

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 3198

6 By: Worthen

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to public lands; requiring the
9 Commissioners of the Land Office to remove or
10 eradicate certain harmful woody species; defining
11 term; providing timeframe for removal and
12 eradication; providing for program funding; providing
13 for codification; providing an effective date; and
14 declaring an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2001 of Title 64, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The Commissioners of the Land Office shall consult with the
20 Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma State University
21 Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to identify
22 acreages and recommend an action plan designed to remove or
23 eradicate all harmful woody species on land owned by and leased by
24 the Commissioners of the Land Office. "Harmful woody species" means
a tree or shrub species that is rapidly encroaching into adjoining

1 lands and is likely to cause harm to the environment or economy.
2 Harmful woody species include, but are not limited to, *Juniperus*
3 *virginiana* (eastern red cedar), *Juniperus scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain
4 juniper), *Juniperus monosperma* (one-seed juniper), *Juniperus*
5 *pinchotii* (redberry juniper), *Juniperus ashei* (ashe juniper),
6 *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite), and *Tamarix ramosissima* (salt
7 cedar).

8 This removal and eradication of these harmful woody species
9 shall begin January 1, 2025 and will remove and eradicate twenty
10 (20%) percent of the harmful and woody species each year on
11 identified acreages through December 31, 2029. It being the intent
12 to remove all of the harmful woody species on the identified
13 acreages at the end of the five (5) year period.

14 B. The Commissioners of the Land Office may fund this removal
15 and eradication program through donations from organizations,
16 individuals, and corporations supporting improved habitat for
17 wildlife or livestock production, as well as through grants from
18 federal agencies, and from all other funding that is available to
19 the Commissioners of the Land Office.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

21 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
23 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
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1 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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