

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2008

MAY 19, 2008.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1464]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1464) to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2008.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Many wild populations of felids and canids, once considered common, are in decline, and many have declined to the point that their long-term survival in the wild is in serious jeopardy.

(2) Of the 37 wild felid species worldwide, all are currently recognized as species in need of protection under the IUCN Red List, the lists of species in CITES appendices I, II, and III, or the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Of the 35 wild canid species worldwide, nearly 50 percent are recognized as in need of such protection.

(3) In addition to their intrinsic value, felids and canids are important aesthetic, economic, and ecological global resources that need to be conserved.

(4) Large felids and canids are considered both umbrella and indicator species. Healthy populations of these species act as an important indicator of the

integrity of entire ecosystems and, because they require large wild spaces to persist, benefit entire ecosystems and a large number of other species. Measures taken to benefit these keystone species will ultimately benefit a great number of other species.

(5) Rare felids and rare canids face an array of threats, including loss of habitat and natural prey, intentional and unintentional takings by humans, disease transmission, and a vast number of other threats. These threats need to be addressed in a coordinated fashion.

(6) Conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations requires global commitment. Adequate funding for conservation is sorely lacking, and many range countries for those species do not have adequate infrastructure to protect species of concern. Those countries that do provide assistance to threatened populations need further assistance in implementing effective conservation strategies.

(7) In particular, in developing nations with limited resources, poverty, population growth, and habitat loss all present significant challenges to conservation of rare felids and rare canids.

(8) Although some protections and initiatives exist to conserve rare felid and rare canid populations and their habitat, those efforts can be significantly strengthened and enhanced by increased coordination and the infusion of targeted funding to benefit species of concern.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to provide financial resources and to foster international cooperation—

- (1) to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of rare felids and rare canids in the wild; and
- (2) to assist in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations worldwide.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CITES.**—The term “CITES” means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249), including its appendices.

(2) **CONSERVATION.**—The term “conservation”—

(A) means the methods and procedures necessary to bring a species of rare felid or rare canid to the point at which there are sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species;

(B) includes all activities associated with protection and management of a rare felid or rare canid population, including—

- (i) maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of rare felid or rare canid habitat;
- (ii) research and monitoring;
- (iii) law enforcement;
- (iv) community outreach and education;
- (v) conflict resolution initiatives; and
- (vi) strengthening the capacity of local communities, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other institutions to implement conservation programs.

(3) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund established by section 6.

(4) **IUCN RED LIST.**—The term “IUCN Red List” means the Red List of Threatened Species Maintained by the World Conservation Union.

(5) **RARE CANID.**—The term “rare canid”—

- (A) means any canid species, subspecies, or population that—
 - (i) is not native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada; and
 - (ii) is included in the IUCN Red List, Appendix I, II, or III of CITES, or any list published under section 4(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532(c)); and
- (B) includes such a subspecies or population of dhole (*Cuon alpinus*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*), bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), or maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*).

(6) **RARE FELID.**—The term “rare felid”—

- (A) subject to subparagraph (C), means any felid species, subspecies, or population that—
 - (i) is not native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada; and

- (ii) is included in the IUCN Red List, Appendix I, II, or III of CITES, or any list published under section 4(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532(c));
 - (B) includes such a subspecies or population of lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), or Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*); and
 - (C) does not include any tiger (*Panthera tigris*).
- (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of rare felid and rare canids for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—A proposal for a project for the conservation of rare felid and canids may be submitted to the Secretary by—

- (A) any wildlife management authority of a country that has within its boundaries any part of the range of a rare felid or rare canid species, respectively; and
- (B) any person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation in the wild of rare felids or rare canids, respectively.

