Union Calendar No. 64

¹⁰⁵TH CONGRESS H. R. 1420

[Report No. 105–106]

A BILL

To amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

May 21, 1997

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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105th CONGRESS 1st Session

[Report No. 105–106]

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 23, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

MAY 21, 1997

Additional sponsors: Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. CLEMENT, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE

MAY 21, 1997

Committee to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, 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,

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1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 "National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of
4 1997".

5 (b) REFERENCES.—Whenever in this Act an amend-6 ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment 7 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference 8 shall be considered to be made to a section or provision 9 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration 10 Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).

11 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

12 The Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Wildlife Refuge System is
comprised of over 92,000,000 acres of Federal lands
that have been incorporated within 509 individual
units located in all 50 States and our territories.

17 (2) The System was created to conserve fish, 18 wildlife, and plants and their habitats and this con-19 servation mission has been facilitated by providing 20 Americans opportunities to participate in compatible 21 wildlife-dependent recreation, including fishing and 22 hunting, on System lands and to better appreciate 23 the value of and need for fish and wildlife conserva-24 tion.

25 (3) The System serves a pivotal role in the con26 servation of migratory birds, anadromous and inter•HR 1420 RH

jurisdictional fish, marine mammals, endangered and
 threatened species, and the habitats on which these
 species depend.

4 (4) The System assists in the fulfillment of im5 portant international treaty obligations of the Unit6 ed States with regard to fish, wildlife, and plants
7 and their habitats.

8 (5) The System includes lands purchased not 9 only through the use of tax dollars but also through 10 the sale of Duck Stamps and refuge entrance fees. 11 It is a System that is financially supported by those 12 benefiting from and utilizing it.

(6) When managed in accordance with principles of sound fish and wildlife management and
administration, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation,
and environmental education in refuges have been
and are expected to continue to be generally compatible uses.

(7) On March 25, 1996, the President issued
Executive Order 12996 which recognized "compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving
hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation as priority public uses of the Refuge System".

(8) Executive Order 12996 is a positive step
 and serves as the foundation for the permanent stat utory changes made by this Act.

4 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 (16 U.S.C. 668ee) is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

8 "For purposes of this Act:

9 "(1) The term 'compatible use' means a use 10 that, in the sound professional judgment of the Di-11 rector, will not materially interfere with or detract 12 from the fulfillment of the mission of the System or 13 the purposes of a refuge.

"(2) The terms 'wildlife-dependent recreation'
and 'wildlife-dependent recreational use' mean a use
of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education
and interpretation.

"(3) The term 'sound professional judgment'
means a finding, determination, or decision that is
consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife
management and administration, available science
and resources, and adherence to the requirements of
this Act and other applicable laws.

"(4) The terms 'conserving', 'conservation', 1 2 'manage', 'managing', and 'management', mean to 3 sustain and, where appropriate, restore and enhance, 4 healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants uti-5 lizing, in accordance with applicable Federal and 6 State laws, methods and procedures associated with modern scientific resource programs. Such methods 7 8 and procedures include, consistent with the provi-9 sions of this Act, protection, research, census, law 10 enforcement, habitat management, propagation, live 11 trapping and transplantation, and regulated taking. "(5) The term 'Coordination Area' means a 12 13 wildlife management area that is made available to a State— 14 "(A) by cooperative agreement between the 15 16 United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the 17 State fish and game agency pursuant to section 18 4 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 19 U.S.C. 664); or 20 "(B) by long-term leases or agreements 21 pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant 22 Act (50 Stat. 525; 7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.).

23 "(6) The term 'Director' means the Director of
24 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or his
25 designee.

