

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4286

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. BACHUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Cahaba River is recognized nationally
6 for its unique biological diversity which includes pro-
7 viding habitat for 131 species of fish (more than any
8 other river its size in North America).

9 (2) The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and
10 imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, in-

1 cluding fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and
2 snails.

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

6 (4) The Cahaba River is home to 6 terrestrial
7 species of plants and animals listed as endangered
8 or threatened species.

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

12 (6) The Cahaba River watershed contains ex-
13 tremely rare plant communities that are home to 8
14 species of plants previously unknown to science and
15 a total of 69 rare and imperiled species of plants.

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

19 (8) The Cahaba River is the longest remaining
20 free-flowing river in Alabama, flowing through 5
21 counties in central Alabama.

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

1 (10) The Cahaba River has high recreational
2 value for hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers,
3 canoeists, nature photographers, and others.

4 (11) The Cahaba River area is deserving of in-
5 clusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
9 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge established
10 under section 4(a).

11 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
13 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
14 ice.

15 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF REFUGE.**

16 The purposes of the Refuge are—

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

21 (2) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to
22 maintain and assist in the recovery of animals and
23 plants that are listed as endangered species or
24 threatened species under the Endangered Species
25 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);

1 (3) to direct the Secretary, through consultation
2 with Federal, State, and local agencies and adjacent
3 landowners, to assist in the restoration of forest
4 habitat linkages between Refuge land and other land
5 to reverse past impacts associated with habitat frag-
6 mentation on wildlife and plant species;

7 (4) to provide compatible opportunities for
8 hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photog-
9 raphy, and environmental education and interpreta-
10 tion; and

11 (5) to encourage the use of volunteers and to
12 facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish
13 and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation
14 organizations, and other non-Federal entities to pro-
15 mote public awareness of the resources of the
16 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the Na-
17 tional Wildlife Refuge System, including public par-
18 ticipation in the conservation of those resources.

19 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION OF CAHABA**
20 **RIVER LAND AND WATERS.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall publish a
22 notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

23 (1) in the Federal Register; and

24 (2) in publications of local circulation in the vi-
25 cinity of the Refuge.

1 (b) ACQUISITION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to
3 acquire for inclusion in the Refuge, by purchase or
4 donation, approximately 3,500 acres of land and ad-
5 jacent waters (including interests in the land or ad-
6 jacent waters) of the Cahaba River, Alabama, as de-
7 picted on the map entitled “Cahaba River National
8 Wildlife Refuge, Proposed”, dated April 10, 2000.

9 (2) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described
10 in paragraph (1) shall be available for inspection in
11 the appropriate offices of the United States Fish
12 and Wildlife Service.

13 (3) ADDITION TO REFUGE.—The Secretary may
14 add additional land, waters, and interests acquired
15 under this subsection to the Refuge.

16 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all
18 land and waters (including any interest in land or waters)
19 acquired under section 4(b) in accordance with—

20 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Ad-
21 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

22 (2) Public Law 87–714, commonly known as
23 the “Refuge Recreation Act” (16 U.S.C. 406k et
24 seq.); and

1 (3) the purposes of the Refuge described in sec-
2 tion 3.

3 (b) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
4 may use such additional statutory authority as is available
5 to the Secretary to conduct projects and activities at the
6 Refuge in accordance with this Act, including projects or
7 activities to conserve or develop—

8 (1) wildlife, fish, and other aquatic natural re-
9 sources;

10 (2) outdoor recreational activity programs; and

11 (3) interpretive education programs.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
14 retary such sums as are necessary for—

15 (1) the acquisition of land and waters described
16 under section 4(b)(1); and

17 (2) the development, operation, and mainte-
18 nance of the Refuge.

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