

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2623

To provide for the expansion of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge
in Bibb County, Alabama.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

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

A BILL

To provide for the expansion of the Cahaba River National
Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

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 “Cahaba River National
5 Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Cahaba River is recognized nationally
9 for its unique biological diversity, which includes

1 habitat for more than 131 species of fish (more than
2 any other river its size in North America).

3 (2) The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and
4 imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, in-
5 cluding fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and
6 snails.

7 (3) The Cahaba River is home to 12 aquatic
8 animal species (fish, mussels, and snails) listed as
9 endangered species or threatened species under the
10 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et
11 seq.).

12 (4) The Cahaba River harbors the largest popu-
13 lation in the world of the imperiled shoals lily,
14 known locally as the Cahaba Lily.

15 (5) The Cahaba River watershed contains ex-
16 tremely rare plant communities, including mountain
17 longleaf pine woodlands, and dolomite glades that
18 are home to 8 plant species recently discovered as
19 new to science, and known to exist nowhere else in
20 the world, as well as more than 70 other rare and
21 imperiled species of plants.

22 (6) The Cahaba River is home to at least a
23 dozen endemic aquatic animals that are found no-
24 where else in the world.

1 (7) The Cahaba River is the longest remaining
2 free-flowing river in Alabama, flowing through five
3 counties in central Alabama.

4 (8) The Cahaba River is recognized as an Out-
5 standing Alabama Water by the Alabama Depart-
6 ment of Environmental Management.

7 (9) The Cahaba River has high recreational
8 value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, canoeists,
9 nature photographers, and others.

10 (10) The Cahaba River watershed supports
11 large populations of game species, including deer,
12 turkey, quail, and various species of ducks.

13 (11) The Cahaba River was recognized by the
14 106th Congress as deserving of inclusion in the Na-
15 tional Wildlife Refuge System by the establishment
16 of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge.

17 (12) Significant additional recreational, natural
18 resource conservation and management, and other
19 public benefits would be realized by the expansion of
20 the existing Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
24 Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 **SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF REFUGE.**

4 (a) EXPANSION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Cahaba River National
6 Wildlife Refuge, located in Bibb County, Alabama, is
7 expanded to include approximately 30,000 acres of
8 lands and waters, and interests in lands and waters,
9 within the boundaries depicted upon the map enti-
10 tled “Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Pro-
11 posed Expansion”, and dated June 2, 2003.

12 (2) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may
13 make such minor revisions to the boundaries of the
14 Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out the pur-
15 poses of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of
16 property within the Refuge.

17 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary
18 shall keep the map referred to in paragraph (1) on
19 file for inspection in appropriate offices of the
20 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The expansion of the Refuge
22 under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take effect on
23 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS AND WATERS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the
3 availability of appropriations, may acquire up to 30,000
4 acres of lands and waters, or interests therein, within the
5 boundaries of the Refuge described in section 4(a)(1).

6 (b) INCLUSION IN REFUGE.—Any lands, waters, or
7 interests acquired by the Secretary under this section shall
8 be a part of the Refuge.

9 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

10 In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) conserve, enhance, and restore the native
12 aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of
13 the Cahaba River (including associated fish, wildlife,
14 and plant species);

15 (2) conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to
16 maintain and assist in the recovery of animals and
17 plants that are listed as endangered species or
18 threatened species under the Endangered Species
19 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);

20 (3) in providing opportunities for compatible
21 use (as that term is defined in section 5 of the Na-
22 tional Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of
23 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee)), ensure that hunting, fish-
24 ing, wildlife observation and photography, and envi-
25 ronmental education interpretation are the priority
26 general public uses of the Refuge, in accordance

1 with paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 4(a) of the
2 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
3 of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)); and

4 (4) encourage the use of volunteers and facili-
5 tate partnerships among the United States Fish and
6 Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation or-
7 ganizations, and other non-Federal entities, to—

8 (A) promote public awareness of the re-
9 sources of the Refuge and the National Wildlife
10 Refuge System; and

11 (B) public participation in the conservation
12 of those resources.

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