

Calendar No. 908

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 4286****[Report No. 106–461]**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2000

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Reported by Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, without amendment

AN ACTTo 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. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Cahaba River in Alabama is recognized
2 nationally for its unique biological diversity which in-
3 cludes providing habitat for 131 species of fish
4 (more than any other river its size in North Amer-
5 ica).

6 (2) The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and
7 imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, in-
8 cluding fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and
9 snails.

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

13 (4) The Cahaba River is home to six terrestrial
14 species of plants and animals listed as endangered
15 or threatened species.

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

19 (6) The Cahaba River watershed contains ex-
20 tremely rare plant communities that are home to
21 eight species of plants previously unknown to science
22 and a total of 69 rare and imperiled species of
23 plants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

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

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

1 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

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

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

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

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the
20 Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take
21 effect on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal
22 Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity
23 of the area within the boundaries referred to in that para-
24 graph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired
25 by the United States within those boundaries to constitute

1 an area that can be efficiently managed as a National
2 Wildlife Refuge.

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

12 In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—

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

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

21 (3) in providing opportunities for compatible
22 fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, ensure that
23 hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photog-
24 raphy, and environmental education and interpreta-
25 tion are the priority general public uses of the Ref-

1 uge, in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4) of
2 the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration
3 Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)); and

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

12 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated to the
14 Secretary—

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

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

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