

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2894

To establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge and the Holt Collier Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge and the Holt Collier Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center.

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 “Theodore Roosevelt  
5       National Wildlife Refuge Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8           (1) The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta, located in  
9       Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey,  
10       Warren, Washington, and Yazoo Counties, Mis-

1 sissippi, popularly known as the Lower Delta, is of  
2 critical importance to the Louisiana Black Bear,  
3 over 350 species of birds (including migratory and  
4 resident waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical mi-  
5 gratory birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of  
6 other species associated with river basin ecosystems.

7 (2) The bottomland hardwood forests of the  
8 Lower Delta have been significantly cleared. Refor-  
9 estation and restoration of native habitat will benefit  
10 a host of species.

11 (3) The Lower Delta is part of a major conti-  
12 nental migration corridor for migratory birds fun-  
13 neling through the midcontinent from as far north  
14 as the Arctic Circle and as far south as South Amer-  
15 ica.

16 (4) The Lower Delta offers extraordinary rec-  
17 reational, research, and educational opportunities for  
18 students, scientists, bird watchers, wildlife observers,  
19 hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, and nature pho-  
20 tographers.

21 (5) The Lower Delta is an internationally sig-  
22 nificant environmental resource that has been ne-  
23 glected and requires active restoration and manage-  
24 ment to protect and enhance the value of the region  
25 as a habitat for fish and wildlife.

5 (7) The Lower Delta has the Nation's highest  
6 potential carbon sequestration storage capacity.

## 7 SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF REFUGE.

8        (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
9 as a national wildlife refuge the lands, waters, and inter-  
10 ests therein acquired under section 5, at such time as the  
11 Secretary determines that sufficient property has been ac-  
12 quired under that section to constitute an area that can  
13 be effectively managed as a national wildlife refuge for the  
14 purposes set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The  
15 national wildlife refuge so established shall be known as  
16 the “Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge”.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Refuge are the  
18 following:

19 (1) To restore and preserve native Mississippi  
20 River ecosystems.

23 (3) To maximize fisheries on the Mississippi  
24 River and its tributaries, natural lakes, and man-  
25 made reservoirs.

12 (7) To celebrate President Theodore Roosevelt  
13 and his 1902 bear hunt in Mississippi, which gave  
14 birth to the “teddy bear”.

15 (8) To increase natural, cultural, and historical  
16 resource education and business.

17 (9) To achieve the purposes under this sub-  
18 section without violating section 6

19 (c) NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary  
20 shall publish a notice of the establishment of the Refuge—

21 (1) in the Federal Register; and

22 (2) in publications of local circulation in the vi-  
23 cinity of the Refuge.

1 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF REFUGE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all  
3 lands, waters, and interests therein acquired under section  
4 5 in accordance with—

5 (1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Ad-  
6 ministration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.)  
7 and the Act of September 28, 1962 (76 Stat. 653;  
8 16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.; popularly known as the Ref-  
9 uge Recreation Act);

10 (2) the purposes of the Refuge set forth in sec-  
11 tion 3(b); and

12 (3) the management plan issued under sub-  
13 section (b).

## 14 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
17 retary shall issue a management plan for the Ref-  
18 uge.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—The management plan shall  
20 include provisions that provide for the following:

21 (A) Planning and design of trails and ac-  
22 cess points.

23 (B) Planning of wildlife and habitat res-  
24 toration, including reforestation.

### 4 (3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
6 provide an opportunity for public participation  
7 in developing the management plan.

12 (c) WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION  
13 CENTER.—

22 (A) to provide continuing, natural, cultural  
23 and historical resource conservation and res-  
24 toration educational programs to the public and

1                   business development education and assistance  
2                   for natural resource-based tourism activities;  
3                   (B) to promote environmental education;  
4                   (C) to provide an opportunity for the study  
5                   and enjoyment of wildlife in its natural habitat;  
6                   and  
7                   (D) to honor the legendary African Amer-  
8                   ican hunting guide Holt Collier.

9 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS, WATERS, AND INTERESTS**

10                   **THEREIN.**

11                   (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to ac-  
12                   quire up to 25,000 acres of land, water, or interests there-  
13                   in (including permanent conservation easements or ser-  
14                   vitudes) within the boundaries designated under sub-  
15                   section (c). All lands, waters, an interests acquired under  
16                   this subsection shall be part of the Refuge.

17                   (b) METHOD OF ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may  
18                   acquire an interest in land or water for inclusion in the  
19                   Refuge only by donation, exchange, or purchase from a  
20                   willing seller.

21                   (c) DESIGNATION OF BOUNDARIES.—

22                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months  
23                   after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
24                   retary shall—

10 (C) prepare a detailed map, entitled  
11 "Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge",  
12 depicting the boundaries of the Refuge des-  
13 ignated under subparagraph (B).

20 (A) keep the map prepared under para-  
21 graph (1) on file and available for public in-  
22 spection at offices of the United States Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service in the District of Columbia  
24 and Mississippi; and

3 (d) BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may  
4 make such minor revisions in the boundaries designated  
5 under subsection (c) as may be appropriate to achieve the  
6 purposes of the Refuge under section 3(b) or to facilitate  
7 the acquisition of property for the Refuge.

## 8 SEC. 6. CONTINUED PUBLIC SERVICES.

9        Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting  
10 or preventing, and the Secretary shall not for purposes  
11 of the Refuge prohibit or prevent—

12 (1) the continuation or development of commer-  
13 cial or recreational navigation on the Mississippi  
14 River or Yazoo River;

15 (2) necessary construction, operation, or main-  
16 tenance activities associated with the proposed  
17 Yazoo Backwater Pump Project;

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the  
4 Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge estab-  
5 lished under section 3.6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
7 the Secretary of the Interior.

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