(2) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—To be considered for financial assistance for a project under this Act, an applicant shall submit a project proposal that includes—

- (A) a concise statement of the purposes of the project;
- (B) the name of the individual responsible for conducting the project;
- (C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project;
- (D) a concise description of—
 - (i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;
 - (ii) staffing for the project;
 - (iii) the logistics of the project; and
 - (iv) community involvement in the project;
- (E) an estimate of funds and time required to complete the project;
- (F) evidence of support for the project by appropriate governmental entities of the countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required for the success of the project;
- (G) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and
- (H) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

- (A) not later than 30 days after receiving a project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to the appropriate Federal officials; and
- (B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine if the proposal meets the criteria specified in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

- (A) ensure the proposal contains assurances that the project will be implemented in consultation with relevant wildlife management authorities and other appropriate government officials with jurisdiction over the resources addressed by the project;
- (B) approve or disapprove the proposal; and
- (C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, other appropriate Federal officials, and each country within whose borders the project will take place.

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will contribute to conservation of rare felids or rare canids in the wild by assisting efforts to—

- (1) implement conservation programs;
- (2) address the conflicts between humans and rare felids or rare canids, respectively, that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;
- (3) enhance compliance with CITES, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other applicable laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of rare felids

and rare canids or regulate the use and management of rare felid and rare canid habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition and health of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(B) rare felid or rare canid population numbers and trends; and

(C) the ecological characteristics and requirements of populations of rare felids or rare canids for which there are little or no data;

(5) promote cooperative projects among government entities, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and other persons in the private sector; or

(6) funds will not be appropriated for the purchase or lease of lands to be used as suitable habitat for felids or canids.

(e) **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.**—In approving project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rare felids and rare canids and their habitats.

(f) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which there exists some measure of matching funds.

(g) **PROJECT REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary considers necessary) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other appropriate government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) **AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.**—Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

(h) **LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING OR DISPLAY.**—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act—

(1) may not be used for captive breeding or display of rare felids and rare canids other than captive breeding for release into the wild; and

(2) may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild only if no other conservation method for the species is biologically feasible.

(i) **LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN SPECIES.**—Of amounts available for a fiscal year for providing financial assistance under this section, the Secretary may not use more than 25 percent to provide assistance for projects that target rare canid and rare felid species that are not listed in paragraph (5)(B) or (6)(B), respectively, of section 4.

(j) **ADVISORY GROUP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of felids and canids.

(2) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—

(A) **MEETINGS.**—The advisory group shall—

(i) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(ii) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(B) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group, including the meeting agenda.

(C) **MINUTES.**—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(3) **EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 6. GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 under the heading “MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND”, a separate account to be known as the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund”, consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into such account under subsection (e);

(2) amounts appropriated to such account under section 7; and

(3) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the account under subsection (c).

(b) **EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than three percent, or up to \$100,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) **INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(2) **ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.**—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(3) **SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.**—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(4) **CREDITS TO FUND.**—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(d) **TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(e) **ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4, and may make public on the Internet website and in publications of the Department of the Interior that the Secretary is authorized to accept and use such donations. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of such donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OR APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out this Act.

SEC. 8. INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

Amounts provided as a grant under this Act may not be spent on projects in Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan and North Korea.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1464 is to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Throughout the world, wildlife populations are under increasing stress from the encroachment of expanding human populations. As a result, many wildlife populations have declined, some precipitously, due to habitat loss or degradation, poaching and illegal trade, disease, political instability and hostile interactions with expanding human settlements and agriculture. The decline of populations of charismatic “keystone” wildlife species such as tigers, rhinoceros, elephant, great apes and sea turtles has focused greater attention on the need to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat abroad.

The Congress has responded by creating distinct conservation funds within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) to provide financial assistance to support conservation activities to protect, recover and restore wildlife species and their habitats. The MSCF was created by Congress in 1999 as part of Title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (16 U.S.C. 4246). Within the fund are specific wildlife conservation accounts authorized under separate statutes that receive annual appropriations from Congress to support conservation activities to protect, recover or restore threatened and endangered species, specifically tigers, rhinoceroses, African elephants, Asian elephants, great apes and sea turtles.¹ These wildlife species are all considered “keystone” or “umbrella” species which means that they enrich ecosystem function in a unique or significant manner through their activities, and their effect is disproportionate to their numerical number.²

More than \$115 million in matching or in-kind support has been obtained since the first grant was awarded under the African Elephant Conservation Act in 1990, nearly tripling the effect of the \$43 million in federal appropriated funds. More than 500 partners have worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 44 countries to protect and conserve these species. In addition, coordination with other federal agencies overseas, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has linked up species conservation and habitat management with economic development within countries with these species. In general, these funds are viewed as effective tools to leverage additional resources to implement projects that address the greatest conservation need.

