

Union Calendar No. 304

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4973

[Report No. 111-531]

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

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

JULY 13, 2010

Additional sponsors: Mr. ROSS, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. CASTLE

JULY 13, 2010

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 25, 2010]

A BILL

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “National Wildlife Refuge*
 5 *Volunteer Improvement Act of 2010”.*

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO IMPLE-**
 7 **MENT VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNER-**
 8 **SHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNDER**
 9 **FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956.**

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

13 “(f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
 14 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-*
 15 *rior to carry out subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f),*
 16 *\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014.”.*

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

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

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

7 *(1) in the subsection heading by striking*
8 *“PROJECTS” and inserting “NATIONAL VOLUNTEER*
9 *COORDINATION PROGRAM”;*

10 *(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-*
11 *lows:*

12 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of*
13 *appropriations, and in conformance with the strategy*
14 *developed under paragraph (2) and consistent with*
15 *the authorities regarding gifts, volunteer services,*
16 *community partnerships, and refuge education en-*
17 *hancement under section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife*
18 *Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 741f), the Secretary of the In-*
19 *terior, through the Director of the United States Fish*
20 *and Wildlife Service, shall carry out a National Vol-*
21 *unteer Coordination Program within the National*
22 *Wildlife Refuge System to—*

23 *“(A) augment and support the capabilities*
24 *and efforts of Federal employees to implement re-*
25 *source management, conservation, and public*

1 *education programs and activities across the Na-*
2 *tional Wildlife Refuge System;*

3 *“(B) provide meaningful opportunities for*
4 *volunteers to support the resource management,*
5 *conservation, and public education programs*
6 *and activities of national wildlife refuges or*
7 *complexes of geographically related national*
8 *wildlife refuges in each United States Fish and*
9 *Wildlife Service region; and*

10 *“(C) fulfill the purpose and mission of the*
11 *National Wildlife Refuge System under the Na-*
12 *tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration*
13 *Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.).”;*

14 *(3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-*
15 *lows*

16 *“(2) VOLUNTEER COORDINATION STRATEGY.—*

17 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—No later than one year*
18 *after date of enactment of this paragraph, the*
19 *Director shall publish in the Federal Register a*
20 *national strategy for the coordination and utili-*
21 *zation of volunteers within the National Wildlife*
22 *Refuge System.*

23 *“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The*
24 *strategy shall be developed in consultation with*
25 *State fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes,*

1 *refuge friends groups or similar volunteer orga-*
 2 *nizations, and other relevant stakeholders.*

3 “(C) *VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS.*—*The Di-*
 4 *rector shall provide, subject to the availability of*
 5 *appropriations, no less than one regional volun-*
 6 *teer coordinator for each United States Fish and*
 7 *Wildlife Service region to implement the strategy*
 8 *published under this paragraph. Such coordina-*
 9 *tors may be responsible for assisting partner or-*
 10 *ganizations in developing and implementing vol-*
 11 *unteer projects and activities under cooperative*
 12 *agreements under section 7(d) of the Fish and*
 13 *Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(d)).”;* and
 14 (4) *in paragraph (4), by striking “for for each*
 15 *fiscal year through fiscal year 2009” and inserting*
 16 *“for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2014”.*

17 **SEC. 4. VOLUNTEER, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND**
 18 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT.**

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

21 (1) *by redesignating subsection (f) (as amended*
 22 *by this Act) as subsection (g); and*

23 (2) *by inserting after subsection (e) the following*
 24 *new subsection:*

1 “(f) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of
 2 enactment of this subsection and every 5 years thereafter,
 3 the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the
 4 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Represent-
 5 atives and the Committee on Environment and Public
 6 Works of the Senate—

7 “(1) evaluating the accomplishments of the vol-
 8 unteer program, the community partnerships pro-
 9 gram, and the refuge education programs authorized
 10 under this section, and of the National Volunteer Co-
 11 ordination Program and volunteer coordination strat-
 12 egy under section 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge
 13 System Volunteer and Community Partnership En-
 14 hancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1); and

15 “(2) making recommendations to improve the ef-
 16 fectiveness of such programs, including regarding im-
 17 plementing subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of para-
 18 graph (1) of subsection (e).”.

19 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 4(a) of the
 20 National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community
 21 Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 742f–1)
 22 is further amended by striking paragraph (3), and by redес-
 23 ignating paragraph (4) (as amended by this Act) as para-
 24 graph (3).

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