

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4973

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.

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 “National Wildlife Ref-  
5 uge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO IM-**  
2 **PLEMENT VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PART-**  
3 **NERSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
4 **UNDER FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956.**

5 (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 7(f) of the Fish  
6 and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(f)) is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the  
10 Interior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f),  
11 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014.”.

12 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 7 of the  
13 Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) is amend-  
14 ed in subsections (b)(2)(B)(ii) and (d)(2)(C)(i) by striking  
15 “National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966”  
16 each place it appears and inserting “National Wildlife Ref-  
17 uge System Administration Act of 1966”.

18 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
19 **SYSTEM VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PART-**  
20 **NERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

21 Section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System  
22 Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act  
23 of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1) is amended—

24 (1) in the subsection heading by striking  
25 “PROJECTS” and inserting “NATIONAL VOLUNTEER  
26 COORDINATION PROGRAM”;

1           (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
2           lows:

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability  
4           of appropriations, and in conformance with the  
5           strategy developed under paragraph (2) and con-  
6           sistent with the authorities regarding gifts, volunteer  
7           services, community partnerships, and refuge edu-  
8           cation enhancement under section 7 of the Fish and  
9           Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 741f), the Secretary  
10          of the Interior, through the Director of the United  
11          States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall carry out a  
12          National Volunteer Coordination Program within the  
13          National Wildlife Refuge System to—

14                 “(A) augment and support the capabilities  
15                 and efforts of Federal employees to implement  
16                 resource management, conservation, and public  
17                 education programs and activities across the  
18                 National Wildlife Refuge System;

19                 “(B) provide meaningful opportunities for  
20                 volunteers to support the resource management,  
21                 conservation, and public education programs  
22                 and activities of national wildlife refuges or  
23                 complexes of geographically related national  
24                 wildlife refuges in each United States Fish and  
25                 Wildlife Service region; and

1           “(C) fulfill the purpose and mission of the  
2 National Wildlife Refuge System under the Na-  
3 tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration  
4 Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)”;

5           (3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
6 lows

7           “(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATION STRATEGY.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—No later than one  
9 year after date of enactment of this paragraph,  
10 the Director shall publish in the Federal Reg-  
11 ister a national strategy for the coordination  
12 and utilization of volunteers within the National  
13 Wildlife Refuge System.

14           “(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The  
15 strategy shall be developed in consultation with  
16 State fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes,  
17 refuge friends groups or similar volunteer orga-  
18 nizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

19           “(C) VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS.—The  
20 Director shall provide, subject to the availability  
21 of appropriations, no less than one regional vol-  
22 unteer coordinator for each United States Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service region to implement the  
24 strategy published under this paragraph. Such  
25 coordinators may be responsible for assisting

1 partner organizations in developing and imple-  
2 menting volunteer projects and activities under  
3 cooperative agreements under section 7(d) of  
4 the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.  
5 742f(d)).”; and

6 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “for for each  
7 of fiscal years 1999 through 2002” and inserting  
8 “for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2014”.

9 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND**  
10 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife  
12 Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(e)) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) (as amended  
14 by this Act) as subsection (g); and

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
16 lowing new subsection:

17 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
18 of enactment of this subsection and every 5 years there-  
19 after, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report  
20 to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
21 Representatives and the Committee on Environment and  
22 Public Works of the Senate—

23 “(1) evaluating the accomplishments of the vol-  
24 unteer program, the community partnerships pro-  
25 gram, and the refuge education programs authorized

1 under this section, and of the National Volunteer  
2 Coordination Program and volunteer coordination  
3 strategy under section 4(a) of the National Wildlife  
4 Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partner-  
5 ship Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1);  
6 and

7 “(2) making recommendations to improve the  
8 effectiveness of such programs, including regarding  
9 implementing subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of  
10 paragraph (1) of subsection (e).”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a) of the  
12 National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Commu-  
13 nity Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C.  
14 742f–1) is further amended by striking paragraph (3),  
15 and by redesignating paragraph (4) (as amended by this  
16 Act) as paragraph (3).

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