

Union Calendar No. 398

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4286

[Report No. 106-713]

To provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River National Wildlife
Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

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

JULY 10, 2000

Additional sponsor: Mr. RILEY

JULY 10, 2000

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 13, 2000]

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River
National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

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 “Cahaba River National*
3 *Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 *The Congress finds the following:*

6 *(1) The Cahaba River in Alabama is recognized*
7 *nationally for its unique biological diversity which*
8 *includes providing habitat for 131 species of fish*
9 *(more than any other river its size in North Amer-*
10 *ica).*

11 *(2) The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and*
12 *imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, in-*
13 *cluding fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and snails.*

14 *(3) The Cahaba River is home to 12 species of*
15 *fish, mussels, and snails listed as endangered or*
16 *threatened species.*

17 *(4) The Cahaba River is home to 6 terrestrial*
18 *species of plants and animals listed as endangered or*
19 *threatened species.*

20 *(5) The Cahaba River harbors the largest popu-*
21 *lation in the world of the imperiled shoals lily, known*
22 *locally as the Cahaba Lily.*

23 *(6) The Cahaba River watershed contains ex-*
24 *tremely rare plant communities that are home to 8*
25 *species of plants previously unknown to science and*
26 *a total of 69 rare and imperiled species of plants.*

1 (7) *The Cahaba River is home to at least a dozen*
2 *endemic aquatic animals that are found nowhere else*
3 *in the world.*

4 (8) *The Cahaba River is the longest remaining*
5 *free-flowing river in Alabama, flowing through 5*
6 *counties in central Alabama.*

7 (9) *The Cahaba River is recognized as an Out-*
8 *standing Alabama Water by the Alabama Department*
9 *of Environmental Management.*

10 (10) *The Cahaba River has high recreational*
11 *value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, canoeists, na-*
12 *ture photographers, and others.*

13 (11) *The Cahaba River Watershed supports large*
14 *populations of certain game species, including deer,*
15 *turkey, and various species of ducks.*

16 (12) *The Cahaba River area is deserving of in-*
17 *clusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 *In this Act:*

20 (1) *REFUGE.*—*The term “Refuge” means the*
21 *Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge established by*
22 *section 4(a).*

23 (2) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
24 *the Secretary of the Interior.*

1 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.**

2 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—

3 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is established in Bibb*
4 *County, Alabama, the Cahaba National Wildlife Ref-*
5 *uge, consisting of approximately 3,500 acres of Fed-*
6 *eral lands and waters, and interests in lands and wa-*
7 *ters, within the boundaries depicted upon the map en-*
8 *titled “Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge–Pro-*
9 *posed”, dated April 10, 2000.*

10 (2) *BOUNDARY REVISIONS.*—*The Secretary may*
11 *make such minor revisions of the boundaries of the*
12 *Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the pur-*
13 *poses of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of*
14 *property within the Refuge.*

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

19 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The establishment of the Ref-*
20 *uge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take effect*
21 *on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal Register*
22 *and publications of local circulation in the vicinity of the*
23 *area within the boundaries referred to in that paragraph,*
24 *a notice that sufficient property has been acquired by the*
25 *United States within those boundaries to constitute an area*

1 *that can be efficiently managed as a National Wildlife Ref-*
2 *uge.*

3 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS AND WATERS.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, subject to the avail-*
5 *ability of appropriations, may acquire up to 3,500 acres*
6 *of lands and waters, or interests therein, within the bound-*
7 *aries of the Refuge described in section 4(a)(1).*

8 (b) *INCLUSION IN REFUGE.*—*Any lands, waters, or in-*
9 *terests acquired by the Secretary under this section shall*
10 *be part of the Refuge.*

11 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

12 *In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—*

13 (1) *conserve, enhance, and restore the native*
14 *aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of*
15 *the Cahaba River (including associated fish, wildlife,*
16 *and plant species);*

17 (2) *conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to*
18 *maintain and assist in the recovery of animals and*
19 *plants that are listed under the Endangered Species*
20 *Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);*

21 (3) *in providing opportunities for compatible*
22 *fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, ensure that*
23 *hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photog-*
24 *raphy, and environmental education and interpreta-*
25 *tion are the priority general public uses of the Refuge,*

1 *in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4) of the Na-*
2 *tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of*
3 *1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)); and*

4 *(4) encourage the use of volunteers and to facili-*
5 *tate partnerships among the United States Fish and*
6 *Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation or-*
7 *ganizations, and other non-Federal entities to pro-*
8 *mote public awareness of the resources of the Cahaba*
9 *River National Wildlife Refuge and the National*
10 *Wildlife Refuge System and public participation in*
11 *the conservation of those resources.*

12 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 *There are authorized to be appropriated to the*
14 *Secretary—*

15 *(1) such funds as may be necessary for the acqui-*
16 *sition of lands and waters within the boundaries of*
17 *the Refuge; and*

18 *(2) such funds as may be necessary for the devel-*
19 *opment, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.*

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