All of the felid and canid species included in this legislation suffer from multiple stressors that have negatively affected their population size, distribution and potential for recovery which cumulatively has resulted in their being listed as threatened or endangered and in need of protection. Factors commonly acknowledged as responsible for these declines include habitat loss and fragmentation, diminished prey-base, poaching and illegal wildlife trade, environmental pollution and pesticides, disease, political instability, and growing human-wildlife conflicts. Species of predatory carnivores have been purposefully targeted for eradication in order to promote pastoral industries and expanded human settlement. H.R. 1464 would expand the number of funds within the MSCF to provide similar financial assistance to conserve additional threatened and endangered species, notably great felids (cats) and rare canids. Summaries of the conservation status of the target wildlife species follows.³

Great Cats: Seven species within the family *Felidae* would be eligible for assistance under both H.R. 1464 and include the lion, cheetah, leopard, clouded leopard, snow leopard, Iberian lynx and jaguar. These species are distributed in fragmented habitats found across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, Central and South America and the Iberian Peninsula in Europe. All of

¹An additional fund authorized under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act was removed from the MSCF in 2006.

²National Wildlife Federation, 2007. Species At Risk (<http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/pdfs/speciesatrisk.pdf>)

³Wildlife Conservation Society. Fact sheet. 2007

these species are recognized as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and/or the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of Endangered Species.⁴

Rare Canids: Six species within the family *Canidae* would be eligible for assistance under H.R. 1464. These species include the African wild dog, Ethiopian wolf, European gray wolf, dhole, maned wolf and bush dog. While their ecological role is poorly understood and often unappreciated, wild dogs function as genuine “keystone” species and are equally deserving of protection. In fact, the African wild dog and Ethiopian wolf are two of the most endangered animals on the African continent. All of these species are recognized as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and/or the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.

This legislation assists in the conservation of rare cats and rare dogs by providing financial resources for conservation programs within range States and to support projects that conserve rare cat and rare dog populations and their habitats. No cat or dog species native to the United States or Canada would be eligible for grant assistance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1464 was introduced on March 9, 2007, by Rep. Tom Udall (D–NM). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans. On September 6, 2007, the Fisheries Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. The bill received the qualified support of the administration and all other witnesses verified the need for the legislation and testified in support of the bill.

On October 4, 2007, the Subcommittee met to mark up the bill. The Subcommittee’s Ranking Member, Rep. Henry Brown (R–SC) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to make ineligible for funding those species whose populations are not endangered, clarify the use of funds for captive breeding activities, strike the bill’s findings, and require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a study of conservation status of rare felid and canid species. The amendment was adopted by voice vote. The bill was then forwarded as amended to the Full Committee by voice vote.

On April 30, 2008, the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D–GU) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to add one additional species (Borneo bay cat and Darwin’s fox) to each respective list; strike the eligibility criteria for non-listed species; and add the European Union to the list of regions where canid species would be ineligible to receive grant assistance. Rep. Steve Pearce (R–NM) offered an amendment to the amendment that would have amended the bill to insert a restrictive definition for determining a country’s eligi-

⁴IUCN—the World Conservation Union, through its Species Survival Commission has for the past four decades scientifically assessed on a global scale the conservation status of species, subspecies, varieties and selected subpopulations to highlight taxa of wildlife that are threatened with extinction in order to promote their conservation and maintain global biodiversity.

bility to receive grant assistance. The amendment was ruled non-germane. Rep. Pearce then offered a second amendment to the amendment to insert at the end of the bill a list of specific ineligible countries that included, Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan, and North Korea. The amendment was adopted by voice vote. The bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that the bill may be cited as the “Great Cat and Rare Canids Act of 2007.”

