

distributed among the coast are of substantial commercial, recreational, environmental importance and economic benefit to the Atlantic States and our Nation.

Unfortunately, proper management of these species is often hampered by the fact that no single government entity has exclusive authority over them. Because of this, harvest and management of the Atlantic coastal resources has historically been subject to disparate, inconsistent, and intermittent State and Federal regulations.

To help address this complication, Congress passed the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act since 1993.

Since its inception, Mr. Speaker, this law has been an effective mechanism for supporting and encouraging the development, implementation, and enforcement of effective interstate conservation and management measures for the Atlantic coastal fishery resources.

I fully support the reauthorization of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his authorship of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; but I would just like to say in conclusion, I would like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for his cooperation. It makes one feel very good to have the kind of bipartisan cooperation that we have had on this and many other bills in our subcommittee. So I thank the gentleman for his cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as the ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans and Wildlife and Refuge, I also want to certainly compliment my good friend, the chairman of our subcommittee, for his leadership and for the cooperative way that we have worked closely for the past 2 years since my membership in that capacity in this subcommittee. Again, I thank my good friend for working together and cooperatively on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4840, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPLORATION OF THE SEAS ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2090) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish the Coordinated Oceanographic Program Advisory Panel to report to the Congress on the feasibility and social value of a coordinated oceanography program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2090

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Exploration of the Seas Act".*

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds the following:*

(1) *During the past 100 years, scientists working with marine fossils, both underwater and high in the mountains, have traced the origins of life on Earth to the sea, beginning approximately 3 billion years ago. Today, life on our planet remains dependent on the vitality of the sea.*

(2) *More than two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered by water, with oceans and inland seas accounting for almost 140 million square miles.*

(3) *The United Nations forecasts a worldwide population of 8.9 billion by the year 2050, a 50 percent increase from 5.9 billion in 1999. As this trend in population growth continues, increasing demands will be placed on ocean and coastal resources, not only as a result of population growth in coastal regions, but also from the need to harvest increasing amounts of marine life as a source of food to satisfy world protein requirements, and from the mining of energy-producing materials from offshore resource deposits.*

(4) *The ocean remains one of the Earth's last unexplored frontiers. It has stirred our imaginations over the millennia, led to the discovery of new lands, immense mineral deposits, and reservoirs of other resources, and produced startling scientific findings. Recognizing the importance of the marine environment, the need for scientific exploration to expand our knowledge of the world's oceans is crucial if we are to ensure that the marine environment will be managed sustainably.*

(5) *The seas possess enormous economic and environmental importance. Some ocean resources, such as fisheries and minerals, are well recognized. Oil use has increased dramatically in recent times, and the sea bed holds large deposits of largely undiscovered reserves. Other ocean resources offer promise for the future. In addition to fossil fuels, the ocean floor contains deposits of gravel, sand, manganese crusts and nodules, tin, gold, and diamonds. Marine mineral resources are extensive, yet poorly understood.*

(6) *The oceans also offer rich untapped potential for medications. Marine plants and animals possess inestimable potential in the treatment of human illnesses. Coral reefs, sometimes described as the rain forests of the sea, contain uncommon chemicals that may be used to fight diseases for which scientists have not yet found a cure, such as cancer, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and diabetes. While the number of new chemical compounds that can be derived from land based plants and*

*microbial fermentation is limited, scientists have only just begun to explore the sea's vast molecular potential.*

(7) *In spite of the development of new technologies, comparatively little of the ocean has been studied. The leadership role of the United States has been eroded by a gradual decrease in funding support, even while public opinion surveys indicate that ocean exploration is at least as important as space exploration.*

(8) *The National Academy of Sciences has the means by which to study and make determinations regarding the adoption and establishment of a coordinated oceanography program for the exploration of the seas, in which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration could participate in a role similar to that of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration with regard to the International Space Station.*

##### SEC. 3. COORDINATED OCEANOGRAPHIC PROGRAM ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce shall contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish the Coordinated Oceanography Program Advisory Panel (in this Act referred to as the "Panel"), comprised of experts in ocean studies, including individuals with academic experience in oceanography, marine biology, marine geology, ichthyology, and ocean related economics.

