

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5441

To transfer management of the Banks Lake Unit of the Okefenokee National  
Wildlife Refuge.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2000

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

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## A BILL

To transfer management of the Banks Lake Unit of the  
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

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. TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT OF THE BANKS**  
4                   **LAKE UNIT OF THE OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL**  
5                   **WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

6       (a) TRANSFER.—Management of the Banks Lake  
7 Unit of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is trans-  
8 ferred to the office or agency within the Georgia Depart-  
9 ment of Natural Resources having primary authority

1 under State law for the protection and management of the  
2 fish and resident wildlife of the State.

3 (b) MANAGEMENT CRITERIA.—The State wildlife  
4 agency is encouraged, to the extent practicable and in co-  
5 ordination with existing State of Georgia management of  
6 adjoining State-owned wildlife lands and waters—

7 (1) to increase the intensity of management of  
8 the Banks Lake Unit in order to provide hunting  
9 and fishing and other wildlife-related recreational  
10 opportunities;

11 (2) to manage lake levels in such unit to ensure  
12 adequate water quantity and quality for maximum  
13 recreational opportunities to fulfill the mission of the  
14 Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; and

15 (3) to ensure effective coordination, interaction,  
16 and cooperation between the State wildlife agency  
17 and owners of land adjoining the unit.

18 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—Management of the Banks  
19 Lake Unit by the State wildlife agency shall be subject  
20 to applicable laws and regulations of the State of Georgia  
21 and to all Federal laws for the protection of migratory  
22 game birds that are administered on the date of the enact-  
23 ment of this Act by the United States Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service, except that the National Environmental Policy  
25 Act of 1969 and any other Federal statutory provision re-

1 lating to Federal action shall not apply to management  
2 of such unit by the State wildlife agency or to allowing  
3 public access to such unit for the purpose of hunting, fish-  
4 ing, or other recreational opportunities.

5 (d) LIMITATION ON ACQUISITION OF PRIVATELY  
6 OWNED INTERESTS IN LAND.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
7 rior may not acquire any privately owned interest in any  
8 land located within or adjacent to the boundaries of the  
9 Banks Lake unit without the consent of the owner of the  
10 interest.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) BANKS LAKE UNIT.—The term “Banks  
13 Lake Unit” means the Banks Lake Unit of the Oke-  
14 fenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

15 (2) MANAGEMENT.—The term “management”  
16 has the meaning given that term in section 5 of the  
17 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act  
18 of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).

19 (3) STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY.—The term  
20 “State wildlife agency” means the office or agency  
21 within the Georgia Department of Natural Re-  
22 sources having primary authority under State law  
23 for the protection and management of the fish and  
24 resident wildlife of the State of Georgia.

1           (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the  
3 Interior \$100,000 for fiscal year 2001 and \$75,000 for  
4 each of the subsequent 5 fiscal years for management by  
5 the State wildlife agency of the Banks Lake Unit in ac-  
6 cordance with this section. The Secretary shall transfer  
7 to the State wildlife agency the full amount of any appro-  
8 priation under this subsection at the beginning of each fis-  
9 cal year. Such transfers shall not be subject to the Na-  
10 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 or any other Fed-  
11 eral statutory provision relating to Federal action.

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