

Public Law 96-288
96th Congress

An Act

To establish the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge.

June 28, 1980

[H.R. 6169]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Bogue Chitto
National
Wildlife Refuge,
establishment.

16 USC 668dd
note.

DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) thousands of acres of bottomland hardwoods are being cleared each year in the Mississippi River Delta;

(2) these forested wetlands represent one of the most valuable and productive wildlife habitat types in the United States and have extremely high recreational value for hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, nature photographers, and others; and

(3) the Bogue Chitto area is a bottomland hardwood swamp which harbors over one hundred fifty species of birds and many types of other wildlife, including several species imperiled with extinction.

(b) The purpose of this Act is to establish the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term “refuge” means the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge;

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior; and

(3) the term “selection area” means those lands and waters near the juncture of the Pearl River and its tributary, the Bogue Chitto, in Saint Tammany and Washington Parishes, Louisiana, and Pearl River County, Mississippi, depicted on the map entitled “Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge, Selection Area”, dated and on file at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE

SEC. 3. (a)(1) Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall—

(A) designate approximately forty thousand acres of land and water within the selection area as land which the Secretary considers appropriate for the refuge; and

(B) publish in the Federal Register a detailed map depicting the boundaries of the land designated under subparagraph (A), which map shall be on file and available for public inspection at offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) The Secretary may make such minor revisions in the boundaries designated under paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection as may be

Publication in
Federal
Register.

appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Act or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the refuge.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to acquire (by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange) lands, waters, or interests therein, within the boundaries designated under subsection (a)(1)(B).

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Register.

(c) The Secretary shall establish the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge, by publication of a notice to that effect in the Federal Register, whenever sufficient property has been acquired under this section to constitute an area that can be effectively managed as a refuge.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall administer all lands, waters, and interests therein, acquired under this Act in accordance with the provisions of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). The Secretary may utilize such additional statutory authority as may be available to him for the conservation and development of wildlife and natural resources, the development of outdoor recreation opportunities, and interpretive education as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5. There are authorized to be appropriated beginning October 1, 1980—

(a) \$13,000,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests therein, to remain available until September 30, 1985.

(b) \$1,000,000 for construction of the refuge headquarters and boat launching facilities and the accomplishment of boundary surveys, to remain available until September 30, 1985.

Approved June 28, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-892 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).

SENATE REPORT No. 96-674 accompanying S. 2115 (Comm. on Environment and Public Works).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 126 (1980):

May 5, considered and passed House.

May 13, considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 2115.

June 16, House concurred in Senate amendment.