

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1051

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2003

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive.

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 “Salt Cedar Council
5 Demonstration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date when funds are made available to carry out this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary of the Interior (“Secretary”) shall com-

1 plete an assessment of the extent of Salt Cedar and Rus-
2 sian Olive invasion in the Western United States, past and
3 on-going research on tested and innovative methods to
4 control these phreatophytes, the feasibility of reducing
5 water consumption, methods and challenges in land res-
6 toration, estimated costs all aspects of destruction, bio-
7 mass removal, and restoration and maintenance, and shall
8 identify long-term management and funding strategies
9 that could be implemented by Federal, State and private
10 land managers.

11 (b) DEMONSTRATION.—The Secretary will initiate a
12 program of not fewer than 3 projects to demonstrate and
13 evaluate the most effective control methods including at
14 least one project primarily using air-born application of
15 herbicides, at least one project using mechanical removal
16 and at least one project using biocontrol such as goats
17 or insects or any combination thereof. Each demonstration
18 project shall be designed and carried out over time frames
19 and spatial scales large enough to:

- 20 (1) monitor and fully document the water saved
21 due to control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive in-
22 festation and what portions of the saved water re-
23 turns to surface water supplies and at what rates;
- 24 (2) assess the optimum application approach
25 and tools for an array of control methods;

1 (3) assess all costs and benefits associated with
2 the control methods, land restoration and maintenance;
3

4 (4) determine what conditions indicate the need
5 to remove biomass and the optimal methods for disposal or use of biomass;
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7 (5) define appropriate final vegetative states,
8 optimal re-vegetation methods; and

9 (6) methods to prevent regrowth and reintroduction of the invasive species.
10

11 (c) COSTS.—The total cost of each project may not
12 exceed, 7,000,000 dollars including costs of planning, design, implementation, maintenance and monitoring. The
13 Federal share of the costs of any activity funded under
14 this program shall be no more than 65 percent of the total
15 cost. The Secretary may apply the value of in-kind contributions including State agency provided services to the
16 non-Federal share of the costs.
17

18 (d) COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall use the expertise of institutions of higher education, state agencies,
19 and soil water conservation districts that are actively conducting research on or implementing Salt Cedar and Russian Olive control activities and shall cooperate with other
20 Federal agencies including the Department of Agriculture,
21

1 Corp of Engineers, affected States, local units of govern-
2 ment, and Indian tribes.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 the provisions of this Act \$50,000,000 for fiscal year
6 2004, and such sums as are necessary for each fiscal year
7 thereafter.

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