(b) *CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.*—The Panel shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.

(c) *TERMINATION.*—The Panel shall cease to exist 30 days after submitting its final report and recommendations pursuant to section 4.

##### SEC. 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—No later than 18 months after its establishment, the Panel shall report to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the feasibility and social value of a coordinated oceanography program. In preparing its report, the Panel shall examine existing oceanographic efforts and the level of coordination or cooperation between and among participating countries and institutions.

(b) *INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP.*—To assist in making its feasibility determination under subsection (a), the Panel shall convene an international workshop with participation from interested nations and a broad range of persons representing scientists, engineers, policy makers, regulators, industry, and other interested parties.

(c) *FINAL REPORT.*—The Panel shall include in its final report recommendations for a national oceans exploration strategy, which will—

(1) *define objectives and priorities, and note important scientific, historic, and cultural sites;*

(2) *promote collaboration among research organizations;*

(3) *examine the potential for new ocean exploration technologies;*

(4) *describe those areas of study in which national or international oceanographic cooperation is currently being undertaken;*

(5) *identify areas of study in which knowledge of the oceans is inadequate;*

(6) *ensure coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Protected Area Center;*

(7) *ensure that newly discovered organisms with medicinal or commercial potential are identified for possible research and development; and*

(8) *identify countries and organizations that would be likely to participate in a coordinated oceanography program.*

(d) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—If the Panel determines that a coordinated oceanography program is feasible and has significant value for advancing mankind's knowledge of the ocean, the Panel shall include in its final report recommendations

for implementing such program, including recommendations regarding—

(1) the institutional arrangements, treaties, or laws necessary to implement a coordinated oceanography program;

(2) the methods and incentives needed to secure cooperation and commitments from participating nations to ensure that the benefit that each nation that is a party to any international agreement establishing a coordinated oceanography program receives is contingent upon meeting the nation's obligations (financial and otherwise) under such an agreement;

(3) the costs associated with establishing a coordinated oceanography program;

(4) the types of undersea vehicles, ships, observing systems, or other equipment that would be necessary to operate a coordinated oceanography program; and

(5) how utilization of aboriginal observational data and other historical information may be best incorporated into a coordinated oceanography program.

#### SEC. 5. OBTAINING DATA.

Subject to national security restrictions, the Panel may obtain from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the chairperson of the Panel, the head of any department or agency shall furnish that information at no cost to the Panel.

#### SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of carrying out this Act, and to remain available until expended, \$1,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2090.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2090 requires the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Coordinated Oceanographic Program Advisory Panel. The Panel will submit a report to Congress on the feasibility and social value of a coordinated international oceanography program.

Recent technical advances have given us the ability to fully explore the world's oceans.

□ 1500

As an example, in the district that I am privileged to represent, a project in Tuckerton, New Jersey, called the Long-term Ecological Observatory, better known to us at home as FEO-15, measures ocean processes along the New Jersey coast and in Little Egg Harbor and Barnegat Bay. This legislation will enhance programs just like FEO-15 for their success.

While there have been many tremendous advances in oceanography tech-

nology over the past 15 years, the United States does not have yet a comprehensive plan for determining what data needs to be collected or for integrating that data into a usable system.

This bill, H.R. 2090, is a positive step in moving this technology forward in an efficient way; and I urge support of the exploration. And I might say at this point, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for leading us to the floor with this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I again compliment and thank my good friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans for his management of this legislation, and I do commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) as the chief author of this legislation, H.R. 2090.

Mr. Speaker, the world's oceans are critical to human health, as well as the vitality of our entire planet. The establishment of an advisory panel to examine the feasibility and value of a coordinated domestic and international oceanography program makes good sense.

With this in mind, I do support the principles and the provisions behind the passage of the Exploration of the Seas Act. I just have a little concern about the relevance and the need of the legislation, given the fact that earlier this year we did pass the Oceans Act of 2000 which was passed by the Congress and subsequently signed by the President on August 7 of this year.