Section 2. Purposes

Section 2 states that the purposes of the bill are to provide financial resources and to foster international cooperation to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of rare felids and canids in the wild and to assist in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations worldwide.

Section 3. Definitions

This section defines specific terms to be used in the legislation, including “CITES,” “Conservation,” “Fund,” “IUCN Red List,” “Rare Canid,” “Rare Felid,” and “Secretary.”

Section 4. Financial assistance

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance subject to the availability of appropriations for projects for the conservation of rare felids and rare canids. The section specifies eligible project applicants and provides a detailed list of required information to be included in project applications. The Secretary is required to approve or disapprove all applications no later than 180 days after receiving the application and must provide written notification to the applicant, other appropriate federal officials and each country within which the project will take place.

This section also provides the Secretary with criteria to evaluate and approve project applications, including a determination that funds will not be used for the purchase or lease of land. Special preference shall be given under this section to projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rare felids and rare canids and their habitats and applications for which there exist non-federal matching funds. Approved projects are required under this section to report regularly to the Secretary to assess progress, foster improvements and ensure positive results. Such reports would be available to the public. Funds awarded by the Secretary under this section could not be used for captive breeding activities other than for release into the wild or if no other conservation method is available and biologically feasible to perpetuate the species. This section would also authorize the Secretary to convene an advisory group exempt from requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to incorporate stakeholder participation.

Section 5. Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund

This section would authorize establishment of a Great Cats and Rare Canids Fund as a separate account in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund that would consist of amounts appropriated by Congress, amounts donated, and any interest earned on the investment of funds. All funding available to the Secretary for program administration is limited to three percent or \$100,000 annually, whichever is greater. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to invest un-used portions of the Fund in interest bearing obligations and interest earned shall be credited to the Fund. The Secretary of the Treasury would be required to transfer funds to the Fund on no less than a monthly schedule.

Section 6. Study of conservation status of felid and canid species

This section would direct the Secretary to complete a study and report to the Congress on the conservation status of felid and canid species listed under the IUCN Red List that are not eligible under this bill and include recommendations for additional species to be added to the lists of rare felids or rare canids defined in the bill.

Section 7. Authorization of appropriations

The legislation would authorize \$5 million per year to be appropriated to carry out the Act for each fiscal year from 2008 to 2012. Such sums as are necessary are authorized to carry out the study authorized in Section 6 of the bill.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The functions of the proposed advisory committee authorized in the bill are not currently being nor could they be performed by one or more agencies, an advisory committee already in existence or by enlarging the mandate of an existing advisory committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not

contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 1464 Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007

Summary: H.R. 1464 would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a grant program to protect and conserve rare species of cats (such as leopards) and canids (such as wolves) in the wild. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million a year through 2012 for financial assistance to eligible government agencies, international or foreign organizations, or private entities engaged in such activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts (beginning in 2009), CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1464 would increase discretionary spending by \$19 million over the 2009–2013 period and by \$1 million after 2013.

H.R. 1464 also would authorize the agency to invest unneeded balances of appropriated funds in federal securities and spend any proceeds from those investments without further appropriation. Enacting this legislation would therefore increase direct spending by an estimated \$200,000 a year beginning in 2010. The bill also would authorize the agency to accept and spend (also without further appropriation) donations from nonfederal sources, but any increase in revenues (from donations) would be offset by additional direct spending of such amounts.

H.R. 1464 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1464 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2008 and that authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the bill, beginning with fiscal year 2009. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ¹					
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	0
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	5	5

¹Enacting H.R. 1464 also would increase direct spending by an estimated \$200,000 a year, beginning in 2010, from the use of interest on appropriation balances.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 1464 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Deborah Reis; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Neil Hood, Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 1464 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

