

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a North American Grasslands Conservation Council, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To establish a North American Grasslands Conservation Council, 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 “North American Grass-  
5 lands Conservation Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the maintenance of healthy populations of  
9 grassland bird species and working lands that are  
10 critical for rural economies and carbon sequestration

1 are dependent on the conservation, restoration, and  
2 management of grassland ecosystems, which are  
3 composed of tallgrass, mixed grass, and shortgrass  
4 prairies, sagebrush shrub-steppe, and savannah  
5 grasslands (referred to in this section as “grassland  
6 ecosystems”);

7 (2) grasslands cover 358,000,000 acres of the  
8 United States, 85 percent of which are privately  
9 owned and serve as an important habitat for 29  
10 breeding obligate grassland bird species;

11 (3) sagebrush occupies 161,000,000 acres of 14  
12 western States;

13 (4) over the last decade alone, millions of acres  
14 of grassland ecosystems in North America have been  
15 converted to cropland and residential and commer-  
16 cial development;

17 (5) grassland ecosystems are threatened by  
18 fragmentation, invasive species, wildfire, degrada-  
19 tion, and land conversion;

20 (6) on average, about 1,200,000 acres of sage-  
21 brush burn each year in the United States due to  
22 invasive annual grasses that fuel catastrophic  
23 wildfires;

1           (7) in addition to the wildfires described in  
2 paragraph (6), there has been a decrease in the  
3 number of working farms and ranches due to—

4           (A) pressures to convert or sell land; and

5           (B) challenges in keeping ranching profit-  
6 able; and

7           (8) effective restoration strategies for land  
8 managers of grassland ecosystems require—

9           (A) access to adequate quantities of high  
10 quality, regionally appropriate, and diverse na-  
11 tive plant seeds;

12           (B) science-based guidance on cultivating  
13 native plant species; and

14           (C) as stated in the National Seed Strat-  
15 egy for Rehabilitation and Restoration devel-  
16 oped by the Plant Conservation Alliance and  
17 chaired by the Director of the Bureau of Land  
18 Management, more research on seedling estab-  
19 lishment and species interaction in order to in-  
20 crease the use of native plant species.

21 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

22           The purpose of this Act is to take bold action to con-  
23 serve and restore grasslands in North America while sup-  
24 porting ranchers, farmers, Indian Tribes, sportsmen and  
25 sportswomen, rural communities, and other interests by—

1           (1) preventing additional conversion and loss of  
2 native grasslands and loss of sagebrush biome and  
3 sustaining those ecosystems as working lands by cre-  
4 ating a flexible, voluntary, and innovative grant pro-  
5 gram;

6           (2) improving grassland and rangeland health  
7 and management;

8           (3) mitigating the impacts of severe drought  
9 and wildfire on grasslands;

10          (4) supporting farmer and rancher stewards  
11 and Tribal partners;

12          (5) improving biodiversity and habitat for  
13 grassland and sagebrush birds, pollinators, and  
14 other wildlife;

15          (6) increasing carbon sequestration;

16          (7) providing increased recreational and hunter  
17 access opportunities, at the discretion of private  
18 landowners; and

19          (8) encouraging stronger public-private partner-  
20 ships in support of landscape-level grassland con-  
21 servation.

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24           (1) CONSERVATION STRATEGY.—The term  
25 “Conservation Strategy” means the North American

1 Grasslands Conservation Strategy established under  
2 section 7(a).

3 (2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the  
4 North American Grasslands Conservation Council  
5 established by section 5(a).

6 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
7 the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service.

9 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
10 ty” means—

11 (A) a grazing land coalition;

12 (B) an agricultural or livestock producer  
13 group;

14 (C) an Indian Tribe;

15 (D) a land trust;

16 (E) a State or local government;

17 (F) a Federal land management agency;

18 (G) a nongovernmental organization;

19 (H) a community-based organization; and

20 (I) a group of individuals that are private  
21 landowners.