This law already establishes a commission to evaluate and make recommendations on oceans policy. And I just thought that maybe there may be a little duplication here, but on the other hand I think on anything relevant to the situation affecting the oceans policies, where over the years we really have not given really any real substantive examination of this very, very important issue, perhaps the gentleman's legislation will add on to what we are sincerely trying to bring about this real coordinated effort with all the agencies involved between the White House and especially with the Congress so we can really look at a national oceans policy having the participation and coordination of all relevant Federal agencies that should be a participant in this effort. I just wanted to express that concern.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the support of my friend from Amer-

ican Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA). I would just like to comment, relative to his concerns on duplication, obviously the Oceans Act that we passed here a short time ago is a very important act because it essentially provides for an opportunity to take a look at how United States ocean policy is developed and carried out. Obviously, the Stratton Commission that was created in the late 1960s and reported to the Congress in 1969 provided an opportunity for us to make some changes and establish a great organization known as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This bill differs in two ways. Number one, it is international in scope, which gives us the opportunity to cooperate with, exchange information with, extract cooperative efforts from our friends around the world who are also engaged in various types of oceanography studies and the development of technology. I think that many of our friends around the world recognize, as we do, that there is a need for better ocean stewardship, and to the extent that we can cooperate with them through programs like the one that we are creating or moving to create here today will be, I think, a great advantage.

Secondly, the Oceans Act takes a broad look at United States ocean policy, domestic policy. This act is a very narrow focus on technology, and so I think that is an important distinction and one that mitigates for the important passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD).

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) not only for yielding to me but for all of his help in moving this bill through the subcommittee, as well as the minority ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Exploration of the Seas Act, H.R. 2090, which is a necessary step if mankind is ever to realize the untapped potential of the world's oceans.

The Exploration of the Seas Act accomplishes this goal by directing the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a coordinated oceanographic program advisory panel comprised of experts in ocean studies, which will create a blueprint of how to implement an international undersea exploration effort.

A visitor to our solar system asked to name the third planet from the sun would most certainly not name it Earth as early land-bound humans did, but rather Oceania for the dominating character of its seas. Seventy-five percent of our planet's surface and 95 percent of its biosphere is ocean.

Life began in the sea, which is now the home of somewhere between 10 and 100 million spectacularly diverse species. Ninety-seven percent of the planet's water is in its oceans. The oceans

are the engines for our terrestrial weather patterns, the highway for international trade. Fifteen percent of the protein consumed by humans comes from the sea.

Beneath the ocean floor lies unimaginable quantities of oil, gas, coal, and minerals. Marine plants and animals possess inestimable biotechnological potential in the treatment of human illness. Coral reefs, sometimes described as the rain forest of the sea, contain uncommon chemicals that may be used to fight diseases for which scientists have not yet found a cure, such as cancer, AIDS and diabetes.

While the number of new chemical compounds that can be derived from land-based plants and microbial fermentation is limited, scientists have only just begun to explore the sea's vast molecular potential.

The oceans are our source, our sustenance and the key to our future survival. But the capacity of the seas to absorb our waste and fulfill our desires is not without limit. Twenty percent of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed, 20 percent and counting. Oceans are the dumping grounds for municipal trash, sewage and even nuclear waste. More than two-thirds of the world's marine fish stocks have been fished beyond their maximum productivity.

If our children's children are to inherit the ocean's bounty, we must come to understand and manage it far better than we do today; and I am confident the Exploration of the Seas Act will assist in achieving that goal.

I urge support of H.R. 2090. Mr. Speaker, we spend billions of dollars in outer space and NASA programs. I support that. I think it is fascinating that the Russians and Americans have achieved such amazing goals in our space station, but by contrast we spend pennies on explorations of our oceans. And yet our survival as a species depends on our oceans. This legislation will begin the process by which I hope the nations of the world, the great nations of the world, can combine our efforts and begin to devote the kind of attention that we need to devote to our oceans for our own survival and for the betterment of our species.

I again thank the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member for all of their support.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while the gentleman was speaking, I thought back of all the efforts that we have been involved in together, Members of both parties, in trying to address one of the issues that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) just spoke of that namely the ocean is not the kind of expanse that can absorb our wastes for time unlimited. And during the time that we have been in the Congress, we have stopped ocean sludge dumping. We have been successful in passing the act to make sure that people do not dump medical waste in the ocean, which was

so important to my district and the beaches that I know the gentleman visits in the summertime.

