

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 263

By: Murdock

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to invasive species; amending Section 1, Chapter 372, O.S.L. 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-101), which relates to short title; renaming act; amending Section 2, Chapter 372, O.S.L. 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-102), which relates to pilot program; updating definitions; specifying entities eligible for cost-sharing of funds; expanding number of active project areas; amending Section 3, Chapter 372, O.S.L. 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-103), which relates to North Canadian Watershed Restoration Revolving Fund; updating language; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

3 1. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Conservation Commission;

4 2. "Harmful woody species" means a tree or shrub species that
5 is rapidly encroaching into adjoining lands and is likely to cause
6 harm to the environment or economy. Harmful woody species include,
7 but are not limited to, Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Redcedar),
8 Juniperus scopulorum (Rocky Mountain juniper), Juniperus monosperma
9 (oneseed juniper) ~~and~~, Tamarix ramosissima (salt cedar), Juniperus
10 pinchotii (redberry juniper), Juniper ashei (ashe juniper), and
11 Prosopis glandulosa (honey mesquite); and

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

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

1 wildlife habitat and reduce water flow into ~~the North Canadian River~~
2 waterways and water basins.

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

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

6 2. Measure the density of harmful woody species and estimate
7 water used by those species;

8 3. Create a study using a parallel watershed with no control of
9 harmful woody species;

10 4. Utilize available funds to cost-share with landowners,
11 recognized governmental entities, or not-for-profit organizations
12 for expenses incurred in the eradication of harmful woody species by
13 prescribed burn, biological controls, mechanical removal, or
14 herbicide applications;

15 5. Develop grant programs with conservation districts, rural
16 fire departments, and prescribe burn associations for resources
17 needed for prescribed burns, mechanical removal, biological control,
18 or herbicide applications on harmful woody species;

19 6. Bring attention to the problems posed by harmful woody
20 species to create awareness, demonstrate value to all stakeholders,
21 and encourage landowners to participate in the program; and

22 7. Have at least ~~two~~ three active project areas in the program,
23 consisting either of one above the Canton Lake dam and one below,
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1 above Lake Overholser, and the North Fork Red River into Lugert-
2 Altus Reservoir.

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

5 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 372, O.S.L.
6 2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-103), is amended to read as
7 follows:

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

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