

In the Senate of the United States,

September 11, 1998.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1856) entitled “An Act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a volunteer pilot project at one national wildlife refuge in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service region, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Refuge*
3 *System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhance-*
4 *ment Act of 1998”.*

5 ***SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.***

6 *(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—*

7 *(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System (referred*
8 *to in this Act as the “System”), consisting of more*
9 *than 500 refuges and 93,000,000 acres, plays an inte-*



1 *gral role in the protection of the natural resources of*
2 *the United States;*

3 *(2) the National Wildlife Refuge System Im-*
4 *provement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57; 111 Stat.*
5 *1252) significantly improved the law governing the*
6 *System, although the financial resources for imple-*
7 *menting this law and managing the System remain*
8 *limited;*

9 *(3) by encouraging volunteer programs and do-*
10 *nations, and facilitating non-Federal partnerships*
11 *with refuges, Federal funding for the refuges can be*
12 *supplemented and the System can fully benefit from*
13 *the amendments made by the National Wildlife Ref-*
14 *uge System Improvement Act of 1997; and*

15 *(4) by encouraging refuge educational programs,*
16 *public awareness of the resources of the System and*
17 *public participation in the conservation of those re-*
18 *sources can be promoted.*

19 *(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—*

20 *(1) to encourage the use of volunteers to assist*
21 *the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the*
22 *management of refuges within the System;*

23 *(2) to facilitate partnerships between the System*
24 *and non-Federal entities to promote public awareness*

1 *ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd*
2 *et seq.) and other applicable law, the Sec-*
3 *retary may provide funds to match gifts,*
4 *devises, and bequests made for the benefit of*
5 *a particular national wildlife refuge or*
6 *complex of geographically related refuges.*
7 *With respect to each gift, devise, or bequest,*
8 *the amount of Federal funds may not exceed*
9 *the amount (or, in the case of property or*
10 *in-kind services, the fair market value) of*
11 *the gift, devise, or bequest.”.*

12 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER ENHANCEMENT.**

13 *(a) PILOT PROJECTS.—*

14 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of*
15 *appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior shall*
16 *carry out a pilot project at 2 or more national wild-*
17 *life refuges or complexes of geographically related ref-*
18 *uges in each United States Fish and Wildlife Service*
19 *region, but not more than 20 pilot projects nation-*
20 *wide.*

21 *(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.—Each pilot*
22 *project shall provide for the employment of a full-time*
23 *volunteer coordinator for the refuge or complex of geo-*
24 *graphically related refuges. The volunteer coordinator*
25 *shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and su-*

1 *pervising volunteers. The volunteer coordinator may*
2 *be responsible for assisting partner organizations in*
3 *developing projects and programs under cooperative*
4 *agreements under section 7(d) of the Fish and Wild-*
5 *life Act of 1956 (as added by section 5) and coordi-*
6 *nating volunteer activities with partner organizations*
7 *to carry out the projects and programs.*

8 (3) *REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the*
9 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the In-*
10 *terior shall submit a report to the Committee on Re-*
11 *sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
12 *mittee on Environment and Public Works of the Sen-*
13 *ate evaluating and making recommendations regard-*
14 *ing the pilot projects.*

15 (4) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—*
16 *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
17 *this subsection \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years*
18 *1999 through 2002.*

19 (b) *AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS.—*
20 *Section 7(c)(2) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
21 *U.S.C. 742f(c)(2)) is amended—*

22 (1) *by inserting “awards (including nominal*
23 *cash awards) and recognition,” after “lodging,”; and*

24 (2) *by inserting “without regard to their places*
25 *of residence” after “volunteers”.*

1 (c) *SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.*—Section 7(c) of the
 2 *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c))* is amend-
 3 *ed by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:*

4 “(6) *SENIOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.*—The Secretary
 5 *of the Interior may establish a Senior Volunteer*
 6 *Corps, consisting of volunteers over the age of 50. To*
 7 *assist in the recruitment and retention of the volun-*
 8 *teers, the Secretary may provide for additional inci-*
 9 *idental expenses to members of the Corps beyond the*
 10 *incidental expenses otherwise provided to volunteers*
 11 *under this subsection. The members of the Corps shall*
 12 *be subject to the other provisions of this subsection.”.*

13 **SEC. 5. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.**

14 Section 7 of the *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
 15 *U.S.C. 742f)* is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(d) *COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT.*—

17 “(1) *DEFINITION OF PARTNER ORGANIZATION.*—

18 *In this subsection, the term ‘partner organization’*
 19 *means an organization that—*

20 “(A) *draws its membership from private in-*
 21 *dividuals, organizations, corporations, academic*
 22 *institutions, or State or local governments;*

23 “(B) *is established to promote the under-*
 24 *standing of, education relating to, and the con-*
 25 *servation of the fish, wildlife, plants, and cul-*

1 *tural and historical resources of a particular ref-*
2 *uge or complex of geographically related refuges;*
3 *and*

4 *“(C) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the*
5 *Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt*
6 *from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code.*

7 “(2) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—*

8 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the*
9 *Interior may enter into a cooperative agreement*
10 *(within the meaning of chapter 63 of title 31,*
11 *United States Code) with any partner organiza-*
12 *tion, academic institution, or State or local gov-*
13 *ernment agency to carry out 1 or more projects*
14 *or programs for a refuge or complex of geo-*
15 *graphically related refuges in accordance with*
16 *this subsection.*

