

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 263

By: Murdock of the Senate

3 and

4 Dobrinski of the House

5
6 [invasive species - pilot program - cost-sharing -
7 active project areas - Revolving Fund - effective
8 date]
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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 372, O.S.L.
12 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-101), is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Section 3-8-101. This act shall be known and may be cited as
15 the "Terry Peach ~~North Canadian Watershed~~ Water Restoration Act".

16 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 372, O.S.L.
17 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-102), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 3-8-102. A. As used in the Terry Peach ~~North Canadian~~
20 ~~Watershed~~ Water Restoration Act:

- 21 1. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Conservation Commission;
22 2. "Harmful woody species" means a tree or shrub species that
23 is rapidly encroaching into adjoining lands and is likely to cause
24 harm to the environment or economy. Harmful woody species include,

1 but are not limited to, *Juniperus virginiana* (Eastern Redcedar),
2 *Juniperus scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain juniper), *Juniperus monosperma*
3 (oneseed juniper) ~~and~~, *Tamarix ramosissima* (salt cedar), *Juniperus*
4 *pinchotii* (redberry juniper), *Juniper ashei* (ashe juniper), and
5 *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite); and

6 3. "~~North Canadian Watershed~~" means ~~the~~ an area of land in
7 Oklahoma that drains or sheds water into ~~the North Canadian River a~~
8 waterway or water basin.

9 B. ~~There~~ Subject to the availability of funds, there is hereby
10 created a statewide pilot program to remove or eradicate harmful
11 woody species in ~~the North Canadian Watershed~~ watersheds to be
12 administered ~~by~~ through the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. To
13 accomplish the goals listed in this section, the Commission is
14 authorized to use the funds available in the ~~North Canadian~~
15 ~~Watershed~~ Water Restoration Revolving Fund established in Section ~~3~~
16 ~~of this act~~ 3-8-103 of this title. The purpose of the program is to
17 manage and eradicate, where possible, harmful woody species that
18 damage grazing lands, create significant wildfire risk, reduce
19 wildlife habitat and reduce water flow into ~~the North Canadian River~~
20 waterways and water basins.

21 C. In administering the pilot program, the Commission shall:

22 1. Cooperate with landowners, state agencies, and other
23 political subdivisions for removal of harmful woody species;

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- 1 2. Measure the density of harmful woody species and estimate
2 water used by those species;
- 3 3. Create a study using a parallel watershed with no control of
4 harmful woody species;
- 5 4. Utilize available funds to cost-share with landowners,
6 recognized governmental entities, or not-for-profit organizations
7 for expenses incurred in the eradication of harmful woody species by
8 prescribed burn, biological controls, mechanical removal, or
9 herbicide applications;
- 10 5. Develop grant programs with conservation districts, rural
11 fire departments, and prescribe burn associations for resources
12 needed for prescribed burns, mechanical removal, biological control,
13 or herbicide applications on harmful woody species;
- 14 6. Bring attention to the problems posed by harmful woody
15 species to create awareness, demonstrate value to all stakeholders,
16 and encourage landowners to participate in the program; and
- 17 7. Have at least ~~two~~ three active project areas in the program,
18 consisting either of one above the Canton Lake dam and one below,
19 above Lake Overholser, and the North Fork Red River into Lugert-
20 Altus Reservoir.

21 D. The Commission is authorized to promulgate any rules and
22 procedures to effectuate the provisions of this section.

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1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 372, O.S.L.
2 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-103), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Section 3-8-103. There is hereby created in the State Treasury
5 a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to be
6 designated the "~~North Canadian Watershed~~ Water Restoration Revolving
7 Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal
8 year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the
9 Conservation Commission from appropriations, federal grants or
10 funds, municipal contributions, private contributions, and any other
11 sources, including interest earned from the income in the fund, that
12 are designated for deposit to such fund or designated for duties
13 associated with harmful woody species removal from the ~~North~~
14 ~~Canadian Watershed~~ watersheds throughout the state. All monies
15 accruing to the credit of ~~said~~ the fund are hereby appropriated and
16 may be budgeted and expended by the Conservation Commission to
17 perform the duties imposed on the Commission by law. Expenditures
18 from ~~said~~ the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
19 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
20 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
21 approval and payment.

22 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
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