1	"(7) The terms 'fish', 'wildlife', and 'fish and
2	wildlife' mean any wild member of the animal king-
3	dom whether alive or dead, and regardless of wheth-
4	er the member was bred, hatched, or born in cap-
5	tivity, including a part, product, egg, or offspring of
6	the member.
7	"(8) The term 'person' means any individual,
8	partnership, corporation, or association.
9	"(9) The term 'plant' means any member of the
10	plant kingdom in a wild, unconfined state, including
11	any plant community, seed, root, or other part of a
12	plant.
13	((10) The terms 'purposes of the refuge' and
14	'purposes of each refuge' mean the purposes speci-
15	fied in or derived from the law, proclamation, execu-
16	tive order, agreement, public land order, donation
17	document, or administrative memorandum establish-
18	ing, authorizing, or expanding a refuge, refuge unit,
19	or refuge subunit.
20	"(11) The term 'refuge' means a designated
21	area of land, water, or an interest in land or water
22	within the System, but does not include Coordina-
23	tion Areas.
24	"(12) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary
25	of the Interior.

1	"(13) The terms 'State' and 'United States'
2	mean the several States of the United States, Puerto
3	Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam,
4	and the insular possessions of the United States.
5	"(14) The term 'System' means the National
6	Wildlife Refuge System designated under section
7	4(a)(1).
8	"(15) The terms 'take', 'taking', and 'taken'
9	mean to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, or kill,
10	or to attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, col-
11	lect, or kill.".
12	(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 4 (16
13	U.S.C. 668dd) is amended by striking "Secretary of the
15	c.s.c. oboda) is amenada sy summing secretary of the
13	Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".
14	Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".
14 15	Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM.
14 15 16	Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended—
14 15 16 17	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
14 15 16 17 18	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;
14 15 16 17 18 19	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; (2) in clause (i) of paragraph (6) (as so redesig-
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; (2) in clause (i) of paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; (2) in clause (i) of paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (5)"; and
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	 Interior" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary". SEC. 4. MISSION OF THE SYSTEM. Section 4(a) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)) is amended— (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; (2) in clause (i) of paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (5)"; and (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the follow-

management, and where appropriate, restoration of the
 fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within
 the United States for the benefit of present and future
 generations of Americans.".

5 SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM.

6 (a) ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY.—Section 4(a) (16
7 U.S.C. 668dd(a)), as amended by section 3 of this Act,
8 is further amended by inserting after new paragraph (2)
9 the following new paragraphs:

10 "(3) With respect to the System, it is the policy of11 the United States of America that—

"(A) each refuge shall be managed to fulfill the
mission of the System, as well as the specific purposes for which that refuge was established;

"(B) compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is
a legitimate and appropriate general public use of
the System, directly related to the mission of the
System and the purposes of many refuges, and
which generally fosters refuge management and
through which the American public can develop an
appreciation for fish and wildlife;

"(C) compatible wildlife-dependent recreational
uses are the priority general public uses of the System and shall receive priority consideration in refuge
planning and management;

1	"(D) when the Secretary determines that a pro-
2	posed wildlife-dependent recreational use is a com-
3	patible use within a refuge, that activity should be
4	facilitated, subject to such restrictions or regulations
5	as may be necessary, reasonable and appropriate.
6	"(4) In administering the System, the Secretary
7	shall—
8	"(A) provide for the conservation of fish, wild-
9	life, and plants, and their habitats within the Sys-
10	tem;
11	"(B) ensure that the biological integrity, diver-
12	sity, and environmental health of the System are
13	maintained for the benefit of present and future
14	generations of Americans;
15	"(C) plan and direct the continued growth of
16	the System in a manner that is best designed to ac-
17	complish the mission of the System, to contribute to
18	the conservation of the ecosystems of the United
19	States, to complement efforts of States and other
20	Federal agencies to conserve fish and wildlife and
21	their habitats and to increase support for the Sys-
22	tem and participation from conservation partners
23	and the public;
24	"(D) ensure that the mission of the System de-

24 "(D) ensure that the mission of the System de-25 scribed in paragraph (2) and the purposes of each

