

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1466

AN ACT

To authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a regional program to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes in the Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wildlife dependent on those habitats, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saline Lake Eco-
 5 systems in the Great Basin States Program Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SALINE LAKE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE GREAT BASIN**
 7 **STATES ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING PRO-**
 8 **GRAM.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
 11 the Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin
 12 States Assessment and Monitoring Program estab-
 13 lished under subsection (b).

14 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 15 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
 16 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

17 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
 18 a Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States As-
 19 sessment and Monitoring Program to assess and monitor
 20 the hydrology of saline lake ecosystems in the Great Basin
 21 and the migratory birds and other wildlife that depend on
 22 those ecosystems to inform and support coordinated man-
 23 agement and conservation actions to benefit those eco-
 24 systems, migratory birds, and other wildlife.

25 (c) WORK AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the Program, the
2 Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the
3 United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the en-
4 tities described in paragraph (2), shall establish a
5 multiyear work and implementation plan to assess,
6 monitor, and conserve saline lake ecosystems in the
7 Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wild-
8 life that depend on those ecosystems.

9 (2) COORDINATING ENTITIES.—The entities re-
10 ferred to in paragraph (1) include—

11 (A) Federal, State, Tribal, and local agen-
12 cies;

13 (B) institutions of higher education;

14 (C) nonprofit organizations; and

15 (D) other local stakeholders.

16 (3) INCLUSIONS.—The work and implementa-
17 tion plan established under paragraph (1) shall in-
18 clude—

19 (A) a synthesis of available information,
20 literature, and data, and an assessment of sci-
21 entific and informational needs, relating to—

22 (i) water quantity, water quality,
23 water use, and water demand;

24 (ii) migratory bird and other wildlife
25 populations, habitats, and ecology;

1 (iii) annual lifecycle needs of migra-
2 tory birds; and

3 (iv) environmental changes and other
4 stressors, including climatic stressors;

5 (B) a description of how the plan should
6 be implemented to address the scientific and in-
7 formational needs described in subparagraph
8 (A), including proposed activities, such as moni-
9 toring, data infrastructure needs, and develop-
10 ment of tools necessary to implement the Pro-
11 gram;

12 (C) recommendations and a cost assess-
13 ment for the implementation of the plan; and

14 (D) such other matters as the Secretary
15 determines to be appropriate.

16 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
18 submit to Congress a report describing the work and
19 implementation plan established under paragraph
20 (1).

21 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall imple-
22 ment the Program based on the information, findings, and
23 recommendations contained in the work and implementa-
24 tion plan established under subsection (c).

1 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—

2 Using such sums as the Secretary considers to be appro-
 3 priate of amounts made available for each fiscal year
 4 under subsection (g), the Secretary may enter into cooper-
 5 ative funding agreements with, or provide grants to, enti-
 6 ties described in subsection (c)(2) for the purposes of—

7 (1) participating in developing, or providing in-
 8 formation to inform the development of, the work
 9 and implementation plan under subsection (c);

10 (2) carrying out assessments and monitoring of
 11 water quality, quantity, use, and demand under the
 12 Program; and

13 (3) carrying out ecological, biological, and avian
 14 assessments and monitoring under the Program.

15 (f) EFFECT.—The work and implementation plan es-
 16 tablished under subsection (c)(1) shall not affect—

17 (1) any interstate water compacts in existence
 18 on the date of enactment of this Act, including full
 19 development of any apportionment made in accord-
 20 ance with those compacts;

21 (2) valid and existing water rights in any State
 22 located wholly or partially within the Great Basin;

23 (3) water rights held by the United States in
 24 the Great Basin; and

1 (4) the management and operation of Bear
2 Lake or Stewart Dam, including the storage, man-
3 agement, and release of water.

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program
6 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027.

 Passed the Senate November 30 (legislative day, No-
vember 29), 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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