

## Union Calendar No. 400

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

# H. R. 4442

[Report No. 106-715]

To establish a commission to promote awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System among the American public as the System celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2003, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

JULY 10, 2000

Additional sponsors: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. LOBIONDO

JULY 10, 2000

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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## A BILL

To establish a commission to promote awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System among the American public as the System celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2003, 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 System Centennial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7        (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8            (1) President Theodore Roosevelt began the  
9        National Wildlife Refuge System by establishing the  
10       first refuge at Pelican Island, Florida, on March 14,  
11       1903.

12           (2) The National Wildlife Refuge System is  
13       comprised of more than 93,000,000 acres of Federal  
14       lands managed by the United States Fish and Wild-  
15       life Service in more than 520 individual refuges and  
16       thousands of waterfowl production areas located in  
17       all 50 States and the territories of the United  
18       States.

19           (3) The System is the only network of Federal  
20       lands dedicated singularly to wildlife conservation  
21       and where wildlife dependent recreation and environ-  
22       mental education are priority public uses.

23           (4) The System serves a vital role in the con-  
24       servation of millions of migratory birds, endangered  
25       species and threatened species, fish, marine mam-

1       mals, and the habitats on which these species de-  
2       pend.

3               (5) Each year the System provides millions of  
4       Americans with opportunities to participate in wild-  
5       life-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing,  
6       and wildlife observation.

7               (6) Public visitation to National Wildlife Ref-  
8       uges is growing, with more than 35,000,000 visitors  
9       annually. It is essential that visitor centers and pub-  
10      lic use facilities be properly constructed, operated,  
11      and maintained.

12              (7) The National Wildlife Refuge System Vol-  
13      unteer and Community Partnership Enhancement  
14      Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–242) significantly en-  
15      hances the ability to incorporate volunteers and  
16      partnerships in refuge management.

17              (8) The System currently has an unacceptable  
18      backlog in critical operations and maintenance  
19      needs.

20              (9) The centennial anniversary of the System in  
21      2003 offers a historic opportunity to appreciate  
22      these natural resources and expand public enjoyment  
23      of these lands.

24              (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-  
25      lowing:

1           (1) To establish a commission to promote  
2 awareness of the National Wildlife Refuge System  
3 among the American public as the System celebrates  
4 its centennial anniversary in 2003.

5           (2) To develop a long-term plan to meet the  
6 priority operations, maintenance, and construction  
7 needs of the System.

8           (3) To improve public use programs and facili-  
9 ties of the System to meet the increasing needs of  
10 the public for wildlife-dependent recreation in the  
11 21st century.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CENTENNIAL**  
13 **COMMISSION.**

14           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established  
15 the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commis-  
16 sion (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

17           (b) **MEMBERS.**—

18           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be  
19 composed of the following members:

20                   (A) The Director of the United States Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service.

22                   (B) Up to 10 persons recommended by the  
23 Secretary of the Interior and appointed by the  
24 President.

1           (C) The chairman and ranking minority  
2           member of the Committee on Resources of the  
3           House of Representatives and of the Committee  
4           on Environment and Public Works of the Sen-  
5           ate, the congressional representatives of the Mi-  
6           gratory Bird Conservation Commission, and the  
7           Secretary of the Interior, who shall be ex-officio  
8           members.

9           (2) APPOINTMENTS.—Persons appointed by the  
10          President as members of the Commission may not  
11          otherwise be officers or employees of the Federal  
12          Government and shall, in the judgment of the Presi-  
13          dent, represent the diverse beneficiaries of the Sys-  
14          tem and have outstanding knowledge or appreciation  
15          of wildlife, natural resource management, or wildlife-  
16          dependent recreation. In making such appointments,  
17          the President shall make every effort to ensure that  
18          the views of the hunting, fishing, and wildlife obser-  
19          vation communities are represented on the Commis-  
20          sion.

21          (3) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the  
22          Commission—

23                  (A) shall not affect its power or functions;  
24                  and

1 (B) shall be expeditiously filled in the same  
2 manner as the original appointment.

3 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall appoint one  
4 of the members as the Chairperson of the Commission.

5 (d) BASIC PAY.—The members of the Commission  
6 shall receive no compensation for their service on the Com-  
7 mission.

8 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

9 (1) LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MEMBERS.—Mem-  
10 bers of the Commission from the legislative branch  
11 of the Government shall be allowed necessary travel  
12 expenses otherwise authorized by law for official  
13 travel.

