

provisions specifying the means by which applicants must demonstrate claimed losses and limiting the aggregate amounts that may be paid to persons that are affiliated with each other or under common ownership.

(6) As used in this subsection, the term “person” means any individual or any corporation, partnership, trust, association, or other non-governmental entity.

(Pub. L. 99-659, title III, §308, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3736; Pub. L. 101-627, title V, §§502, 503, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4463; Pub. L. 102-396, title IX, §9135, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1937; Pub. L. 103-206, title VIII, §811, Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2454; Pub. L. 103-238, §21, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 561.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 77-539, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), is act May 4, 1942, ch. 283, 56 Stat. 267, which is not classified to the Code.

Public Law 80-232, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is act July 24, 1947, ch. 316, 61 Stat. 419, which is not classified to the Code.

Public Law 81-66, referred to in subsec. (c)(3), is act May 19, 1949, ch. 128, 63 Stat. 70, which is not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-238 substituted “\$65,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994 and 1995” for “\$2,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995”.

1993—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-206 inserted “, and \$600,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994 and 1995,” after “and 1993”.

1992—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-396 added subsec. (d).
1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-627, §503(1), substituted “the fiscal years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995” for “fiscal years 1987, 1988, and 1989”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-627, §§502, 503(2), in introductory provisions substituted “the fiscal years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995” for “fiscal years 1988 and 1989” and added par. (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-627, §503(3), substituted “the fiscal years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993” for “fiscal years 1988 and 1989”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 1389, 4103, 4104 of this title.

CHAPTER 62—AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

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§ 4201. Statement of purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to perpetuate healthy populations of African elephants.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2002, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2315.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 2001 of title II of Pub. L. 100-478 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter and amending section 1538 of this title] may be cited as the ‘African Elephant Conservation Act.’”

§ 4202. Findings

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Elephant populations in Africa have declined at an alarming rate since the mid-1970’s.

(2) The large illegal trade in African elephant ivory is the major cause of this decline and threatens the continued existence of the African elephant.

(3) The African elephant is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and its continued existence will be further jeopardized if this decline is not reversed.

(4) Because African elephant ivory is indistinguishable from Asian elephant ivory, there is a need to ensure that the trade in African elephant ivory does not further endanger the Asian elephant, which is listed as endangered under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) and under Appendix I of CITES.

(5) In response to the significant illegal trade in African elephant ivory, the parties to CITES established the CITES Ivory Control System to curtail the illegal trade and to encourage African countries to manage, conserve, and protect their African elephant populations.

(6) The CITES Ivory Control System entered into force recently and should be allowed to

continue in force for a reasonable period of time to assess its effectiveness in curtailing the illegal trade in African elephant ivory.

(7) Although some African countries have effective African elephant conservation programs, many do not have sufficient resources to properly manage, conserve, and protect their elephant populations.

(8) The United States, as a party to CITES and a large market for worked ivory, shares responsibility for supporting and implementing measures to stop the illegal trade in African elephant ivory and to provide for the conservation of the African elephant.

(9) There is no evidence that sport hunting is part of the poaching that contributes to the illegal trade in African elephant ivory, and there is evidence that the proper utilization of well-managed elephant populations provides an important source of funding for African elephant conservation programs.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2003, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2315.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in par. (3), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

§ 4203. Statement of policy

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to assist in the conservation and protection of the African elephant by supporting the conservation programs of African countries and the CITES Secretariat; and

(2) to provide financial resources for those programs.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2004, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2316.)

SUBCHAPTER I—AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

§ 4211. Provision of assistance

(a) In general

The Secretary may provide financial assistance under this subchapter from the African Elephant Conservation Fund for approved projects for research, conservation, management, or protection of African elephants.

(b) Project proposal

Any African government agency responsible for African elephant conservation and protection, the CITES Secretariat, and any organization or individual with experience in African elephant conservation may submit to the Secretary a project proposal under this section. Each such proposal shall contain—

(1) the name of the person responsible for conducting the project;

(2) a succinct statement of the need for and purposes of the project;

(3) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will be conducting the project;

(4) an estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project;

(5) evidence of support of the project by governmental entities of countries within which the project will be conducted, if such support may be important for the success of the project; and

(6) any other information the Secretary considers to be necessary or appropriate for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this chapter.

(c) Project review and approval

The Secretary shall review each project proposal to determine if it meets the criteria set forth in subsection (d) of this section and otherwise merits assistance under this chapter. Not later than six months after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposal and provide written notification to the person who submitted the proposal and to each country within which the project is proposed to be conducted.

