

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 512

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 1998

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

AN ACT

To establish requirements relating to the designation of new
units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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 “New Wildlife Refuge
3 Authorization Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DESIGNATION OF**
5 **NEW REFUGES.**

6 (a) **LIMITATION ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM LAND**
7 **AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—**

8 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—No funds are authorized to
9 be appropriated from the land and water conserva-
10 tion fund for designation of a unit of the National
11 Wildlife Refuge System, unless the Secretary of the
12 Interior has—

13 (A) completed all actions pertaining to en-
14 vironmental review that are required for that
15 designation under the National Environmental
16 Policy Act of 1969;

17 (B) provided notice to each Member of and
18 each Delegate and Resident Commissioner to
19 the Congress elected to represent an area in-
20 cluded in the boundaries of the proposed unit,
21 upon the completion of the preliminary project
22 proposal for the designation; and

23 (C) provided a copy of each final environ-
24 mental impact statement or each environmental
25 assessment resulting from that environmental
26 review, and a summary of all public comments

1 received by the Secretary on the proposed unit,
2 to—

3 (i) the Committee on Resources and
4 the Committee on Appropriations of the
5 House of Representatives;

6 (ii) the Committee on Environment
7 and Public Works and the Committee on
8 Appropriations of the Senate; and

9 (iii) each Member of or Delegate or
10 Resident Commissioner to the Congress
11 elected to represent an area included in the
12 boundaries of the proposed unit.

13 (2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—Paragraph
14 (1) shall not apply to appropriation of amounts for
15 a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System that
16 is designated, or specifically authorized to be des-
17 ignated, by law.

18 (b) NOTICE OF SCOPING.—The Secretary shall pub-
19 lish a notice of each scoping meeting held for the purpose
20 of receiving input from persons affected by the designation
21 of a proposed unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
22 The notice shall be published in a newspaper distributed
23 in each county in which the refuge will be located, by not
24 later than 15 days before the date of the meeting. The
25 notice shall clearly state that the purpose of the meeting

1 is to discuss the designation of a new unit of the National
2 Wildlife Refuge System.

3 (c) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAND
4 USE RESTRICTIONS.—Land located within the boundaries
5 (or proposed boundaries) of a unit of the National Wildlife
6 Refuge System designated after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act shall not be subject to any restriction on use
8 of the lands under Federal law or regulation based solely
9 on a determination of the boundaries, until an interest in
10 the land has been acquired by the United States.

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 1998.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.