

BILL SUMMARY

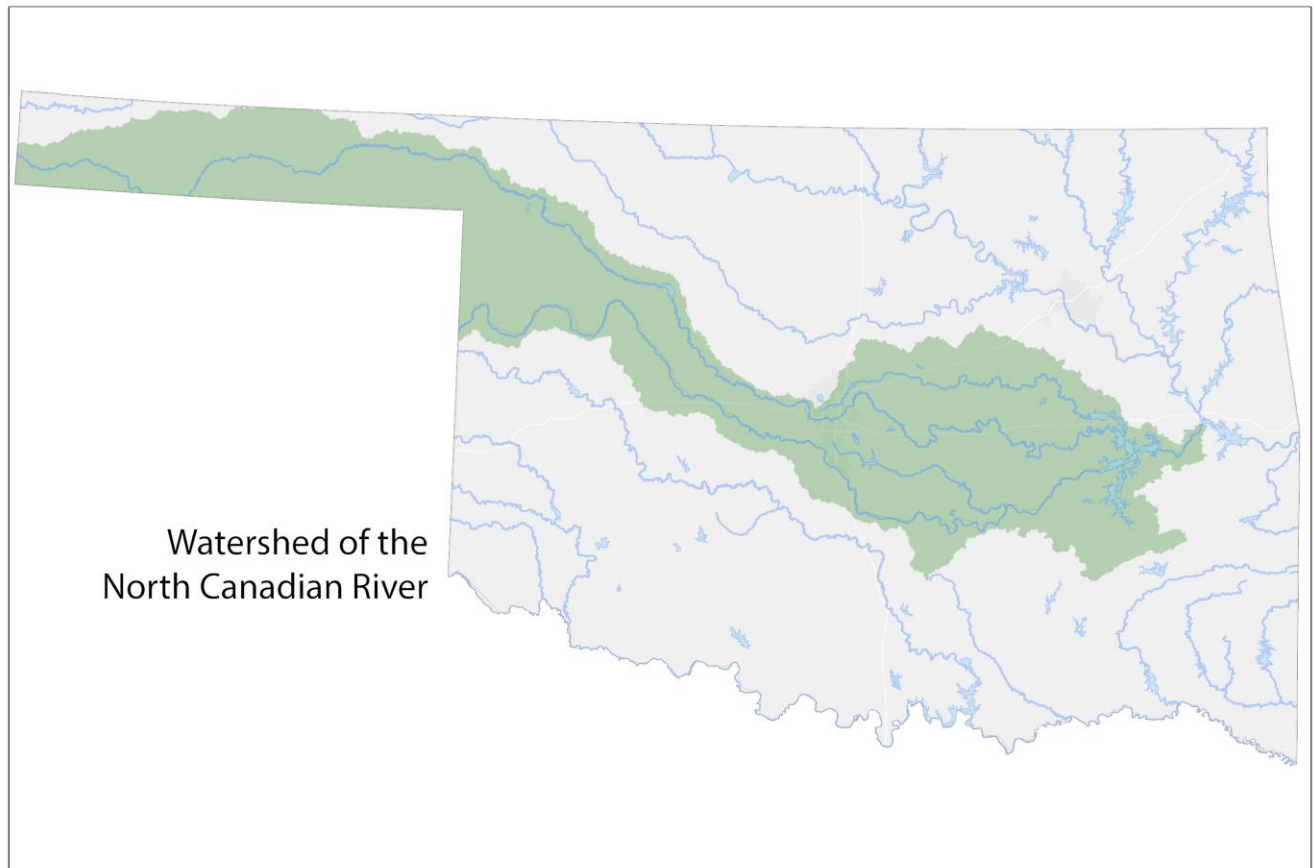
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB2239
Version:	SubRec
Request Number:	7753
Author:	Rep. Dobrinski
Date:	3/2/2023
Impact:	\$3,280,000 Full Program

Research Analysis

The subcommittee recommendation for HB 2239 creates the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act which establishes a pilot program for managing and eradicating invasive woody species in the North Canadian Watershed. Such species include: Eastern Redcedar, Rocky Mountain Juniper, oneseed juniper, and salt cedar. The program will be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The Commission shall:

- Cooperate with landowners, state agencies, and other political subdivisions for removal of invasive woody species;
- Use funds to share costs with landowners for expenses incurred;
- Measure the density of invasive woody species and determine its water usage;
- Have at least two active project areas – one above Canton Lake Dam and one below; and
- Develop grant programs with conservation districts, rural fire departments, and prescribe burn associations.



Lastly, the measure repeals this section of law declaring the Department of Agriculture as the designated agency for controlling the plant species Tamarix:

[Section 16-73 - Tamarix ssp - Research and Control](#)

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

Under this measure, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission would perform parallel watershed tests around the North Canadian Watershed. The total cost of the program is one million, six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000.00), most of which is used for acquiring the land where the removals will occur. There are some federal grant programs that Conservation believes will cover one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Therefore, the costs of the program to the state is six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00).

Additionally, under this measure there would be a prescribed burn ban program that would cost one million, six hundred forty thousand dollars (\$1,640,000.00). This is for education, grants, and paid burns. Conservation believes about one million, forty thousand dollars (\$1,040,000.00) will be needed to pay for burns at about twelve dollars (\$12) an acre. The remaining six hundred thousand (\$600,000.00) will be used for education and grants to provide additional education to people. Conservation believes there are some federal and private grant opportunities to help bring the total cost of the program down.

The third part of the program, Conservation believes will cost one million, forty thousand dollars (\$1,040,000.00). This is to create brush free zones around communities. The main expense for this part of the program is buying four (4) skid steers with mulchers to have across the state that counties and local communities can have access to. Conservation believes the costs of acquiring the skid steers to be two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) a piece, or eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000.00) total. Conservation will need about two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for additional staffing needs for this part of the program. The remaining money will be used for fuel and maintenance needs for the skid steers which Conservation will also require participating counties and local communities to also help put money towards.

The total costs of the three parts of the program is four million, two hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$4,280,000.00), which does create a fiscal impact to the state of that amount.

Watershed Test	\$600,000.00
Controlled Burns	\$1,640,000.00
Brush Free Zones	\$1,040,000.00
Total	\$3,280,000.00

Prepared By: Mariah Searock, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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