(d) Criteria for approval

The Secretary may approve a project under this section if the project will enhance programs for African elephant research, conservation, management, or protection by—

(1) developing in a usable form sound scientific information on African elephant habitat condition and carrying capacity, total elephant numbers and population trends, or annual reproduction and mortality; or

(2) assisting efforts—

(A) to ensure that any taking of African elephants in the country is effectively controlled and monitored;

(B) to implement conservation programs to provide for healthy, sustainable African elephant populations; or

(C) to enhance compliance with the CITES Ivory Control System.

(e) Project reporting

Each entity that receives assistance under this section shall provide such periodic reports to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the Director considers relevant and appropriate. Each report shall include all information requested by the Director for evaluating the progress and success of the project.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2101, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2316.)

§ 4212. African Elephant Conservation Fund

(a) Establishment

There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account to be known as the “African Elephant Conservation Fund”, which shall consist of amounts deposited into the Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Deposits into Fund

The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit into the Fund—

(1) subject to appropriations, all amounts received by the United States in the form of penalties under section 4224 of this title which are not used to pay rewards under section 4225 of this title;

(2) amounts received by the Secretary of the Interior in the form of donations under subsection (d) of this section; and

(3) other amounts appropriated to the Fund to carry out this subchapter.

(c) Use

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), amounts in the Fund may be used by the Secretary, without further appropriation, to provide assistance under this subchapter.

(2) Administration

Not more than three percent of amounts appropriated to the Fund for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary to administer the Fund for that fiscal year.

(d) Acceptance and use of donations

The Secretary may accept and use donations of funds to provide assistance under this subchapter. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of such donations shall be transferred by the Secretary to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2102, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2317.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4244 of this title.

§ 4213. Annual reports

The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Congress not later than January 31 of each year regarding the Fund and the status of the African elephant. Each such report shall include with respect to the year for which the report is submitted a description of—

(1) the total amounts deposited into and expended from the Fund;

(2) the costs associated with the administration of the Fund;

(3) a summary of the projects for which the Secretary has provided assistance under this subchapter and an evaluation of those projects; and

(4) an evaluation of African elephant populations and whether the CITES Ivory Control System is functioning effectively to control the illegal trade in African elephant ivory.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2103, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2317.)

SUBCHAPTER II—MORATORIA AND PROHIBITED ACTS

§ 4221. Review of African elephant conservation programs

(a) In general

Within one month after October 7, 1988, the Secretary shall issue a call for information on the African elephant conservation program of each ivory producing country by—

(1) publishing a notice in the Federal Register requesting submission of such information to the Secretary by all interested parties; and

(2) submitting a written request for such information through the Secretary of State to each ivory producing country.

(b) Review and determination

(1) In general

The Secretary shall review the African elephant conservation program of each ivory producing country and, not later than one year after October 7, 1988, shall issue and publish in the Federal Register a determination of whether or not the country meets the following criteria:

(A) The country is a party to CITES and adheres to the CITES Ivory Control System.

(B) The country's elephant conservation program is based on the best available information, and the country is making expeditious progress in compiling information on the elephant habitat condition and carrying capacity, total population and population trends, and the annual reproduction and mortality of the elephant populations within the country.

(C) The taking of elephants in the country is effectively controlled and monitored.

(D) The country's ivory quota is determined on the basis of information referred to in subparagraph (B) and reflects the amount of ivory which is confiscated or consumed domestically by the country.

(E) The country has not authorized or allowed the export of amounts of raw ivory which exceed its ivory quota under the CITES Ivory Control System.

(2) Delay in issuing determination

If the Secretary finds within one year after October 7, 1988, that there is insufficient information upon which to make the determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary may delay issuing the determination until no later than December 31, 1989. The Secretary shall issue and publish in the Federal Register at the time of the finding a statement explaining the reasons for any such delay.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2201, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2318.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4222 of this title.

§ 4222. Moratoria

(a) Ivory producing countries

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from an ivory producing country immediately upon making a determination that the country does not meet all the criteria set forth in section 4221(b)(1) of this title.

(2) Later establishment

With regard to any ivory producing country for which the Secretary has insufficient information to make a determination pursuant to section 4221(b) of this title, the Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from such country not later than January 1, 1990, unless, based on new information, the Secretary concludes before that date that the country meets all of the criteria set forth in section 4221(b)(1) of this title.

(b) Intermediary countries

The Secretary shall establish a moratorium on the importation of raw and worked ivory from an intermediary country immediately upon making a determination that the country—

- (1) is not a party to CITES;
- (2) does not adhere to the CITES Ivory Control System;
- (3) imports raw ivory from a country that is not an ivory producing country;
- (4) imports raw or worked ivory from a country that is not a party to CITES;
- (5) imports raw or worked ivory that originates in an ivory producing country in violation of the laws of that ivory producing country;
- (6) substantially increases its imports of raw or worked ivory from a country that is subject to a moratorium under this chapter during the first three months of that moratorium; or
- (7) imports raw or worked ivory from a country that is subject to a moratorium under this chapter after the first three months of that moratorium, unless the ivory is imported by vessel during the first six months of that moratorium and is accompanied by shipping documents which show that it was exported before the establishment of the moratorium.