1	refuge are carried out, except that if a conflict exists
2	between the purposes of a refuge and the mission of
3	the System, the conflict shall be resolved in a man-
4	ner that first protects the purposes of the refuge,
5	and, to the extent practicable, that also achieves the
6	mission of the System;
7	"(E) ensure effective coordination, interaction,
8	and cooperation with owners of land adjoining ref-
9	uges and the fish and wildlife agency of the States
10	in which the units of the System are located;
11	"(F) assist in the maintenance of adequate
12	water quantity and water quality to fulfill the mis-
13	sion of the System and the purposes of each refuge;
14	"(G) acquire, under State law, water rights that
15	are needed for refuge purposes;
16	"(H) recognize compatible wildlife-dependent
17	recreational uses as the priority general public uses
18	of the System through which the American public
19	can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife;
20	"(I) ensure that opportunities are provided for
21	compatible wildlife-dependent recreational activities
22	within the System;
23	"(J) ensure that priority general public uses re-
24	ceive enhanced consideration over other general pub-

lic uses in planning and management within the Sys tem;

"(K) provide increased opportunities for families to experience compatible wildlife-dependent
recreation, particularly opportunities for parents and
their children to safely engage in traditional outdoor
activities, such as fishing and hunting;

8 "(L) continue, consistent with existing laws and 9 interagency agreements, authorized or permitted 10 uses of units of the System by other Federal agen-11 cies, including those necessary to facilitate military 12 preparedness;

"(M) ensure timely and effective cooperation
and collaboration with Federal agencies and State
fish and wildlife agencies during the course of acquiring and managing refuges.".

17 (b) POWERS.—Section 4(b) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(b)) is
18 amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by
striking "authorized—" and inserting "authorized to
take the following actions:";

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking "to enter" andinserting "Enter";

24 (3) in paragraph (2) -

1	(A) by striking "to accept" and inserting
2	"Accept"; and
3	(B) by striking ", and" and inserting a pe-
4	riod;
5	(4) in paragraph (3) by striking "to acquire"
6	and inserting "Acquire"; and
7	(5) by adding at the end the following new
8	paragraph:
9	"(4) Subject to standards established by and the
10	overall management oversight of the Director, and consist-
11	ent with standards established by this Act, enter into coop-
12	erative agreements with State fish and wildlife agencies
13	for the management of programs on a refuge.".
13 14	for the management of programs on a refuge.". SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.
14	SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.
14 15	SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by
14 15 16	SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
14 15 16 17	SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: "(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in clause (iv), the Sec-
14 15 16 17 18	SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: "(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in clause (iv), the Sec- retary shall not initiate or permit a new use of a refuge
14 15 16 17 18 19	 SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: "(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall not initiate or permit a new use of a refuge or expand, renew, or extend an existing use of a refuge,
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 	 SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: "(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall not initiate or permit a new use of a refuge or expand, renew, or extend an existing use of a refuge, unless the Secretary has determined that the use is a com-
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 	 SEC. 6. COMPATIBILITY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. Section 4(d) (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: "(3)(A)(i) Except as provided in clause (iv), the Secretary shall not initiate or permit a new use of a refuge or expand, renew, or extend an existing use of a refuge, unless the Secretary has determined that the use is a compatible use and that the use is not inconsistent with public

"(ii) On lands added to the System after March 25,
1996, the Secretary shall identify, prior to acquisition,
withdrawal, transfer, reclassification, or donation of any
such lands, existing compatible wildlife-dependent uses
that the Secretary determines shall be permitted to continue on an interim basis pending completion of the comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge.

8 "(iii) Wildlife-dependent recreational uses may be au-9 thorized on a refuge when they are compatible and not 10 inconsistent with public safety. Except for consideration of consistency with State laws and regulations as provided 11 for in subsection (m), no other determinations or findings 12 13 are required to be made by the refuge official under this Act or the Refuge Recreation Act for wildlife-dependent 14 15 recreation to occur.

16 "(iv) Compatibility determinations in existence on the17 date of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect until18 and unless modified.

