

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal Wildlife Corridors,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish Tribal
Wildlife Corridors, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Wildlife Cor-
5 ridor Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **CONNECTIVITY.**—The term “connectivity”
9 means the degree to which the landscape or seascape
10 facilitates native species movement.

1 (2) CORRIDOR.—The term “corridor” means a
2 distinct component of a landscape or seascape
3 that—

4 (A) provides habitat or ecological
5 connectivity; and

6 (B) allows for fish, wildlife, or plant move-
7 ment.

8 (3) INDIAN LAND.—The term “Indian land”
9 means land of an Indian tribe, or an Indian indi-
10 vidual, that is—

11 (A) held in trust by the United States; or

12 (B) subject to a restriction against alien-
13 ation imposed by the United States.

14 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
15 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
16 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
17 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

18 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
20 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
21 ice, in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Af-
22 fairs.

23 (6) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR.—The term
24 “Tribal Wildlife Corridor” means a corridor estab-
25 lished by the Secretary under section 3(a).

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—

3 (1) NOMINATIONS.—An Indian tribe may nomi-
4 nate a corridor within Indian land of the Indian
5 tribe as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor by submitting to
6 the Secretary an application at such time, in such
7 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
8 retary may require.

9 (2) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days
10 after the date on which the Secretary receives an ap-
11 plication under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
12 determine whether the nominated Tribal Wildlife
13 Corridor described in the application meets the cri-
14 teria established under subsection (b).

15 (3) PUBLICATION.—On approval of an applica-
16 tion under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pub-
17 lish in the Federal Register a notice of the establish-
18 ment of the Tribal Wildlife Corridor, which shall in-
19 clude a map and legal description of the land des-
20 ignated as a Tribal Wildlife Corridor.

21 (b) CRITERIA.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary shall establish criteria for determining wheth-
25 er a corridor nominated by an Indian tribe under

1 subsection (a)(1) qualifies as a Tribal Wildlife Cor-
2 ridor.

3 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The criteria established
4 under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum,
5 the following:

6 (A) The restoration of historical habitat
7 for the purposes of facilitating connectivity.

8 (B) The management of land for the pur-
9 poses of facilitating connectivity.

10 (C) The management of land to prevent
11 the imposition of barriers that may hinder cur-
12 rent or future connectivity.

13 (c) REMOVAL.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may elect to
15 remove the designation of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor
16 on the Indian land of the Indian tribe by notifying
17 the Secretary.

18 (2) EFFECT OF REMOVAL.—An Indian tribe
19 that elects to remove a designation under paragraph
20 (1) may not receive assistance under section 5 or 6.

21 **SEC. 4. COORDINATION OF LAND USE PLANS.**

22 Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
23 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by striking “Indian tribes by” and in-
2 serting the following: “Indian tribes—
3 “(1) by”;

4 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
5 striking the period at the end and inserting “;
6 and”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) for the purposes of determining whether
9 the land use plans for land in the National Forest
10 System would provide additional connectivity to ben-
11 efit the purposes of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor estab-
12 lished under section 3(a) of the Tribal Wildlife Cor-
13 ridor Act of 2019.”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(g) TRIBAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—On the estab-
16 lishment of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor under section 3(a)
17 of the Tribal Wildlife Corridor Act of 2019, the Secretary
18 shall conduct a meaningful consultation with the Indian
19 tribe that administers the Tribal Wildlife Corridor to de-
20 termine whether, through the revision of 1 or more exist-
21 ing land use plans, the Tribal Wildlife Corridor can—

22 “(1) be expanded into public lands; or

23 “(2) otherwise benefit connectivity (as defined
24 in section 2 of that Act) between public lands and
25 the Tribal Wildlife Corridor.”.

1 **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

2 The Secretary shall provide to Indian tribes technical
3 assistance relating to the establishment, management, and
4 expansion of a Tribal Wildlife Corridor, including assist-
5 ance with accessing wildlife data and working with private
6 landowners to access Federal and State programs to im-
7 prove wildlife habitat and connectivity on non-Federal
8 land.

9 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.**

10 (a) CONSERVATION PROGRAMS PRIORITY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications
12 under conservation programs described in paragraph
13 (2), the Secretary of Agriculture may give priority to
14 an application for a project that would enhance
15 connectivity through the expansion of a Tribal Wild-
16 life Corridor.

17 (2) PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The conservation
18 programs referred to in paragraph (1) are any of the
19 following conservation programs administered by the
20 Secretary of Agriculture:

21 (A) The conservation reserve program es-
22 tablished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of
23 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act
24 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).

25 (B) The environmental quality incentives
26 program established under subchapter A of

1 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et
3 seq.).

4 (C) The conservation stewardship program
5 established under subchapter B of chapter 4 of
6 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act
7 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21 et seq.).

8 (D) The agricultural conservation ease-
9 ment program established under subtitle H of
10 title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
11 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.).

12 (b) WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS GRANT PROGRAM.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
14 a Tribal Wildlife Corridor grant program to encour-
15 age wildlife movement in accordance with this Act.

16 (2) GRANTS.—Beginning not later than 3 years
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary shall make grants under the program estab-
19 lished under paragraph (1) to 1 or more Indian
20 tribes to increase connectivity through Tribal Wild-
21 life Corridors.

22 **SEC. 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

23 Nothing in this Act authorizes or affects the use of
24 private property or Indian land.