

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4973

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2010

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

AN ACT

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize
volunteer programs and community partnerships for na-
tional wildlife refuges, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Ref-
3 uge Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO IM-**
5 **PLEMENT VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PART-**
6 **NERSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
7 **UNDER FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956.**

8 (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 7(f) of the Fish
9 and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(f)) is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
13 Interior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f),
14 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014.”.

15 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 7 of the
16 Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f) is amend-
17 ed in subsections (b)(2)(B)(ii) and (d)(2)(C)(i) by striking
18 “National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966”
19 each place it appears and inserting “National Wildlife Ref-
20 uge System Administration Act of 1966”.

21 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
22 **SYSTEM VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY PART-**
23 **NERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998.**

24 Section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System
25 Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act
26 of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1) is amended—

1 (1) in the subsection heading by striking
2 “PROJECTS” and inserting “NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
3 COORDINATION PROGRAM”;

4 (2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
7 of appropriations, and in conformance with the
8 strategy developed under paragraph (2) and con-
9 sistent with the authorities regarding gifts, volunteer
10 services, community partnerships, and refuge edu-
11 cation enhancement under section 7 of the Fish and
12 Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 741f), the Secretary
13 of the Interior, through the Director of the United
14 States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall carry out a
15 National Volunteer Coordination Program within the
16 National Wildlife Refuge System to—

17 “(A) augment and support the capabilities
18 and efforts of Federal employees to implement
19 resource management, conservation, and public
20 education programs and activities across the
21 National Wildlife Refuge System;

22 “(B) provide meaningful opportunities for
23 volunteers to support the resource management,
24 conservation, and public education programs
25 and activities of national wildlife refuges or

1 complexes of geographically related national
2 wildlife refuges in each United States Fish and
3 Wildlife Service region; and

4 “(C) fulfill the purpose and mission of the
5 National Wildlife Refuge System under the Na-
6 tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration
7 Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).”;

8 (3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATION STRATEGY.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No later than one
12 year after date of enactment of this paragraph,
13 the Director shall publish in the Federal Reg-
14 ister a national strategy for the coordination
15 and utilization of volunteers within the National
16 Wildlife Refuge System.

17 “(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The
18 strategy shall be developed in consultation with
19 State fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes,
20 refuge friends groups or similar volunteer orga-
21 nizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

22 “(C) VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS.—The
23 Director shall provide, subject to the availability
24 of appropriations, no less than one regional vol-
25 unteer coordinator for each United States Fish

1 and Wildlife Service region to implement the
2 strategy published under this paragraph. Such
3 coordinators may be responsible for assisting
4 partner organizations in developing and imple-
5 menting volunteer projects and activities under
6 cooperative agreements under section 7(d) of
7 the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.
8 742f(d)).”; and

9 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “for for each
10 fiscal year through fiscal year 2009” and inserting
11 “for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2014”.

12 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND**
13 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife
15 Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(e)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) (as amended
17 by this Act) as subsection (g); and

18 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
19 lowing new subsection:

20 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of enactment of this subsection and every 5 years there-
22 after, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report
23 to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
24 Representatives and the Committee on Environment and
25 Public Works of the Senate—

“(1) evaluating the accomplishments of the volunteer program, the community partnerships program, and the refuge education programs authorized under this section, and of the National Volunteer Coordination Program and volunteer coordination strategy under section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1); and

10 “(2) making recommendations to improve the
11 effectiveness of such programs, including regarding
12 implementing subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of
13 paragraph (1) of subsection (e).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1) is further amended by striking paragraph (3), and by redesignating paragraph (4) (as amended by this Act) as paragraph (3).

Passed the House of Representatives July 13, 2010.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.