22 (5) GRASSLANDS.—The term “grasslands”  
23 means tallgrass, mixed grass, shortgrass, native  
24 prairie, sagebrush shrub-steppe, savanna grasslands,

1 glades, wet meadows, coastal grasslands, and other  
2 related grassland ecosystems.

3 (6) GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT.—  
4 The term “grasslands conservation project” means  
5 any conservation, restoration, protection, or en-  
6 hancement activity that is carried out with a grant  
7 awarded under the program.

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

12 (8) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
13 the grant program established under section 8(a).

14 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 (10) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Trib-  
17 al organization” has the meaning given the term in  
18 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
19 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

20 **SEC. 5. NORTH AMERICAN GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION**  
21 **COUNCIL.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
23 North American Grasslands Conservation Council.

24 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be com-  
2           posed of 10 members, of whom—

3                   (A) 1 shall be the Director, who shall be  
4                   the responsible Federal official for ensuring  
5                   Council compliance with the National Environ-  
6                   mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
7                   seq.);

8                   (B) 1 shall be a representative of the Na-  
9                   tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation;

10                  (C) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary,  
11                  who shall each be a Director of a State fish and  
12                  wildlife agency;

13                  (D) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary,  
14                  who shall be representatives of Indian Tribes;

15                  (E) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary,  
16                  who shall each represent a different  
17                  landowning, farming, ranching, or grazing  
18                  group organization that is actively participating  
19                  in carrying out grassland conservation projects;  
20                  and

21                  (F) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary,  
22                  who shall be members of conservation organiza-  
23                  tions.

24           (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
2 subparagraph (B), a member of the Council  
3 shall serve for a term of 3 years.

4 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—

5 (i) DIRECTORS OF STATE FISH AND  
6 WILDLIFE AGENCIES.—Of the members  
7 first appointed under paragraph (1)(C)—

8 (I) 1 shall be appointed for a  
9 term of 2 years; and

10 (II) 1 shall be appointed for a  
11 term of 3 years.

12 (ii) OTHER MEMBERS.—Of the mem-  
13 bers first appointed under subparagraphs  
14 (D), (E), and (F) of paragraph (1)—

15 (I) 2 shall be appointed for a  
16 term of 1 year;

17 (II) 2 shall be appointed for a  
18 term of 2 years; and

19 (III) 2 shall be appointed for a  
20 term of 3 years.

21 (C) VACANCIES.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a  
23 member appointed to the Council under  
24 subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph (1),  
25 a vacancy in the Council shall be filled in

1           accordance with that subparagraph for the  
2           remainder of the applicable term of that  
3           member.

4                   (ii) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—Until a  
5           vacancy referred to in clause (i) is filled, or  
6           in the event of an anticipated absence of a  
7           member described in that clause from any  
8           meeting of the Council, the Secretary shall  
9           appoint an alternate member to the Coun-  
10          cil who shall—

11                   (I) be knowledgeable and experi-  
12           enced in matters relating to grassland  
13           conservation and restoration; and

14                   (II) perform the duties of a mem-  
15           ber appointed to the Council under  
16           subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph  
17           (1).

18                   (3) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary may  
19           include as ex officio, nonvoting members of the  
20           Council—

21                   (A) the Under Secretary for Farm Produc-  
22           tion and Conservation of the Department of Ag-  
23           riculture;

24                   (B) the Director of the Bureau of Land  
25           Management; and

1 (C) representatives of—

2 (i) other appropriate Federal, provin-  
3 cial, territorial, or Tribal government agen-  
4 cies; and

5 (ii) nonprofit charitable organizations  
6 and Native American interests, including  
7 Tribal organizations, that are participating  
8 in grasslands conservation projects.

9 (4) CHAIRPERSON.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall select  
11 a Chairperson from among the members of the  
12 Council.

13 (B) TERM.—A Chairperson shall serve for  
14 a 3-year term, except that the first selected  
15 Chairperson may serve a term of less than 3  
16 years.

17 (c) MEETINGS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall meet at  
19 the call of the Chairperson.