We have been successful in making sure that chemical dumping is taken care of in ways outside the ocean.

There is one burning issue off the coast of New Jersey that the gentleman and I love very much, that is the shore that we love very much, and that is that this administration is currently issuing permits to dump contaminated dredge spoils off Sandy Hook. And these are the kinds of non-thinking, bad ideas that we need to avoid. The dumping of dredge spoils with contaminants such as mercury and lead and PCBs and other things that are poisonous to the human body and to the creatures that live in the ocean is something that we need to pay a lot more of attention to.

So while we have had some successes, we have a long way to go. And this bill creating an awareness and a study, a further study of technologies about what we can do and what we should not do and what we cannot do to the ocean environment, is extremely important.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SAXTON. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, once again, I appreciate that.

As the gentleman pointed out, the United States Congress has done a great deal, particularly with the leadership of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), in reducing the pollution that the United States adds to the oceans in reducing the over exploitation in which we engage. But the rest of the world continues in many parts, whether it is in India, or in China, in Asia. The Russians have a very long way to go, and that is why I think this international cooperation is what is really needed both to explore the oceans and to protect them for the future generations. And I thank the gentleman again for all of his support.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman for bringing this very good and important legislation to the floor.

Mr. FALCOMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to compliment and thank my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), for his comments, especially as the author of this legislation, and thank also the chairman of our subcommittee for managing the bill now before the floor.

I want to note also so many things relative to oceans policy of our Nation. I think our Nation is one of the few nations, if we look at the geography alone, are from the Atlantic coastal States, the State of Florida in particular, the Gulf States and then the entire Pacific coast. Probably no other nation, in my opinion, has had this direct exposure to the problems, whether it be the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf

Stream, the areas relative to the Pacific area where ocean policy needs to be really firmly established as far as our Nation is concerned. And I thank the gentleman for bringing this legislation, hopefully, as a means of complementing what we are trying to do with other pieces of legislation.

I recall I recently attended a Conference on Marine Debris; the billions of dollars in costs for some of the things that I had listened to represented from some 20 nations in the Pacific region, and one of the things that I noticed quite well was their response in looking up to the leaders of our Nation to take the leadership in this effort because of the fact that we do have the resources and, hopefully, that we will commit such resources to assist in this effort.

I do not know if our colleagues are aware that every year we have to import over \$9 billion worth of fish from other countries. My question is: Why are we not producing enough of our own domestic consumption demand of fish in the States and in our own domestic consumption needs?

The situation of ornamental fish, it is about a \$6 billion industry. The point is that with the economics of all of this dealing with fisheries, I do think we do need to establish that policy. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for this legislation and my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON). I do urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just say that the gentleman's help is very much appreciated. We need to understand issues like ocean dumping and this bill provides the forum in which we can look at the technology so that we can better understand. I thought we understood because we stopped dumping ocean sludge, sewage sludge in the ocean. We stopped dumping chemicals in the ocean, but we still have this burning problem of dumping contaminated dredge spoils in the ocean. It is a practice which is unwarranted, and this bill, hopefully, will provide an opportunity for the administration to understand that this is bad policy.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 2090, The Exploration of the Seas Act. This bill requires the Commerce Department to contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to establish an advisory panel to study the feasibility and social value of creating a coordinated international oceanographic exploration and study program.

For too long crucial policy decisions regarding the development and use of our oceans and coastal regions have been made with too little information. Two years ago, at my initiation, President Clinton convened the first ever National Ocean Conference in Monterey, California. The purpose of the White House conference was to bring national attention on the need to protect and preserve our

oceans—which cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and are key to the life support system for all creatures on our planet.

