

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 277

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct an education and administrative center at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder County, Utah.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2003

Mr. BENNETT introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

Committee discharged; referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct an education and administrative center at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder County, Utah.

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 “Bear River Migratory
5 Bird Refuge Visitor Center Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Bear River marshes have been a histor-
2 ical waterfowl oasis and an important inland water-
3 fowl flyway for thousands of years.

4 (2) Congress created the Bear River Migratory
5 Bird Refuge as one of the first National Wildlife
6 Refuges, for the purpose of protecting waterfowl
7 habitat and migratory birds, educating the public re-
8 garding, and enhancing public appreciation of, wa-
9 terfowl habitat and migratory birds.

10 (3) The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge was
11 virtually destroyed by the devastating floods that oc-
12 curred between 1983 and 1985.

13 (4) Refuge employees, aided by volunteers, have
14 taken valiant actions to rebuild the Refuge by re-
15 storing habitat, increasing its attractiveness to wa-
16 terfowl, reducing waterfowl botulism, and providing
17 recreational and educational opportunities to the
18 public.

19 (5) The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
20 lacks a functional education and administrative cen-
21 ter.

22 (6) The creation of such a facility would signifi-
23 cantly enhance public appreciation of waterfowl and
24 the need to preserve waterfowl habitat.

1 (7) Congress has taken significant steps to pro-
2 vide funding for the construction of an education
3 and administrative center.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions
6 apply:

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

9 (2) REFUGE.—The term “Refuge” means the
10 Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder
11 County, Utah.

12 (3) EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE CEN-
13 TER.—The term “Education and Administrative
14 Center” means the facility identified in the Environ-
15 mental Assessment dated 1991 and entitled “Res-
16 toration and Expansion of the Bear River Migratory
17 Bird Refuge”.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE EDU-**
19 **CATION CENTER.**

20 (a) CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary shall construct
21 the Education and Administrative Center at the Refuge
22 for the purposes of providing for the interpretation of re-
23 sources of the Refuge for the education and benefit of the
24 public, the advancement of research, protection, and

1 health of waterfowl habitat, and for the administration of
2 the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$11,000,000 to carry out
5 subsection (a).

6 **SEC. 5. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) DONATION OF FUNDS AND SERVICES.—The Sec-
8 retary may accept donations of funds and services from
9 nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, and
10 private citizens for the construction of the Education and
11 Administrative Center.

12 (b) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may not re-
13 quire matching funds or contributions in kind with a com-
14 bined total value of more than \$1,500,000 for construction
15 of the Education and Administrative Center.

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