

## NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

APRIL 18, 1996.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2679]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2679) to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 2679 is to revise the boundaries of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Nebraska.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The North Platte National Wildlife Refuge was established by Executive Order 2446 on August 21, 1916. The Refuge was established "as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds". Incorporated within the Refuge is the Lake Minatare unit which consists of 3,087 acres. It is an artificial reservoir constructed inland and apart from the main stream of the North Platte River. It is located in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska, and the terrain is generally low, gently rolling hills. Lake Minatare is a 2,150-acre reservoir built at the elevation of 4,126 feet. While there are no known endangered plants present at Lake Minatare, bald eagles and whooping cranes have visited this area in the past.

The Lake Minatare unit is open for public use from January 15 to September 30. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission estimates that between 250,000 to 325,000 people visit this unit each year to boat, fish, picnic, sightsee and swim.

On May 14, 1995, the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, Colorado, issued a report recommending that 2,470 acres of land in the Lake Minatare unit, having a low wildlife but high recreational value, be removed from the Wildlife Refuge System. These lands include 2,150 acres of open water and 320 acres of uplands. The report noted that the 2,470 acres "provide nothing significant towards the achieving [of] refuge or the National Refuge System purposes and goals. The need for this action is to reduce the amount of funds this station spends on areas of low value to wildlife and wildlife oriented recreation". Furthermore, the report indicated that the 617 acres of land retained in the Refuge would be managed for wildlife value and recreation.

The purpose of H.R. 2679 is to legislatively remove the 2,470 acres from the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge. Once enacted, it is expected that these lands will be managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission through a lease from the Bureau of Reclamation.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2679 was introduced on November 28, 1995, by Congressman Bill Barrett. The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans.

On December 14, 1995, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2679. Testifying in support of the bill were the Honorable Bill Barrett; Dr. Robert P. Davison, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Ehrhart of Minatare, Nebraska.

On March 14, 1996, the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans met to mark up H.R. 2679 and ordered it favorably reported, without amendment, to the Full Committee on Resources by voice vote.

On March 28, 1996, the Committee on Resources met to consider H.R. 2679. There were no amendments, and the Committee ordered the bill favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote, in the presence of a quorum.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Revision of the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge*

Under subsection (a), the secondary jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over approximately 2,470 acres of land at the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Nebraska is terminated.

Under subsection (b), Executive Order 2446, dated August 21, 1916, is revoked with respect to the lands referred to in section 1.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

## INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the enactment of H.R. 2679 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

## COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 2679. However, clause 7(d) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 2679 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 2679.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 2679 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
*Washington, DC, April 17, 1996.*

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 2679, a bill to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 28, 1996.

H.R. 2679 would remove about 2,470 acres of land from the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska. Jurisdiction over those areas would revert to the Bureau of Reclamation. Based on information obtained from the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that the transfer would have no significant impact on the budgets of either agency.

H.R. 2679 contains no private sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in Public Law 104-4 and would impose no direct costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM  
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

H.R. 2679 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, H.R. 2679 would make no changes in existing law.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Committee has received no departmental reports on H.R. 2679.