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**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEACH). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

**SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE
CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND
DEMONSTRATION ACT**

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2707

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Assessment and Demonstration Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) WESTERN UNITED STATES.—The term "Western United States" refers to the States defined by the Act of June 17, 1902 (commonly known as the 1902 Reclamation Act; 43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), which includes Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE INFESTATION IN WESTERN UNITED STATES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than one year after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretaries shall complete an assessment of the extent of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive invasion in the Western United States.

(b) CONTENT.—The assessment shall include the following:

(1) To the extent practicable, documentation of the quantity of water lost due to the infestation.

(2) Documentation of the quantity of water saved due to various control methods, including the portion of saved water that returns to surface water or groundwater supplies and at what rates.

(3) Determination of the optimum control method for the various land types and land uses.

(4) Determination of what conditions indicate the need to remove such growth and the

optimal methods for disposal or use of such growth.

(5) Determination of methods to prevent the regrowth and reintroduction of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive and to reestablish native species.

(c) REPORT ON ASSESSMENT.—

(1) PREPARATION AND CONTENT.—The Secretaries shall prepare a report containing the results of the assessment. The report shall identify long-term management and funding strategies that could be implemented by Federal, State, Tribal, and private land managers and owners on all land management types to address the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive. The report shall also identify deficiencies or areas for further study and where actual field demonstrations would be useful in the control effort.

(2) SUBMISSION.—The Secretaries shall submit the report to the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(d) SUPPORT FOR IDENTIFICATION OF LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING STRATEGIES.—The Secretaries may make grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or both) with an established background and expertise in the public policy issues associated with the control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive to obtain technical experience, support, and recommendations related to the identification of the long-term management and funding strategies required to be included in the report under subsection (c)(1). Each grant awarded under this subsection may not be less than \$250,000.

SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR CONTROL OF SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE IN WESTERN STATES.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) PROJECTS REQUIRED.—Based on the results of the assessment and report in section 3, the Secretaries shall initiate a program of not fewer than three demonstration projects in the Western United States designed to address the deficiencies and areas for further study to address the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive, including the test of additional control methods, identified by the report.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretaries may enter into an agreement with a State in the Western United States to carry out a demonstration project. If the Secretaries select a demonstration project for implementation on National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture shall be responsible for implementation of the project.

(b) ELEMENTS OF PROJECTS.—

(1) DESIGN AND SCALE.—Each demonstration project shall be designed with integrated methods and adaptive management strategies and carried out over time frames and spatial scales large enough to accomplish the goals laid out in the report.

(2) SCIENTIFIC REVIEW.—Before being carried out, the methods and strategies proposed for each demonstration project shall be subject to review by scientific experts, including non-Federal experts, selected by the Secretaries. The Secretaries may use existing scientific review processes to the extent they comply with this requirement.

(c) PROJECT COSTS AND COST SHARING.—The total cost of each demonstration project may not exceed \$7,000,000, including the costs of planning, design, implementation, revegetation, maintenance, and monitoring. In the case of a demonstration project conducted on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretaries may accept, but not require, funds or in-kind contributions, including State agency provided services. The

Federal share of the costs of any activity on private lands funded under the project shall be no more than 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—During the period in which the demonstration projects are carried out, the Secretaries shall submit to the congressional committees specified in section 3(c)(2) an annual report describing—

(1) the demonstration projects;

(2) the progress made in carrying out the projects during the period covered by the report; and

(3) the costs of the projects under subsection (c).

(e) MONITORING.—Demonstration projects shall include the following:

(1) Documentation of the quantity of water saved due to various control methods, including the portion of water saved that returns to surface water or groundwater supplies and at what rates.

(2) Optimal revegetative states to prevent the regrowth and reintroduction of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive and to reestablish native species.

(f) COOPERATION.—The Secretaries shall use the expertise of their various agencies, as well as other Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, State and local governments and political subdivisions thereof, including soil and water conservation districts, and Indian tribes, which are actively conducting assessments on or implementing Salt Cedar and Russian Olive control activities.

SEC. 5. RELATION TO OTHER AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect, or otherwise bias, the use by the Secretaries of other statutory or administrative authorities to plan or conduct Salt Cedar or Russian Olive control and eradication that is not planned or conducted under this Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 to conduct the assessment required by section 3.

(b) GRANTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 to award as grants under section 3(d).

(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries \$18,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009 to carry out the program of demonstration projects under section 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2707, the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act, provides for the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to carry out a demonstration program