

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 3198

By: Worthen, **Newton**, **Caldwell**
(Trey), **Dobrinski**, **Talley**,
Pae, **Lowe (Dick)**, **Pfeiffer**,
and **Ranson**

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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

22 A. The Commissioners of the Land Office shall consult with the
23 Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Oklahoma State University
24 Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources to identify
 acreages and recommend an action plan designed to remove or

1 eradicate all harmful woody species on land owned by and leased by
2 the Commissioners of the Land Office. "Harmful woody species" means
3 a tree or shrub species that is rapidly encroaching into adjoining
4 lands and is likely to cause harm to the environment or economy.
5 Harmful woody species include, but are not limited to, Juniperus
6 virginiana (eastern red cedar), Juniperus scopulorum (Rocky Mountain
7 juniper), Juniperus monosperma (one-seed juniper), Juniperus
8 pinchotii (redberry juniper), Juniperus ashei (ashe juniper),
9 Prosopis glandulosa (honey mesquite), and Tamarix ramosissima (salt
10 cedar).

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

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

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.
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1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, dated 02/21/2024 - DO
7 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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