

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8263

To ensure opportunities for Department of Defense participation in wildlife conservation banking programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

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

A BILL

To ensure opportunities for Department of Defense participation in wildlife conservation banking programs, 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. OBJECTIVES, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AND**
4 **CRITERIA FOR USE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVA-**
5 **TION BANKING PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—To ensure opportunities for De-
7 partment of Defense participation in wildlife conservation
8 banking programs pursuant to section 2694c of title 10,
9 United States Code, the Secretary of the Interior, acting
10 through the Director of the United States Fish and Wild-

1 life Service, shall issue regulations of general applicability
2 establishing objectives, measurable performance stand-
3 ards, and criteria for use, consistent with the Endangered
4 Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), for mitigation bank-
5 ing offsetting effects on a species, or habitat of such spe-
6 cies, that is endangered, threatened, a candidate for list-
7 ing, or otherwise at risk under such Act. To the maximum
8 extent practicable, the regulatory standards and criteria
9 shall maximize available credits and opportunities for miti-
10 gation, provide flexibility for characteristics of various spe-
11 cies, and apply equivalent standards and criteria to all
12 mitigation banks.

13 (b) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Secretary
14 of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United
15 States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall publish an advance
16 notice of proposed rulemaking for the regulations required
17 by subsection (a) by not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act.

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