

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 274**

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**AN ACT**

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.



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## AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Blackwater 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Blackwater National  
3 Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Garrett Island, located at the mouth of the  
7 Susquehanna River in Cecil County, Maryland, is a  
8 microcosm of the geology and geography of the re-  
9 gion, including hard rock piedmont, coastal plain,  
10 and volcanic formations.

11 (2) Garrett Island is the only rocky island in  
12 the tidal waters of the Chesapeake.

13 (3) Garrett Island and adjacent waters provide  
14 high-quality habitat for bird and fish species.

15 (4) Garrett Island contains significant archae-  
16 ological sites reflecting human history and prehistory  
17 of the region.

18 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR INCLU-**  
19 **SION IN THE BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILD-**  
20 **LIFE REFUGE.**

21 (a) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
22 use otherwise available amounts to acquire the area known  
23 as Garrett Island, consisting of approximately 198 acres  
24 located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Cecil  
25 County, Maryland.

1           (b) ADMINISTRATION.—Lands and interests acquired  
2 by the United States under this section shall be managed  
3 by the Secretary as the Garrett Island Unit of the  
4 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

5           (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes for which the Garrett  
6 Island Unit is established and shall be managed are the  
7 following:

8                   (1) To support the Delmarva Conservation Cor-  
9                   ridor Demonstration Program.

10                   (2) To conserve, restore, and manage habitats  
11                   as necessary to contribute to the migratory bird pop-  
12                   ulations prevalent in the Atlantic Flyway.

13                   (3) To conserve, restore, and manage the sig-  
14                   nificant aquatic resource values associated with sub-  
15                   merged land adjacent to the unit and to achieve the  
16                   habitat objectives of the agreement known as the  
17                   Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

18                   (4) To conserve the archaeological resources on  
19                   the unit.

1           (5) To provide public access to the unit in a  
2           manner that does not adversely impact natural re-  
3           sources on and around the unit.

Passed the House of Representatives April 29, 2003.

Attest:

*Clerk.*