17 “(B) *PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—Subject*
18 *to the requirements of the National Wildlife Ref-*
19 *uge System Administration Act of 1966 (16*
20 *U.S.C. 668dd et seq.) and other applicable law,*
21 *and such terms and conditions as the Secretary*
22 *determines to be appropriate, the Secretary may*
23 *approve projects and programs for a refuge or*
24 *complex of geographically related refuges that—*

1 “(i) promote the stewardship of re-
2 sources of the refuge through habitat main-
3 tenance, restoration, and improvement, bio-
4 logical monitoring, or research;

5 “(ii) support the operation and main-
6 tenance of the refuge through constructing,
7 operating, maintaining, or improving the
8 facilities and services of the refuge;

9 “(iii) increase awareness and under-
10 standing of the refuge and the National
11 Wildlife Refuge System through the develop-
12 ment, publication, or distribution of edu-
13 cational materials and products;

14 “(iv) advance education concerning the
15 purposes of the refuge and the mission of the
16 System through the use of the refuge as an
17 outdoor classroom and development of other
18 educational programs; or

19 “(v) contribute financial resources to
20 the refuge, under terms that require that the
21 net revenues be used exclusively for the bene-
22 fit of the refuge, through donation of net
23 revenues from the sale of educational mate-
24 rials and products and through encourage-
25 ment of gifts, devises, and bequests.

1 “(C) *FEDERAL FUNDING AND OWNER-*
2 *SHIP.*—

3 “(i) *MATCHING.*—*Subject to the avail-*
4 *ability of appropriations and the require-*
5 *ments of the National Wildlife Refuge Ad-*
6 *ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd*
7 *et seq.) and other applicable law, the Sec-*
8 *retary may provide funds to match non-*
9 *Federal funds donated under a cooperative*
10 *agreement under this paragraph. With re-*
11 *spect to each project or program, the*
12 *amount of funds provided by the Secretary*
13 *may not exceed the amount of the non-Fed-*
14 *eral funds donated through the project or*
15 *program.*

16 “(ii) *USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.*—*Any*
17 *Federal funds used to fund a project or pro-*
18 *gram under a cooperative agreement may be*
19 *used only for expenses directly related to the*
20 *project or program and may not be used for*
21 *operation or administration of any non-*
22 *Federal entity.*

23 “(iii) *OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES.*—
24 *Any new facility, improvement to an exist-*
25 *ing facility, or other permanent improve-*

1 *ment to a refuge constructed under this sub-*
2 *section shall be the property of the United*
3 *States Government.*

4 “(D) *TREASURY ACCOUNT.*—*Amounts re-*
5 *ceived by the Secretary of the Interior as a result*
6 *of projects and programs under subparagraph*
7 *(B) shall be deposited in a separate account in*
8 *the Treasury. Amounts in the account that are*
9 *attributable to activities at a particular refuge*
10 *or complex of geographically related refuges shall*
11 *be available to the Secretary of the Interior,*
12 *without further appropriation, to pay the costs*
13 *of incidental expenses related to volunteer activi-*
14 *ties, and to carry out cooperative agreements for*
15 *the refuge or complex of refuges.”.*

16 **SEC. 6. REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.**

17 *Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
18 *U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 5) is amended by add-*
19 *ing at the end the following:*

20 “(e) *REFUGE EDUCATION PROGRAM ENHANCE-*
21 *MENT.*—

22 “(1) *GUIDANCE.*—*Not later than 1 year after the*
23 *date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of*
24 *the Interior shall develop guidance for refuge edu-*
25 *cation programs to further the mission of the Na-*

1 *tional Wildlife Refuge System and the purposes of in-*
2 *dividual refuges through—*

3 *“(A) providing outdoor classroom opportu-*
4 *nities for students on national wildlife refuges*
5 *that combine educational curricula with the per-*
6 *sonal experiences of students relating to fish,*
7 *wildlife, and plants and their habitat and to the*
8 *cultural and historical resources of the refuges;*

9 *“(B) promoting understanding and con-*
10 *servation of fish, wildlife, and plants and cul-*
11 *tural and historical resources of the refuges; and*

12 *“(C) improving scientific literacy in con-*
13 *junction with both formal and nonformal edu-*
14 *cation programs.*

15 *“(2) REFUGE PROGRAMS.—Based on the guid-*
16 *ance developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of*
17 *the Interior may develop or enhance refuge education*
18 *programs as appropriate, based on the resources of*
19 *individual refuges and the opportunities available for*
20 *such programs in State, local, and private schools. In*
21 *developing and implementing each program, the Sec-*
22 *retary should cooperate with State and local edu-*
23 *cation authorities, and may cooperate with partner*
24 *organizations in accordance with subsection (d).”.*

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 *Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16*
3 *U.S.C. 742f) (as amended by section 6) is amended by add-*
4 *ing at the end the following:*

5 “(f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
6 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-*
7 *rior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) \$2,000,000*
8 *for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004.”.*

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to promote volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.”.

Attest:

Secretary.

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1856

AMENDMENTS

HR 1856 EAS—2

HR 1856 EAS—3

HR 1856 EAS—4

HR 1856 EAS—5