(c) Suspension of moratorium

The Secretary shall suspend a moratorium established under this section if, after notice and public comment, the Secretary determines that the reasons for establishing the moratorium no longer exist.

(d) Petition**(1) In general**

Any person may at any time submit a petition in writing requesting that the Secretary establish or suspend a moratorium under this section. Such a petition shall include such substantial information as may be necessary to demonstrate the need for the action requested by the petition.

(2) Consideration and ruling

The Secretary shall publish a notice of receipt of a petition under this subsection in the Federal Register and shall provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the petition. The Secretary shall rule on such petition not later than 90 days after the close of the public comment period.

(e) Sport-hunted trophies

Individuals may import sport-hunted elephant trophies that they have legally taken in an ivory producing country that has submitted an ivory quota. The Secretary shall not establish any moratorium under this section, pursuant to a petition or otherwise, which prohibits the importation into the United States of sport-hunted trophies from elephants that are legally taken by the importer or the importer's principal in an ivory producing country that has submitted an ivory quota.

(f) Confiscated ivory

Trade in raw or worked ivory that is confiscated by an ivory producing country or an intermediary country and is disposed of pursu-

ant to the CITES Ivory Control System shall not be the sole cause for the establishment of a moratorium under this subchapter if all proceeds from the disposal of the confiscated ivory are used solely to enhance wildlife conservation programs or conservation purposes of CITES. With respect to any country that was not a party to CITES at the time of such confiscation, this subsection shall not apply until such country develops appropriate measures to assure that persons with a history of illegal dealings in ivory shall not benefit from the disposal of confiscated ivory.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2202, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2318.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4223 of this title.

§ 4223. Prohibited acts

Except as provided in section 4222(e) of this title, it is unlawful for any person—

- (1) to import raw ivory from any country other than an ivory producing country;
- (2) to export raw ivory from the United States;
- (3) to import raw or worked ivory that was exported from an ivory producing country in violation of that country's laws or of the CITES Ivory Control System;
- (4) to import worked ivory, other than personal effects, from any country unless that country has certified that such ivory was derived from legal sources; or
- (5) to import raw or worked ivory from a country for which a moratorium is in effect under section 4222 of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2203, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2320.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4224 of this title.

§ 4224. Penalties and enforcement**(a) Criminal violations**

Whoever knowingly violates section 4223 of this title shall, upon conviction, be fined under title 18 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

(b) Civil violations

Whoever violates section 4223 of this title may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$5,000 for each such violation.

(c) Procedures for assessment of civil penalty

Proceedings for the assessment of a civil penalty under this section shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures provided for in section 1540(a) of this title.

(d) Use of penalties

Subject to appropriations, penalties collected under this section may be used by the Secretary of the Treasury to pay rewards under section 4225 of this title and, to the extent not used to pay such rewards, shall be deposited by the Secretary of the Treasury into the Fund.

(e) Enforcement

The Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of the department in which

the Coast Guard is operating shall enforce this subchapter in the same manner such Secretaries carry out enforcement activities under section 1540(e) of this title. Section 1540(c) of this title shall apply to actions arising under this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2204, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2320.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4212 of this title.

§ 4225. Rewards

(a) In general

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury may pay a reward to any person who furnishes information which leads to a civil penalty or a criminal conviction under this chapter.

(b) Amount

The amount of a reward under this section shall be equal to not more than one-half of any criminal or civil penalty or fine with respect to which the reward is paid, or \$25,000, whichever is less.

(c) Limitation on eligibility

An officer or employee of the United States or of any State or local government who furnishes information or renders service in the performance of his or her official duties shall not be eligible for a reward under this section.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2205, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2320.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 4212, 4224 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER III—MISCELLANEOUS

§ 4241. Relationship to Endangered Species Act of 1973

The authority of the Secretary under this chapter is in addition to and shall not affect the authority of the Secretary under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or diminish the Secretary's authority under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2302, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2321.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 97-79, Nov. 16, 1981, 95 Stat. 1073, as amended, which enacted chapter 53 (§3371 et seq.) of this title, amended section 1540 of this title and section 42 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, repealed sections 667e and 851 to 856 of this title and sections 43, 44, 3054, and 3112 of Title 18, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 1540 and 3371 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3371 of this title and Tables.

§ 4242. Certification under Pelly amendment

If the Secretary finds in administering this chapter that a country does not adhere to the CITES Ivory Control System, that country is deemed, for purposes of section 1978(a)(2) of title 22, to be diminishing the effectiveness of an international program for endangered or threatened species.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2303, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2322.)

