

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4318

To establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

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

A BILL

To establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

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 “Red River National
5 Wildlife Refuge Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The area of Louisiana known as the Red
9 River Valley, located along the Red River Waterway
10 in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, and
11 DeSoto Parishes, is of critical importance to over
12 350 species of birds (including migratory and resi-

1 dent waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical migra-
2 tory birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of other
3 species associated with river basin ecosystems.

4 (2) The bottomland hardwood forests of the
5 Red River Valley have been almost totally cleared.
6 Reforestation and restoration of native habitat will
7 benefit a host of species.

8 (3) The Red River Valley is part of a major
9 continental migration corridor for migratory birds
10 funneling through the mid continent from as far
11 north as the Arctic Circle and as far south as South
12 America.

13 (4) There are no significant public sanctuaries
14 for over 300 river miles on this important migration
15 corridor, and no significant Federal, State, or pri-
16 vate wildlife sanctuaries along the Red River north
17 of Alexandria, Louisiana.

18 (5) Completion of the lock and dam system as-
19 sociated with the Red River Waterway project up to
20 Shreveport, Louisiana, has enhanced opportunities
21 for management of fish and wildlife.

22 (6) The Red River Valley offers extraordinary
23 recreational, research, and educational opportunities
24 for students, scientists, bird watchers, wildlife ob-

1 servers, hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, and na-
2 ture photographers.

3 (7) The Red River Valley is an internationally
4 significant environmental resource that has been ne-
5 glected and requires active restoration and manage-
6 ment to protect and enhance the value of the region
7 as a habitat for fish and wildlife.

8 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF REFUGE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
10 as a national wildlife refuge the lands, waters, and inter-
11 ests therein acquired under section 5, at such time as the
12 Secretary determines that sufficient property has been ac-
13 quired under that section to constitute an area that can
14 be effectively managed as a national wildlife refuge for the
15 purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The
16 national wildlife refuge so established shall be known as
17 the “Red River National Wildlife Refuge”.

18 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Refuge are the
19 following:

20 (1) To restore and preserve native Red River
21 ecosystems.

22 (2) To provide habitat for migratory birds.

23 (3) To maximize fisheries on the Red River and
24 its tributaries, natural lakes, and man-made res-
25 ervoirs.

1 (4) To provide habitat for and population man-
2 agement of native plants and resident animals (in-
3 cluding restoration of extirpated species).

4 (5) To provide technical assistance to private
5 land owners in the restoration of their lands for the
6 benefit of fish and wildlife.

7 (6) To provide the public with opportunities for
8 hunting, angling, trapping, photographing wildlife,
9 hiking, bird watching, and other outdoor recreational
10 and educational activities.

11 (7) To achieve the purposes under this sub-
12 section without violating section 6.

13 (c) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
14 shall publish a notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

15 (1) in the Federal Register; and

16 (2) in publications of local circulation in the vi-
17 cinity of the Refuge.

18 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF REFUGE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all
20 lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under section
21 5 in accordance with—

22 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Ad-
23 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)
24 and the Act of September 28, 1962 (76 Stat. 653;

1 16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.; commonly known as the
2 Refuge Recreation Act);

3 (2) the purposes of the Refuge set forth in sec-
4 tion 3(b); and

5 (3) the management plan issued under sub-
6 section (b).

7 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary shall issue a management plan for the Ref-
11 uge.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The management plan shall
13 include provisions that provide for the following:

14 (A) Planning and design of trails and ac-
15 cess points.

16 (B) Planning of wildlife and habitat res-
17 toration, including reforestation.

18 (C) Permanent exhibits and facilities and
19 regular educational programs throughout the
20 Refuge.

21 (3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 provide an opportunity for public participation
24 in developing the management plan.

1 (B) LOCAL VIEWS.—The Secretary shall
2 give special consideration to views by local pub-
3 lic and private entities and individuals in devel-
4 oping the management plan.

5 (c) WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION
6 CENTER.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
8 struct, administer, and maintain, at an appropriate
9 site within the Refuge, a wildlife interpretation and
10 education center.

11 (2) PURPOSES.—The center shall be designed
12 and operated—

13 (A) to promote environmental education;
14 and

15 (B) to provide an opportunity for the study
16 and enjoyment of wildlife in its natural habitat.

17 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS, WATERS, AND INTERESTS**
18 **THEREIN.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to ac-
20 quire up to 50,000 acres of land, water, or interests there-
21 in (including permanent conservation easements or ser-
22 vitudes) within the boundaries designated under sub-
23 section (c). All lands, waters, and interests acquired under
24 this subsection shall be part of the Refuge.

1 (b) METHOD OF ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may
2 acquire an interest in land or water for inclusion in the
3 Refuge only by donation, exchange, or purchase from a
4 willing seller.

5 (c) DESIGNATION OF BOUNDARIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary shall—

9 (A) consult with appropriate State and
10 local officials, private conservation organiza-
11 tions, and other interested parties (including
12 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish-
13 eries, the Louisiana Department of Transpor-
14 tation and Development, the Red River Water-
15 way Commission, and the Northwest Louisiana
16 Council of Governments), regarding the des-
17 ignation of appropriate boundaries for the Ref-
18 uge within the selection area;

19 (B) designate boundaries of the Refuge
20 that are within the selection area and adequate
21 for fulfilling the purposes of the Refuge set
22 forth in section 3(b); and

23 (C) prepare a detailed map entitled “Red
24 River National Wildlife Refuge” depicting the

1 boundaries of the Refuge designated under sub-
2 paragraph (B).

3 (2) SELECTION AREA.—For purposes of this
4 subsection, the selection area consists of Caddo,
5 Bossier, Red River, DeSoto, and Natchitoches Par-
6 ishes, Louisiana.

7 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP; NOTICE.—The Sec-
8 retary shall—

9 (A) keep the map prepared under para-
10 graph (1) on file and available for public in-
11 spection at offices of the United States Fish
12 and Wildlife Service of the District of Columbia
13 and Louisiana; and

14 (B) publish in the Federal Register a no-
15 tice of that availability.

16 (d) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may
17 make such minor revisions in the boundaries designated
18 under subsection (c) as may be appropriate to achieve the
19 purposes of the Refuge under section 3(b) or to facilitate
20 the acquisition of property for the Refuge.

21 **SEC. 6. CONTINUED PUBLIC SERVICES.**

22 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting
23 or preventing, and the Secretary shall not for purposes
24 of the Refuge prohibit or prevent—

1 (1) the continuation or development of commer-
2 cial or recreational navigation on the Red River Wa-
3 terway;

4 (2) necessary construction, operation, or main-
5 tenance activities associated with the Red River Wa-
6 terway project;

7 (3) the construction, improvement, or expansion
8 of public port or recreational facilities on the Red
9 River Waterway; or

10 (4) the construction, improvement, or replace-
11 ment of railroads or interstate highways within the
12 selection area (designated in section 5(c)(2)), or
13 bridges that cross the Red River.

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

15 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
16 retary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

19 For purposes of this Act:

20 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
21 Red River National Wildlife Refuge established
22 under section 3.

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

○