Following the National Ocean Conference, I introduced the Oceans Act with several of my colleagues. This bipartisan bill, which was signed into law by the President on August 8, 2000, will create a national Oceans Commission to bring together ocean and coastal experts, policy makers, environmental groups, and industry representatives to take a comprehensive look at our nation's ocean and coastal policies. In constant dollars, Federal expenditures for ocean activities are about one-third of what they were thirty years ago, when Congress convened a similar commission that led to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This summer I co-chaired the Oceans Policy Conference, to move beyond crisis management to a policy that balances conservation and development, with the guiding principles of sustainability. It is vital that the United States take the leadership in ensuring that the oceans are protected so that the ocean benefits we enjoy today will be available for future generations. Sound science and careful exploration will lay the groundwork for sustainable use of existing ocean resources and future untapped reserves.

The bill before us today, the Exploration of the Seas Act, builds on the foundation laid by my previous initiatives and those of other Members to raise global awareness of the importance of our oceans. For example, gas hydrates found in seabed floor deposits may be the energy source of the future to replace traditional fossil fuels. Half of the pharmaceuticals under development to treat cancer are derived from marine species. These two examples alone adequately illustrate that now is the time to explore the poorly understood resources of the oceans, so we may be prepared to wisely manage them in the future.

We know more about the surface of the moon than the bottom of the oceans. H.R. 2090 remedies this situation by making an important step towards discovering the unknown treasures hidden below the surface of the ocean.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2090, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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#### RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4318) to establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4318

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The area of Louisiana known as the Red River Valley, located along the Red River Waterway in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, and De Soto Parishes, is of critical importance to over 350 species of birds (including migratory and resident waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical migratory birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of other species associated with river basin ecosystems.

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

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

(4) There are no significant public sanctuaries for over 300 river miles on this important migration corridor, and no significant Federal, State, or private wildlife sanctuaries along the Red River north of Alexandria, Louisiana.

(5) Completion of the lock and dam system associated with the Red River Waterway project up to Shreveport, Louisiana, has enhanced opportunities for management of fish and wildlife.

(6) The Red River Valley offers extraordinary recreational, research, and educational opportunities for students, scientists, bird watchers, wildlife observers, hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, and nature photographers.

(7) The Red River Valley is an internationally significant environmental resource that has been neglected and requires active restoration and management to protect and enhance the value of the region as a habitat for fish and wildlife.

#### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES OF REFUGE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of approximately 50,000 acres of Federal lands, waters, and interests therein within the boundaries depicted upon the map entitled "Red River National Wildlife Refuge—Selection Area", dated September 5, 2000.

(2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary shall make such minor revisions of the boundaries of the Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the Refuge.

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

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

(1) To provide for the restoration and conservation of native plants and animal communities on suitable sites in the Red River basin, including restoration of extirpated species.

(2) To provide habitat for migratory birds.

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

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take effect on the date the Sec-

retary publishes, in the Federal Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity of the area within the boundaries referred to in that paragraph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired by the United States within those boundaries to constitute an area that can be efficiently managed as a National Wildlife Refuge.

#### SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF REFUGE.

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

(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and the Act of September 28, 1962 (76 Stat. 653; 16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.; commonly known as the Refuge Recreation Act);

(2) the purposes of the Refuge set forth in section 3(b); and

(3) the management plan issued under subsection (b).

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the establishment of the Refuge, the Secretary shall issue a management plan for the Refuge.

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

(A) Planning and design of trails and access points.

(B) Planning of wildlife and habitat restoration, including reforestation.

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

(D) Ensuring that compatible hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation are the priority general public uses of the Refuge, in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)).

(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

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

(B) LOCAL VIEWS.—The Secretary shall give special consideration to views by local public and private entities and individuals in developing the management plan.

(C) WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall construct, administer, and maintain, at an appropriate site within the Refuge, a wildlife interpretation and education center.

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

(A) to promote environmental education; and

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

(d) ASSISTANCE TO RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION.—The Secretary shall provide to the Red River Waterway Commission—

(1) technical assistance in monitoring water quality, noxious plants, and exotic organisms, and in preventing siltation of prime fisheries habitat; and

(2) where appropriate and available, fish for stocking.

#### SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS, WATERS, AND INTERESTS THEREIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire up to 50,000 acres of lands, waters, or interests therein within the boundaries of the Refuge described in section 3(a)(1).

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