§ 4243. Effectiveness of CITES

Within 3 months after the completion of the 8th Conference of the Parties to CITES, the Secretary shall determine whether this chapter, together with the CITES Ivory Control System, has substantially stopped the importation of illegally harvested ivory into the United States. If the Secretary determines that the importation of illegally harvested ivory has not been substantially stopped, the Secretary shall recommend to the Congress amendments to this chapter or other actions that may be necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter, including the establishment of a complete moratorium on the importation of elephant ivory into the United States.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2304, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2322.)

§ 4244. Definitions

In this chapter—

(1) the term "African elephant" means any animal of the species *loxodonta africana*;

(2) the term "CITES" means the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

(3) the term "CITES Ivory Control System" means the ivory quota and marking system established by CITES to curtail illegal trade in African elephant ivory;

(4) the term "Fund" means the African Elephant Conservation Fund established by section 4212 of this title;

(5) the terms "import" and "importation" have the meanings such terms have in the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(6) the term "intermediary country" means a country that exports raw or worked ivory that does not originate in that country;

(7) the term "ivory producing country" means any African country within which is located any part of the range of a population of African elephants;

(8) the term "ivory quota" means a quota submitted by an ivory producing country to the CITES Secretariat in accordance with the CITES Ivory Control System;

(9) the term "personal effects" means articles which are not intended for sale and are part of a shipment of the household effects of a person who is moving his or her residence to or from the United States, or are included in personal accompanying baggage;

(10) the term "raw ivory" means any African elephant tusk, and any piece thereof, the surface of which, polished or unpolished, is unaltered or minimally carved;

(11) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior;

(12) the term “United States” means the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States; and

(13) the term “worked ivory” means any African elephant tusk, and any piece thereof, which is not raw ivory.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2305, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2322.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, referred to in par. (5), is Pub. L. 93-205, Dec. 28, 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1531 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1531 of this title and Tables.

§ 4245. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund and to the Secretary a total of not to exceed \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998 to carry out this chapter, to remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 100-478, title II, §2306, Oct. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 2323; Pub. L. 102-440, title III, §302, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2234.)

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-440 substituted “fiscal years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998” for “fiscal years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993”.

CHAPTER 63—FEDERAL CAVE RESOURCES PROTECTION

Sec.	
4301.	Findings, purposes, and policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Findings. (b) Purposes. (c) Policy.
4302.	Definitions.
4303.	Management actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Regulations. (b) In general. (c) Planning and public participation.
4304.	Confidentiality of information concerning nature and location of significant caves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In general. (b) Exceptions.
4305.	Collection and removal from Federal caves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Permit. (b) Revocation of permit. (c) Transferability of permits. (d) Cave resources located on Indian lands. (e) Effect of permit.
4306.	Prohibited acts and criminal penalties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prohibited acts. (b) Punishment.
4307.	Civil penalties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Assessment. (b) Judicial review. (c) Collection. (d) Subpoenas.
4308.	Miscellaneous provisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Authorization of appropriations. (b) Effect on land management plans. (c) Fund. (d) Existing rights.
4309.	Savings provision.

Sec.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Water. (b) Fish and wildlife.
4310.	Establishment of Cave Research Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establishment. (b) Functions. (c) Emphasis.

§ 4301. Findings, purposes, and policy

(a) Findings

The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) significant caves on Federal lands are an invaluable and irreplaceable part of the Nation’s natural heritage; and

(2) in some instances, these significant caves are threatened due to improper use, increased recreational demand, urban spread, and a lack of specific statutory protection.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to secure, protect, and preserve significant caves on Federal lands for the perpetual use, enjoyment, and benefit of all people; and

(2) to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and those who utilize caves located on Federal lands for scientific, education, or recreational purposes.

(c) Policy

It is the policy of the United States that Federal lands be managed in a manner which protects and maintains, to the extent practical, significant caves.

(Pub. L. 100-691, §2, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4546.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 100-691 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be referred to as the ‘Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988’.”

LECHUGUILLA CAVE PROTECTION

Pub. L. 103-169, Dec. 2, 1993, 107 Stat. 1983, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act of 1993’.

“SEC. 2. FINDING.

“Congress finds that Lechuguilla Cave and adjacent public lands have internationally significant scientific, environmental, and other values, and should be retained in public ownership and protected against adverse effects of mineral exploration and development and other activities presenting threats to the areas.

“SEC. 3. LAND WITHDRAWAL.

“(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the boundaries of the cave protection area described in subsection (b) are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

“(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The cave protection area referred to in subsection (a) shall consist of approximately 6,280 acres of lands in New Mexico as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Lechuguilla Cave Protection Area’ numbered 130/80,055 and dated April 1993.

“(c) PUBLICATION, FILING, CORRECTION, AND INSPECTION.—(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 2, 1993], the Secretary of the In-