20 (2) FREQUENCY.—The Council shall meet not  
21 less frequently than once per year.

22 (3) FORMAT.—A meeting of the Council may be  
23 conducted in person or virtually.

24 (4) AVAILABILITY.—Meetings of the Council  
25 shall be open to the public, and the Council shall

1 give public notice of the time and place of such  
2 meetings.

3 (d) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

4 (1) provide input to the Director in the develop-  
5 ment of the Conservation Strategy;

6 (2) establish publicly available project evalua-  
7 tion criteria for applications submitted under the  
8 program; and

9 (3) provide funding recommendations to the Di-  
10 rector with respect to those applications.

11 (e) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Council shall  
12 receive no compensation as a result of serving on the  
13 Council.

14 (f) FACCA APPLICABILITY.—The Federal Advisory  
15 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the  
16 Council.

17 **SEC. 6. REGIONAL GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION COUN-**  
18 **CILS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are established Regional  
20 Grasslands Conservation Councils for each region estab-  
21 lished by the Director, in consultation with relevant Fed-  
22 eral agencies.

23 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Each Regional Grasslands Con-  
24 servation Council shall be composed of not more than 10  
25 members, which shall include—

1           (1) representatives of nongovernmental organi-  
2           zations representing the conservation community;

3           (2) representatives from Tribal governments  
4           and organizations;

5           (3) representatives of rancher and farming in-  
6           terests;

7           (4) representatives from State fish and wildlife  
8           agencies; and

9           (5) any other representatives, as determined  
10          necessary by the Secretary in coordination with the  
11          Council.

12          (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—A Regional Grasslands  
13 Conservation Council shall provide recommendations to  
14 the Council on—

15           (1) the selection of grasslands conservation  
16           projects; and

17           (2) best practices of established regional grass-  
18           land conservation plans.

19          (d) FACA APPLICABILITY.—The Federal Advisory  
20 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a Re-  
21 gional Grasslands Conservation Council.

22 **SEC. 7. NORTH AMERICAN GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION**  
23 **STRATEGY.**

24          (a) IN GENERAL.—After not less than half of the  
25 members of the Council are appointed under section

1 5(b)(1), the Director shall, in consultation with the Coun-  
2 cil—

3 (1) develop a coordinated strategy, to be known  
4 as the “North American Grasslands Conservation  
5 Strategy”, for the protection, restoration, and man-  
6 agement of grassland ecosystems across the United  
7 States; and

8 (2) support implementation, monitoring, and  
9 communication efforts relating to the Conservation  
10 Strategy.

11 (b) EXISTING CONSERVATION PLANS.—The Con-  
12 servation Strategy shall draw from existing local, State,  
13 and regional conservation plans and frameworks, con-  
14 servation plans of Indian Tribes, and State wildlife action  
15 plans, with an emphasis on supporting existing science-  
16 based frameworks from the Natural Resources Conserva-  
17 tion Service, including the Working Land for Wildlife  
18 framework.

19 (c) INCLUSION.—The Conservation Strategy shall—

20 (1) identify key areas with—

21 (A) grasslands at high risk of conversion  
22 to cropland, residential and commercial develop-  
23 ment, shrub or woody encroachment, or inva-  
24 sion of annual grasses or other undesired vege-  
25 tation;

1 (B) the highest potential of conserving na-  
2 tive grasslands, restoring grasslands, and re-  
3 ducing fragmentation;

4 (C) ecologically significant grassland rem-  
5 nants;

6 (D) populations of grassland bird species  
7 of greatest conservation need, as identified in—

8 (i) State wildlife action plans;

9 (ii) Tribal conservation plans; or

10 (iii) the report of the United States  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service entitled “Birds  
12 of Conservation Concern 2021 Migratory  
13 Bird Program” and dated April 2021 (or  
14 a successor document); and

15 (E) grassland habitats important to the re-  
16 covery of species listed as threatened species or  
17 endangered species under section 4 of the En-  
18 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
19 1533);

