

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2430

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to coordinate and strengthen scientific research and monitoring, and to promote public outreach, education, and awareness, of Chronic Wasting Disease affecting free-ranging populations of deer and elk, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2003

Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to coordinate and strengthen scientific research and monitoring, and to promote public outreach, education, and awareness, of Chronic Wasting Disease affecting free-ranging populations of deer and elk, 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 “Chronic Wasting Dis-
3 ease Research, Monitoring, and Education Enhancement
4 Act of 2003”.

5 **SEC. 2. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MONI-**
6 **TORING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUT-**
7 **REACH.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fish and Wildlife Coordina-
9 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 10. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior,
13 acting through the Director of the United States Geologi-
14 cal Survey, shall carry out in accordance with this section
15 a program to support, conduct, and coordinate programs
16 to strengthen scientific research and monitoring and pub-
17 lic education activities to elevate knowledge of Chronic
18 Wasting Disease in free-ranging populations of deer and
19 elk.

20 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program shall
21 be the following:

22 “(1) To initiate and encourage completion of
23 the relevant goals and action plans specified in the
24 National Plan.

25 “(2) To enhance the scientific understanding of
26 Chronic Wasting Disease.

1 “(3) To provide technical assistance in support
2 of State efforts to conduct scientific research, imple-
3 ment wildlife management strategies, and conduct
4 and promote comprehensive public education pro-
5 grams in affected States.

6 “(c) RESEARCH AND MONITORING.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may sup-
8 port, promote, and coordinate research on, and long-
9 term monitoring and surveillance of, Chronic Wast-
10 ing Disease as it affects deer and elk in States iden-
11 tified as having the disease present within their bor-
12 ders, to promote improved understanding of the dis-
13 ease and support State management of deer and elk.

14 “(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Activities
15 under this subsection may include scientific re-
16 search, monitoring, surveillance, and disease man-
17 agement activities identified in the National Plan,
18 including the following:

19 “(A) Research to investigate the biology,
20 pathogenesis, host ecology, epidemiology, trans-
21 mission, and environmental persistence of
22 Chronic Wasting Disease.

23 “(B) Development and utilization of an
24 Internet-based biological data management sys-

1 tem and integrated information sharing net-
2 work.

3 “(C) Development, testing, and validation
4 of rapid diagnostic methods.

5 “(D) Development of new testing and
6 screening techniques for Chronic Wasting Dis-
7 ease, including live animal early detection field
8 tests.

9 “(E) Surveillance programs to track the
10 prevalence, incidence, and distribution of
11 Chronic Wasting Disease in wild populations of
12 deer and elk.

13 “(F) Research and development of thera-
14 peutics and vaccines.

15 “(G) Development and implementation of
16 field sampling methods and comprehensive as-
17 sessments of deer and elk populations.

18 “(3) OTHER ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT NA-
19 TIONAL PLAN AND SUPPORT STATE ACTIVITIES.—
20 The Secretary may implement other research and
21 monitoring activities as necessary to implement the
22 National Plan and to support State activities to
23 manage and conserve deer and elk.

24 “(e) NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION STRATEGY.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
2 and promote a national public education strategy—

3 “(A) to increase awareness among the
4 hunting community and the general public of
5 the distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease;

6 “(B) to enhance comprehension of the biol-
7 ogy, ecology, and epidemiology of the Chronic
8 Wasting Disease; and

9 “(C) to support and communicate State
10 management activities to control Chronic Wast-
11 ing Disease in deer and elk populations.

12 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the strategy are the
13 following:

14 “(A) Increasing public awareness of Fed-
15 eral, State, and tribal Chronic Wasting Disease
16 activities.

17 “(B) Distilling and disseminating to the
18 general public scientific and technical informa-
19 tion concerning Chronic Wasting Disease in an
20 easily comprehended manner.

21 “(C) Providing updates and reviews of ad-
22 vances in Chronic Wasting Disease control
23 methods for deer and elk.

24 “(D) Development of print, video, and
25 other interpretive and media materials to imple-

1 ment the strategy and to communicate accom-
2 plishments in addressing the problem of Chron-
3 ic Wasting Disease.

4 “(3) TARGETING.—The strategy should target
5 stakeholder groups in States affected by Chronic
6 Wasting disease, including consumptive and non-
7 consumptive users of deer and elk.

8 “(f) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—In con-
9 ducting, supporting, and coordinating activities authorized
10 under this section, the Secretary shall consult coordinate,
11 where appropriate, with other Federal, interstate, or re-
12 gional agencies, State agencies, tribes, local communities,
13 non-governmental organizations, and colleges and univer-
14 sities.

15 “(g) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1
16 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and
17 annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to the Com-
18 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives and
19 the Committee on Environment and Public Works in the
20 Senate on the activities implemented under this section.

21 “(h) AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS.—The Secretary
22 shall make available to the public the results of research
23 and monitoring conducted, supported, or permitted by the
24 Secretary under this section.

25 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

1 “(1) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term
2 ‘Chronic Wasting Disease’ means the transmissible
3 animal disease that afflicts deer and elk and belongs
4 to the group of diseases known as transmissible
5 spongiform encephalopathies.

6 “(2) DEER AND ELK.—The term ‘deer and elk’
7 means—

8 “(A) free-ranging populations of deer and
9 elk residing in proximity of the endemic area
10 for Chronic Wasting Disease as identified in the
11 National Plan; and

12 “(B) deer and elk residing in States out-
13 side of that endemic area, where the disease has
14 been introduced and established in deer and elk
15 populations.

16 “(3) NATIONAL PLAN.—The term ‘National
17 Plan’ means the plan published jointly by the De-
18 partment of the Interior and the Department of Ag-
19 riculture entitled ‘Plan for Assisting States, Federal
20 Agencies, and Tribes in Managing Chronic Wasting
21 Disease in Wild and Captive Cervids’, dated June
22 26, 2002.

23 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
24 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
25 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

1 “(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means the sev-
2 eral States of the United States, Puerto Rico, Amer-
3 ican Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the ter-
4 ritories and possessions of the United States.

5 “(h) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
6 submit a report describing activities undertaken to imple-
7 ment this section to the Committee on Resources of the
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on Environ-
9 ment and Public Works of the Senate by not later than
10 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and
11 biennially thereafter.

12 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To im-
13 plement this section there are authorized to be appro-
14 priated to the Secretary the following:

15 “(1) RESEARCH AND MONITORING.—For the
16 implementation of scientific research and monitoring
17 activities under subsection (d), \$15,000,000 for each
18 of fiscal years 2004 through 2009.

19 “(2) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—For the implemen-
20 tation of public education activities under subsection
21 (e), \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004
22 through 2009.

1 “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—For the administra-
2 tion of this section by the Secretary \$1,00,000 for
3 each of fiscal years 2004 through 2009.”.

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