

H. Res. 173

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

April 29, 2003.

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System, operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, marked its centennial anniversary on March 14, 2003;

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt stated in 1903 that “Wild beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the people who are alive today, but the property of unknown generations, whose belongings we have no right to squander.”;

Whereas the vision of conserving wildlife embraced by President Roosevelt was begun with the plants and animals located on Pelican Island off the East Coast of Florida, and has since flourished across the United States and its territories and possessions, allowing for the preservation of an overwhelmingly vast array of flora and fauna;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System is composed of 540 refuges encompassing nearly 95 million acres, hosts 35 million visitors annually, and benefits from the selfless efforts of 30,000 volunteers; and

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System has established refuges in every State in the United States, many of which are reachable within an hour’s drive of almost every major city: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the achievements and contributions of the National Wildlife Refuge System on the occasion of its centennial anniversary;

(2) expresses strong support for the continued success of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(3) encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in its efforts to broaden understanding and appreciation for the National Wildlife Refuge System by increasing partnerships on behalf of the refuge system to better manage and monitor wildlife and by continuing its support of wildlife dependent recreational activities as embodied in the Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57); and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to the National Wildlife Refuge System and the conservation of the rich natural heritage of the United States.

Attest:

Clerk.