Service, shall complete an assessment of the extent of Salt
2 Cedar and Russian Olive invasion in those States in which
3 the Bureau of Reclamation operates, past and present as-
4 sessments and management options to control these
5 phreatophytes, the feasibility of reducing water consump-
6 tion, methods and challenges in land restoration estimated
7 costs of all aspects of destruction, biomass removal, and
8 restoration and maintenance, and shall identify long-term
9 management and funding strategies that could be imple-
10 mented by Federal, State and private land managers on
11 all land management types, including national forest sys-
12 tem lands created from the public domain.

13 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary will
14 initiate a program of not fewer than 3 projects, one which
15 must be on national forest system land created from the
16 public domain, to demonstrate and evaluate the most ef-
17 fective control methods, including at least one project pri-
18 marily using air-born application of herbicides, at least
19 one project using mechanical removal and at least one
20 project using biocontrol such as goats or insects or any
21 combination thereof. Each demonstration project shall be
22 designed with integrated methods and carried over time
23 frames and spatial scales large enough to accomplish the
24 following:

1 (1) Monitor and fully document the water saved
2 due to control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive in-
3 festation and what portions of the saved water re-
4 turns to surface water or groundwater supplies and
5 at what rates.

6 (2) Assess the optimum application approach
7 and tools for an array of control methods.

8 (3) Assess all costs and benefits associated with
9 the control methods, land restoration and mainte-
10 nance.

11 (4) Determine what conditions indicate the
12 need to remove biomass and the optimal methods for
13 disposal of use of biomass.

14 (5) Define appropriate final vegetative states
15 and optimal re-vegetation methods.

16 (6) Develop methods to prevent re-growth and
17 reintroduction of the invasive species.

18 (c) COST.—The total cost of each project may not
19 exceed \$7,000,000, including the costs of planning, design,
20 implementation, maintenance, and monitoring. The Fed-
21 eral share of the costs of any activity funded under this
22 program shall be no more than 65 percent of the total
23 cost. The Secretary may apply the value of in-kind con-
24 tribution, including State agency provided services, to the
25 non-Federal share of the costs. The Secretary shall report

1 to Congress each year how funds are being spent, includ-
2 ing what agencies receive grants.

3 (d) COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall use the ex-
4 pertise of institutions of higher education, State agencies,
5 and soil water conservation districts that are actively con-
6 ducting assessments on or implementing Salt Cedar and
7 Russian Olive control activities and shall cooperate with
8 other Federal agencies, including the Department of Agri-
9 culture and Army Corps of Engineers, affected States,
10 local units of government, and Indian Tribes.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provi-
13 sions of this Act \$25,000,000 each year for fiscal year
14 2004 through fiscal year 2007.

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