

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4                   ENGROSSED SENATE  
5                   BILL NO. 263

6                   By: Murdock of the Senate

7                   and

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11                   Dobrinski and **Ranson** of the  
12                   House

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15                   [ invasive species - pilot program - cost-sharing -  
16                   active project areas - Revolving Fund - effective  
17                   date ]

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

20                   SECTION 1.       AMENDATORY       Section 1, Chapter 372, O.S.L.

21                   2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-101), is amended to read as  
22                   follows:

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

25                   SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       Section 2, Chapter 372, O.S.L.

26                   2023 (27A O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-8-102), is amended to read as  
27                   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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5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
OVERSIGHT, dated 04/16/2025 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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