20 (2) identify specific goals for increasing grass-  
21 land acreage and enhancing existing grasslands pri-  
22 marily through incentivizing the voluntary restora-  
23 tion of grasslands and the management of native  
24 prairie or sagebrush shrublands through conserva-  
25 tion practices such as—

1 (A) advanced grazing management or  
2 other prescribed grazing management that  
3 meets the objectives of the Conservation Strat-  
4 egy;

5 (B) prescribed fires;

6 (C) invasive species management;

7 (D) removal of encroaching woody vegeta-  
8 tion; and

9 (E) restoration of marginal cropland and  
10 pastureland to native grasslands in areas that  
11 were historically grasslands; and

12 (3) develop—

13 (A) baseline inventories and population es-  
14 timates of key indicator birds, pollinators, and  
15 other wildlife species at risk;

16 (B) goals for increasing population size  
17 and resiliency of those species, including  
18 through ensuring grassland habitat  
19 connectivity; and

20 (C) a tool for tracking county-level aggre-  
21 gated conversion of native grasslands to crop-  
22 land, residential and commercial development,  
23 and other uses that shall be—

24 (i) made publicly available; and

25 (ii) updated on an annual basis.

1 (d) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 120 days before  
2 the date on which the program is established, the Con-  
3 servation Strategy shall be finalized and made publicly  
4 available on the website of the United States Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service to help target investments in grasslands  
6 conservation projects.

7 **SEC. 8. GRASSLAND CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 2 years after  
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in con-  
10 sultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other  
11 heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a com-  
12 petitive grant program to award grants to eligible entities  
13 for eligible projects to support voluntary grasslands con-  
14 servation projects, including projects—

15 (1) to conserve intact grasslands at risk of con-  
16 version to cropland and residential and commercial  
17 development;

18 (2) to restore degraded grasslands and improve  
19 grassland health;

20 (3) to increase carbon sequestration and eco-  
21 logical function in soils and improve resilience of  
22 grasslands;

23 (4) to support habitat and habitat connectivity  
24 for native grassland and sagebrush birds, polli-

1 nators, plants, watersheds, and other wildlife, includ-  
2 ing big game species; and

3 (5) to restore and enhance watersheds.

4 (b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring a  
5 grant under the program shall submit to the Director an  
6 application at such time, in such manner, and containing  
7 such information as the Director may require.

8 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the pro-  
9 gram, the Director shall prioritize grants to eligible enti-  
10 ties that advance the goals of the Conservation Strategy.

11 (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under  
12 the program, the Director shall consider recommendations  
13 made by the Council.

14 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may use a  
16 grant awarded under the program for grasslands  
17 conservation projects, including—

18 (A) voluntary conservation easements;

19 (B) restoration and management activities,  
20 including—

21 (i) voluntary incentives to producers  
22 for prescribed burns;

23 (ii) removal of pinyon juniper or any  
24 other encroaching woody species;

25 (iii) management of invasive species;

- 1 (iv) maintenance and monitoring of  
2 new or ongoing grasslands conservation  
3 projects;
- 4 (v) advanced grazing management ac-  
5 tivities;
- 6 (vi) drought monitoring and prepared-  
7 ness activities; and
- 8 (vii) such other restoration and man-  
9 agement activities as determined appro-  
10 priate by the Director;
- 11 (C) ecosystem education, outreach, and  
12 conservation stewardship assistance, which may  
13 include—
- 14 (i) field days;
- 15 (ii) grazing management training pro-  
16 grams;
- 17 (iii) conservation planning; and
- 18 (iv) education and outreach relating  
19 to—
- 20 (I) grazing management;
- 21 (II) control of invasive species;
- 22 (III) prescribed fires;
- 23 (IV) native seed crop systems re-  
24 search, in accordance with the re-

1 search carried out by the Secretary of  
2 Agriculture under section 9;

3 (V) land access, generational  
4 land transfers, and ensuring ranch-  
5 land viability;

6 (VI) best management practices  
7 relating to grassland biomes; and

8 (VII) participation in carbon and  
9 ecosystem markets;

10 (D) payments for ecosystem or conserva-  
11 tion services; and

12 (E) such other activities that benefit grass-  
13 lands and associated wildlife.

