

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 274

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

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

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blackwater National
5 Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Garrett Island, located at the mouth of the
2 Susquehanna River in Cecil County, Maryland, is a
3 microcosm of the geology and geography of the re-
4 gion, including hard rock piedmont, coastal plain,
5 and volcanic formations.

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

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

10 (4) Garrett Island contains significant archeo-
11 logical sites reflecting human history and prehistory
12 of the region.

13 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY FOR INCLU-**
14 **SION IN THE BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILD-**
15 **LIFE REFUGE.**

16 (a) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior may
17 use otherwise available amounts to acquire the area known
18 as Garrett Island, consisting of approximately 198 acres
19 located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Cecil
20 County, Maryland.

21 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—Lands and interests acquired
22 by the United States under this section shall be managed
23 by the Secretary as the Garrett Island Unit of the
24 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

1 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes for which the Garrett
2 Island Unit is established and shall be managed are the
3 following:

4 (1) To support the Delmarva Conservation Cor-
5 ridor Demonstration Program.

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

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

14 (4) To conserve the archeological resources on
15 the unit.

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

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