19 "(B) Not later than 24 months after the date of the 20 enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Im-21 provement Act of 1997, the Secretary shall issue final reg-22 ulations establishing the process for determining under 23 subparagraph (A) whether a use of a refuge is a compat-24 ible use. These regulations shall—

1	"(i) designate the refuge official responsible for
2	making initial compatibility determinations;
3	"(ii) require an estimate of the timeframe, loca-
4	tion, manner, and purpose of each use;
5	"(iii) identify the effects of each use on refuge
6	resources and purposes of each refuge;
7	"(iv) require that compatibility determinations
8	be made in writing;
9	"(v) provide for the expedited consideration of
10	uses that will likely have no detrimental effect on
11	the fulfillment of the purposes of a refuge or the
12	mission of the System;
13	"(vi) provide for the elimination or modification
14	of any use as expeditiously as practicable after a de-
15	termination is made that the use is not a compatible
16	use;
17	"(vii) require, after an opportunity for public
18	comment, reevaluation of each existing use, other
19	than those uses specified in clause (viii), when condi-
20	tions under which the use is permitted change sig-
21	nificantly or when there is significant new informa-
22	tion regarding the effects of the use, but not less
23	frequently than once every 10 years, to ensure that
24	the use remains a compatible use;

1 "(viii) require, after an opportunity for public 2 comment, reevaluation of each compatible wildlife-3 dependent recreational use when conditions under 4 which the use is permitted change significantly or 5 when there is significant new information regarding 6 the effects of the use, but not less frequently than 7 in conjunction with each preparation or revision of 8 a conservation plan under subsection (e) or at least 9 every 15 years; and

10 "(ix) provide an opportunity for public review 11 and comment on each evaluation of a use, unless an 12 opportunity for public review and comment on the 13 evaluation of the use has already been provided dur-14 ing the development or revision of a conservation 15 plan for the refuge under subsection (e) or has oth-16 erwise been provided during routine, periodic deter-17 minations of compatibility for wildlife-dependent rec-18 reational uses.

19 "(4) The provisions of this Act relating to determina-20 tions of the compatibility of a use shall not apply to—

21 "(A) overflights above a refuge; and

"(B) activities authorized, funded, or conducted
by a Federal agency (other than the United States
Fish and Wildlife Service) which has primary jurisdiction over the refuge or a portion of the refuge, if

the management of those activities is in accordance
 with a memorandum of understanding between the
 Secretary or the Director and the head of the Fed eral agency with primary jurisdiction over the refuge
 governing the use of the refuge.
 "(5) Overflights above a refuge may be governed by

7 any memorandum of understanding entered into by the8 Secretary that applies to the refuge.".

9 SEC. 7. REFUGE CONSERVATION PLANNING PROGRAM.

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 (16 U.S.C. 668dd) is
11 amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i)
13 as subsections (f) through (j), respectively; and

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the follow-15 ing new subsection:

"(e)(1)(A) Except with respect to refuge lands in
Alaska (which shall be governed by the refuge planning
provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)), the Secretary
shall—

"(i) propose a comprehensive conservation plan
for each refuge or related complex of refuges (referred to in this subsection as a 'planning unit') in
the System;

"(ii) publish a notice of opportunity for public
 comment in the Federal Register on each proposed
 conservation plan;

4 "(iii) issue a final conservation plan for each
5 planning unit consistent with the provisions of this
6 Act and, to the extent practicable, consistent with
7 fish and wildlife conservation plans of the State in
8 which the refuge is located; and

9 "(iv) not less frequently than 15 years after the
10 date of issuance of a conservation plan under clause
11 (iii) and every 15 years thereafter, revise the con12 servation plan as may be necessary.

13 "(B) The Secretary shall prepare a comprehensive 14 conservation plan under this subsection for each refuge 15 within 15 years after the date of enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. 16 17 "(C) The Secretary shall manage each refuge or planning unit under plans in effect on the date of enactment 18 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act 19 of 1997, to the extent such plans are consistent with this 20 21 Act, until such plans are revised or superseded by new 22 comprehensive conservation plans issued under this sub-23 section.

24 "(D) Uses or activities consistent with this Act may25 occur on any refuge or planning unit before existing plans

are revised or new comprehensive conservation plans are
 issued under this subsection.

"(E) Upon completion of a comprehensive conservation plan under this subsection for a refuge or planning
unit, the Secretary shall manage the refuge or planning
unit in a manner consistent with the plan and shall revise
the plan at any time if the Secretary determines that conditions that affect the refuge or planning unit have
changed significantly.