14 (2) EXECUTIVE BRANCH MEMBERS.—Members  
15 of the Commission from the executive branch of the  
16 Government shall be allowed necessary travel ex-  
17 penses in accordance with section 5702 of title 5,  
18 United States Code.

19 (3) OTHER MEMBERS AND STAFF.—Members of  
20 the Commission appointed by the President and  
21 staff of the Commission may be allowed necessary  
22 travel or transportation expenses as authorized by  
23 section 5702 of title 5, United States Code.

24 (f) FUNCTIONS.—The Commission shall—

1           (1) prepare, in cooperation with Federal, State,  
2           local, and nongovernmental partners, a plan to com-  
3           memorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of  
4           the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14,  
5           2003;

6           (2) coordinate the activities of such partners  
7           undertaken pursuant to such plan; and

8           (3) plan and host, in cooperation with such  
9           partners, a conference on the National Wildlife Ref-  
10          uge System, and assist in the activities of such a  
11          conference.

12          (g) STAFF.—Subject to the availability of appropria-  
13          tions, the Commission may employ staff as necessary to  
14          carry out its functions.

15          (h) DONATIONS.—

16                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, in ac-  
17                cordance with criteria established under paragraph  
18                (2), accept and use donations of money, personal  
19                property, or personal services.

20                (2) CRITERIA.—The Commission shall establish  
21                written criteria to be used in determining whether  
22                the acceptance of gifts or donations under paragraph  
23                (1) would—

24                        (A) reflect unfavorably upon the ability of  
25                        the Commission or any employee of the Com-

1 mission to carry out its responsibilities or offi-  
2 cial duties in a fair and objective manner; or

3 (B) compromise the integrity or the ap-  
4 pearance of the integrity of any person involved  
5 in those programs.

6 (i) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Upon the request of  
7 the Commission—

8 (1) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through  
9 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, may  
10 provide to the Commission the administrative sup-  
11 port services necessary for the Commission to carry  
12 out its responsibilities under this Act, including serv-  
13 ices related to budgeting, accounting, financial re-  
14 porting, personnel, and procurement; and

15 (2) the head of any other appropriate Federal  
16 department or agency may furnish to the Commis-  
17 sion such advice and assistance, with or without re-  
18 imbursement, to assist the Commission in carrying  
19 out its functions.

20 (j) REPORTS.—

21 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year  
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
23 thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Con-  
24 gress an annual report of its activities and plans to  
25 Congress.

1           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September  
2           30, 2004, the Commission shall submit to the Con-  
3           gress a final report of its activities, including an ac-  
4           counting of all funds received and expended by the  
5           Commission.

6           (k) TERMINATION.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall termi-  
8           nate upon the submission of its final report under  
9           subsection (j).

10          (2) DISPOSITION OF MATERIALS.—Upon termi-  
11          nation of the Commission and after consultation  
12          with the Archivist of the United States and the Sec-  
13          retary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Secretary  
14          of the Interior—

15                 (A) may deposit all books, manuscripts,  
16                 miscellaneous printed matter, memorabilia, rel-  
17                 ics, and other similar materials of the Commis-  
18                 sion relating to the 100th anniversary of the  
19                 National Wildlife Refuge System in Federal,  
20                 State, or local libraries or museums or other-  
21                 wise dispose of such materials; and

22                 (B) may use other property acquired by  
23                 the Commission for the purposes of the Na-  
24                 tional Wildlife Refuge System, or treat such  
25                 property as excess property.

1 **SEC. 4. FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF AMERICA'S NA-**  
2 **TIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM—MEET-**  
3 **ING OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND CON-**  
4 **STRUCTION NEEDS.**

5 The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare and sub-  
6 mit to the Congress a long-term plan to address priority  
7 operations, maintenance and construction needs of the  
8 National Wildlife Refuge System to address—

9 (1) the priority staffing and operation needs of  
10 the System, as determined through the Refuge Oper-  
11 ating Needs system and individual refuge Com-  
12 prehensive Conservation Plans;

13 (2) the maintenance and construction needs as  
14 identified in the Maintenance Management System,  
15 the 5-year deferred maintenance list, and the 5-year  
16 construction list; and

17 (3) transition costs as identified in the Depart-  
18 ment of the Interior analysis of newly acquired  
19 refuge lands.



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