14 (2) RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—For purposes  
15 of paragraph (1)(B), any restoration activity shall  
16 prioritize a diverse mix of appropriately sourced na-  
17 tive grasses and forbs, with such exceptions as the  
18 Director determines to be appropriate for eco-  
19 logically appropriate noninvasive and non-native spe-  
20 cies.

21 (f) GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN MEX-  
22 ICO AND CANADA.—The Secretary shall grant or otherwise  
23 provide up to 10 percent of the amounts made available  
24 under section 12(a)(1) to Federal agencies, eligible enti-  
25 ties, and other individuals and entities, including foreign

1 land management agencies, for the purpose of assisting  
2 those entities and individuals in carrying out grasslands  
3 conservation projects in Mexico and Canada that—

4 (1) have been approved by the Council; and

5 (2) meet the goals of the Conservation Strat-  
6 egy.

7 (g) TRIBAL SET-ASIDE.—For each fiscal year, of the  
8 amounts made available to carry out the program, the Di-  
9 rector shall set aside not less than 10 percent to provide  
10 grants to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

11 (h) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
13 the non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an  
14 eligible project using funds from a grant awarded  
15 under the program shall be not less than 25 percent,  
16 including in-kind contributions.

17 (2) WAIVERS.—

18 (A) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall  
19 waive the cost-share requirement under para-  
20 graph (1) for grants awarded to Indian Tribes  
21 and Tribal organizations.

22 (B) OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The  
23 Council shall establish waiver criteria under  
24 which the Secretary may waive the cost-share  
25 requirement under paragraph (1), in whole or

1           in part, for grants awarded to such other eligi-  
2           ble entities.

3           (i) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity  
4 awarded a grant under this section may use the grant  
5 funds for administrative costs relating to that grant.

6 **SEC. 9. NATIVE SEED CROP SYSTEMS RESEARCH.**

7           The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall  
8 jointly coordinate and implement the National Seed Strat-  
9 egy for Rehabilitation and Restoration developed by the  
10 Plant Conservation Alliance and chaired by the Director  
11 of the Bureau of Land Management, with an emphasis  
12 on—

13           (1) research relating to native seed crop sys-  
14 tems, including—

15                   (A) agronomic research to improve the un-  
16 derstanding of native plants as seed crops for  
17 native rangeland revegetation, with an emphasis  
18 on enhancing natural plant establishment in the  
19 environment;

20                   (B) research on plant seed physiology to  
21 improve seed quality, storage, and seeding suc-  
22 cess in the landscape;

23                   (C) the development and technology trans-  
24 fer of best management practices and tech-  
25 nologies for seed production, seed collection,

1 seed storage, and reseeded success in the envi-  
2 ronment;

3 (D) research on soil chemistry and biome  
4 composition and how soil chemistry and biome  
5 composition impact native seed establishment;  
6 and

7 (E) identification of scenarios and pre-  
8 ferred species for the incorporation of non-na-  
9 tive seed, with the goal of the overall successful  
10 restoration of functional groups of species;

11 (2) extension of research described in para-  
12 graph (1) to seed producers and land managers re-  
13 sponsible for restoration efforts; and

14 (3) production, storage, distribution, and plant-  
15 ing of native seed crops in grassland areas for res-  
16 toration.

17 **SEC. 10. REGENERATIVE GRAZING DATA COLLECTION.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
20 means—

21 (A) public lands (as defined in section 103  
22 of the Federal Land Policy and Management  
23 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)); and

24 (B) land of the National Forest System (as  
25 defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and

1 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
2 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

3 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-  
4 gram” means the pilot program established under  
5 subsection (b)(1).

6 (3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
7 means the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through  
8 the Chief of the Forest Service) and the Secretary  
9 (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
10 Management), acting jointly.