"(2) In developing each comprehensive conservation
plan under this subsection for a planning unit, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall identify and describe—

14 "(A) the purposes of each refuge comprising15 the planning unit;

16 "(B) the distribution, migration patterns, and
17 abundance of fish, wildlife, and plant populations
18 and related habitats within the planning unit;

19 "(C) the archaeological and cultural values of20 the planning unit;

21 "(D) such areas within the planning unit that
22 are suitable for use as administrative sites or visitor
23 facilities;

24 "(E) significant problems that may adversely25 affect the populations and habitats of fish, wildlife,

and plants within the planning unit and the actions
 necessary to correct or mitigate such problems; and
 "(F) opportunities for compatible wildlife-de pendent recreation.

5 "(3) In preparing each comprehensive conservation
6 plan under this subsection, and any revision to such a
7 plan, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall, to
8 the maximum extent practicable and consistent with this
9 Act—

"(A) consult with adjoining Federal, State,
local, and private landowners and affected State conservation agencies; and

"(B) coordinate the development of the conservation plan or revision of the plan with relevant
State conservation plans for fish and wildlife and
their habitats.

17 ((4)(A) In accordance with subparagraph (B), the 18 Secretary shall develop and implement a process to ensure an opportunity for active public involvement in the prepa-19 ration and revision of comprehensive conservation plans 20 21 under this subsection. At a minimum, the Secretary shall 22 require that publication of any final plan shall include a 23 summary of the comments made by States, adjacent or 24 potentially affected landowners, local governments, and

any other affected parties, together with a statement of 1 2 the disposition of concerns expressed in those comments. 3 "(B) Prior to the adoption of each comprehensive 4 conservation plan under this subsection, the Secretary 5 shall issue public notice of the draft proposed plan, make copies of the plan available at the affected field and re-6 7 gional offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-8 ice, and provide opportunity for public comment.".

9 SEC. 8. EMERGENCY POWER; PRESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION; 10 STATE AUTHORITY; WATER RIGHTS; COORDI11 NATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 (16 U.S.C. 668dd) is
further amended by adding at the end the following new
subsections:

15 "(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act 16 the Secretary may temporarily suspend, allow, or initiate 17 any activity in a refuge in the System if the Secretary 18 determines it is necessary to protect the health and safety 19 of the public or any fish or wildlife population.

"(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to control or regulate hunting or fishing
of fish and resident wildlife on lands or waters not within
the System.

24 "(m) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affect-25 ing the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the sev-

eral States to manage, control, or regulate fish and resi dent wildlife under State law or regulations in any area
 within the System. Regulations permitting hunting or fish ing of fish and resident wildlife within the System shall
 be, to the extent practicable, consistent with State fish and
 wildlife laws, regulations, or management plans.

7 (n)(1) Nothing in this Act shall—

8 "(A) create a reserved water right, express or
9 implied, in the United States for any purpose;

10 "(B) affect any water right in existence on the
11 date of enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge
12 System Improvement Act of 1997; or

"(C) affect any Federal or State law in existence on the date of the enactment of the National
Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997
regarding water quality or water quantity.

"(2) Nothing in this Act shall diminish or affect the
ability to join the United States in the adjudication of
rights to the use of water pursuant to the McCarran Act
(43 U.S.C. 666).

"(o) Coordination with State fish and wildlife agency
personnel or with personnel of other affected State agencies pursuant to this Act shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).".

1	(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 4(c) (16
2	U.S.C. 668dd(c)) is amended by striking the last sentence.
3	SEC. 9. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.
4	(a) Nothing in this Act is intended to affect—
5	(1) the provisions for subsistence uses in Alaska
6	set forth in the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-
7	servation Act (Public Law 96–487), including those
8	in titles III and VIII of that Act;
9	(2) the provisions of section 102 of the Alaska
10	National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the juris-
11	diction over subsistence uses in Alaska, or any asser-
12	tion of subsistence uses in the Federal courts; and
13	(3) the manner in which section 810 of the
14	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is
15	implemented in refuges in Alaska.
16	(b) If any conflict arises between any provision of this
17	Act and any provision of the Alaska National Interest
18	Lands Conservation Act, then the provision in the Alaska
19	National Interest Lands Conservation Act shall prevail.