

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4286

AN ACT

To provide for the establishment of the Cahaba
River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County,
Alabama.

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To provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River
National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Cahaba River National
3 Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Cahaba River in Alabama is recognized
7 nationally for its unique biological diversity which in-
8 cludes providing habitat for 131 species of fish
9 (more than any other river its size in North Amer-
10 ica).

11 (2) The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and
12 imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, in-
13 cluding fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and
14 snails.

15 (3) The Cahaba River is home to 12 species of
16 fish, mussels, and snails listed as endangered or
17 threatened species.

18 (4) The Cahaba River is home to six terrestrial
19 species of plants and animals listed as endangered
20 or threatened species.

21 (5) The Cahaba River harbors the largest popu-
22 lation in the world of the imperiled shoals lily,
23 known locally as the Cahaba Lily.

24 (6) The Cahaba River watershed contains ex-
25 tremely rare plant communities that are home to
26 eight species of plants previously unknown to science

1 and a total of 69 rare and imperiled species of
2 plants.

3 (7) The Cahaba River is home to at least a
4 dozen endemic aquatic animals that are found no-
5 where else in the world.

6 (8) The Cahaba River is the longest remaining
7 free-flowing river in Alabama, flowing through five
8 counties in central Alabama.

9 (9) The Cahaba River is recognized as an Out-
10 standing Alabama Water by the Alabama Depart-
11 ment of Environmental Management.

12 (10) The Cahaba River has high recreational
13 value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, canoeists,
14 nature photographers, and others.

15 (11) The Cahaba River Watershed supports
16 large populations of certain game species, including
17 deer, turkey, and various species of ducks.

18 (12) The Cahaba River area is deserving of in-
19 clusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
23 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge established
24 by section 4(a).

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in Bibb
6 County, Alabama, the Cahaba National Wildlife Ref-
7 uge, consisting of approximately 3,500 acres of Fed-
8 eral lands and waters, and interests in lands and
9 waters, within the boundaries depicted upon the map
10 entitled “Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge—
11 Proposed”, dated April 10, 2000.

12 (2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may
13 make such minor revisions of the boundaries of the
14 Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the pur-
15 poses of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of
16 property within the Refuge.

17 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary
18 shall keep the map referred to in paragraph (1)
19 available for inspection in appropriate offices of the
20 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the
22 Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take
23 effect on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal
24 Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity
25 of the area within the boundaries referred to in that para-

1 graph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired
2 by the United States within those boundaries to constitute
3 an area that can be efficiently managed as a National
4 Wildlife Refuge.

5 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS AND WATERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the
7 availability of appropriations, may acquire up to 3,500
8 acres of lands and waters, or interests therein, within the
9 boundaries of the Refuge described in section 4(a)(1).

10 (b) INCLUSION IN REFUGE.—Any lands, waters, or
11 interests acquired by the Secretary under this section shall
12 be part of the Refuge.

13 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

14 In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—

15 (1) conserve, enhance, and restore the native
16 aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of
17 the Cahaba River (including associated fish, wildlife,
18 and plant species);

19 (2) conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to
20 maintain and assist in the recovery of animals and
21 plants that are listed under the Endangered Species
22 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);

23 (3) in providing opportunities for compatible
24 fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, ensure that
25 hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photog-

1 raphy, and environmental education and interpreta-
2 tion are the priority general public uses of the Ref-
3 uge, in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4) of
4 the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration
5 Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)); and

6 (4) encourage the use of volunteers and to fa-
7 cilitate partnerships among the United States Fish
8 and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation
9 organizations, and other non-Federal entities to pro-
10 mote public awareness of the resources of the
11 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the Na-
12 tional Wildlife Refuge System and public participa-
13 tion in the conservation of those resources.

14 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to the
16 Secretary—

17 (1) such funds as may be necessary for the ac-
18 quisition of lands and waters within the boundaries
19 of the Refuge; and

1 (2) such funds as may be necessary for the de-
2 velopment, operation, and maintenance of the Ref-
3 uge.

Passed the House of Representatives July 10, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.