11 (b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF REGENERATIVE  
12 GRAZING ON FEDERAL LAND TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS  
13 OF CLIMATE CHANGE.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year  
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-  
16 taries shall establish a pilot program to study the ef-  
17 fectiveness of using grazing on Federal land to miti-  
18 gate the effects of climate change.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot  
20 program, the Secretaries shall—

21 (A) identify—

22 (i) a standard set of practices to  
23 study, such as carbon beneficial practices,  
24 that support conservation and grazing  
25 goals, including—

- 1 (I) ecologically appropriate  
2 silvopasture;
- 3 (II) practices that provide wild-  
4 life habitat benefits;
- 5 (III) practices that consider flexi-  
6 bility in season of use;
- 7 (IV) forage and biomass manage-  
8 ment;
- 9 (V) planned grazing; and  
10 (VI) range monitoring; and
- 11 (ii) sufficient grazing allotments on a  
12 diverse mixture of ecosystems to identify  
13 whether, and the extent to which, grazing  
14 is an effective tool to mitigate effects of  
15 climate change, including the ability—
- 16 (I) to improve soil health;
- 17 (II) to increase carbon sequestra-  
18 tion;
- 19 (III) to reduce wildfire risk; and  
20 (IV) to improve watershed resil-  
21 ience and biodiversity; and
- 22 (B) in developing, implementing, and mon-  
23 itoring the pilot program, consult with—
- 24 (i) the Chief of the Forest Service;

- 1 (ii) the Director of the Bureau of  
2 Land Management;
- 3 (iii) the Administrator of the Agricul-  
4 tural Research Service;
- 5 (iv) the Chief of the Natural Re-  
6 sources Conservation Service;
- 7 (v) the Director of the United States  
8 Geological Survey;
- 9 (vi) ranchers and representatives of  
10 the ranching industry;
- 11 (vii) representatives from grazing dis-  
12 tricts, associations, boards, or councils;
- 13 (viii) environmental and conservation  
14 nongovernmental organizations;
- 15 (ix) institutions of higher education;
- 16 and
- 17 (x) any other Federal or State agency,  
18 academic institution, or organization that  
19 the Secretaries determine to be appro-  
20 priate.

21 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to  
22 carry out the pilot program may be used for—

- 23 (A) the conduct of research activities;
- 24 (B) the provision of technical assistance to  
25 permittees; or

1 (C) the construction of infrastructure nec-  
2 essary for implementing and analyzing regen-  
3 erative grazing.

4 (4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
5 180 days after the date on which the Secretaries de-  
6 termine that a sufficient quantity of data has been  
7 collected under the pilot program, the Secretaries  
8 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Nat-  
9 ural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture,  
10 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-  
11 mittee on Natural Resources and the Committee on  
12 Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and  
13 make publicly available on the websites of the De-  
14 partment of Agriculture and the Department of the  
15 Interior, a report on the findings and data derived  
16 from the pilot program, including whether and the  
17 extent to which the use of regenerative grazing im-  
18 proved the ability to mitigate the impacts of climate  
19 change.

20 **SEC. 11. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

21 The Director shall submit to Congress, and make  
22 publicly available, an annual report on the implementation  
23 of this Act, which shall include an annual assessment of  
24 the status of grasslands conservation projects, including

1 an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, and other  
2 entities.

3 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
5 priated—

6 (1) to the Director to carry out the program,  
7 \$290,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through  
8 2026, to remain available until expended;

9 (2) to carry out section 5, \$1,000,000 for each  
10 of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain avail-  
11 able until expended;

12 (3) to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out  
13 section 9, \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
14 through 2025, to remain available until expended;  
15 and

16 (4) to carry out section 10, \$10,000,000 for  
17 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024, to remain  
18 available until expended.

19 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR THE COUNCIL AND  
20 PROGRAM.—Of the amounts made available under sub-  
21 section (a)(2), not more than 10 percent may be used for  
22 administrative costs relating to the Council and the pro-  
23 gram.

1           (c) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available  
2 under this section may be used for species or habitat miti-  
3 gation under any Federal law.